

knightwatch

MLC

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

SPRING
2015



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



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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.



Dear Prospective MLC Knights,

What will your class look like, and what will be its character when so many of you arrive on campus next August—or the August after that?

Will all of you look the same and share the same background and bring the same set of experiences, more or less? My experience tells me that isn't going to be the case.

Some of you will come from the inner city, others from suburban counties. Some of you will have grown up in a traditional, nuclear family, while others will come from blended families, divided families, and single-parent families. Some of you will come to college with financial resources to spare, while others will have relatively sparse resources at your disposal. Some of you will have athletic ability and healthy bodies, while others will have illness or injury or disability.

And I want you to know that the diversity of your MLC class will be a gift from God to his church. God will use you and your individuality to serve the diverse needs of his diverse people in their diverse circumstances.

And he can use you, all of you, because in the most important way, you will all be the same. You will be one in the forgiveness of Christ, one in his love, one in his teachings, one in your desire to share God's good news of life.

I look forward to seeing you on our campus in your great diversity and in your amazing unity.

Professor Jeff Schone
Vice President for Student Life



Emily Waldek

Trumbull HS-CT | Senior in Education Studies



Major: elementary ed

Minor:
educational technology

Activities: Women's Choir,
softball, piano, organ,
Ultimate Frisbee,
intramurals

Jobs: MLC teacher's
assistant & resident assistant

Hobbies: playing sports,
piano, organ, clarinet, sax;
reading; hanging out
with friends

She went to public school her whole life, so she didn't consider teaching in WELS schools as a full-time occupation until she met MLC recruiters—and thousands of WELS teens—at an international youth rally her sophomore year.

That first song at the youth rally . . . was amazing. Worshiping with all the other teenagers who believed the same thing was so eye-opening that the idea of going to a college where I could worship every day with my classmates was a major draw. My favorite part of going to MLC is still chapel.

If she could go back: I wish I could share God's Word with my public school friends in new ways.

Four years makes a difference: When I stepped onto the MLC campus I wasn't very confident. While I can still be shy, my EFE and student teaching experiences have made me more confident in meeting people and sharing God's Word. My experiences at MLC have showed me everyone is a unique child of God and we all bring our different talents together to share his Word.

"Hey, Christ Redeemer in Trumbull!" *I hope all is going well! Say hi to my dad and mom, and make sure my brother Justin is helping out at home and church!*

Emily Waldek says playing MLC softball was a great way to make friends.



Joshua Severeid

Evergreen LHS | Junior in Education Studies



Majors: secondary
instrumental music ed,
secondary vocal music ed

Activities: College Choir,
Wind Symphony, Jazz Band,
Forum (drama club),
Newspaper Club, cross
country, organ, voice,
saxophone, intramurals

Hobbies: reading, playing
video games, writing and
arranging music

He came to MLC because he wanted to serve. Thing is, he wasn't sure how. It wasn't until halfway through his junior year that he chose his current path: a double major in vocal and instrumental music. It feels great to know what he wants to do.

A musician and a teacher: I love using my talents to perform music and glorify God. As I look ahead, I'd love to be directing a choir or band and writing my own original compositions for use in and out of worship.

A defining experience: Early Field Experience my freshman year was one of the most influential experiences of my life. Going through the program and teaching real kids really strengthened my desire to be a teacher.

College is for becoming yourself: I'm a completely different person now than when I first got here. I've become more outgoing and confident, and I've learned a lot.

"Hey, Evergreen!" *If you feel you have the gifts to serve in the public ministry, give MLC a try! There are plenty of people that come here who aren't sure if it's for them, myself included. After that first year (or even semester), things will become clearer for you. Also, the transition between Evergreen and here is easy because both are smaller schools. When I got here, I felt right at home!*

Josh Severeid conducted the MLC Wind Symphony as part of his instrumental music major.



Alyssa Maertz

Great Plains LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Major:

elementary ed

Minor: science

Activities: soccer, basketball, choir, piano, intramurals

Jobs: cleaning businesses

Hobbies: reading, sports (running, basketball, volleyball), playing games

She considered studying chemistry or pharmaceutical science at a state university in the Dakotas. Since she wasn't sure, she decided to start at MLC. Here she's getting a high-quality education in a Christian environment, studying science, and also playing a game she loves.

College soccer: I love the game itself and the team. I've made great friends. It's encouraging being part of a team and being able to do something I love.

Sister act: One of the most memorable things from this soccer season was being able to play with my sister. In our game against Crown, my sister scored and I had the assist. It was great!

Looking ahead: I'd love to work with third or fourth graders. Most of all I want to see the excitement children can have as they learn, especially as they learn about their Savior.

"Hey, Great Plains!" As you look to the future, don't be afraid to consider the public ministry and MLC as great opportunities for you.

Though she didn't play high school soccer, Alyssa Maertz is excelling at MLC. She was named first team All-UMAC as a sophomore midfielder.



Heidi Moldenhauer

Manitowoc LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Major:

elementary ed

Activities: volleyball, Chorale, piano

Hobbies: water skiing, four-wheeling, snowmobiling, watching movies, knitting (something I learned at MLC), and dancing

She considered studying nursing or speech pathology at a Wisconsin school, but a gentle nudge from her older brother convinced her to enroll at MLC.

The nudge from Nathan: My older brother Nathan went to MLC and seminary and is now a recruiter at Michigan Lutheran Seminary. He would tell fun stories of when he was at MLC and always encourage me to go there as well.

MLC is a great place to start . . . even if I change my major down the road. It's a great place to deepen my love for God's Word and meet some really neat people.

She loved college volleyball: I've met not only some really good volleyball players, but also amazing friends. I looked up to the older athletes on the team and learned a lot from them.

Who knew? I showed pigs at the Manitowoc County Fair and won showmanship champion one year.

"Hey, Manitowoc!" MLC is the best place in the world! I hope to see you here next year!

Heidi Moldenhauer and all the first-year women participated in the annual brick-painting at the beginning of the year.



Elise Rosenbaum

Michigan LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Majors:

elementary ed,
special ed

Activities: volleyball,
Chorale, Wind Symphony

Job: babysitting

Hobbies: playing
volleyball and soccer,
watching movies, playing
piano and flute, spending
time with friends, baking,
knitting, being creative

With six younger siblings, she's learned to love working with children. The person who taught her that love is her mom. She died when Elise was very young, but her influence will last Elise's whole life.

Best role model ever: My mom passed away when I was 8 years old, but her role in my life continues to influence me. She went to DMLC and was a Lutheran teacher. I pray that I'm able to be a great teacher and woman of faith like she was.

Great role model at MLC too: My favorite class thus far is Literature Seminar with Professor Grubbs. He applies almost everything we talk about to our future careers as called workers, and I feel as if I've already grown so much in my confidence level and ability to share my beliefs.

You'd never guess: Going to Africa is number 1 on my bucket list.

"Hey, Michigan LHS!" Hopefully you've been having a great year so far! I can't wait to see any and all who come to visit MLC (and me) in February!

Elise Rosenbaum and her roommate decorated the outside of their Centennial Hall dorm room like a gingerbread house this Christmas.



Caitlyn Eisner

Kettle Moraine LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Majors: communication
arts & lit, vocal music

Activities: Wind Symphony,
College Choir, Forum
(musical), piano, organ, voice

Hobbies: reading, singing,
playing piano, dancing,
knitting, organizing things,
taking afternoon naps;
"I also really enjoy fishing.
It's quiet, and if the fish
aren't biting, I can always
read a book."

She confesses that her secret dream is to be a Disney princess. She's also toyed with pursuing music professionally. Since she's not really prepared to "Let It Go," she's at MLC using her musical gifts and preparing for a life that's full of music and books—and sharing them with others. Yep, it's "A Whole New World."

Her favorite things: Music and books are two of my favorite things in the world, and I can't think of anything better than sharing them with others.

Sharing her favorite things: I chose MLC because I want to be able to share my love for what I do with others while also encouraging them through God's Word. There's no better education than a spiritual education, and I look forward to receiving that from MLC and sharing it with my students in the future.

Maybe someday: My ideal call would be to a high school to teach choir and junior year English, hopefully with the opportunity to work with the drama department.

"Hey, Kettle Moraine!" Cherish the memories you're making right now, and if life seems glum, don't worry, it gets better.

Cait Eisner was cast in the role of Zaneeta in *The Music Man*, MLC's 2014 musical.



Hannah Apt

Illinois LHS | Junior in Education Studies



Major:

early childhood ed

Activities:

choir, piano, intramurals

Job:

occasional babysitting

Hobby:

hanging out with my friends

She chose MLC because she knew she wanted to work with little children and make a difference in their lives. She wants to be the kind of teacher who makes learning fun, and MLC is helping her do just that.

She loves the little ones: It's so cool seeing them experience things for the first time and figuring things out on their own.

She wants to make a difference in their lives:

I want them to know they have someone who believes in them and that they can do it! I've had so many teachers who have made an impact on me. I hope I can do the same for my students one day.

One teacher who's made a difference in her life is here at MLC:

Professor Cheryl Loomis! Through her early childhood education classes, you can just see her excitement for what she does and how much she enjoys it.

"Hey, Illinois!" Enjoy every minute of high school because before you know it, it's over.

During her first year at MLC, Hannah Apt's Early Field Experience affirmed her decision to pursue early childhood education.



Eric Uher

Wisconsin LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Majors:

elementary ed,
secondary social studies ed

Activities: Student Senate,
Aulic Committee, soccer,
MLC praise band,
piano, intramurals

Jobs: announcing MLC
home games, refereeing
basketball, giving
guitar lessons

Hobbies: fishing, making
silly videos, playing
board games

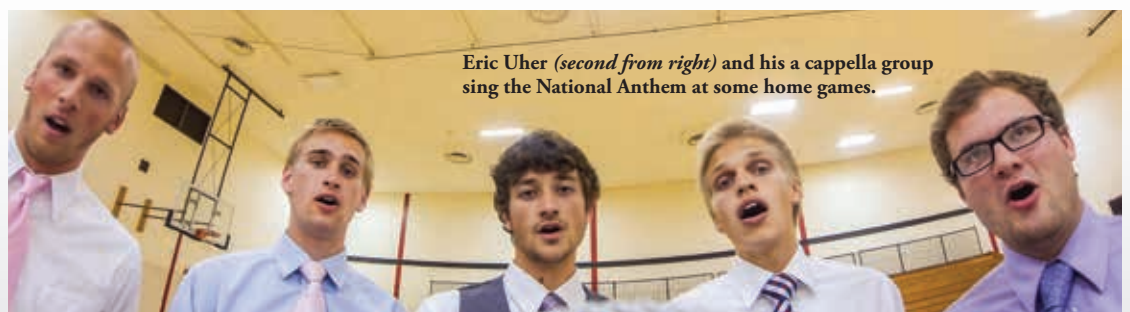
He sees MLC as a pregame warm-up, where all the students are working hard in their studies, interacting with people, growing in Christ, and "having a blast before God sends us into The Big Game"—which is the public ministry, of course!

Since his first day on campus: MLC has helped me mature both socially and spiritually. The atmosphere is Christ-centered and people-centered, which is exactly where all our lives ought to be.

The people here: We all have similar attitudes, which makes talking to people easy and uplifting. It's such an encouragement when I wake up Sunday to go to church and see that my friends and future coworkers are also up preparing for worship, even when it's -15 degrees and blizzarding.

If God were to ask him: I'd answer that I'd like to teach geography and American history at a Lutheran high school. But I'm willing to go wherever God sends me. I know he is directing my path. "Here I am, Lord. Send me."

"Hey, WISCO!" Way to go on winning state! You made lots of alumni proud. Now all you have to do is win state for basketball and I'll be content. Take care of Student Council for me!



Eric Uher (second from right) and his cappella group singing the National Anthem at some home games.

Kelsey Beagle

Rocky Mountain LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Majors:

elementary ed,
secondary Spanish ed

Activities: choir, piano,
intramurals

Jobs: admissions
department assistant, grade
school volleyball coach

Hobbies: watching movies,
painting my nails, sipping
on hot coffee

Tattooed on her shoulder is 2 Timothy 4:17: "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength." Those words sustained her after a drunk driver hit her car the summer after high school graduation. She endured six hours of facial reconstructive surgery, and doctors told her she'd need to delay college for a semester. But they didn't know Kelsey. To her doctor's surprise she went on her planned immersion trip to Costa Rica that summer and enrolled at MLC in the fall!

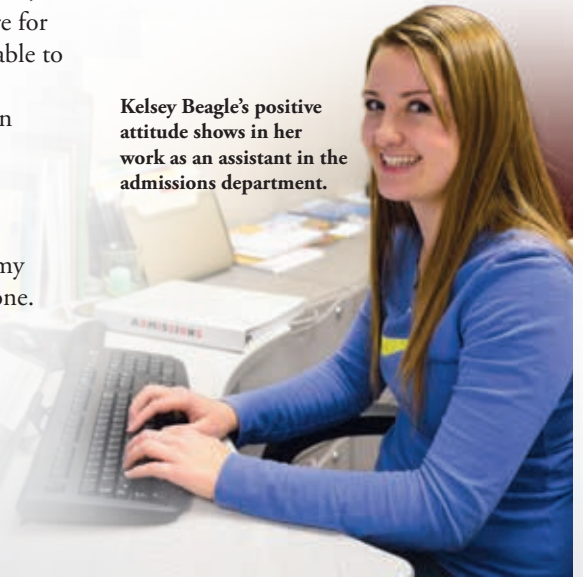
God gave her strength: I know God has a plan for me, so I live every day willing to do anything he has in store for me. Through my recovery from the accident, I was able to help other people realize God has everything under control. We need to let him rule our lives rather than letting our worries rule our lives.

God is still "reconstructing" her: At MLC, I've noticed some drastic changes. I have more of a servant-like attitude. I'm more willing to go out of my way in order to encourage, help, or chat with someone.

Bet you didn't know: I played on the boys' baseball team in high school. We didn't have a softball team, so I just joined the guys' team.

"Hey, Rocky Mountain!" Keep an eye on Dylan for me! P.S. I hope to see some of you up here in the next few years!

Kelsey Beagle's positive attitude shows in her work as an assistant in the admissions department.



Collin Wenzel

Fox Valley LHS | First-year in Preseminary Studies



Major:

biblical languages

Emphasis: Latin

Activities: Student
Senate, Chorale, organ,
Ultimate Frisbee Club,
intramurals

Hobbies: disc golfing,
running, listening
to music, playing piano
and guitar, World
War II history

An unapologetic scholar, he was eager to dive into Greek, Hebrew, and Latin. He'll have to wait until junior year for Hebrew, but he's already memorizing Latin and Greek vocab a couple hours a night—and loving it.

One of the coolest things about Greek . . . is when you see why God chose a specific New Testament word. In English, it seems to be just an ordinary definition, but the specific Greek translation gives more insight into what God is telling us.

Scholars and friends: The people I'm sitting in class with will be my co-workers in the ministry. I enjoy building these friendships because we'll be encouraging each other for the next eight years.

After just one semester: I can already tell I'm more excited for the ministry. MLC is a great place to be. I'm constantly reminded of my purpose for being here.

"Hey, FVL!" Seniors, as you think about your plans for next year, prayerfully consider where you can best serve God. Don't worry about making the wrong decision—God already has a plan for you and promises to bless your studies.

When he's not out running or discussing an issue at a Student Senate meeting, you might find Collin Wenzel studying. He likes the challenge of foreign language—especially "when everything clicks and comes together."



Andrew Krieger

Huron Valley LHS | Junior in Preseminary Studies



Major:
biblical languages

Emphasis:
Latin

Job: waiter at
New Ulm restaurant

Hobbies: gaming online
with friends and family,
playing guitar and piano,
disc golfing

After two years in preseminary studies at MLC, he realized he wasn't so sure about this pastor thing. He went back home to Michigan and worked as a chimney sweep (true story) and then moved to Texas with a friend. That time "outside the WELS bubble," as he puts it, made all the difference.

Being outside the WELS bubble . . . gave me the chance to see what my skills were and exactly what my biggest priority is, and that's Jesus.

Living in Texas: After a month attending Holy Word, I decided to return to be a pastor. Pastor Patterson down in Austin is an amazing man. From the moment I met him, I felt the love of Jesus emanating from him in his words and actions. If I am a tenth of the pastor he is someday, I'll consider it a blessing.

What he loves about MLC: I've loved working with other languages since high school, and working in-depth with God's Word is such a blessing. One of the greatest blessings is the fellowship of brothers and sisters I am surrounded with on a daily basis.

"Hey, Huron Valley!" *The high school experience is up to you. Put in the work and be proud of it, but also take time to relax and enjoy it. Oh, and also, GO HAWKS!*

Andrew Krieger brightens campus with his sense of humor:
"Hi, everyone! I'm Andrew, and I like warm hugs."



Jessica Friebe

Michigan Luth Seminary | First-year in Education Studies



Majors:
elementary ed,
secondary Spanish ed

Activities:
basketball

Hobbies: playing sports,
hanging out with friends

Though she's been here a mere semester, she says she's grown so much in her faith and love for God—through chapel, Bible classes, and Christian friends, professors, and coaches. She's also grown in her two other loves: basketball and Spanish.

Spanish at MLS: My Spanish teacher, Emily Mayer, is the reason I love Spanish so much. I knew I could talk to her whenever I needed to, and she always pointed me to God's Word. I want to be for my students what she was for me.

Spanish at MLC: Profe Bases has had a really positive impact on me. He has such a passion for Spanish and for teaching, and it's very evident every day. He cares about his students and helps them in any way that he can.

Spanish in her future: I'd love to be a Spanish teacher and coach someday. As I grew up and went through high school, a teacher was the only thing I ever really wanted to be. And MLC was the only place I ever wanted to go.

"Hey, MLS!" *Enjoy your time at MLS. It goes by faster than you could ever imagine. And Lady Cardinals, good luck in your basketball season! Work hard, hustle, have fun, and play with heart!*

"I love the sport of basketball," says Jessica Friebe,
"but more than that, I love my MLC team."





Major: secondary math ed

Minor: coaching

Activities: volleyball, Meet Math, intramurals

Job: volleyball official

Hobbies: reading, hanging out with friends, drawing, stargazing, spending time at the lake, traveling—especially to big cities

She considered nursing, but her experiences at St. Croix Lutheran High School led her to see that just maybe her gifts were pointing her to teaching.

Peer tutoring at St. Croix: I really enjoyed peer tutoring at St. Croix. It showed me I have the gifts to help students be successful. I wanted to be able to do that in a Christian environment where I could encourage my students to grow both academically and spiritually, which led me to MLC.

“New Friends” at St. Croix: My high school’s New Friends organization helped me realize my passion for interacting with special needs students and those with learning disabilities.

A role model at St. Croix: My high school English teacher Dr. Carrie Pfeifer is one of my biggest role models. She was patient, understanding, and had a desire for all her students to be successful, which I definitely saw in her work with those with learning disabilities. She was my peer tutoring supervisor, and her passion for what she did inspired me to consider teaching.

“Hey, St. Croix!” *No matter what career or college you choose, you’ll have plenty of opportunities to serve God and make him known. Take advantage of every chance you get!*

Kira Grev loves college volleyball—the level of competition, the team’s commitment, and the fun.



Elizabeth Bergemann



Majors:

early childhood ed,
special ed

Activities: Chorale, Forum (the musical), violin, piano

Job: waitress at vineyard outside town

Hobbies: knitting, reading, working out in MLC Fitness Center; “I’m also obsessed with mac ‘n’ cheese, chocolate, and rom-coms”

She has a passion for special education. So when MLC established a special education major, she turned down a substantial scholarship to another college and immediately enrolled here.

She sees the need: I’ve had personal experiences that made me aware of our synod’s need for special education. Students often have to go to public schools to get the help they need. I was so excited when I heard about the new major open here at MLC, and I’m so thankful to be here.

She wants to fill it: I’d like to be placed wherever God needs me so I can help those with special needs.

After her first semester: I’m one semester closer to becoming a teacher! It’s such a blessing that I’ll be fully prepared to teach in the public ministry someday.

“Hey, WISCO!” *I miss the WISCO family and everything from chapel to the teachers, sports, choirs, and all the concerts. Get out there and enjoy all that WISCO has to offer. Never take it for granted, and enjoy every minute of it.*

Elizabeth Bergemann made the dance chorus for *The Music Man*, MLC’s 2014 musical. She says the musical combined all the things she enjoys and let her use her talents to serve God.



Hannah Rundgren

Nebraska LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Majors: elementary ed, secondary physical ed

Activities: soccer, Women's Choir, basketball

Hobbies: going to the caf, watching movies, annoying my friends, sleeping

She always knew she would come to MLC. Both her parents graduated from DMLC, so maybe it's in her blood. She says she spent most of her childhood hanging out at school. She knew many good teachers—and she'd like that trend to continue.

Good teachers at home: I love helping my mom with her preschool kids. And my dad loves his students and is always willing to help them in any way he can. I love watching his students become part of our family.

Good teachers at MLC: From day one of Bible History and Literature 1, Tutor Ryan Kolander made me eager to come back. Every class, he has new jokes and makes the Bible stories come to life. He loves teaching us, and he makes me want to have the same energy when teaching.

Good teachers—me someday! I want to watch as the children grow in Jesus. I've never had any other plan than to go to MLC and spread the gospel message.

Hannah Rundgren has one younger sister and four younger brothers, including these guys, Nathan and Elias.

"Hey, NELHS!" Have fun with the time you have together in high school. Many of you will go off to different places and different colleges, but the friendships you make will last.



Joshua Robertson

Luther High | First-year in Education Studies



Majors: elementary ed, secondary social studies ed

Activities: Student Senate, Chorale, piano, Ultimate Frisbee Club

Jobs: campus chapel chair mover, practice choir member for future choir directors

Hobbies: exercising, attending sporting events, making friends, and finding a new appreciation for naps

He has unbelievable school spirit—and the gear to match. As he moves from one Knight Knation to another—Luther High to Martin Luther College—he says nothing can replace his Luther High family, but he's having lots of fun here too. And he's chasing his dream of being a teacher.

Why MLC (Part 1): My high school teachers inspired me by showing me my gifts and giving me such a great high school experience. My uncle, Jeff Falck, has been a major role model as he has taught in the public ministry and has always supported me.

Why MLC (Part 2): I chose Martin Luther College because it's the best place to get an education to be a teacher. It's focused on your goal and demands hard work to give you the tools to be successful in your future ministry.

Why MLC (Part 3): For me, MLC is the best place for a focus on faith, future, and new friendships.

"Hey, Luther High!" Keep up the good work in basketball and keep believing! And to Knight Knation: You have been unbelievable so far this year. Stay rowdy, and GO, KNIGHTS!

Joshua Robertson is never afraid to let his t-shirts do the talking.



Billy Chojnacki

California LHS | Sophomore in Preseminary Studies



Major: biblical languages

Emphasis: Latin

Activities: football, track, intramurals

Job: lifeguard

Hobbies: swimming and playing racquetball with my friends, playing ukulele ("I just started teaching myself how to play baritone ukulele"), supporting the Denver Broncos

He considered pilot training so he could fly supplies to missionaries in different countries. But he did that idea one better and is becoming a missionary himself through his preseminary training at MLC. Of course, he had some nudges along the way.

A nudge toward the ministry from within: I've always loved helping others work through their problems with God's Word. I love the feeling I get when I talk to others about God. There's no other feeling that comes close.

A nudge from Cal Lutheran: I would probably not have made it here if it were not for my former CLHS teachers, pastors, and family members. They kept hinting that I'd make a great pastor, but I never really thought about it till late in my junior year.

A nudge from a special pastor: I think the greatest influence on me was Pastor Aaron Boehm at La Mesa. He was a pretty big role model for me.

"Hey, Cal Lutheran!" *Don't lose sight of what life is really all about, spreading God's Word in all you do and doing it with love in your heart.*

Billy Chojnacki's parents made it for Parents' Day at MLC!



Rebecca Gast

Northland LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Major: elementary ed

Activities: piano

Job: waitress downtown

Hobbies: napping, watching movies with my friends, playing piano

She's always been interested in working with children—and what better way than to share God's Word with them and be a Christian role model to them. Come to think of it, she has a few role models of her own.

A role model back home: My grade school principal, Mr. Jon Engelbrecht, will do whatever is needed to make sure you learn. He's been my role model over the years, always letting me come in and help with classes and grading papers. He told me I'd be a great teacher, and that means a lot coming from him.

Role models at MLC: Professors Doug Lange and Matt Pearson have both been a positive influence on me. I admire their love of teaching and the way they interact with students. They always have a positive look on things, and that encourages me to be a positive person and to do well.

"Hey, Northland!" *Make sure you cherish the moments you have with people in high school. Don't let a few disagreements or negative emotions between friends get in the way of a great year. Don't let your friends slip away from you because before you know it, they won't be there to talk to every day.*



Rebecca Gast says MLC is a place where she's encouraged in the Word every day.

Jade St Germaine

Luther Prep | First-year in Education Studies



Majors: elementary ed,
secondary social
studies ed

Activities: volleyball,
basketball, Chorale, organ

Job: volleyball referee

Hobbies: watching
Netflix, knitting

She's wanted to be a teacher since sixth grade. In fact, her parents moved their whole family to Watertown, Wisconsin, so she could go to Luther Prep and start preparing for ministry. One of her biggest supporters was her dad. Sadly, he died in a car accident when she was a sophomore, but the confidence he instilled in her has continued to burn strong.

Dad told her she could do it! Before my dad died, he had no doubt I could be a great teacher. His confidence in me gave me confidence to keep pursuing ministry.

What she'd like to teach: I've always been interested in history, and when I got to LPS, my teachers, specifically Professor Nathan Kieselhorst, shared my excitement. His classes served as great examples of the kind of teacher I want to be someday.

College is even better than high school: The most refreshing change about college is to see everyone mature past their high school nature and start taking their futures more seriously.

"Hey, Luther Prep!" *I can't wait to see the musical! Blessings on your preparations for the production, and blessings as you continue your sports seasons. Straight up. Peace and love, friends.*

When she's not busy with books, music, or sports, Jade St. Germaine unwinds with a little knitting.



Caleb King

Winnebago Luth Academy | First-year in Preseminary Studies



Major: biblical languages

Emphasis:

Spanish for pastors

Activities: soccer, Chorale,
intramurals

Job: mailroom at MLC

Hobbies: watching the
Wisconsin Badgers, playing
sports, hanging out with
friends, playing soccer on
my mini field at home,
exploring JFK assassination
conspiracy theories

He considered being an athletic trainer or a journalist. But a pastor? That's crazy talk.

While growing up: Many people told me I would make a good pastor, but I thought they were crazy. I didn't want to be a pastor. None of my relatives are called workers, so I'm kind of new to the whole concept.

A turning point: In my freshman religion class, my teacher at WLA, Randy Westphal, wrote on a paper I handed in, "Pastor King. Hmmm. That has a nice ring to it." I thought he was crazy. But Mr. Westphal encouraged me through all four years at WLA. He really loved working in the full-time ministry, and he made it very appealing for me to spend my life doing the same. He has a model faith, and I hope to touch as many lives in my ministry someday as he did in his ministry.

"Hey, WLA!" *I miss the awesome faculty and how tight-knit our student body was. It's truly a special place. Seniors, you're almost there! As you move on from WLA, stay active in your faith, keep your foundation, and trust in Christ to lead you through life. May God bless you the rest of your school year and as you begin life after WLA.*

Caleb King enjoys playing keeper on MLC's soccer team, where he chalked a 0.761 save percentage, the second best in the conference.



Zachary Scharlemann

Minnesota Valley LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Majors: secondary instrumental music ed, secondary math

Activities: Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, percussion ensemble, College Choir, pit orchestra, piano, marimba, drum

Jobs: teaching percussion, washing dishes at restaurant

Hobbies: playing drums, running, hanging out with friends, playing League of Legends

He was studying computer science at a Minnesota college for only a couple weeks when the doubts started: Did he really want to stare at a computer every day for the rest of his life? After a lot of praying and weighing of options, he made the switch to MLC.

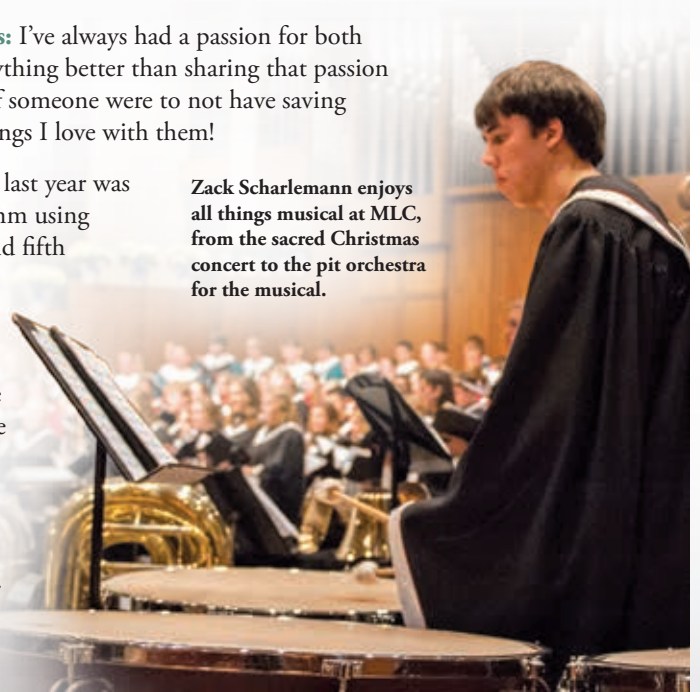
Teaching combines everything he loves: I've always had a passion for both music and math, and I can't think of anything better than sharing that passion with others for the rest of my life! And if someone were to not have saving faith, I would get to share even more things I love with them!

First-year Early Field Experience: EFE last year was a huge success! I taught a lesson on rhythm using different types of fruit to some fourth and fifth graders, and by the end of it they had mastered triplets and dotted figures!

Loving every minute: What a blessing it was for the Lord to bring me here! I've been loving every minute since I've come to MLC, and I'm especially looking forward to all the wonderful adventures I'm going to have in my future ministry.

"Hey, MVL!" Pep Band, keep rocking. Students, keep screaming your heads off at sporting events. And cross country, adventure is out there!

Zack Scharlemann enjoys all things musical at MLC, from the sacred Christmas concert to the pit orchestra for the musical.



Megan Lemke

Shoreland LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Major: elementary ed

Minor: coaching

Activities: Student Athletic Advisory Committee, Women's Choir, volleyball, softball, piano, intramurals

Job: volleyball official

Hobbies: sports, fishing with my family, video games, card games, board games

Her grandparents, parents, and older siblings are all teachers or soon-to-be-teachers, and the smiles they bring to children's faces are what inspired her to pursue teaching—and coaching too.

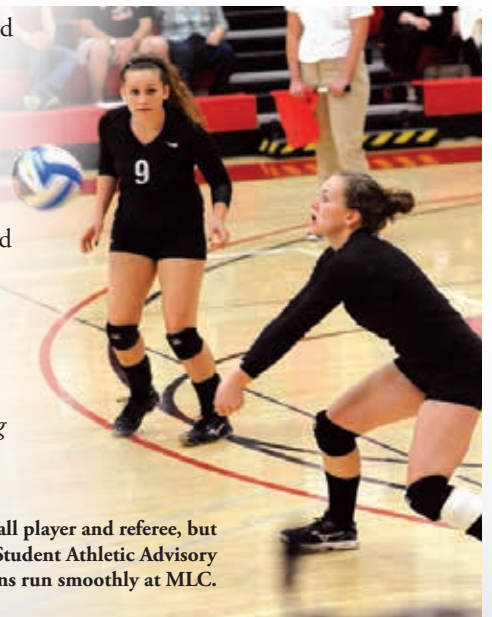
What her coaches were like: My coaches taught me you'll play how you practice. You have to have the tenacity of a piranha, giving it your all 100% of the time and never backing down from a challenge.

She'd like to be a coach . . . who's demanding yet patient and loving. I want my players to feel comfortable coming to me with anything. But if you're a coach who only wants to have fun, then your players will not reach their greatest potential. If you work your players to be the best they can be, then the sky's the limit.

And a little cheerleading too: I'm a die-hard Vikings fan and cheer louder than anyone in my family when they're playing, and I especially cheer very loudly against the Packers.

"Hey, Shoreland!" Every accomplishment starts with the decision to try. No matter how good you are at what you do, whether it is academics, sports, or drama, always keep working to improve, because doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.

Megan Lemke (right) is not only a volleyball player and referee, but also the volleyball representative to the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, which helps athletic functions run smoothly at MLC.



Heidi Nielsen

West LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Major:

early childhood ed

Activities: Chorale, intramurals, piano

Hobbies:

arm-knitting

She's been visiting campus since she was 7. With three aunts, two cousins, an uncle, and her mom all having graduated from here, it's no wonder. So she knows MLC is a great Christian college. But there's a bigger reason she decided to attend.

The biggest reason she came to MLC: I love children and cannot wait to use my God-given ability in the future to serve him.

She already has experience: I've taught kindergarten vacation Bible school since the summer after seventh grade, and I work at a daycare in the summer.

What's not to love? The thing I like most about working with little kids is their enthusiasm about God's Word and their eagerness to listen to anything I have to say when I'm teaching or playing with them. It's just so great seeing their faith grow.

"Hey, West!" I miss having math class in Mrs. Gieseke's room! Seniors, don't ever take for granted your last year—it truly is something to remember. And don't skip prom because you think you're too cool.

Heidi Nielsen has lots of experience working with little children, and she's excited to channel her skills into early childhood ministry.



Matthew Stob

St. Croix LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Majors: elementary ed, secondary social studies ed

Activities: Ultimate Frisbee, piano, intramurals

Job: gas station in town

Hobbies: hanging with friends, playing video games, playing Frisbee, snowmobiling, fishing, water sports

He could have gotten an education degree almost anywhere. Why MLC? He names three good reasons: The shared faith of the student body. The call system, which will match him and his gifts with a congregation and school that need him. And the dual qualification he'll receive: public school licensure and WELS school certification. Can't beat that.

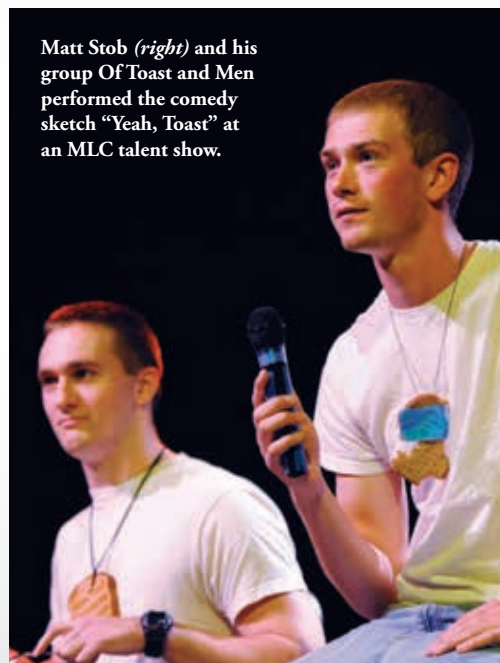
A winding road: I went to public school all the way up to eighth grade, and I wanted to stay there, but my parents told me I had to go to St. Croix Lutheran. I grew to like St. Croix, though, and I believe going there led me to MLC.

Early Field Experience sealed the deal: I really enjoyed EFE because I actually taught a lesson to real students. It was a confidence booster and gave me more reason to stay here.

MLC is . . . a place where I can be myself. I know everyone, and we're all of the same faith, so there's no pressure to change. Everyone is here to help you with almost any problem you have.

"Hey, St. Croix!" I miss the teachers! And I suggest everyone take Dr. Pfeifer's BLC English class. The credits helped me—I didn't have to take an English class my freshman year. Also, seniors, don't stress. They make college sound a lot harder than it actually is.

Matt Stob (right) and his group Of Toast and Men performed the comedy sketch "Yeah, Toast" at an MLC talent show.



Yaffet Gabayehu

Luther Prep | Sophomore in Preseminary Studies



Major: biblical languages

Emphasis:

Spanish for pastors

Activities: football, tennis,
Chorale, intramurals

Jobs: admissions
department student
ambassador, public
school tutor

Hobbies: spending time
with friends, playing pickup
basketball, working out in
the fitness center

Like most high school students, he struggled with his college and career choice. But he credits LPS professors, tutors, and friends—as well as the MLC admissions team—for guiding him to MLC.

Thank you, LPS family . . . for showing me how I can serve the Lord through the gifts and abilities he's given me. I knew I wanted to help people, and what better way than to help strengthen their spiritual lives as a pastor through the Word and the work of the Holy Spirit.

Since he first stepped on campus . . . everything changed. I feel like I'm learning and growing spiritually each day. It's also great to know that all those around you share in your faith and are encouraging you as well.

A new favorite: Greek was one of my favorite classes last semester, because I learned something new each day. It was amazing to translate certain portions of the Christmas story this year. And it's great to see how everything we are learning can be used and how it makes so much sense when we apply it.

"Hey, Luther Prep!" I hope to see a lot of you seniors next year here, and I hope you enjoy the rest of your senior year!

As an MLC student ambassador, Yaffet Gabayehu now gives tours and encouragement to visiting high schoolers, some who are as confused about their futures as he was.



Sarah Hackbarth

Lakeside LHS | Sophomore in Education Studies



Major: elementary ed

Minor:

communication arts & lit

Activities: Chorale, piano,
cross country, basketball,
track, intramurals

Jobs: tutor at
Lutheran grade school,
MLC gym supervisor

Hobbies: spending time
with friends, playing sports,
running, eating

A successful three-season athlete, she knows what training is all about. She had considered becoming a sports trainer but then decided to "train up children in the way they should go"—providing an education for the mind, body, and soul. She's learning how at MLC.

The training never stops: I hope no matter what road God takes me down, I'll continually be improving as a teacher and helping my students accomplish their academic goals and grow stronger in their faith.

A physical trainer too: I hope I'll get to coach either track, cross country, or basketball, so that I can help young athletes improve in the sports I love.

We're all a team: Being part of the same family of believers and sharing the goal of spreading God's Word to the world gives you a special bond between all the MLC faculty and students that can't be found anywhere else.

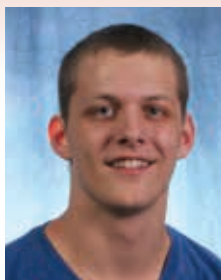
"Hey, Lakeside!" I miss all the teachers and coaches who were always pushing me to do my best, my amazing friends and teammates, and salad bar day. Good luck, Moriah, Abby, and the rest of the Lakeside girls' basketball team as you finish up this season!

Sarah Hackbarth loves cross country because the team is such a tight-knit group and they get to see a lot of beautiful scenery.



Jason Werre

Lakeside LHS | First-year in Preseminary Studies



Major:

biblical languages

Emphasis:

German for pastors

Activities:

Wind Symphony, Choir, Forum, Ultimate Frisbee

Hobbies:

watching Netflix, playing tennis, producing music

He'd gone so far as paying his deposit at another college but then withdrew it at the very last moment. What changed his mind?

A last-minute decision: I was really considering majoring in communications at another Lutheran college, but I withdrew my deposit at the last second. I'm on the preseminary track at MLC because I wanted a career in which I could share the gospel with others.

Geekin' on Greek: My Classical Greek class with Professor Schmidt has really helped me with my homework skills and my responsibility. Professor Schmidt doesn't tolerate slacking off, so I've learned to make time in my schedule for doing my homework and studying each day, a skill which I know I'll retain.

Little known fact: My last name is technically "Were" with only one "R." The computer automatically corrected my name on my birth certificate from "Werre" to "Were"! But I've been living under the false identity of Jason "Werre" my whole life—don't tell anybody!

"Hey, Lakeside!" *The things I really miss about high school are snow days and two-hour delays. Enjoy them while they last! Warriors all the way! Show those Phoenix who's boss! Shoutout to Big Matt and my li'l sister. #WarriorsForLife*

Jason Werre and lots of other MLC kids periodically send messages home via MLC's Facebook page and MLC ParentsPage.



Rachel Haugly

Winnebago Luth Academy | First-year in Education Studies



Major:

elementary ed

Minor:

physical education

Activities:

Chorale, piano, Ultimate Frisbee, intramurals, softball

Hobbies:

listening to music, hanging out with friends, cheering on the Knights

As a PK, she's been exposed to the public ministry her whole life, and she's always known she wanted to be a teacher. But even with that kind of certainty, going to college was as new for her as for anyone, so here she gives us a little look inside.

MLC social scene: The first two weeks are crazy—all those new faces and names. Let me tell you, there are so many Rachels here, it's really hard to keep them straight. But everyone is friendly. You can always find friends to go to chapel or lunch or the fitness center.

MLC classroom scene: Bible History & Lit was conversational, very interesting and enjoyable. I always looked forward to it. For my lit seminar, I'm not a big reader, but our prof makes it enjoyable. And I'm taking Art in Elementary & Middle School, so I can teach art when I'm a teacher. I love to do the projects.

"Hey, WLA!" *Hello, Viking Nation! Freshmen, you're done with one semester at WLA—only seven more to go. Sophomores, you're almost halfway through. Before you know it, you'll be graduating, so make the most of it. Juniors, you're so close to being the big dogs of WLA, but don't let that get in the way of your studies. Finish strong. Seniors, make these last couple of months memorable. God's blessing to all.*

Rachel Haugly is meeting new friends and making her mark on campus.



Emily Neeb

Arizona Luth Academy | Sophomore in Education Studies



Major: early childhood ed

Activities: volleyball, basketball, Chorale, piano, organ, intramurals

Jobs: MLC student ambassador

Hobbies: playing sports, reading, watching cat videos, having a good time with friends

She came 1500 miles, knowing hardly a soul here. But she says she's made some of the best friendships of her life thanks to MLC. Now, as a student ambassador, she loves helping others realize MLC could be the place for them too.

People skills are ministry skills: Coming from Arizona with barely anyone I knew was a daunting start to college. But I've made so many friends. Ministry requires people skills, and maybe starting out alone and being forced to make friends was God's way of helping me grow in that area.

Two influential people: My mom is the biggest reason I'm here. She was a teacher, and I've always looked up to her as a role model. And Professor Loomis has positively impacted me because she always has such enthusiasm in her early childhood classes. She makes me even more excited to teach.

Maybe someday: I'd love to teach 3-5 year olds and watch them grow physically, mentally, and in their faith.

Minnesota's a long way from Arizona, but Emily Neeb (second from left) feels right at home.

"Hey, ALA!" Make the most of your high school experience! It really will fly by. Don't be afraid of what the future holds for you. God is by your side every step of the way. Prayerfully consider what plans God may have for your future. Whether it is ministry or any other career, serve and glorify God wherever you end up.



Samuel Lor

Sumner Academy of Arts & Science | First-year in Preseminary Studies



Major: biblical languages

Emphasis: Chinese for pastors

Activities: Oriental Culture Club, piano, organ, Männerchor, intramurals

Jobs: MLC cafeteria, fast food restaurant in town

Hobbies: watching sports with friends, listening to Taylor Swift music

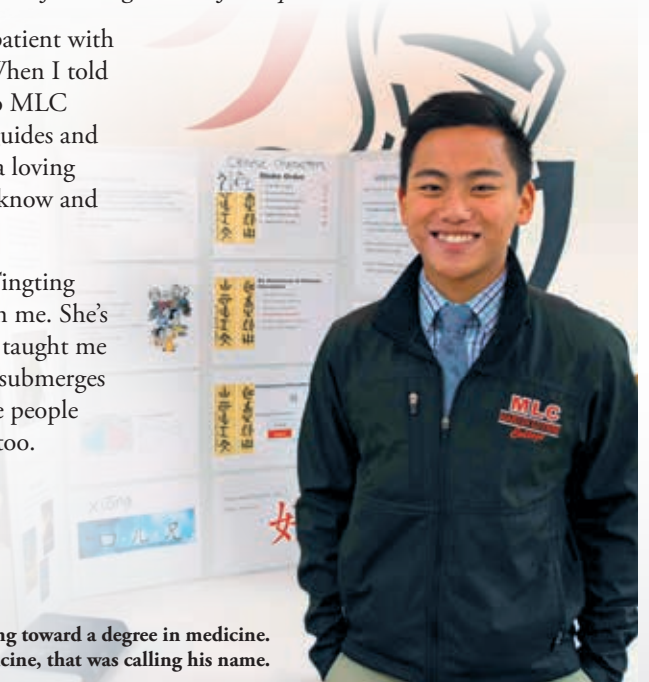
His parents were born in Laos, and, like many Hmong and Mien, they fled to Thailand for refuge after the Vietnam War. When they received passage to America, they brought their Christian faith with them. His father and three uncles are now WELS pastors, and Sam is following in their footsteps.

Gratitude to his father: My father was very patient with me when I was undecided about my career. When I told him I wanted to be a pastor, he pointed me to MLC and guided me through the process. He still guides and instructs me! More importantly, he provided a loving Christian home so that my family and I may know and receive instruction from the Bible.

Gratitude to Professor Tingting: Professor Tingting Zhang Schwartz has made a unique impact on me. She's a very good Chinese language professor. She's taught me much about Chinese culture because she just submerges you in it. It's helped me discover a love for the people I previously hadn't known. They need Christ too.

"Hey, Grace Lutheran"—specifically my youth! Don't forget youth service is at 4 pm every first and third Saturday!

Samuel Lor started at the University of Kansas, working toward a degree in medicine. But then he realized it was ministry, not medicine, that was calling his name.



Mai See Thao

Fox Valley LHS | First-year in Education Studies



Major:

elementary ed

Activities: Women's Choir, piano, intramurals

Job: waitress at restaurant in town

Hobbies: playing volleyball and (occasionally) reading

She comes to MLC from far away—not geographically, but spiritually. Her family subscribes to shamanism, a kind of ancestor worship. But life changed when she was about 5 years old . . . with a knock at the door.

That knock: A man I now call Grandpa knocked on our door and invited us to an outreach program called Hmong Saturday school. We played in the gym, had devotion in the church, had snacks, had a Bible lesson, and then did music and crafts. A year or two later we were enrolled at St. Paul Lutheran School and got baptized.

Being Christian makes a difference: I mean this in the most modest way, but I tend to be more appreciative of everything I have and to look at life in a more positive way, because I know that God is there for me and he has a plan for me.

The next step: I have no idea what God has in store, but if teaching is really part of his plan for me, I can see myself being a first or second grade teacher. I like seeing children learn and grow in faith, and MLC can prepare me to teach them about God.

“Hey, Fox Valley!” Seniors, enjoy your position as “top dogs” and your last couple months of being home, and don’t take home-cooked meals for granted!

It’s a long way up the hill to MLC, and Mai See Thao says, considering her family’s background, coming to MLC was a huge step for her too.



Rachel Riediger

Luther High | First-year in Education Studies



Majors:

elementary ed,
early childhood ed

Activities: Women's Choir, piano, tennis

Hobbies: reading, surfing the web, hanging out with friends

She was one of a dozen Luther High seniors who were so excited about coming to MLC they dressed up in Knights gear once a week. MLC Mondays they called them. That support at Luther was great. And she found encouragement in other places too.

Student support: At Luther we knew everyone who was planning on coming to MLC, and we’d talk about things we’d be doing together in college.

Teacher support: I knew I wanted to be a teacher even in grade school. So I started watching my teachers and learning from them—things I thought I would try and some that I thought didn’t work as well. Every teacher I’ve had has been an impact on my coming to MLC.

Mom support: My mom is the biggest reason I’m at MLC. She graduated from DMLC, and kids love her. We’ll be in stores and kids will run up just to give her a hug and say hi. I hope I can be half the teacher she is.

“Hey, Luther!” I miss you, especially the close connection to teachers and being in Sound Foundation. Keep an eye on Lydia Wassermann’s brother!

Rachel Riediger and friends enjoyed the Centennial Hall roommate brick painting event.



MLC is . . .

... where I can grow in Christ!

Samuel Lor *Sumner Academy for Arts & Science*

... a great place to grow in your faith, even if you're not sure about the public ministry. You're surrounded with God's Word and prepared to live your faith in whatever direction God leads you.

Andrew Krieger *Huron Valley LHS*

... where I can find peace and comfort. It is where I am continually encouraged to pursue my dreams, and it is where I can enjoy doing what I love with my Christian family around me.

Elizabeth Bergemann *WISCO*

... a place where I will train to be the best teacher I can be, serving God the whole way through.

Elise Rosenbaum *Michigan LHS*

... my favorite place on earth.

Jessica Friebe *Michigan Luth Seminary*

... the best place for a focus on faith, future, and new friendships.

Joshua Robertson *Luther High*

... a place where I am encouraged in the Word of God every day, not because I have to be but because I want to be.

Rebecca Gast *Northland LHS*

... a place where students can grow in their faith and where a person can find their soul mate.

Megan Lemke *Shoreland LHS*

... the beginning of a career devoted to the Lord and a place of preparation for all the things he has in store for me!

Zack Scharlemann *Minnesota Valley LHS*

... much more than a college.

Caleb King *Winnebago Luth Academy*

... home away from home.

Joshua Severeid *Evergreen LHS*

mlc-wels.edu

