

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

knightwatch MLC

Fall 2013

FALL 2013

- *Meet Your Admissions Counselors*
- *First-Year Students*
- *MLC's Top Five*

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Pastor *Mike Koepke*

As he remembers his decision to come to MLC, he's grateful to his parents—always supportive but never pushy—and to his Michigan LHS music director, Joel Ungemach, who took him aside and told him he had gifts for ministry. But mostly he's grateful to the Holy Spirit who worked through the Word to increase in him the desire to share the good news of Jesus, and to do that fulltime. The ministry is incredibly meaningful work, and he wants more than anything to talk to you about it.

When he was at MLC: He participated in intramurals, cross country, Chorale, Wind Symphony (tuba), and musical (played some piano). He had a cafeteria job, and he tutored. More casually, *I loved just laughing and hanging out with friends, playing ultimate Frisbee, staying up late playing games/ watching movies—and of course, the weekend evenings spent*

in a certain Centennial dorm room (within open dorm hours and always with a shoe in the door, of course) trying to get a certain beautiful girl who lived there to fall for me. Note: Sarah Crabtree did fall for him, and they were married in 2009.

Great college memory: Daylight trip to New Orleans for Hurricane Katrina cleanup. *We worked hard every day gutting houses ruined by water damage, but we also had tons of fun demolishing things with sledge hammers, exploring the city, and meeting the people.*

College changes a guy: *Since I'm a shy person, college really helped me come out of my shell and gain confidence in talking with new people. That's the upside of going to a college far from home!*

If not a pastor: *Definitely an engineer, like my dad.*

Likes: Traveling, hiking, biking, kayaking, camping, fishing, anything outdoors. Sports: Basketball and racquetball. Movies: *Avengers, Avatar, Pirates of the Caribbean.* Music: Anything but rap or opera. Books: Religious books from NPH. *Hunger Games. The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo.*

He loves nature, and nature loves him—sort of: While hiking in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park on his honeymoon, he almost stepped on a poisonous timber rattlesnake. A few years later at Glacier National Park, he was almost mauled by a charging grizzly bear.



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KnightWatch is published by Martin Luther College and is intended to inform, inspire, and motivate young people who are considering enrolling at MLC to prepare for public ministry in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Comments are welcomed and should be directed to gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu or Martin Luther College *KnightWatch* 1995 Luther Court New Ulm MN 56073.



On our cover: The MLC Dorm Staff takes a short break after moving in more than 200 new students.

Pastor *Ross Stelljes*

He's been there, done that. A prep school kid, he graduated from college and seminary and then served as a college tutor, a country parish pastor, a big-city mission pastor, and now an admissions counselor. It just goes to show, "the ministry" includes many different kinds of callings, and you never know what incredible things God will ask you to do.

His ministry history: *Four radically different positions, he says, but no regrets!*

Becoming a pastor: *There was no lightning bolt moment; no high drama, made-for-TV story. While I could not envision myself as a pastor (due to major stage fright), I was willing to give pastoral studies a try with the idea that I could always back out. The further I went, the further I was drawn in by the Word and by the friendship of my fellow students and teachers. The training helped me to get over the fear of public speaking and my other phobias. And the spiritual benefits have been huge!*

If not a pastor: *No clue. UPS driver? Something outdoors maybe?*

Back in college: Football, basketball, track, choir, RA (Resident Assistant). Tutored a grade school student. TCW in Atlanta. I liked the crazy, off-the-wall humor of the student body, like UMOC (Ugliest Man on Campus) competitions, and our male cheerleaders.

College growth: *College taught me to laugh at myself and not take myself too seriously, to see some God-given gifts I hadn't seen before, and to better appreciate what the grace of God is.*

Ross today: He likes running, hiking, channel-surfing on the radio, anything having to do with water, and embarrassing his children. *One of my favorite things in life is to sing hymns with my wife and kids during family devotions.*

And who knew? *I once taught Bible information class to a man who ran for president of the United States. He actually campaigned twice and received some primary votes in New Hampshire.*



Teacher *Josh Danell*

It was only four years ago that he was a senior at Minnesota Valley LHS, making the big college decision. He applied to a few schools and had whittled his options down to two career paths: ministry and architecture. His grandpa was an architect, and Josh enjoyed drawing and thinking creatively. Well, you know which one he chose, but that's not the end of the story. The exciting adventure of his ministry is just beginning. And talking with you will be a big part of it.

You don't have to be 100% sure: *Pastors, teachers, and friends encouraged me to try MLC even if I wasn't 100% sure. So I gave it a try and apparently caught the "ministry bug" while I was here.*

His MLC college career, 2009-2013: Basketball (four years), soccer (one year), MLC Security Crew, intramurals, Daylight trips to Tennessee and Florida. Summer jobs: painting, floor waxing, and roofing at MLC; lawn care.

Highlight: *Playing on the basketball team with great teammates, one of which was his brother. When I was a sophomore, there were five MVL grads on the basketball team at the same time!*

The weird side of dorm life: *I liked playing "Snakes" in my dorm room with my roommate. It's like "Horse" in basketball, except with a nerf gun and a pop can.*

Did his mommy do his laundry? *Even though I lived five minutes away (walking speed) and had my mom and dad working at MLC, I lived in the dorm and became an independent person. People*

thought I would go home and have my mommy and daddy do my laundry and make me supper, but I didn't. Well, maybe I did once in a while.

A regular guy: *I prefer milk and cereal over a hot breakfast any morning. I like woodworking, drawing, bike riding, playing sports, and watching movies. I like thrillers and a chick flick here and there. Despicable Me 1 & 2 are my latest favs!*

Inside scoop: *I once went hang gliding and loved it. I'd like to go skydiving next. Just don't tell my mother. Oh—and I just got engaged to Kelly Hauf, a Manitowoc Lutheran grad and current MLC student. We're getting married on June 14 next summer.*



Professor *Lori Unke*

Her dad was a teacher and coach at Northwestern Prep and Northwestern College (formerly on Luther Prep's campus). She remembers how he had so much passion for his job and so many fun stories to tell. She wanted that for herself, and she got it! She's been a teacher and coach in grade school, high school, and college. In fact, if you want to call her "Coach," she's okay with that. She says she's always learned more from students than they learn from her, and she can't wait to talk to you and hear your story.

Back in college: She played volleyball, basketball, and softball. *I was a gym rat. But I also learned to play organ and sang on choir tour a few times!*

Her ministry: Coach and teacher at MVL, St. Paul-Lake Mills WI, Trinity-Nicollet MN, and now admissions counselor at MLC.

Her "life coaches": *Gayle Bauer, Judy Wade, and Barb Leopold, all former coaches, taught me the importance of working hard—many times against my will—and that taught me sports is about life, not just the gym.*

She admits it: *When I first came to college it was only to have fun and play sports. Then I made an amazing number of great solid Christian friends—including my future husband.*

Have suitcase, will travel: Another career she considered was flight attendant so she could travel and see the world. And now she does travel quite a bit—to see students like you and to visit the five beautiful grandchildren who call her Nana. *All girls, she says, so a starting five!*

Likes: Hailey, Cara, Mallory, Olivia, and Sophie. Family vacations, coaching sports, traveling, walking, biking, cross country skiing. Movies: *Return to Me*, *Top Gun*, and *Remember the Titans*. Music: Little Big Town and The Band Perry. Books: biographies all Max Lucado books.

She wants to meet you: *I like sharing my passion for ministry and my love for MLC. But it's not always MLC we'll talk about. We'll also talk about the gifts God has blessed you with, and how you can best use those gifts to serve him.*



WE'RE COMING TO VISIT YOU

Arizona Luth Academy	September 23-24	Lori
California LHS	October 21	Lori
Divine Savior Academy	Second semester	Lori
Evergreen LHS	October 29	Josh
Fox Valley LHS	October 10-11	Ross & Lori
Great Plains LHS	October 9-10	Josh
Huron Valley LHS	September 24	Mike
Illinois LHS	October 7	Mike
Kettle Moraine LHS	September 26-27	Josh & Ross
Lakeside LHS	September 17-18	Mike, Josh, & Lori
Luther High	September 18	Ross
Luther Prep (seniors)	September 10-11	Josh, Mike, Ross, & Lori
Luther Prep (juniors)	October 17-18	Josh, Mike, Ross, & Lori
Manitowoc LHS	September 18-19	Mike
Michigan LHS	October 10	Mike
Michigan Luth Seminary (seniors)	September 25-27	Lori & Mike
Michigan Luth Seminary (juniors)	December 2-4	Lori & Mike
Minnesota Valley LHS	September 13, November 12	Ross & Lori
Nebraska LHS	October 4	Ross
Northland LHS	October 4	Josh
Rocky Mountain LHS	September 5	Ross
St. Croix LHS	September 30-October 1	Josh & Ross
Shoreland LHS	September 13	Josh
West LHS	October 1	Mike
Winnebago Luth Academy	October 8-9	Lori & Ross
WISCO	September 19-20	Josh & Lori

- **Public high school students and homeschool students:** We would love to visit with you when we are in your area. Please contact us if you'd like a visit: admissions@mlc-wels.edu / 507.354.8221.
- **We visit with parents too:** If parents would like to hear more about MLC, we'll be happy to visit with them when we're in the area. Please contact us: admissions@mlc-wels.edu / 507.354.8221.
- **We will also attend** Choral Fest, Band Fest, some Parents' Nights and Career Days, and also some high school sports events, plays, and concerts. Stay tuned!



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

PLEASE COME VISIT US!

Music

Choir Concerts

Nov 10, Feb 20, Mar 23, Apr 2, Apr 13

Wind Symphony Concerts

Oct 6, Nov 24, Feb 16, Apr 12

Christmas Concert Dec 7-8

Commencement Concert May 16

Drama

Fall Musical *Into the Woods* Nov 1-3

Readers' Theater *Poems by Shel Silverstein* Dec 6-7

Winter Play *The Giver* Feb 21-23

Children's Theater *Rumpelstiltskin* May 2-4

Other Fun Stuff

Personal Visits for Juniors & Seniors:

Call 507.354.8221

Focus on Ministry

Oct 24-26 (Homecoming)

Oct 31 – Nov 2 (Musical)

Dec 12-14 (Tip-Off Tournament)

Feb 6-8 (Winter Carnival)

Homecoming Oct 26

Early Childhood Learning Center Dedication

Oct 27

MLC Tip-Off Tournament Dec 12-14

Winter Carnival Feb 2-8

Martin Luther College Choir Tour:

Florida Feb 28 – Mar 9

WELS National Handbell Festival Apr 26-27

MLC Wind Symphony Tour:

Wisconsin & Minnesota May 18-22

SPECIAL EVENT November 17:

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary

150th Anniversary Concerts

Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary-Mequon WI

Check out pictures from the first event of the year: Orientation, speed dating, and dance! Go to gallery/mlc-wels.edu



For more information, call 877.MLC.1995 or visit mlc-wels.edu.

Is the Public Gospel Ministry for Me?

LOOKING UP TO OTHERS

1. Name a teacher or pastor you really admire.

2. What do you like about him or her?

LISTENING TO OTHERS

1. Has anyone ever said you'd be a good teacher or pastor? Who? What did they say?

2. What careers do your parents suggest to you?

LOOKING INSIDE

1. What might you like about being a teacher or pastor?

2. What gifts do you have that could be used for ministry?

- ☐ good conversationalist ☐ good at explaining things ☐ good with kids ☐ good leader
- ☐ athletics ☐ music ☐ science ☐ math ☐ art ☐ history ☐ English ☐ Spanish ☐ drama
- ☐ I like studying God's Word ☐ I love my Lord! ☐ Others: _____

3. What fears or hesitations might you have about being a pastor or teacher?

4. What might you do about those fears and hesitations?

5. If you are not sure what you want to do, would you consider studying at MLC for a year or two while you think about it?

2013-2014 First-Year Students

Here are just a few of
the **new Knights** at
Martin Luther College!



**Martin Luther
College** 

New Ulm, Minnesota
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2013-14

Abbie Brown
Luther Prep



**Martin Luther
College** 

New Ulm, Minnesota
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William Geisz
Lakewood HS-Colorado



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Sarah Schulte
Luther Prep



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Devon Liermann
Manitowoc LHS



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Ryan Henning
Nebraska LHS



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Nicholas Oblender
Nebraska LHS



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Jacob Roecker
WISCO



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Mikyla Weilage
Minnesota Valley LHS



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Evodia Cassius
Castries Comprehensive St. Lucia



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Cody James Haley
Lakeside LHS



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Emma Schultz
Fox Valley LHS



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Adam Lemke
Century HS- Minnesota



**Martin Luther
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Tessa Heiling
Redwood Valley HS-Minnesota



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Robbie Schmidt
Lakeside LHS



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Eric Uher
WISCO



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Rebecca Jane Nemmers
Luther Prep



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Emily Neeb
Arizona Luth Academy



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2013-14

Breanna Hintz
Fox Valley LHS



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Tom Keller
Luther Prep



Martin Luther College 

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Chris Pflughoeft
Kettle Moraine LHS



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Elizabeth Dias
James C. Enochs HS-California



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Phillip Schroeder
Luther Prep



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Faith Schroeder
Michigan Luth Seminary



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Kyle Park
Nebraska LHS



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Madeline McMullen
Roland-Story HS-Iowa



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Hannah Midthun
WISCO



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Alexander Friebe
Michigan Luth Seminary



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Leah Northrup
Yale HS-Michigan



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Martin Santos
Mount Rainier HS-Washington



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Meryl Hirsch
Luther Prep



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Conifer Berg
Luther Prep



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Mackenzie Rothfuss
Michigan Luth Seminary



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Mikala Schmitz
Lakeside LHS



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

2013-2014 First-Year Students

Here are just a few of
the **new Knights** at
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2013-14

Allison Dorn
Illinois LHS



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Elizabeth Sweigard
Norfolk HS-Nebraska



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Jason Lindemann
Luther Prep



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Louisa Kahrs
Nebraska LHS



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Jonathan Lehmann
Luther Prep



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Joseph Shiery
California LHS



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Mariah Schoof
Minnesota Valley LHS



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Melissa Koenig
Fox Valley LHS



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Janelle Radue
WISCO



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Grace Johnson
Kettle Moraine LHS



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Isaac Hayes
Arizona Luth Academy



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Jacob Colvin
Luther Prep



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Matthew Behm
Luther Prep



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Alana Mittelstadt
Luther Prep



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Olivia Knudsen
Arcadia HS-Wisconsin



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Maria Wilson
Camp Verde HS-Arizona



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Matthew Tessmer
Minnesota Valley LHS




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Christopher Aveni
Arizona Luth Academy




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Dakota Brown
Prior Lake HS-Minnesota




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Joe Grzonka
Illinois LHS




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Jenna Maurer
Luther Prep




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Dan Schmidt
Luther Prep




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Sarah Sheeks
Pardeeville HS-Wisconsin




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Matthew Steinfeldt
Luther HS




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Lillian Coryell
Christ Chapel Academy-Virginia



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Jacob Lash
Shoreland LHS




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Rachel Frost
Fox Valley LHS



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Luke Zeamer
Fox Valley LHS




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Heather Ann Kroon
Evergreen LHS




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Daniel Sprain
Arizona Luth Academy



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EunSeo (Grace) Yang
South Korea



Martin Luther College 
New Ulm, Minnesota
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2013-14

Joel Westenberg
Luther Prep

NEW

SPECIAL EDUCATION MAJOR

More and more WELS schools are serving children with special needs like cerebral palsy, Down syndrome, ADD/ADHD, autism, emotional-behavioral disorders, or learning difficulties. To meet this ministry need, MLC now offers a special education major.

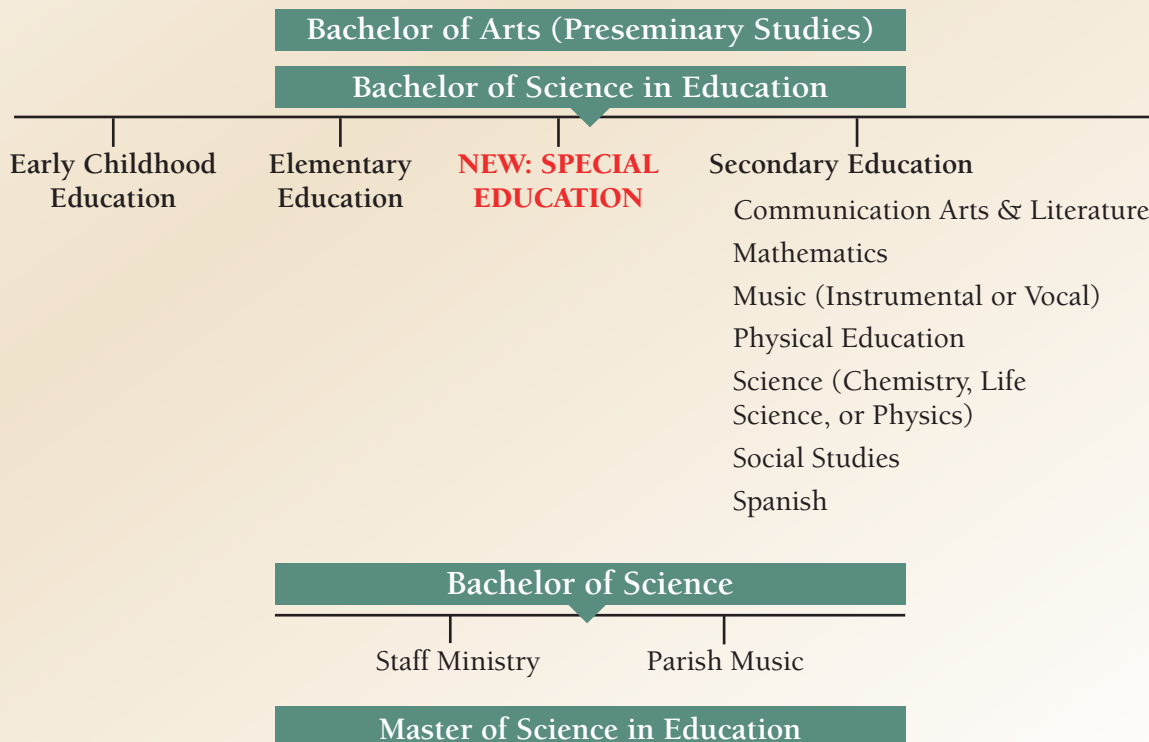
Do you have a heart for children with special needs? If so, we'd encourage you to double-major in elementary education and special education. When you graduate, you'll be qualified to serve as a regular classroom teacher *and* as a resource for your school's special needs children, their parents, and other faculty members. Or you might be called as an area special education teacher, serving special-needs children in several schools.

In the past, students with special needs may have left WELS schools to receive the services they required. We hope to change that. We'd like them to stay at WELS schools where they can hear that Jesus loves them every day.



Professor Daryl Hanneman is a new special education professor. He teaches both undergraduate and graduate special education classes.

MLC ACADEMICS



NEW

EARLY CHILDHOOD LEARNING CENTER

We've been talking about it a long time, and now it's a reality. The new building is up. Teachers and students will move in this fall. Dedication is Sunday, October 27. If you're here that weekend for Homecoming or Focus on Ministry, you'll see it!

This new 15,500-square foot building is a laboratory school where MLC early childhood education majors will observe top-notch ECE teachers and then *become* topnotch ECE teachers.

If you have a soft spot for little children, if you relish the thought of telling little ones about the Savior who loves them, if you want to open doors for whole families to enter God's kingdom, then this ministry may be the one for you. New WELS preschools and learning centers are opening every year, and they will want you to lead them in this ministry.



Professor Jennie Mehlberg teaches little children and college students at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center.



NEW

GRADUATES TEACH IN RUSSIA

So one day last year WELS Missionary Luke Wolfgramm is doing errands in Tomsk, a cultural center in southern Siberia, and he notices a sign: “English House.” He walks in and meets the director, Irina Shvadlenko. She says this house is one of five that teaches English as a second language in Tomsk. Thinking of MLC, Pastor Wolfgramm asks if she wants more teachers. Ms. Shvadlenko says yes, she would hire them on the spot if she could.



Irina Shvadlenko speaks to Amanda Burk and Erik Janke on MLC's campus, telling them about the work they will do in Russia.

Fast forward to October 2012. MLC Daylight International Coordinator Tom Hunter goes to Russia to investigate. Yes, he decides, this would be a good fit for MLC graduates. The result:

Five MLC students—**Amanda Burk** (*MVL*), **Erik Janke** (*LPS*), **Paul Spaude** (*Antigo HS-Wisconsin*), **Elizabeth Henke** (*WISCO*), and **Joanna Wordell** (*West*)—are teaching at the English House in Tomsk. Outside their work hours, they assist with mission work.

In the next few years, we plan to send more grads to Tomsk, and then Novosibirsk and other Russian cities, where people are yearning to hear the gospel of Christ.

MLC Graduates around the Globe



MLC's *Top Five*

By Nathanael Jensen (LPS)

Top Five College Necessities

5. Cool backpack
4. Pretty pink scooter
3. Animal piñatas
2. Pictures of your family
1. Your blankie

Top Five Ways to Procrastinate on Homework

5. Don't do it!
4. Go to the caf
3. Make a music video
2. Do impressions of professors
1. Look at pictures of cats on the internet

Top Five Ways to Spend \$100

5. Buy Books
4. Replace your lost ID 5 times
3. Buy MLC Knights apparel
2. Buy 100 McDoubles
1. Go swimming in the pond (\$100 fine!)

Top Five Ways to Survive a Minnesota Winter

5. Snuggle up with a book and coffee in Starbooks
4. Have a snowball fight
3. Go skiing at Mt. Kato
2. Enjoy MLC's new cable package
1. Go sledding down Hermann Hill

Top Five Reasons MLC Profs Are the Best

5. Some can rock out on the guitar
4. Some have giant cutouts of Star Trek characters
3. Some speak Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Spanish, German, Mandarin, or Elvish
2. All know their material and make class great
1. All personally care about each student

Top Five Strange Objects Found in Dorm Rooms

5. Baby angel water fountain
4. Poster of MLC professor playing golf
3. Installed hardwood floors
2. Six-foot 3D cardboard cutout of a McWrap
1. Dead baby shark from biology dissection

Top Five Fun Places in New Ulm

5. Nehls Frisbee Golf Park
4. Kegel Klub and Bowling Alley
3. Lola's Cafe
2. Vogel Rec Center
1. Flandrau State Park

Top Five Trips to the Twin Cities

5. *Wicked* and *Phantom* productions
4. Coldplay concert at Xcel Energy Center
3. St. Paul Chamber Orchestra
2. Twins Game
1. Mall of America

Top Five Reasons to Love Chapel

5. The *Zimbelstern* (spinning star above the pipes)
4. President Zarling's "Letters from Home"
3. Hearing friends beautify worship with music
2. Hearing presemenary guys preach
1. Worshipping God with hundreds every day

Top Five Ways to Be a Great Roommate

5. Don't lick their stuff
4. Read them bedtime stories
3. Make their bed for them
2. Shower at least once a day
1. Don't snore

Top Five Ways to Spend Spring Break

5. Do an Early Field Experience
4. Travel the country on choir tour
3. Play baseball in Florida
2. Canvass across the US on a Daylight trip
1. Go home and spend time with family

Top Five On-Campus Jobs

5. Cafeteria worker
4. Librarian
3. Mailroom worker
2. Teacher's assistant
1. *KnightWatch Weekly* editor

Top Five Things Parents Can Do

5. Send care packages and money
4. Send care packages and money
3. Send care packages and money
2. Send care packages and money
1. Send care packages and money



Who's an **Early Childhood Center director** in *California*?

Who's teaching **Spanish** at *Fox Valley Lutheran High School*?

Who's a **principal apprentice** in *Ohio*?

Who's an **athletic director** in *Minnesota*?

Who's teaching **English** in *Tomsk, Russia*?

Who's **coaching** and teaching **upper grades** in *Arizona*?

Who's teaching **lower grades** in *Texas*?

Who's teaching **social studies** at *St. Croix Lutheran High School*?

Who's teaching **early childhood education** in *Florida*?

Who's **playing organ** and **directing junior choir** in *Illinois*?

Who's teaching **English** in *Southeast Asia*?

Who's **technology director** and **grade 7-8** teacher in *Wisconsin*?

Who's a **tutor** at *Michigan Lutheran Seminary*?

Who's **enrolling** at *Seminary*?

*Who's starting an exciting new life
of service to the church?*



The 2013 Graduates of
MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE