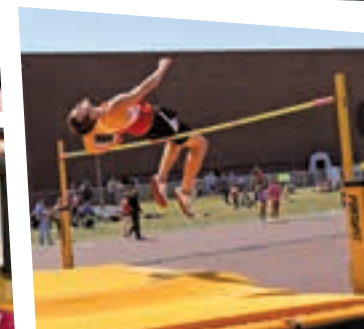


knightwatch MLC

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

SPRING
2014



Is MLC the College for You?
Meet students who said **YES!**



NON-PROFIT
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
OWATONNA, MN 55060
PERMIT #110

1995 Luther Court New Ulm, MN 56073
Address Service Requested

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE
MLC

KnightWatch Staff

WRITER/EDITOR

Laurie Gauger DMLC '86

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHER

William Pekrul DMLC '80, PR Director
Michelle Gartner DMLC '93
Michael Gibbons, Sports Info Director
Kendra Korth MLC '15
Jonathan Witte MLC '18

PROOFREADER

Rebecca Rehberger MLC '15

Office of Admissions

DIRECTOR

Mark Stein DMLC '92

COUNSELORS

Ross Stelljes WLS '89
Lori Unke DMLC '83
Michael Koepke WLS '12
Joshua Danell MLC '13

College Administration

PRESIDENT

Mark Zarling WLS '80

VP for ACADEMICS

David Wendler DMLC '70

VP for ADMINISTRATION

Steven Thiesfeldt DMLC '74


VP for MISSION ADVANCEMENT

Michael Otterstatter WLS '94

VP for STUDENT LIFE

Jeffrey Schone WLS '87

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. 

Dear High School Students,

In these pages, you'll meet MLC students who were just like you a short time ago: wondering what to do with their lives after graduation. Here's what I'd like you to remember as you ponder your options: Your life is going to be an amazing adventure!

The Lord will take you to places he knows are best—best for the kingdom and best for you and your gifts. It's humbling to think that God knows how to use us better than we know how to use ourselves. *'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*

So, as you consider your future, don't worry. Realize that your heavenly Father will bless you no matter what path you take. Ask advice of people who know you well. Reflect on your gifts—what you seem to be good at, what brings you joy. And pray, pray, pray.

If you're still not sure, a good place to pray and think about your future is right here at MLC. Come for a year. Earn some gen ed credits, meet Christian friends, get advice from seasoned professors, and be nurtured by the Spirit in the Word. God will guide you, and he'll open and close doors accordingly.

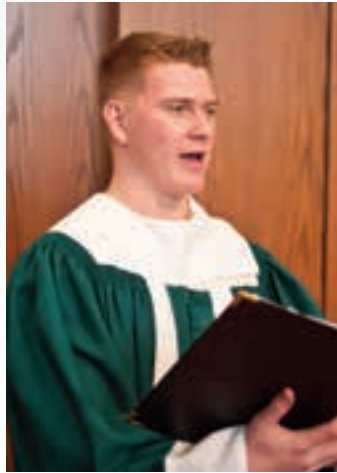
And finally, as Paul says, *Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.* No matter what you choose, rest assured that you will be used by the Lord.

**MLC President
Mark Zarling**



Though for many years he leaned toward Luther-Decorah (Iowa) to study music, when time came to send in the apps, MLC was the clear choice. Now that he's here, he can't say enough about it. His conversation is peppered with "great" and "fun," "I love this" and "I love that." To him, MLC is a blessing, a privilege, and—well, we'll let him tell you.

The people: Every day I go to chapel and am reminded of how blessed I am to be surrounded by so many fellow believers. There's definitely a lot less drama than in high school—not a lot of cliques or groups. Everyone is friendly and willing to just walk up and talk to you whenever. It feels like home.



Andy Tiarks enjoys singing in MLC Chorale and will audition for the College Choir next year.

The fellowship: You have professors, classmates, and friends all focused on the same goal, which is to be a servant for Christ. When everyone is here for the same goal, it's easy to work together and enjoy your time while doing it. I'm so glad I came here.

The opportunities: I get to go to classes that prepare me to do what I love to do, which is teaching and helping others. I sing in Chorale, and I'm hoping to one day make the College Choir and travel all over the place to sing for different people. And there's such a wide variety of intramural sports, from volleyball to basketball to bowling. It seems like they have it all.

"Hey, St. Croix!" I hope to see a lot of you here next year. It is so much fun here and such a privilege, and I know a lot of you there now would have such a great experience here.



St. Croix LHS
Christ-Zumbrota MN

First-Year in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary math education

Activities:
Chorale, piano, track,
intramurals

Job:
Knights Referee Association

Andy Tiarks

She positively shines on the volleyball and basketball courts, so it might surprise you to know that self-confidence doesn't come naturally to her. Especially when it came to teaching, she just wasn't sure she could do it. But MLC provided a wide variety of early field experiences—each one a mini-internship—and they took this future teacher from cautious to confident.

Four years ago: I was not very sure that I wanted to come to MLC, but I did come to try it out. I felt that going into the ministry would give me so many opportunities to spread his Word with others and let them know that it is okay to be unsure about things, because God is in control and he cares for us.

Today: I have a lot more confidence in myself. I've done all my early field experiences and my clinical. They showed me I don't need to be afraid. I can be confident in the abilities God gave me. After all, the adults are there to help and guide, and the children are there to learn and love you.

Her future classroom: My high school math teacher made class very fun, and I want to help students who struggle with math to get that fun feeling like I had and maybe even enjoy math as well.

"Hey, Shoreland!" Don't be afraid to meet new people. At MLC we are studying to spread the gospel to people. This means that we need to create relationships with people and be friendly and maybe strike up a conversation with a person we have never met. So don't be afraid to get out there and talk to someone you may not have thought to talk to before, because they are God's child just like you.



Rebecca Engelbrecht made 1,000 career kills and 1,000 career digs in her career—one of only two players in MLC history to reach both milestones.



Shoreland LHS
Resurrection-Aurora IL

Senior in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
math

Activities:
volleyball, basketball,
Chorale, piano, intramurals

Rebecca Engelbrecht



Winnebago Lutheran Academy

Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati OH

First-Year in Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
soccer, Männerchor, intramurals, piano, Forum (drama)

Job:
Cashier at New Ulm store

Although he comes from a long line of teachers, he wasn't convinced MLC was the place for him. He was thinking about computer science and sports broadcasting as potential careers. But the summer before senior year, his grandfather, Jerry Birkholz, passed away. At the funeral Aaron learned a lot about his grandfather, about called workers, and about himself.

At Grandpa's funeral: I was reminded of the impact my grandfather had on peoples' lives at Minnesota Valley LHS, Michigan Lutheran Seminary, and many other places. It was really eye-opening to me to see what an awesome impact called workers can have on people, and I wanted to be a part of that.

More encouragement: Pastor John Boggs, a teacher at WLA, was very gentle yet persistent about encouraging me to come to MLC. He pointed out how my talents would fit in well with ministry.

And now: I'm even more excited about ministry than when I first came here. I'm definitely less scared! I want to learn more about telling people about Jesus, and I'd really like to teach upper grades and be a grade school principal.

"Hey, Vikings!" Cherish every moment you have at WLA. You're living it for four years, and you really will love it forever!



Aaron Markgraf says soccer has been a great way to make friendships that will last a lifetime.



Rocky Mountain LHS

Peace-Boulder CO

First-Year in Education Studies

Major:
secondary social studies ed

Major:
Spanish

Activities:
tennis, piano

It's no wonder she's double majoring in secondary social studies and Spanish. She loves learning about other cultures and wants to touch every continent before she dies. First step on this journey is a layover in a certain North American city: New Ulm, Minnesota.

She's what you'd call a history buff: I find history fascinating. Learning about the past just makes me want to explore the world even more.

She found another history buff: MLC Professor Paul Koelpin is absolutely fantastic! He makes class fun, and the man is an absolute brain! If you have a question about early history, he's your guy. Plus, he'll happily sit down and talk to you about anything.

She'll follow in those footsteps: I know I want to be a teacher. My pastor, Jesse Stern, and all my teachers at Rocky Mountain were a big encouragement. Seeing how much they enjoyed their jobs was extremely encouraging. And their faith could clearly be seen in all they did. It's easy to tell they're all living for Christ.

"Hey, Rocky Mountain!" Hope you're having a great year. Enjoy it! People aren't kidding when they say it flies by. Keep making me proud on the court and on the stage! Can I get an Amen? Miss you all! P.S. Care packages, pictures of the beautiful mountains, and phone calls/texts are always appreciated.



Nicole Wood also considered culinary school. "I love to cook!" she says. She participated in the Iron Chef Competition during Homecoming, and she gets plenty of other opportunities in the "self-cooking" section of the cafeteria.

Everyone in his family, even his twin brother, attended the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and he could easily have taken that path as well. But he was pulled in another direction—by a faithful God, by a ministry-focused pastor, and by a fall off a second-story roof!

Yes, he fell off a roof! Amazingly I was not injured severely—only a few bruises and scrapes. This made me think about my life for a while, and I knew I wanted to dedicate my life to God as a shepherd of his people.

Pastor Ron Mehlberg inspired him: I never could see myself being a pastor until I had Pastor Mehlberg for senior religion at KML. Every story he shared sparked an interest in my mind.

He was a great role model in that he made us know pastors are not always perfect, and I finally could see myself doing that work someday.

MLC strengthens him: MLC is a place for me to grow in faith and love for my Savior. I was always timid about my faith, but being surrounded by other Christians who want to serve God has been a great experience for me.

“Hey, KML!” *Don’t be afraid to speak about your faith. As Mr. Heck always said, ‘LYF! Live your faith!’ It is so true. Love for God is belief, actions, and words.*

In addition to his preseminary studies, Christopher Pflughoeft plays football. He says, “MLC gave me a great opportunity to continue playing the sports I love.”



Christopher Pflughoeft

**Kettle Moraine LHS
Bethlehem-Menomonee
Falls WI**

**First-Year in
Preseminary Studies**

Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Spanish

Activities:
football, intramurals

Job:
Kinship for Kids mentor

For her, MLC is family. From her first Focus on Ministry trip four years ago, she felt welcomed. Today, whether in class or the dorm, on the softball field or the volleyball court, MLC is still about family: shared faith, laughter and friendship, generosity and support. And her training and Early Field Experiences are showing her that when she becomes a teacher, that “family feeling” will only continue.

The MLC family: After coming to Focus on Ministry, I realized this is where I wanted to be. The students, professors, and staff made a warm welcome for us. Their generosity and kindness were almost overwhelming, and I wanted to be a part of that. I wanted to share the goal of spreading the gospel. Today I still say, MLC is family.

The team is family too: I’ve never been on a team that has shared, laughed, or bonded as well as the volleyball and softball teams here. We share our faith. We spend countless hours together, we create unforgettable memories, and we are each other’s support system. We’re a family.

Early Field Experience (EFE): Last year I did my EFE at St. Mark in Green Bay. The thought of working with seventh and eighth graders made me nervous. I thought, they’re all going to be taller than little 5’2” me, and they won’t want me as a teacher. A couple students did ask me, “Are you in seventh or eighth grade?” But I just chuckled. Turns out, seventh and eighth graders aren’t as scary as I thought. I went back to visit them through the year, and now I’m even more excited to become a teacher.

“Hey, Fox Valley!” *No matter what career you are interested in, you can still serve the Lord to the best of your ability.*



MacCartney Mendolla says her MLC teams are like family.



MacCartney Mendolla

**Fox Valley LHS
St. Paul-Green Bay WI**

**Junior in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
physical education

Activities:
Anchor service club,
softball, volleyball,
intramurals, organ

Christopher Dean



**Edna High School-
Edna TX**

Redeemer-Edna TX

**First-Year in
Preseminary Studies**

Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Spanish

Activities:
football

Until a year ago, he didn't know there was such a thing as a WELS college. Raised in South Texas, he went to public schools, played football, and planned on going to Texas State or training to be a welder, a firefighter, or a driller on an oil rig. But then Pastor Andrew Schroer introduced him to Martin Luther College.

The work of a pastor: I've always wanted to help people through the hardest times of their lives, and I felt being a pastor was the best position for that. My own pastor has helped me through the best and worst of times, and if it wasn't for him I wouldn't be here.

The work at MLC: This place is completely different from what I'm used to. I never had chapel in public school, and I've probably done more homework in one semester here than in all four years of high school combined.

The work of the Spirit: I'm a different person today than when I first came here. My faith is stronger, I've matured, and I've gained more confidence in my academic abilities. MLC has been a great influence on me and my faith.

***"Hey, friends at Redeemer!"** Enjoy the warm weather for me! I miss y'all and can't wait to come home. Tell Pastor I'm fine and have been staying out of "trouble."*



Christopher Dean #42 works year-round on football. "It builds character," he says, "and brings a group of people together, whether it's the team, town, college, or community."

Ruth Nitz



**Evergreen LHS
Messiah-Olympia WA**

**First-Year in
Education Studies**

Major:
communication arts & lit

Major:
Spanish

Activities:
Women's Choir, piano

Job:
cafeteria

She's followed a curvy road. Intending to pursue the arts, she first took gen eds at a community college. Then she spent nine months in AmeriCorps, teaching science to little kids. AmeriCorps netted her \$5000 and the realization that she wanted to teach. Transferring to MLC and then majoring in Spanish—those are just two more curves in the road.

From Washington to Minnesota: I looked into many schools, and MLC had the highest quality program with the lowest cost. I knew I could also learn more about the Bible here. And my best friend, Taylor Swanson, had come here, and she had nothing but praise for it.

Why Spanish? It started out as an accident. In my hurry to mail my documents in, I accidentally marked Spanish and English as my majors when I'd meant to only choose English. Once I got here, the program and the enthusiastic professor really sucked me in. Now my dream is to teach high school Spanish.

Pleasant surprises: I came to MLC very cautiously, but I was pleasantly surprised by what I learned and how I was given many opportunities to develop my talents.

***"Hey, Evergreen!"** MLC is a good school with high-quality courses. Plus, when you get here you're instantly special because you're from the West Coast. You can tell everyone you went*

to high school in Seattle when it was really in Des Moines or Tacoma (congrats on the new campus, by the way). Also, the sky does this thing here, where it has no clouds in it and you can see all sorts of stuff without getting rain in your eyes. Give it some thought.

Ruth Nitz draws, sings, and wants to take guitar lessons in addition to piano. "There are lots of talented artists at MLC," she says, "and lots of things I can be doing in the arts. One thing I really like is the free music lessons in any instrument."



Even as a little girl, her life was filled with music. She was singing and playing piano at the age of 5 and in time took up flute, handbells, and organ. With the guidance of her mom and her teachers, she grew into the music. Now she's pursuing a double major in elementary ed and secondary instrumental music at MLC, and every day is a new day of musical opportunity and growth.

Music and Mom: My mom, who's a third grade teacher, was a great influence for me. Every day, I had an example of the life of a teacher, and she always encouraged me to pursue my God-given abilities to work with

children, but she never forced me. She supports me in anything, which made it very easy to make the decision to come to MLC!

Music and Mr. Wendland: Music has always been a big part of my life, and my band director in high school (shout-out to Mr. Wendland!) made me want to study music more—just through his own passion.

Music and MLC: I'm most involved in band, choir, organ, and piano. They all present a unique opportunity to serve God with my talents. For me, MLC is a place of growth! I never would have imagined I'd be where I am today if it weren't for the wonderful friends and professors and my Savior guiding me!

***"Hey, KML!"** Shout-out to all you who get to use the new PAC! (I'm quite jealous.) Cherish it and keep living for Christ!*

Shannon Eggers plays flute for her choir as well as for the MLC Wind Symphony.



Shannon Eggers

Kettle Moraine LHS

David's Star-Jackson WI

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary instrumental
music

Activities:
Centennial Dorm Council;
Handbells (president);
Chorale; Wind Symphony;
Forum (Readers' Theater
director); pit orchestra; piano,
flute, and organ lessons

Whether a GPLHS Panther or an MLC Knight, he loves sports and wants to keep playing. He'd like to coach someday too. With a double major—elementary ed and secondary physical ed—plus a coaching minor, he'll be ready. Just maybe he can step into the shoes of those teachers and coaches who made such an impact on him.

Big shoes to fill: My teachers and coaches have been such an influence on my life, and I've always looked up to them for guidance. I want to be that person in a student's life someday.

Most influential of all: Jeff Roloff. I've known him my whole life: as my principal in grade school and my teacher and football coach in high school. He's always been there for me when times are hard. He's always encouraged me in sports, and he is the most kindhearted and caring person I know. He will go out of his way to help anyone.

What he's enjoying most—no surprise: P.E. and basketball. P.E. was always my favorite class, and I feel it's very important. And I love playing basketball. Here I get to play it with a great group of guys. Playing on a new team and meeting new players and coaches is a great experience.

***"Hey, Great Plains!"** Good luck to my old basketball team. Keep up the hard work. Seniors, be leaders. Let's see another banner, boys!*

Zachary Peterson plays basketball for the Knights and hopes to be a coach himself one day.



Zachary Peterson

Great Plains LHS

**St. Martin's-
Watertown SD**

**First-Year in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary physical
education

Minor:
coaching

Activities:
basketball, Männerchor

Joycelyn Christmas



**Isaiah Thomas Secondary
School-Dominica**

**St. John-St. John's,
Antigua**

**Junior in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
coaching

Activities:
soccer

Job:
MLC fitness center

When she enrolled, she already had an associate's degree and six years of teaching under her belt. She might have continued teaching fifth grade at St. John's Lutheran School in Antigua forever. But a professor at Antigua State College encouraged her not to settle for that two-year degree. So now she's pursuing her four-year degree at MLC. She's grateful to Pastor Andrew Johnston and the Caribbean Christian Training Institute for this opportunity to become an even better teacher.

MLC—for spiritual growth: I chose MLC because it provided the atmosphere for spiritual growth that will enhance my preparation to teach in a WELS school. It is God's answer to prayers that he make me a vessel set apart to accomplish his purpose of fulfilling the Great Commission.

MLC—for personal growth: For me, MLC is the gateway to a wide variety of opportunities, adventures, and a wealth of information that prepares one to rise up to the challenge of being a teacher.

MLC—for professional experiences: Early Field Experience was amazing. It reinforced my desire to teach students at the elementary level. They are so eager to learn, and I thrive on that. School is supposed to be a fun place to be, and at this level there are many fun things that can be done that make students fall in love with school.

"Hey, St. John's!" Please consider attending MLC, but not just yet. Wait until I graduate! It might be a bit awkward for my students and me to be in the same class. On a serious note, college is the best experience anyone can ever have! Make it part of your goal and go for it! Special thanks to the faculty, staff, pastors, and church members of St. John's for your continued support and prayer!



In Antigua, Joycelyn Christmas #16 coached cricket. With no wickets to be found on this campus, she opted for MLC soccer.

Christopher Aveni



**Arizona Lutheran
Academy**

Emmanuel-Tempe AZ

**First-Year in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary social studies
education

Activities:
football, Männerchor

He never expected to be at MLC. He was dead-set on being a U.S. Marine, joining three of his friends who had enlisted. But God worked through a Focus on Ministry trip, a mysterious visitor, and memories of a very special teacher to change his mind.

Focus on Ministry: As weird as it sounds, as soon as I got onto the MLC campus for Focus on Ministry, I knew this is where God wanted me to be. I could tell the entire time I was on the trip that God was at work.

The mysterious visitor: The last night I was at MLC, I was alone in my host's room, and someone (I found out later, neither of my hosts knew who it was) came in looking for a microwave to cook their popcorn. We ended up talking for a couple hours about school, the ministry, our faith, and if MLC had been a good experience for him. I felt like God was giving me hints.

That memorable teacher: Kevin Festerling was my teacher at St. Marcus in Milwaukee for fifth and sixth grade. His unorthodox teaching style, passion for our learning, and care for our spiritual lives were impressive. He changed the life of almost every child in that classroom. From then on, I could never get out of my mind that I wanted to change lives like he did.

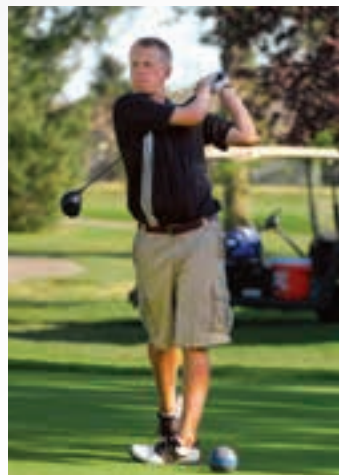
"Hey, ALA!" Before you write MLC off like I did at first, stop and listen. Observe the things God is doing in your life. Like Paul says in Romans 8:28, "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." God has a purpose for all of his believers. Trust in him and truly believe that wherever you end up, you can serve him and his purpose.



Christopher Aveni #25 says MLC football was a great experience. He hopes to coach it himself someday.

He entertained the idea of engineering for a bit, but honestly, he says, he didn't have a clue what to do with his life. One momentous day senior year changed all that. He job-shadowed Pastor Paul Schuppman of St. John-Juneau, Wisconsin. What he saw was an ordinary man doing extraordinary work, and that motivated Craig Wilke to do that extraordinary work too.

Motivated by Pastor Schuppman: In the morning Pastor Schuppman showed me how he went about writing his sermon, and then we made a hospital visit and I got to read a little part of Psalms to the man in the hospital. I enjoyed every part of what we did, and he answered a lot of my questions about being a pastor.



Craig Wilke is a busy man on campus, a member of the golf team, basketball team, and two committees.

Motivated by his family: I'm the first person from my family to go to MLC, and only my immediate family is WELS. But they are very supportive of what I'm doing. They come up to visit and watch basketball games, and they've been very big encouragers for me and my walk through MLC.

Motivating others: I'm a member of the Pastoral Motivation Committee. We organize the gatherings of preseminary students and faculty. On that committee, I've learned a servant attitude and a sense of belonging. When I'm a pastor, I'd like to encourage kids to consider the ministry too. I want to help them do their best but also realize that grades aren't everything.

"Hey, Lakeside!" *Don't rule out any possibility for your life, because you never know where you will end up. So just keep praying.*



Lakeside LHS

**Bethany-
Fort Atkinson WI**

**Junior in
Preseminary Studies**

Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Spanish

Activities:
golf, basketball,
Student Athletic Advisory
Council, Pastoral
Motivation Committee

Job:
cashier at New Ulm store

Craig Wilke

Through her high school years at Luther Prep, she knew she'd be a teacher. The only question was where to pursue that goal. Kansas State was right in her hometown, and her sister was already enrolled there. But she decided she wanted to help kids with the best tool possible—the gospel—so she chose MLC. Now the Prep girl from Kansas is in Minnesota, prepping for the calling of a lifetime.

Prepping times two: My majors are elementary education and secondary history education. I chose to double-major in those because I want to be prepared for the broadest range of calls possible.



Having worked with preschoolers for many years, Emma Hirsch is now expanding her training to elementary and secondary ed.

Prepping by observation—learning from the best: Professor David Sellnow was my history teacher freshman year, and after attending his class I was really struck at how much work he put into his class and how the variety in class helped learning. It was also obvious how much he enjoyed teaching, which made it entertaining for him and his students.

Prepping through Early Field Experience: For Early Field Experience freshman year, it was helpful to work with students of a different age than I was used to. I had mostly worked with preschoolers before, so it was interesting to see what teaching older kids was like. It made me more excited for the new experiences that I knew were coming in the future.

"Hey, LPS!" *If you decide to come to MLC, you should know that you can eat from the cafeteria at any time of the day, and most of the time they have deluxe flavors of ice cream, including cinnamon churro.*



Luther Prep

Hope-Manhattan KS

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary social studies
education

Activities:
Chorale, piano, intramurals

Job:
Lola's American Bistro

Emma Hirsch

Austin Eisenmann



Fox Valley LHS
St. Peter-Appleton WI

Sophomore in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary math education

Activities:
football, basketball, piano

Job:
AMPI butter factory

He considered becoming a public school teacher but decided he wanted a classroom where he could share his faith. So he's at MLC, being trained for both WELS and public school teaching. He's studying both elementary education and secondary math education, preparing himself to teach both grade school and high school—and just maybe to coach basketball too.

Basketball and friends: I really enjoy the guys on the team and the friendships that are built through playing basketball.

Basketball and ministry: Basketball has helped me prepare for the ministry. It's taught me leadership and how to interact with many different people, like teammates, coaches, fans, other teams, refs, and so on. I'm also learning how to become a coach. Hopefully one day, I'll coach my own team using the same qualities I've learned from basketball.

Basketball and butter: I work at the butter factory in New Ulm called AMPI. It's a job where I do the same thing over and over again, but it has taught me the worth of money, and it keeps me driven in my classes, because I would way rather teach and coach than work at the butter factory for the rest of my life.

"Hey, FVL seniors!" Have fun and just relax. College is awesome!



Austin Eisenmann says he's learning how to coach from his coaches.

Alexandria Anthon



Lakeside LHS
St. Paul-Lake Mills WI

Junior in
Education Studies

Major:
early childhood education

Activities:
basketball, volleyball,
track and field, Student
Athletic Advisory
Committee, Chorale, piano

Jobs:
coaching club volleyball,
Turner Hall staff, babysitting

A serious basketball player, she knows about teamwork. And that's a good thing, because it takes a team to make a teacher too: parents and teachers who tell you you can do it, college professors who show you how to do it, and—often—cute little kids who make you want to do it. And working through this team, of course, is the Lord of the Church, who calls you to do it.

The teachers who supported her: I had a ton of support from teachers who told me they could see me being a teacher. Pastor Clark Schultz at Lakeside coordinated our Focus on Ministry trips and gave me a ton of support. He put the original thought of coming to MLC in my head.

The pros who instructed her: I absolutely love any class with Professor Loomis. She has so many great stories and tips for our future careers in the ministry. It gets me excited to start teaching! My Early Field Experience II also had a huge impact. It pretty much sealed the deal that I want to be a teacher. Spending a week in a classroom, learning from that teacher, was a great opportunity.

The children who inspired her: One Sunday I noticed in church that I loved seeing the children expressing their faith, and I wanted to be a part of that. I still love watching children at such an early age growing in their faith and also growing cognitively every single day. It's very humbling.

"Hey, Lakeside!" Keep Samantha out of trouble!
Good luck in your basketball season, SDG!



Alex Anthon loves basketball and the close bonds she has with her teammates at MLC.

Her first choice was a San Diego college. Set on the Point Loma oceanfront, it was a dream come true: killer view, crashing waves, balmy breezes—all just a few minutes from home. But it didn't feel like home. Then, in February of her junior year, she visited a little Minnesota college. Substitute snow for sand and "brrr" for balmy. Still, the college's atmosphere and purpose said: "Now you're home."

She remembers: Jill Anding Snyder (MLC '10) and April Cook (MLC '11) were huge role models for me. They weren't just my dorm supervisors at Cal Lutheran. They were my mom and big sister at the same time. I knew I could count on them for anything, and that's exactly why I wanted to come to MLC, to learn how to build relationships like that with my future students.



MLC is far from the California beach, but Caitlin Seastrand loves it and calls it home.

She's growing: I'd like to say I've drastically matured now that I'm a big college student, but that's not the case. However, I've really figured out why I'm here and what I'm living for. My faith has been strengthened, and the relationships I have with others have helped me to be a better person.

She knows: To me, MLC is not the place to find a spouse, to play college sports, or the last resort. MLC to me is the place to find Christ, to run with perseverance the race marked out for us with our eyes fixed on Jesus, and the opportunity to make a difference.

"Hey, Cal Lutheran!" *Don't think of MLC as somewhere you're supposed to go because your whole family went there. Don't consider MLC your destiny because you're WELS. Rather, consider it a place you can call home when you're far away from your own, a place to build incredible friendships that will last a lifetime, a place to grow in faith and love, and place to learn how God can use you. P.S. To my Californians: It's cold.*



California LHS
Reformation-San Diego

First-Year in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Major:
Spanish

Activities:
Chorale, piano, soccer,
intramurals

Jobs:
after-school tutor,
chapel chair crew

Caitlin Seastrand

He spent three semesters at Ball State, dipping into music, theater, journalism, psychology, and business. But even the most fascinating courses couldn't feed his spirit. So he transferred to MLC. He's still not sure he has what it takes to be a teacher. But he's hearing the Word, getting good guidance, and making great friends. For that he's grateful.

Grateful to a great professor: Through his personal communications course and other talks, Professor Mark Paustian taught me a lot about ministry, but even more about relationships in life. He helped me in my transition to MLC and gave me some of the best advice, which I strive to implement in my life every day.

Michael Koester says caring professors and students made his transfer to MLC smooth. And getting involved in groups like Forum and College Choir made a dramatic impact on his college life.



Grateful to his Forum friends: I've been blessed with two roles in past Forum performances, and I'm now directing this year's winter play: *The Giver*. Through Forum, I've gained good Christian friends who have really made MLC feel like the second home I've been looking for. I cannot thank these people enough! I know I can talk to them, and they have the same faith I do. I can't think of a better place to grow.

"Hey, Michigan LHS!" *Let your gospel light shine in everything you do—not just in school, but in your daily life among friends, coworkers, and family! Live your lives for the glory of Christ—with him as your first priority. It doesn't matter what you want to do with your future; each one of you has a way of spreading the gospel through everything you do. Finally, yes, look to the future—but not too fast. "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him (Colossians 3:17).*



Michigan LHS
Peace-Granger IN

Sophomore in
Education Studies

Major:
communication arts & lit

Minor:
music

Activities:
Forum (drama),
College Choir, piano

Job:
cleaning and landscaping
(off campus)

Michael Koester



**Michigan Lutheran
Seminary**
Good Shepherd-Novi MI

**First-Year in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
early childhood education

Activities:
basketball, Chorale,
piano, intramurals

She wouldn't necessarily call it panic, but she definitely had some anxiety during college decision time her senior year. Becoming an athletic trainer at nearby Albion College was inviting. But it wasn't a Christian college, and that was important to her. So she enrolled at MLC, even though she's not sure whether teaching is the career for her. And so far, so good. She's succeeding—thanks to encouragement from her mom, solid preparation at MLS, and support from her MLC basketball team.

Thank you, Mom: My mom is a kindergarten teacher at St. Peter in Plymouth, Michigan, the grade school I attended. She enjoyed her time at DMLC, and she continues to share stories of her college days. She told me to at least try MLC. If it doesn't work out, at least I can say that I tried, and then I'll know for sure teaching isn't for me.

Thank you, MLS: MLS has been a huge blessing to me. MLS encourages their students to become involved in many different areas: music, sports, drama, etc. In high school I wanted to participate in everything. But in order to do that, I had to be organized and learn how to manage homework, sports, and other extracurricular activities. In that way, MLS definitely prepared me for college.

Thank you, team: I love playing with this basketball team. We support each other on and off the court. We pray for each other and help each other through problems. There's always someone there to help and listen because we're all sisters in Christ.

"Hey, MLS!" Seniors, graduation will come sooner than you know it! Enjoy your last year! Hope to see you around campus next fall.



Faith Schroeder #40 is grateful for the friendship and support of her teammates.



Minnesota Valley LHS
St. Paul-New Ulm MN

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
football, basketball,
Chorale, piano

He started as a business administration major at another Lutheran college. After a year he decided he was a teacher at heart. Changing majors is common—80% of college students do it at least once—but changing colleges is rarer. For Nathan Schoenherr, though, it wasn't difficult. Coming to MLC was like coming home.

New Ulm is home: My house is only six blocks away, but I live on campus. It gives me that sense of independence. I visit my family whenever I get the chance, but I'm not always going home for everything. I have to take care of myself.

The dorm is home away from home: In high school you became good friends with people and knew them quite well, but in college you get to know people so much better. In the dorms, I've met a lot of guys from different high schools. It's neat to hear what they have to say about their high school experiences and finding out the similarities and differences between the many high schools.

What he learned at home: My parents were big encouragements to me to become a teacher. They're both teachers at Lutheran schools, so they're models of what I want to be someday, and they've shown me the joys of being a teacher. They're always telling me stories of

their school days and giving me the hope that I can someday enjoy these experiences also.

"Hey, MVL!" Every single student should at least consider the ministry because God opens up many new opportunities through it.



Being a transfer didn't hold Nathan Schoenherr back from the college activities he enjoys—sports and music.

He was never, ever going to MLC. Practically his entire family had gone through that institution, and he wanted to stay far away. Accounting—that sounded like a good field. Just to be sure, he shadowed an accountant for a day, and wow, did that do the trick. Though he loved math, accounting seemed boring. He needed more action. Then he remembered teaching Sunday school and how thrilling that was, how every day with those kids was an adventure. Maybe MLC wouldn't be so bad . . .

Teaching math: I have loved math ever since I can remember, and I've always wanted to share my love of math with others. I also love children in the elementary setting. They're so eager to learn. I will strive to make math fun and exciting for the next generation!

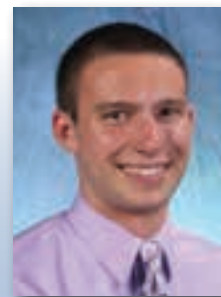


Ryan Klatt enjoys broomball, a Winter Carnival activity organized by the Student Senate on which he serves.

Teaching reading: I'd always been a little skeptical of being in charge of teaching children how to read. It's a daunting task. It sets children up for the rest of their lives. One small mistake could be disastrous—or so I thought. In Teaching Reading class, Dr. Whaley taught me how easy and fun it can be to teach reading.

Teaching kindergarten? I did my clinical experience in kindergarten, which intimidated me because I don't consider that my area of expertise. But I *loved* every second of it. The students were hilarious, and seeing the progress they made through the year was astounding. Teaching is just fantastic.

“Hey, West!” *To all you Warriors out there who don't know what to do with your future career: Don't worry about it. God has his plans for you. Pray about it and know that what he decided will work out. Who knows? Maybe I'll see you up on the hill with my brother and myself. As Mr. Bain would say, “Can you dig it?”*



West LHS

**Holy Trinity-
New Hope MN**

**Senior in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
math

Activities:
Student Senate treasurer,
Chorale, Aulic Committee,
intramurals

Ryan Klatt

He's always had his heart set on MLC and the public ministry. While here, he works as hard as he can, developing his gifts so he's well-equipped to serve. That means keeping up with his studies and getting involved in lots of campus activities. It also means working hard off campus as well—at a job not many students could handle.

Working hard on campus: Though it may seem impossible, there are even more activities in college than in high school. College Choir, for instance, is a big-time commitment, but one that is completely worth the time put in. While I'm at MLC, I want to maximize my ability to serve God, so I can give a little back to the one who gave us so very much.



Working off campus: Working allows me to be a student, as college costs money. I work on a dairy farm seven days a week, 2-7 hours at a time, doing everything from milking the cows to hauling manure with the tractor. Because I work, I'm avoiding as much debt as I can.

Working his way “up”: For me, MLC is an elevator that's getting me from high school to a life of service, whether as a lay person or in the public ministry. Along the way I'm learning more about myself and my classmates and about what it means to live the life of a Christian.

“Hey, Lancers!” *Whether you're just starting out as a freshman or graduation is right around the corner, be involved as much as you can at MLHS! Keep Anna in line, and whatever career you choose, do it to God's glory, always.*

Never one to hold back, Luke Bramstedt enjoys some Arbor Day fun.



Manitowoc LHS

Trinity-Kiel WI

**Junior in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
German

Activities:
football, College Choir,
organ, DJ for campus
events, intramurals

Job:
dairy farm

Luke Bramstedt



**Michigan Lutheran
Seminary**

St. Paul-Saginaw MI

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
secondary physical
education

Minor:
coaching

Activities:
basketball, track,
intramurals

Job:
MLC cafeteria

He might have been a police officer, but his dad, Pastor Bill Brassow, and his brother-in-law, Landon Zacharyasz, showed him by word and example how meaningful a called worker's life could be. They put God first, he says, and they obviously enjoy their jobs. So now he's at MLC, and he already knows what kind of teacher he'd like to be. Let's just say he's setting the bar high.

He wants to be a spiritual leader: I want to be a good role model and a good teacher so that children look up to me just like I looked up to my teachers. That way I can have an effect on their lives. Most of all, I want to teach God's Word every day in the classroom.

He wants to teach P.E.: I like the idea of teaching through movement, not just in P.E. class but in everyday classes. My P.E. courses have given me a feel for how physical education can impact the brain and increase education significantly. I've always wanted to be an athletic director and coach at the high school level as well.

He's just trusting God: I know the Lord has a plan for me. That takes a load off my shoulders, because I trust that God will guide me to my true calling.

**Todd Brassow broke the MLC
high jump record last spring.**

"Hey, MLS!" Give MLC a try, at least for a year. See if you like it, and if not, that's fine—at least you won't always be wondering "What if?" Convince each other to come! We need more of us! Keith and Allie Brassow, you better not be slacking. Stay faithful and get good grades. Try and beat your old brother's GPA of 4.0. ☺ I'd also like to thank my home congregation, St. Paul's in Saginaw, for supporting me at MLC.



St. Croix LHS

**Shepherd of the Hills-
Inver Grove Heights MN**

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Minor:
coaching

Activities:
cross country, Women's Choir,
piano, intramurals

Job:
elementary school tutor

As a Twin Cities girl, she wanted to experience a big university, maybe study physical therapy or sports medicine. But then she visited MLC and realized it wasn't a big university she craved — it was a big campus family. That's just what this college offered. And since teaching had also been on her career list, she decided to trust her instincts and give MLC a try. Now in her sophomore year, she's finding inspiration at every turn.

Inspired by watching her sister: My oldest sister also went here. She would show me things she was working on, and I could tell how much she loved what she was doing. Teaching seemed like the most fun job in the world!

Inspired in class: Psychology with Professor Spurgin made me excited to teach. He would bring up his experiences, and he got his class excited to be amazing teachers and make a difference! I looked forward to every class.

Inspired by Early Field Experience: First-Year EFE is the most inspiring, awesome memory I have from last year. The teachers had incredible feedback for me, and when I finally got to teach, it was the most fun I had all year!

Inspired by her job: I tutor three different kids, at three different ages, down at St. Paul's Lutheran grade school. I love helping students struggling in reading and math! It's cool to see everything in their heads click.

"Hey, St. Croix!" Don't always think you have to go to a big college because you have been "stuck" in the small WELS world all your life. Be happy that you have the opportunity to be surrounded by other Christians every day!



**For Amara Biebert, Early Field Experience
confirmed her desire to teach.**

She wanted to be a forensic psychologist, but a Taste of Ministry trip her senior year at Prep introduced her to urban education. She fell in love with teaching, and there was no turning back. Now she's traveling and teaching a lot, and every trip is an opportunity for more growth, more change—starting with the initial trip from Luther Prep to MLC.

The trip from Prep to MLC: Most people have the expectation that MLC is exactly the same as Luther Prep. I thought it was too—until I got here. MLC provides so many opportunities for you to set your *own* path to the ministry.



The trip to Jamaica: I never liked science until I had Professor Roger Klockziem for biology my freshman year. He made science interesting and understandable. Now I'm a science minor, and I went to Jamaica over Christmas break for a marine ecology class.

The Daylight trips: I love Daylight USA trips, because it gives me an opportunity to spread God's Word in areas other than home and New Ulm. There are so many opportunities and so many places you can go to. I've been to Nebraska, Indiana, and Tennessee. They are always a blast and I always look forward to doing another one.

"Hey, LPS!" *Enjoy Prep while it lasts! It's a great time and a great blessing. You'll never lose those friends, no matter where you go. Treasure the set bedtimes—you'll miss them.*

Miriam Hanson fell in love with teaching during a Luther Prep Taste of Ministry trip.



Luther Prep
Friedens-Bonduel WI
Sophomore in
Education Studies
Major:
 elementary education
Minor:
 science
Activities:
 intramurals, piano,
 Daylight USA,
 Urban Ministry Club
Job:
 Applebee's

Miriam Hanson

Maybe he got it from his parents. Maybe he got it from the called workers he's admired through the years. Wherever it came from, there's no doubt that Aaron Schwartz is a people person. And finally, that's what teaching is all about—love for people, concern for their wellbeing, care for their souls.

He chose teaching because it's about people: I felt like teaching was a great way to share my faith and serve as a role model for young students as they grow into adults.

His teachers cared too: The one who had a great influence on me was my high school baseball coach and religion teacher, Pastor Jon Bilitz. He came to school and practice with a

love for what he was doing. I know that he truly cared for me as well as each student at Luther.

He can't wait to have students of his own: I've done my secondary clinical in a public high school science classroom, and it made me realize how much I enjoy speaking with students and learning more about them, encouraging struggling students, and giving post-high school advice. It's rewarding.

He likes people at work too: Kwik Trip is a great company to work for. The owners live their faith and are so generous to their co-workers and the community. I also enjoy this job because I can talk with many people from the community of New Ulm and tell them I'm studying at MLC to share God's Word through the public ministry.

"Hey, Luther!" *Are we having fun yet? Rossdawg is a third derivative. Good luck, winter sports!*



Aaron Schwartz's parents showed their love and support at Homecoming.



Luther High
St. Paul-Onalaska WI
Junior in
Education Studies
Major:
 elementary education
Major:
 secondary physics
 education
Activities:
 football, intramurals,
 Knights Referee Association,
 piano, Chorale
Job:
 Kwik Trip

Aaron Schwartz



Huron Valley LHS
St. John-Westland MI

First Year in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
piano, intramurals

Job:
Jake's Pizza

Her older sister Justine paved the way for her, graduating from MLC, teaching in Florida, and continuing to serve as an excellent guide and example. Still, she knows she needs to take her own journey now, a journey that's brought her 800 miles from home, a journey that is changing her in ways she never imagined.

She's changing: Being 800 miles from home, I feel like I've grown up and changed a lot just in the past few months. My faith is getting stronger because I'm around all these people who are working for the same purpose, to prepare for ministry and then to help bring others to faith. I have more responsibility, and my parents aren't here to keep me in line. I also have the freedom to explore new things and find new friends that I'll keep forever.

More change to come: MLC is my new home. It's where I go to bed at night, it's where my new friends are, and it's where my life will be for the next four years. Being at MLC has already brought me so much great change that I can't wait to see how the rest of my time here will be.

Helping others change: I chose to go to MLC because I want to make an impact on someone's life, and what would be better than to do so spiritually?

"Hey, Huron Valley!" Enjoy the time you have there because it really is a blessing and a great experience.



Caitlin Smith enjoys chapel at MLC. It's just one aspect of campus life that is making her faith stronger.



Michigan Lutheran
Seminary
St. Stephen-Adrian MI

First-Year in
Preseminary Studies

Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Spanish

Activities:
basketball, organ,
intramurals

He speaks with passion about three important people in his life. First, his dad, Neil Neumann—the best role model a young man could hope for, the man who kept him in the Word from little on. Then his high school coach, Karl Schmugge—who taught him about football and life, who encouraged him to give MLC a try. Most important though, is his God, who was his constant companion through an ordeal few teenagers have to face: cancer.

The cancer: On July 8, 2011, the summer before my junior year, I was diagnosed with Hodgkin's lymphoma. There was a tumor wrapped around my heart and left lung, and no surgery could be done. Months of treatment were ahead. I was told I wouldn't play football, and more than likely not basketball or baseball either.

The constant companion: The Lord was good to me and allowed me to play basketball. Through many months of chemo and other treatment, the Lord blessed me in ways that cannot be explained. I saw who was really there for me in life, and I got to know my best friend better.

The one in control: I learned that God is in control of my life. I am not. I can only go one day of grace at a time, and know and trust that God is going to be there for me. A passage I took to heart that year and still hold onto today was Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I

have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'"

"Hey, MLS!" It was great watching the fall sports this year, and I hope you continue your success. Always remember that God is in control of your life and you have nothing to fear. Every day is a new day, a day of grace. Remember that.



Erich Neumann #40 isn't one to take playing sports for granted.

He remembers sitting in the church pew as a little boy, looking up at the pulpit, listening to the preacher, and then whispering to his mom, "I want to be a pastor." It became a dream and a fascination. He kept his eye on pastors and teachers, watching how they lived, noting how they were shaping him, and imagining himself in the same role. He knew it was only a matter of time before he would start his own journey to the ministry.

The college: MLC has been my choice for as long as I can remember. It's such a unique place. You aren't only getting an amazing education, but you're also increasing your faith through daily chapels, Bible classes, and devotions.



Jacob Roecker says choir is a big breath of fresh air after all his demanding classes. "There's nothing better than praising my Lord with my voice!"

The language: Greek class has had such a positive impact on my life. Languages haven't been my strong suit, but as long as you put the time in, daily, you'll get your work done and you'll grow spiritually. The amazing thing is that you aren't getting an English translation from some scholar, but the original language of the New Testament, which really opens your eyes.

The calling: Being a pastor, you have the opportunity to let your light shine. I'm a pretty empathetic guy. I feel I have an understanding of what people go through on a day-to-day basis, and it makes me want to tell them more about Jesus.

"Hey, WISCO!" *The best high school ever! Enjoy every minute of it because those four years will go by quickly. Don't be afraid to stick your neck out a bit and be involved in as many things as you can be! Shout out to Wisco Kids, A Cappella, and the wrestling team! Use your God-given gifts to the fullest!*



Wisconsin LHS
Trinity-Waukesha WI
First-Year in
Preseminary Studies
Major:
biblical languages
Emphasis:
Latin
Activities:
Chorale, soccer

Jacob Roecker

She's always wanted to come to MLC to be an early childhood educator. She loves little kids, and she's been watching her mom teach preschoolers and kindergartners for years. The best part, she says, is the opportunity to share the love of God every single day. Another love of hers is baking. Of course, there's no reason she can't share that with the little ones too.

Looking up to Mom: My mom, Mary Dorn, is always so busy, but it's because she loves the children she teaches. I see that she's a great teacher because of how much the kids look up to her. She's taught me so much my whole life—it's why I wanted to come to MLC. I only hope I'm as good as she is as a mother and teacher someday.



Allison Dorn mixes up some brownies with her nephew Carson.

Reading, writing, and great big hugs: During fall break I went to my mom's kindergarten classroom. I had so much fun. I got to read to them, help them with handwriting and spelling, and go through the Weekly Reader. It was the first time I got to teach kindergarten, and now I know it's what I want to do. I know it'll be challenging some days, but they love learning. They also give great big hugs.

College can be challenging: College is a time to really grow. You're away from your family, and you have a lot of responsibilities. I was also scared it would be hard to make friends. But I had three great roommates so I had three friends almost automatically. And when I do get overwhelmed by the challenges, I'm always reminded that God is here to help me. I turn to him, and he gets me back on track.

"Hey, Illinois!" *For my old basketball team at home—I miss you girls so much. I know how good you girls can be and how good you look in those new uniforms! Keep working hard! Good luck!!*



Illinois LHS
Trinity-Crete IL
First-Year in
Education Studies
Major:
early childhood education
Activities:
Wind Symphony,
Chorale, piano,
pit orchestra, Forum
(winter play)
Job:
babysitting

Allison Dorn



Minnesota Valley LHS
St. John-New Ulm MN

Junior in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Major:
communication arts & lit

Activities:
piano, Daylight USA

Jobs:
teaching assistant for
Professor James Pope and
student assistant for
Daylight USA

As a serious scholar, her lifelong dream was to be an archaeologist, and she had filled out the appropriate college apps to pursue that. But then she realized she'd rather teach—maybe even at the college level—so it seemed silly to go anywhere but Martin Luther College. Now she's discovering and developing her gifts more than she could have imagined.

She's building on her love for literature:

I love to read, and my English professor, Paul Grubbs, has made an incredible impact on me. I'm constantly impressed with his preparation and enthusiasm. He has interesting material and high expectations of himself and his students.

She's teaching college now: One of my campus jobs is teaching assistant for Professor James Pope, where I'm learning more about how to write well and evaluate others' writing. I am so blessed to have a wonderful means of learning and earning money.

She's becoming herself: When I first came, I was almost entirely lacking in confidence. Since then, I've realized that God has blessed me richly, and in order to use his gifts, I have to recognize them and not doubt them. To summarize, when I came here I would tell people I wanted to be a teacher. Now I tell them I am a teacher.

"Hey, MVL!" I loved my high school, and I feel blessed to have gone there, but MLC is an entirely different experience. Everyone here has decided to serve God by serving his Church, and that instantly provides common ground. There is so much here you can only experience by being a student.



One of Haley Roske's campus jobs is assistant for the Daylight program, where she organizes mission trips for students. She herself has served in Georgia and Utah, and she'll spend the summer in Florida as a ministry assistant.



Nebraska LHS
First-Aurora NE

First-Year in
Preseminary Studies

Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Latin

Activities:
Wind Symphony,
Männerchor, intramurals

In a way the decision was obvious. He knew of the great need for called workers, and he knew God had given him the will and ability to do that important work. Initially he leaned toward teaching, but a high school speech class turned his thoughts to preaching. Now finishing his first year at MLC, he's excited—about the academics, about the arts, and about his aspiration to serve.

The academics: Classical Greek class has made me realize the importance of reading the Bible in its original language. Even though it can be tough, it is so much more rewarding when I look back at all I've learned. It keeps me focused on the final goal of becoming a pastor.

The arts: I like playing in the Wind Symphony. The music is challenging, and it's exhilarating to finally show everyone what our group has worked on for months. Männerchor is also fun, especially when we get to sing in the chapel. The sound rings forever around the room, and sacred music adds to the already refreshing chapel services.

The aspiration: My parents both encouraged me to become a called worker because there's always such a great need. My dad really inspired me as I saw all he's been able to do, with God's help, as a pastor. I too want to bring the good news and be a shepherd for God's flock.

"Hey, Nebraska!" Enjoy high school, and God's blessings to you as you make your college decision!



Nicholas Oblender enjoys the challenging music and the great people he's met through Wind Symphony.

At one point his goal was to be a reporter for the Weather Channel, specializing in hurricanes. But Jarrod Pfarr isn't the type to limit himself to one specialty. His interests run broad, and he's got talents to match. At MLC he can pursue all of them: track, basketball, choir, drama, student government—even coaching. It's that kind of extensive preparation that equips a teacher for almost anything.

He's building his skills: On campus I'm most involved with intercollegiate sports, although music is a huge part of my life. Coming from a relatively small WELS high school, MLC allowed me to expand my horizons and branch out. I'm a more well-rounded individual because of my time here. I'm more confident in my abilities, and my faith is stronger than ever!



Jarrod Pfarr has far-reaching talents in athletics—and the arts as well.

He's a team player: Being on the MLC track team and assistant-coaching the volleyball team has helped me grow as a person. I love being part of a team. Winning as a team and encouraging each other is a really amazing thing. There's nothing like working with a group of people to achieve a single purpose.

Ministry is a team sport too: MLC is a place where everyone has the same goals in mind. We all want to teach God's people and encourage others in faith. My high school chemistry teacher and track coach Mr. Dan Schulz showed how teaching and coaching can be one of the greatest ways to witness your faith. I hope to one day teach and coach with as much passion and joy as he has.

"Hey, Shoreland basketball players!"

Listen to Mr. Strutz, and don't forget a word he says about life or the run and jump press. He is one of the best coaches you will ever have the opportunity to play for. Cherish every moment.



Shoreland LHS
Friedens-Kenosha WI
Senior in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
musical, winter play,
College Choir,
Student Senate, track,
assistant volleyball coach,
Student Ambassador,
Student Athlete Advisory
Committee, Forum Board
Secretary, Daylight USA,
intramurals

Jarrod Pfarr

For a long time, she was determined to make it big on Broadway one day. She loved music, took voice lessons, and had been performing on stage since kindergarten. Eventually, though, the world of theater began to lose its luster, and she started looking for something else. But it wasn't going to be teaching. No way. That was the last thing she would ever do.

Wait! This is what I want to do: I've spent many years working with kids at Camp Phillip. I love knowing that Christ is working through me. It truly is an indescribable feeling when you witness God's work in action. After a realization like this, I didn't hesitate to send in my application to MLC. I was so ready.

Special ed major: Working with people who have special needs is truly rewarding. When I heard MLC had added a special education program, I was overjoyed. Our ministry lacks trained called workers in this field, and I want to be one of those teachers who fills that need.



Devon Liermann has spent summers working with people with special needs at Camp Phillip, which led her to choose special education as a second major at MLC.

A music minor too: Making College Choir as a freshman has been wonderful. I want to continue to make music through my life and help children make music as well.

"Hey, Manitowoc!" *I hope the Lancer machine is well oiled and running smoothly! Freshmen, you may not even know me, but I have advice for you. Do your homework to your fullest potential—this will be the easiest year academically. Be social—here is where you make lifelong friendships. Be involved—that's where you'll meet your friends. Get to know the teachers—they really love you. And just have fun. Sophomores and juniors, keep doing what you're doing. Seniors, play nice. Talk to the freshmen, give advice to the sophomores, set good standards to follow for the juniors, and respect yourselves. God's blessings on your school year. I love you all!*



Manitowoc LHS
St. John-Manitowoc WI
First-Year in
Education Studies

Major:
elementary education

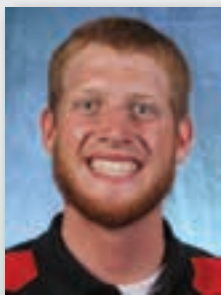
Major:
special education

Minor:
music

Activities:
volleyball, College Choir,
piano

Job:
MLC mailroom

Devon Liermann



Luther Preparatory School

Calvary-Dallas TX

**Sophomore in
Preseminary Studies**

Major:
biblical languages

Minor:
confessional languages

Activities:
soccer, basketball, tennis,
Student Senate,
Pastoral Motivation
Committee, Student
Athletic Advisory Committee

Job:
assistant to the
events coordinator

He says he has the classic MLC journey: pastor's family, Lutheran elementary school, prep school, MLC. Some might call that the WELS bubble, but he calls it a fantastic story. It's marked by God's grace and guidance, and peopled by Christian friends and mentors—like his dad, Pastor John Koelpin, and his profs at LPS and MLC. As he puts it, "I don't live in a bubble. I live in God's house."

As a PK: I always thought my dad had the best job in the world: sharing the gospel with those who need it. He loves the work he does, and I can tell. His life always reminds me that the ministry is a fantastic vocation. But he never pushed me to come to MLC nor did he expect me to come.

As a Prep student: At LPS I realized being a pastor is extremely hard; there is constant work, and all eyes are on you. This caused me to rethink my career choice. I really considered studying engineering at Texas A&M. But I also saw the LPS called workers' passion for their work and the unbounded joy they received while doing their work. Seeing this made me cast all my doubts aside.

In addition to being a three-season athlete and a busy committee member, Micah Koelpin also works for the MLC events coordinator—a job that includes running the occasional BINGO game for Ladies' Auxiliary.

As an MLC pastor-in-training: The professor and coach who has made a very positive impact on me is Professor James Danell. His German course is very intense, but I learn a vast amount of information, and class is always engaging. The thing that has impacted me the most is his work ethic and the respect he has given me. He does his work the best he can every day.

***"Hey, LPS!"** Send my regards to Hahm and Krueger.*



Camp Verde HS
Peace-Cottonwood AZ

**First-Year in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
basketball, track, piano

We can't say it any more clearly than she does: "I chose MLC because I knew I would be in a godly environment, and—coming from a public school—that's all I've ever wanted." One of every seven MLC students is from public high school, and we'd like to enroll even more. We value their diverse backgrounds and welcome their unique perspectives on life. And, by the grace of God, we are privileged to provide just what Katie Wilson wanted: a campus family that lives for Christ.

She used to feel alone: It was hard going to a public school and not being able to talk about your faith without someone getting offended. I was the only Lutheran kid, along with my brother, and most kids had no idea what Lutheranism was. Words can't even explain how blessed I feel to be a part of a WELS campus.

It's been quite a journey: It's been an interesting journey coming from a public school. I have never been around this kind of environment, and I am loving every second of it. For instance, Bible History and Literature class has had a huge impact on me. I never got the chance to take a religion class in high school, and it has opened my eyes even more on how amazing our Lord is.

She's changing: I am so different from the day I first unpacked all of my things and said my goodbyes to family. I've grown up and feel a lot more independent. And my faith has grown even more because of the people I am around. Everyone is so nice and considerate of each other, and all the Christian qualities everyone has are so inspirational.

***"Hey, Peace congregation!"** Thank you for all your support and love!*



Katie Wilson says playing basketball has been an amazing experience so far. She's excited to see herself improve.

She first went to Concordia University in Mequon, Wisconsin, and majored in athletic training, but realized quickly that wasn't the right path. Her second choice was teaching, and if she was going to teach, she wanted to teach in WELS schools. So the arrow pointed west to MLC. Deciding to transfer took a lot of consultation—with God, her family, her friends—but it's proved a positive move. And now she has an excellent perspective on how MLC is different—in a good way.

MLC is different: This school has such a different atmosphere from any other school I've toured or been to. Having God's Word as the center of all campus life truly is such a blessing. I love this environment, my new friends, and the staff—it all truly makes you feel like a part of this "Knight Nation."



As a student ambassador, Janelle Radue may be your personal tour guide when you visit campus.

Now she shares the difference with others: I am an admissions student ambassador here on campus. I absolutely love this job! I get to give prospective students tours of the school and talk with them if they have questions. I get to be a direct witness of MLC and its values.

College is different from high school: College definitely gives you more freedom and less drama—yes, girls, there is hope! I have made so many genuine friends in college! You don't have to be someone that you're not.

"Hey, WISCO!" *Good luck with basketball! Always remember to play for him: First, Lord. Second, Team! Cherish every moment in high school. God has blessed you with an opportunity to be taught at such a fantastic school, educationally and spiritually. Trust me—you will miss it when you are gone. To all WLHS students and staff, keep MLC in your prayers. God is truly doing wonderful things here and working through many people to do his will.*



Wisconsin LHS

**Mt. Calvary-
Waukesha WI**

**Sophomore in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Activities:
softball, Women's Choir,
piano, intramurals

Jobs:
admissions student
ambassador, athletics ticket
taker, babysitter

Janelle Radue

Martin Luther College was not his first choice. With a University of Wisconsin scholarship in his pocket, he leaned toward business or law. But his high school instructors saw a teacher in him and let him know it. So now he's at MLC, and he's learning that teaching, like business or law, is not a job; it's a profession. It requires lifelong growth and reaps lifelong rewards.

He made the right choice: In the end, I couldn't have been happier. MLC's campus is centered on Christ's Word, and the professors encourage every education major to build a lifelong career in their profession as a teacher.

He's ready for anything: When I first was on campus, I was a nervous wreck! I was very shy. But as a senior, I'm not afraid to talk to anyone. I also feel prepared to take on any teaching job.

He wants to be a stand-up guy—and a stand-out guy too: Mr. Ryan Wiechmann is an excellent teacher who taught me one of the greatest lessons: to stand out. Doing the right thing in the eyes of the Lord is hard, especially to peers and coworkers. But as a called worker, the most important job for me is to be an excellent role model in and out of the classroom. One day, I aspire to be a role model, teacher, and friend in Christ like him.

"Hey, Northland!" *My biggest advice: Don't worry! I changed my major three times here on campus. In the end, it'll all work out. Come visit me sometime!!*

Nate Solofra completed two MLC Spanish immersion trips: to Quito, Ecuador (pictured), and to Argentina. Now he works as a Spanish tutor and a teaching assistant to the Spanish professor, Paul Bases.



Northland LHS

**Cross Walk Lutheran
Ministries-Laveen AZ**

**Senior in
Education Studies**

Major:
elementary education

Major:
Spanish
Activities:
Student Senate,
Meet Math, Jesus Cares,
piano, intramurals

Jobs:
Spanish tutor, teaching
assistant to Professor Bases
(Spanish)

Nate Solofra

MLC is.

... a place where I can grow as a person, a Christian, and an educator.

Jarrold Pfarr Shoreland LHS

... a family of believers whose goal in life is to spread the love of Jesus.

Aaron Markgraf Winnebago Lutheran Academy

... an elevator, which is getting me from high school to a life of service. Along the way I'm learning more about myself and my classmates and what it means to live the life of a Christian.

Luke Bramstedt Manitowoc LHS

... a great college to attend even if you are undecided about working in the ministry.

Faith Schroeder Michigan Lutheran Seminary

... a family. You make wonderful friends and, if you're lucky, find the girl of your dreams.

Ryan Klatt West LHS

... not the place to find a spouse, to play college sports, or the last resort. MLC is the place to find Christ, to run with perseverance the race marked out for us with our eyes fixed on Jesus, and the opportunity to make a difference.

Caitlin Seastrand California LHS

... a place I can build my faith and learn to be the someone I am proud of.

Amara Biebert St. Croix LHS

... a place to learn and grow as a Christian and meet lifelong friends.

Aaron Schwartz Luther High

... a place to grow in my faith and prepare myself to become a great teacher.

Miriam Hanson Luther Preparatory School

mlc-wels.edu

... a unique place because you aren't only getting an amazing education but also increasing your faith through daily chapels and Bible classes and small devotions.

Jacob Roecker *Wisconsin LHS*

... a college at which I can pursue my goal of being a role model and a good teacher. They will do whatever they can to help you get here.

Todd Brassow *Michigan Lutheran Seminary*

... a place for young Christians from all over the world to come together and study God's Word, a place where you make great connections and learn how to become a better Christian and person.

Christopher Dean *Edna HS-Edna TX*

... my home away from home. I see my professors as parents, watching out for me and genuinely caring about my well-being. I see my friends and classmates as brothers and sisters in the faith. I see my choir as a picture of what the heavenly angels will sound like. Okay, maybe that's a stretch.

Michael Koestler *Michigan LHS*

... home. I couldn't imagine going to college anywhere else and feeling this sense of belonging.

Haley Roske *Minnesota Valley LHS*

... the place where I get to learn how to become a great teacher so that in four years I can graduate and teach little kids in my own classroom. I can't wait for that day.

Allison Dorn *Illinois LHS*

... a stepping stone. As a future teacher, my job is to express that learning is a lifelong process, and for me, MLC is the foundation of my professional teaching career.

Nathaniel Solofra *Northland LHS*



