

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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FVL / Bethlehem – Hortonville WI

Community Action Poverty Simulation

Students, staff, and faculty worked together in a simulation of living an impoverished life. Volunteers ran different community centers, like the bank, social services, grocery stores, etc. Acting out the roles of low-income families, students experienced four “weeks” (15-minute rounds) of living in poverty.

“I was in a family of five, with one parent unemployed,” says **Justine Hanan** (*MLS / St. Stephen-Adrian MI*). “We had to make difficult choices, figuring out how we were going to pay the bills. During one week we actually lost our house but were able to get it back. Unfortunately, not all families are that fortunate. Having a glimpse of life in poverty and seeing the difficulties they face on a daily basis really makes you appreciate how blessed you are.”

Matthew Zeng (*LPS / New Life-Shoreview MN*) reflects on how the simulation will be helpful in his future ministry: “We’re going to have members and students from all different backgrounds and situations. The exercise gave us a small taste of the difficulties many people go through.

At the end Professor Ben Clemons shared some experiences and insight into ministry in urban or impoverished areas.”

The Community Action Poverty Simulation team put on a great event for the students and community, and participants agreed that it’s something everyone should experience.



Sam Lor (*Sumner Academy / Grace Hmong-Kansas City*) and **Reuben Nitz** (*Bishop Mackenzie International / Crown of Life-Lilongwe, Malawi*) work on their family budget.

Open Mic Night

As a project for Interpersonal Communication, some students created a campus entertainment event. The original plan was to have a relaxed, café-style atmosphere with a few snacks and people singing. But the results, according to the students in charge of the project, were overwhelming.

“We had to start an hour later than planned, but by that time people were already in line,” says **Tyler Larson** (*Kimberly HS / St. Luke-Little Chute WI*). “Our group planned for around 30 people and a few acts, but we ended up with almost 70 in attendance and close to 25 different performances, some even by visiting Focus on Ministry kids.”

“We knew we wanted to serve the student body,” says **Faith Schroeder** (*MLS / Good Shepherd-Novi MI*), “and give them an opportunity to wind down after a long, hard week of classes and homework, as well as share their God-given abilities with us.”

The response to the Open Mic Night was so positive they’re considering hosting another one as soon as next semester! Spectators enjoyed magic tricks, singing groups like The Futons (*pictured*), poetry, dramatic readings of children’s books, and other memorable acts. On a campus so richly blessed with all different kinds of talent, it’s no surprise they want to showcase their abilities to the glory of God.



The Futons: **Justin Steinke** (*LPS / Cross of Christ-Universal City TX*), **Dan Wessel** (*MVL / St. John-New Ulm*), **Zach Satorius** (*LPS / Grace-Falls Church VA*), **Rudy Nelson** (*West / King of Grace-Golden Valley MN*), **Laura Weiland** (*Northland / Christ-Merrill WI*)