

THE *Journey* TO THE MINISTRY
starts at MLC

KNIGHTWATCH



IN THIS ISSUE • STARTING THE JOURNEY
• LIGHT FOR THE JOURNEY • THE ITINERARY
• THE SIDE TRIPS • FELLOW TRAVELERS
• IMMERSING YOURSELF • THE DESTINATION

SPRING
2016



KnightWatch Staff

WRITER/EDITOR

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.

PHOTOGRAPHERS

William Pekrul DMLC '80,
PR Director

Jonathan Witte MLC '18

Adam Marley MLC '17

Shelby Pitt MLC '19

Office of Admissions

DIRECTOR

Mark Stein DMLC '92

COUNSELORS

Ross Stelljes WLS '89

Lori Unke DMLC '83

David Starr WLS '14

David Roekle MLC '15

College Administration

PRESIDENT

Mark Zarling WLS '80

VP for ACADEMICS

Jeffery Wiechman DMLC '90

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. 

In this issue:

The Journey to the Ministry Starts at MLC

Starting the Journey: How some students decided to enroll at MLC—and what you can learn from them.

Light for the Journey: How MLC provides the best kind of guidance to you.

The Itinerary: What an MLC college education looks like—the courses and the professors who teach them.

The Side Trips: What MLC students do when they're not hitting the books.

Fellow Travelers: Who's taking the journey with you—fellow students who will be your friends for life.

Immersing Yourself: How immersion experiences of various kinds can add extra adventure to your journey.

The Destination: What MLC students are shooting for—a life dedicated to sharing the good news of our Savior Jesus with a world that needs it!



erin schmeling bohl



St. Croix LHS

Senior
Early Childhood Ed

My family and my high school basketball coach at St. Croix LHS are a large part of the reason I'm at MLC.

jonathan witte



Winnebago
Lutheran
Academy

Junior
Elementary Ed
& Instrumental
Music

Mr. Jordan Beckman is the coolest band director I've ever had. He was beyond knowledgeable. He truly wanted to create greatness in every student. MLC was the place I saw that could help me be like him.



On our cover: The famous MLC Excelsior Steps lead up to Old Main (above).

STARTING THE Journey



Some students are sure. They've known their whole lives they want to be a pastor or teacher or staff minister. Some wonder. They think their gifts might be a good fit for ministry. And some (let's be honest) have no idea. They come with open hearts and minds, ready to learn more about the ministry—and *then* make a decision. Sure or unsure, most students can tell a story of encouragement—someone who tapped them on the shoulder and said, "I can see you in a classroom or pulpit someday. I can see you at MLC." Here are a few of their stories.



hailey johnson

Fox Valley LHS

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed & Spanish**

I want to teach Spanish like Mr. Degner: Throughout my senior year, my Spanish teacher, **Isaiah Degner MLC '05** (pictured left with Hailey), encouraged me to prayerfully consider entering the ministry. He had taught me to love the Spanish language and culture, but I never considered using this passion to teach until he talked to me. I'm so thankful he helped me see the gifts God has blessed me with, and I cannot wait to follow in his footsteps!

At MLC we dig deep into the Word: Professor Keith Wessel's Biblical History and Literature class has been one of my favorite religious courses ever. Although we study Bible stories many of us have been reading since grade school, he inspires us to dig deeper into the Word and its application to our lives, especially as future called workers in the ministry.

These people are my teammates: Through soccer and basketball, I found my greatest friendships on campus. Not only are these girls my teammates on the field/court, they're also my teammates in ministry. No other college team can say that.

crystal carmichael



St. Croix LHS

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed & PE**

My mom is a third grade teacher, and her kids just love her! After losing her husband in 2007, she has had to raise four daughters on her own. Her strength has taught me to never give up. Losing my dad also made me realize how precious our time on earth is, and how we need to spread the gospel wherever we go with the time God has given us!

jacob ungemach



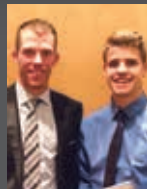
Manitowoc LHS

**First-Year
Preseminary Studies**

Pastor Benjamin Schaefer MLC '05,
at First German-

Manitowoc WI, was the main influence on my decision. Through the years, I've seen the joy of serving others through his example. He encouraged me to pursue ministry and still encourages me now that I'm a student.

aaron swanson

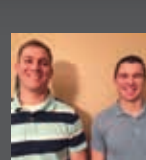


St. Croix LHS

**First-Year
Social Studies**

All of my coaches taught me sports, but more importantly they taught me how to be a Christ-centered human being. **Chris Maki MLC '03**, my high school soccer coach, had confidence in me whether I did or not. I'm attending MLC to be a teacher and a soccer coach who can instill that same confidence into students.

dillon solomon



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

**First-Year
Elementary Ed & Math**

The effect **Professor Andrew Naumann MLC '04** had on me was amazing! His positive attitude toward teaching, coaching, and just interacting with the students really made me want to do what he does. He's one of the biggest reasons I chose to go to MLC.

STARTING THE Journey



jonah kroll

Michigan LHS

First-Year
Elementary Ed & PE

For 18 years I've been watching my dad: It's just so amazing how day in and day out he serves others and proclaims Christ's love, not only with his words but with the little things he does for people. He accepted a call to serve in a country where there is not always peace—Cameroon, Africa—and he accepted it with joy in his heart. I watch him show his God-fearing faith, and that's what I want for my life—to have others look at the way I live and say, "He is a Christian."

I see MLC as a school of love: The professors at MLC are all amazing people. For years they've taught students what it means to be a Christian. The joy of spreading his Word to little children is amazing; there is no greater joy on earth than knowing you've brought peace, joy, and happiness to a little lamb of God by proclaiming Christ has died for them and he loves them.

Jonah Kroll joined his brothers **Josiah** (*holding the cross*) and **Elijah** (*next to Jonah*) in the processional for the 2015 MLC World Mission Service. Their father, Pastor Dan Kroll, delivered the sermon via Skype from Cameroon.



elsie koutia



Arizona Lutheran
Academy

First-Year
Elementary Ed
& Instrumental
Music

Mr. Jon Pasbrig DMLC '91 was the first to inspire me because of his drive and passion for his students. **Ms. Andrea Oppermann MLC '07** encouraged me with her enthusiasm and spirit in the classroom.

megan fury



Luther Preparatory
School

Sophomore
Early Childhood Ed

I've wanted to be a teacher since I was 3. I want to thank my **family** and **friends**, the **faculty** and **staff** at Luther Preparatory School, and those here at MLC who made this possible. Also, I know that as a student here I wouldn't be in the same position without the financial and spiritual support of those in our synod.

coleman lupee



Platteville
HS-Wisconsin

First-Year
Preseminary
Studies

I thought it wasn't possible for me to do all the languages required to be a pastor. But my pastor, **Shane Krause WLS '09**, and his wife, **Nicole Krause MLC '04**, really helped me overcome my fears. They are a big reason I came here.

abby lash



Shoreland

First-Year
Early Childhood Ed

For as long as I can remember, being an MLC Knight has been my dream. The person that inspired and encouraged me the most is my **mother**, who teaches kindergarten. Her joy and love for teaching is something I admire.



megan ungemach

Manitowoc LHS

**Senior
Early Childhood Ed**

Mrs. Naumann made me fall in love with teaching:

For kindergarten through fourth grade, I was in a classroom with five grades in Benton Harbor, Michigan. My teacher, Mrs. **June Naumann DMLC '74** (pictured here with Megan, right, and her sister Anna, left) allowed me to correct spelling workbooks, help the younger children, lead groups in read-alouds, and be "in charge" when we worked in the hallway. I loved the feeling of being a teacher, and I haven't lost that love yet!



Student teaching at the MLC Early Childhood Learning Center:

I worked with infants, toddlers, and preschoolers. The days went by so quickly, and each day I left amazed by how much I'd learned from the children, my co-teachers, and my advisors.

My professors show me I can do this: In the early childhood classes, Professor Jennie Mehlberg and Professor Cheryl Loomis have a wonderful way of sharing their experience and expertise and helping you make the information your own. My favorite was Administration of Early Childhood Programs. The thought of being a director of a center is a little daunting, but that class helped me to realize that with God by my side, I can accomplish any task that the Lord calls me to do.

sora lee



California LHS

**First-Year
Math**

I was one of
April Cook's
MLC '11 first

students, and she was one of my first teachers in an American high school. I was nervous because of the cultural differences. She helped me and encouraged me to stay in America. I decided to become a teacher like her, not only to help students academically, but also guide them through their hardships.

shelby pitt



**Chippewa Falls HS –
Wisconsin**

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed &
Social Studies**

My mom went to DMLC, and my dad went to Northwestern. The best advice they gave me was to do what I wanted, that I shouldn't feel pressured to go to MLC because they did. In the end I knew it was 100% my choice, 100% supported by the parents God blessed me with.

eric dorn



Illinois LHS

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed**

Almost my
entire family are
called workers,

and I wanted to break from that. I was a business major at a different college, but after two years I found I wouldn't enjoy that as a career, and I transferred to MLC. Now I'm learning how I can share the love of Jesus with my future students. I can't think of anything more exciting than that.

rudy nelson



West LHS

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed &
Social Studies**

One of the biggest influences on me ultimately choosing MLC was a **choir trip** here through my high school, West Lutheran.

STARTING THE Journey



colin bahmer

Golden Valley HS-Santa Clarita CA

**Junior
Elementary Ed & PE**

I did not grow up in the faith. After high school, I went to two community colleges and worked as a paint estimator. One day I met **Andrew Aguilar MLC '97**, the superintendent and volleyball coach at California LHS. I'd played volleyball in high school, so I asked if I could be his assistant. He accepted me even though I had a different outlook on life and faith than he did. The girls I was coaching, the students, parents, and staff, and Andrew and his family became a huge family to me.

My volleyball girls took me as kind of a challenge. On bus rides, they would tell me Bible stories I had heard of but never knew. I was intrigued. After more time with this new family and all these wonderful stories, I asked Andrew if I could join him and his family at church.

I enrolled in a Bible information class and soon was baptized and confirmed. More time with this family showed me that I wanted to be a coach and teacher.

Andrew told me about MLC. Again I was intrigued. Of course, I saw some setbacks, like leaving all my friends and family in California to go to school in Minnesota, but I still wanted to do it. And participating in two Early Field Experiences (EFE) really proved that being a teacher is what I want to do.

Pictured: Colin Bahmer is joined by two other California students, Lizzie Kogler and Erin Plocher.



kayla schoeneck



WISCO

**Senior
Elementary Ed &
Communications
Arts & Lit**

Even though no one in **my family** is a called worker, they always encouraged me to put my faith as number one. Yes, it was a surprise when I announced I was going to MLC, but the support and happiness I received reassured me that taking this path was the right thing to do.

alec bergmann



Kettle Moraine LHS

**Junior
Elementary Ed &
Social Studies**

I helped at some of Tim Mueller's MLC '06 Path to Victory basketball camps, and he said I had gifts for ministry. Eventually he got through and convinced me to come to MLC, and I haven't looked back since!

elissa koch



**Fort Dorchester
HS-South Carolina**

**First-Year
Elementary Ed**

Pastor Jon Enter WLS '04 brought me on a Focus on Ministry trip two years ago. I had such a great time that I knew I didn't want to go anywhere else. After that, I was also encouraged by **Troy Schreiner WLS '14** and **Nathan Loersch WLS '15**, who were vicars at my church.

jennifer adickes



Luther High

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed &
Vocal Music**

My father, **Paul Adickes**, who serves at Luther High as choral director, always teaches with enthusiasm and a passion for his students and music. Someday I hope to glorify God in a choral setting just like he does!

At MLC, you'll have light for your journey—the very Word of God. You'll hear it in morning and evening worship at the beautiful Chapel of the Christ. In Bible studies led by professors and peers. In theology courses—from Bible history to the Lutheran Confessions to Scripture in the original Greek and Hebrew. In fact, you'll hear it in every class you take, because every class is taught in the light of God's Word and with your future public ministry in mind.



tessa heiling

Redwood Valley HS-MN

Junior
Elementary Ed & Social Studies

Growing in faith through study and worship: I've witnessed some friends and even family members fall away from faith. I chose to come to MLC because more than anything I wanted to keep growing in my faith. I'm more than happy to say that through the classes and worship that MLC provides, I have grown strong in my faith and still continue to grow.

Growing in faith even through sports: I feel that my spiritual life is bursting at the seams when I am with my cross country teammates. There's so much laughter and encouragement, and we bond through game days, team devotionals, team dinners and parties, and, of course, races.

philip schroeder

Luther Prep

Junior
Preseminary Studies

The light of the Word: I started Hebrew with Professor Thomas Nass this year. I love being able to go to the original Hebrew to look at the Old Testament. I'm very excited to study John's Gospel in Greek with Professor John Schmidt as well.

The light in song: I'm in College Choir. I really like that the songs we pick are so scripturally sound and that I'm able to use my gifts to proclaim the gospel in song.

Sharing the light: I've been able to lead a Bible class at school for the guys in my dorm (*pictured*). It's a great way to gain experience for my future ministry. I was also able to go to Christ Our Savior-Sterling VA to help lead a Bible sports camp. I led devotion, canvassed, and talked to many people about Jesus! It was also great to see a different part of the country!



THE Itinerary

ROAD TO THE PULPIT



If you're thinking about becoming a pastor, your four years of studies at MLC will include Bible, doctrine, Greek and Hebrew, as well as at least one non-biblical language, history, English, science, math, music, and PE. You'll join other brothers who share your goal—the privilege of serving the Savior through a noble calling he himself established. And you'll encourage each other on this journey as you grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially.



The MLC Class of 2015: After graduation, you'll move on to the next leg of your journey at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary (WLS), where you'll do further in-depth study of Old and New Testament, doctrine, church history, liturgics, homiletics (preaching), teaching, Early Field Training in local congregations, and a vicar year in a congregation.

It's a long journey to the pulpit, but you won't be alone. WLS students will come back to MLC to encourage you in your college studies—and to enjoy some friendly competition on the court and field. And you'll travel to the seminary as well for special events like the Mission and Ministry Seminar.

One day you may be ordained and installed into the public ministry, like Rev. **Isaac Crass** MLC '11, WLS '15 (right). Pastor Crass is a new instructor at MLC. His father, Rev. **Matthew Crass** WLS '86 participated in Isaac's ordination.





isaac hayes

Arizona Lutheran Academy

**Junior
Preseminary Studies**

When I first became a Lutheran in seventh grade: I had no idea who Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were, and jumping right into confirmation class was not a simple task either. But thanks be to God, I absorbed everything quickly—especially the truth that it is by grace we are saved, not by our works.

I thank God for Pastor Sims: I already wanted to be someone who worked around people, but God planted a wonderful desire in my heart: becoming a pastor who gets to share this awesome and saving message of the gospel. **Pastor Snowden (Gene) Sims WLS '89** was (and still is) a great mentor and brother in Christ who encouraged me along the way.

An amazing course: A course that has had a great impact on me is Hebrew with Professor Thomas Nass. It's quite astonishing to see that this is the language God used to communicate his Word, including the promise of our Savior Jesus Christ.

If you're thinking about MLC: Each of you has unique talents (big or small or in between), and MLC is a place where those talents can be developed, possibly for the ministry. Don't see it as pressure, but rather as a wonderful opportunity where you can serve your Savior.

Your Guides on This Journey: The Faculty

Your guides on this journey are MLC professors, pastors and teachers themselves, who will tell you the story of their journeys and accompany you on yours.



jacob ungemach

Manitowoc LHS

**First-Year
Preseminary Studies**

Coming to MLC, I was nervous about new courses

and professors' expectations—especially about my language courses. Professor **Jim Danell**, my German professor, has had a positive impact on the way I view my studies. He encourages us to do our best out of thankfulness to our Lord.



grant freese

Nebraska LHS

**First-Year
Preseminary Studies**

I enjoy my Latin class with Tutor **Matt Scharf**.

Languages can be very hard at times, but he keeps classes enjoyable and lighthearted. It's also very encouraging to see someone recently out of the seminary be such a good teacher and preacher for chapels. He's a good example for a freshman in the pastor track.



kerigiti jackson

WISCO

**First-Year
Preseminary Studies**

Professor Paul Koelpin motivates me in my studies

and lets me know that he has faith that I will be able to fulfill my dream of becoming a pastor—if I stay faithful to my studies and continue to persevere through the many struggles of college life.

THE Itinerary

ROAD TO THE CLASSROOM



Thinking about becoming a teacher? You can get an education degree at almost any college, but *only Martin Luther College* prepares you for both state licensure and synod certification, qualifying you to teach in one of the hundreds of WELS preschools, elementary schools, and high schools. Your itinerary at MLC will include general education courses, theology courses, and professional education courses geared specifically to the level and content area you hope to teach. The goal is to prepare you for wherever God's gifts and God's call take you.



Clinical Experiences

At MLC, you'll have clinical experiences every year. Early Field Experience I begins with group presentations (*pictured*) and ends with you teaching a lesson to grade school kids. You'll continue with EFE II, clinicals, and finally student teaching. It's an exciting part of your journey!



jennifer adickes

Luther High

**Sophomore
Elementary Ed & Vocal Music**

At EFE I, I taught 7th graders about rhythm by using Boomwhackers. By the end of my lesson, they could play "Happy" by Pharrell Williams almost perfectly. This solidified that I want to get elementary students fired up about music.



paul habermann

Manitowoc LHS

**Senior
Elementary Ed & Life Science**

I think the most important thing that I picked up from EFE II and III was confidence. I left thinking, "I can definitely do this."



alec bergmann

Kettle Moraine LHS

**Junior
Elementary Ed & Social Studies**

I was at a nearby public school for my clinical experience. The students were amazing, and my teaching experience was eye-opening.



jon witte

Winnebago Lutheran Academy

**Junior
Elementary Ed & Instrumental Music**

Last year I did EFE II at Immanuel-Greenville WI in Mr. Drew Retzlaff's 7th grade classroom. I wasn't really sure if I could do grade school teaching, but seeing the light bulb go on in grade school students is something everyone should get to experience.



hope werre

Lakeside LHS

Senior / Elementary Ed & Instrumental & Vocal Music

Dr. Cindy Whaley, who teaches methods courses like Teaching Reading, is a huge inspiration to me. She's so passionate about teaching, and she sincerely cares for and prays for each one of us students. I've learned so much from her about what it means to make a difference in a child's life!



coleman lupée

Platteville HS-Wisconsin

First-Year / Preseminary Studies

Professor **Zhang Tingting** really has taught me a lot, including more about Chinese culture and Christianity in China.



abby lash

Shoreland LHS

First-Year / Early Childhood Ed

Biology with Professor **Dan Fenske** reminded me that our human minds cannot fully grasp the extent of God's love and power demonstrated by his creations.



justin wintrone

Luther High

Sophomore / Elementary Ed & Social Studies

Professor **Mark Tacke** brings so much enthusiasm to the physics classroom every day.



hannah midthan

WISCO

Senior / Chemistry & Life Science

One of my favorite classes was Zoology. MLC's science program is jam-packed with awesome hands-on experiences instructed by a dream team of professors.



kelli doell

Fox Valley LHS

Junior / Elementary Ed & PE

In Teaching Language Arts and Children's Literature, Professor **Jon Roux** really made me feel excited about teaching!



dillon solomon

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

First-Year / Elementary Ed & Math

Day after day, Professor **Matt Pearson's** enthusiasm inspires me to be a teacher just like him.



kayla schoeneck

WISCO

Senior / Elementary Ed & Communication Arts & Lit

Professor **Paul Grubbs** has a passion and enthusiasm for teaching English that I hope to mimic in my classroom one day.



leah nass

Manitowoc LHS

Senior / Elementary Ed & Life Science

I appreciate how seriously Professor **Greg Diersen** takes our questions and how willing he is to discuss the varying opinions and research concerning the answers.



elsie koutia

Arizona Lutheran Academy

First-Year / Elementary Ed & Instrumental Music

My favorite course so far has to be my English Seminar: The Challenge of Faith. We delved into books deeper than I ever did in high school, and Professor **Brian Dose** asked really thought-provoking questions.



megan fury

Luther Preparatory School

Sophomore / Early Childhood Ed

I really enjoyed my two classes with Professor **Cheryl Loomis** last semester: Arts and Movement and Child Development. It's awesome to dive into my early childhood major and learn how I'm going to teach these young ones.

Side Trips

CLUBS, MUSIC & DRAMA



Every great trip includes some rambling off the beaten path. Side trips are part of most MLC students' itineraries too. They put the books aside and gain diverse experiences through clubs, music, and athletics.



morgan shevey
Luther Preparatory School

First-Year
Elementary Ed & Social Studies

I really enjoy working as a Student Ambassador to organize the grade school tours and Focus on Ministry trips. I like being a part of recruitment events that encourage everyone to consider pursuing a life in the ministry. I know the events play an enormous role in the college decision of the students that visit. *Morgan is in the first row, far right.*



elissa koch
Fort Dorchester HS-South Carolina

First-Year
Elementary Ed

I really enjoy Anchor, MLC's service organization. One thing we do is visit nursing homes. Nothing is more rewarding than working with the elderly and seeing them light up when you help them. Plus, they really enjoy talking about their lives, and I enjoy stories from the past so it's altogether an awesome experience.



megan fury
Luther Preparatory School

Sophomore
Early Childhood Ed

I really enjoy being able to help make an impact through Senate. It's been awesome to see the behind-the-scenes of what goes on at MLC. Many students' time, thoughts, and talents go into events such as Homecoming, Winter Carnival, trips, and special events.



jonathan witte
Winnebago Lutheran Academy

Junior
Elementary Ed & Instrumental Music

I love my on-campus job—one of the photographers and videographers at MLC. I get to meet all sorts of people on campus and the surrounding community. It also has its perks, like flying MLC's drone or going up in a helicopter to take pictures of campus.



jennifer adickes

Luther High

Sophomore

Elementary Ed & Vocal Music

My favorite activity here at MLC is definitely Forum. Last year, I was a duckling sister in the children's theater show, *The Ugly Duckling*. This fall, I was Adelaide in *Guys and Dolls*. Both were incredible experiences that helped me grow in ways I never knew I could. The Forum community has a family dynamic that forms lasting friendships. One of my favorite things about it is that we all perform together for God's glory.

My favorite class is definitely College Choir under the direction of Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer. Each day I learn valuable lessons I can apply to my own singing technique or my choir one day. One of my favorite moments happened last spring during choir tour. We stopped at the Capitol in Madison, Wisconsin, and stood in a ring around the rotunda. We sang "God So Loved the World," a commissioned piece by Paul Mealor. People of all different backgrounds gathered around us to hear our message. Some even asked where they could hear our concert later! It was a great opportunity to witness.



jacob ungemach
Manitowoc LHS

First-Year

Preseminary Studies

So far in college my favorite activities have been band and choir. I really enjoy the opportunity to make music to praise and thank my Lord!



elsie koutia

Arizona Lutheran Academy

First-Year

Elementary Ed & Instrumental Music

I'm so glad I auditioned for *Guys and Dolls*! Everyone supports each other, and it's such a fun environment where you can be yourself and have fun after school!



hope werre

Lakeside LHS

Senior

Elementary Ed, Vocal Music & Instrumental Music

I love College Choir. Dr. Kermit Moldenhauer is an amazing conductor, and we get to sing together every weekday! We sing for a variety of concerts throughout the year, and sometimes it involves traveling to exotic locations! This year for choir tour, we get to go out to California and Arizona.



crystal carmichael

St. Croix LHS

Sophomore

Elementary Ed & PE

I've been blessed to be in basketball and Forum at MLC. Both have been life-changing experiences. Being part of both *The Music Man* and *Guys and Dolls* was so rewarding—all the long practices were so worth the performances! In basketball, it's been a blast bonding with the team in practices and on long road trips. Playing at the college level has been a learning experience with so much growth.

Side Trips

SPORTS



aaron swanson

St. Croix LHS

First-Year
Social Studies

Soccer has been a great blessing to me, and Coach Koelpin has made a big impact on my life here at MLC. He doesn't just care about my soccer career. He cares about me academically and spiritually—and just wants to make sure I'm doing ok. He truly cares for each individual player on the team.



grant freese

Nebraska LHS

First-Year
Preseminary Studies

I really enjoyed football this year at MLC.

We had a great group of guys that all worked hard to improve both as individuals and as a team. We had good leaders who were good examples and teammates, and also had good coaches who put in a lot of time and effort to help us improve.



kelli doell

Fox Valley LHS

Junior
Elementary Ed & PE

I am in love with softball—my team, my coaches, and the game. The coaches are

supportive, encouraging, and driven to give their all to the team! Our team motto is "God is good, all the time." I love being surrounded by uplifting Christian women whose passions (Jesus, teaching, and softball) are the same as mine.



rudy nelson

West LHS

Sophomore
Elementary Ed & Social Studies

During the spring I run track for MLC. My favorite event is the javelin throw. The track team is a very close-knit group. I was hesitant when I went out for it freshman year, but it was one of my best decisions. It introduced me to new people and put me in situations where I could grow as a person.



moriah hackbarth

Lakeside LHS

First-Year
Elementary Ed & Math

Before I even finished unpacking, I was playing volleyball as a Knight. The first thing that struck me was the great group of girls. Every single one had such a strong faith and such a big heart. The sport itself was and always is a lot of fun. The college game is a lot faster paced, and more is expected from the players, but having a chance to play a sport I love at such a competitive level is a blessing I hope I never take for granted. *Moriah is #12 above.*



coleman lupee

Platteville HS-Wisconsin

First-Year
Preseminary Studies

I'm working as a swim coach at the Vogel Center. I'm really liking it and learning how to teach kids. MLC helps with job opportunities like this.



justin wintrone

Luther High

Sophomore
Elementary Ed & Social Studies

Intramural volleyball, basketball, and softball are all great fun. It's just nice to unwind a little bit in the evenings, get a workout in for the day, and enjoy time together with your future colleagues in the ministry.



erin schmeling bohl

St. Croix LHS

Senior
Early Childhood Ed

One of my favorite things about basketball is my team. We're with each other for six months straight. We see our best and worst and support each other through that. Every day we step onto the court knowing that we play for Him and Him alone.



eric dorn

Illinois LHS

Sophomore
Elementary Ed

Soccer helped make my transfer to MLC easier. It was great being able to go to practice every day with such a great group of guys that always know how to have fun.



grey davis

Lakeside LHS

Senior
Social Studies

I enjoy running cross country for MLC. The group of guys I trained with over the years made me a better man and showed me what it takes to be successful on the cross country course and in life. Our coaches allowed us to be leaders on the team so that we can learn to be great teachers and coaches someday.

The best experience for ministry came through coaching track at Minnesota Valley LHS. It was neat to see what worked and what didn't work. We were fortunate to almost win a state title my first year coaching, but our 1600-meter relay team got nipped at the line to finish runner-up. But seeing the smiles on the boys' faces as they celebrated their second place state finish solidified my decision to become a teacher and coach some day. *Grey is pictured on the left with two members of the MVL state runner-up relay team.*

Immersing

YOURSELF
INTERNATIONALLY

On some journeys, you're just passing through. Other times, you stay a while, immersing yourself in the local culture, learning how the people live, what they love, what they're looking for. You can join the many MLC students who leave the campus bubble and experience different cultures and different ministries. You can study—through a month of Spanish or Mandarin immersion, for instance, or a year in another country. Or you can teach—maybe elementary school in St. Lucia, high school in South Korea, or adults in Russia. MLC partners with Kingdom Workers and study abroad organizations to get you started. Whatever you choose, MLC is your threshold to the world, making your journey that much more of an adventure.



erin schmeling bohl

St. Croix LHS

Senior
Early Childhood Ed

Africa is an experience I will never forget. It still holds a special place in my heart, and I think and pray about it daily. While we were there, we taught a Bible lesson, led a music lesson, and did an art project for vacation Bible school. Although our music, clothing, language, and architecture are different, we worship the same God both in America and in Africa. *Erin is pictured above, far right.*

Anytime you step foot into a new classroom as a teacher and put into practice the things you've been learning is a fun day. There were parts of all my Early Field Experiences—including preschool in West St. Paul, Minnesota, and grades 1-3 in Toledo, Ohio—that I will take with me into my future classroom. There's a beauty in seeing the things other teachers do that you think you could implement in your own classroom one day. I just finished my student teaching semester, and I learned a ton about myself as a person and a teacher.



Kayla schoeneck

WISCO

Senior
Elementary Ed & Communication
Arts & Lit

During the summer of 2014, I went to Malawi, Africa, for three weeks. I knew this trip would take me out of my comfort zone and every day would be an adventure. Going out into the bush and teaching the Malawians the love that their Savior has for them was a humbling experience that reminded me how blessed we are to know God's love and the importance of sharing that love with everyone.



stephanie rockhoff

Shoreland LHS

**Junior
Early Childhood Ed**

I did my sophomore Early Field Experience internationally in the second grade classroom at St. John's-Antigua. In that classroom I made connections to what I was learning in school, and I learned some new techniques. It was very evident how much this teacher loved and respected her children, and in return they showed her the same love and respect. I hope and pray God will bless me with relationships like that in my future classroom.

After sophomore year, I served in Kissimmee, Florida:

Peace Lutheran needed some extra help since their school was growing so much. I stepped in as a teacher intern, taught some classes in the upper grades, provided extra help for a few who needed it, helped out as a coach and ref with sports, and watched kids in aftercare. That experience was one of the greatest blessings. It opened my eyes to the joys and hardships of ministry before I even started student teaching.



leah nass

Manitowoc LHS

**Senior
Elementary Ed & Life Science**

My junior year at MLC I went to London to take a three-week fine arts course at the University of Westminster. Despite going alone, the experience was everything I dreamed it would be and more. My flatmates and I lived near Notting Hill and Portobello Road. Each day, we took the 20-minute tube ride to Regents Street for class. I made so many new friends and experienced an abundance of cultures. I became more independent and confident, both socially and even more so in my faith. Studying abroad certainly provides a different kind of witnessing opportunity for MLC students. I highly recommend it.

Back in high school: I knew I wanted to be a teacher, but I chose MLC last minute. I originally planned to go to a state university on a track scholarship. I'd verbally committed, loved the campus, and loved the coaches, but as graduation drew near, I realized I wanted to go to school to be a WELS teacher. My faith is a huge part of who I am. I wanted to be able to share my faith and use it as a tool in my classroom to help students grow as people. Attending MLC allowed me to do that.

Immersing

YOURSELF
ACROSS THE US



A few weeks—or a whole summer—in a different part of the country can be an immersion experience too. In the last two decades, more than 2,000 students have participated in Daylight USA, serving congregations from California to New York—even Hawaii. They teach VBS, lead Bible sports camps, assist with early childhood ministries, canvass neighborhoods, assist at worship, and more. When you go on a Daylight USA trip, the results are win-win: You give congregations your energy and enthusiasm, and they give you the kind of practical experience you can't get in a classroom.



hannah midthun

WISCO

Senior
Chemistry & Life Science

Over spring break 2015, I traveled to Arizona with three friends—**Aaron Markgraf (WLA)**, **Hannah Schmidt (WLA)**, and **Eric Uher (WISCO)**, all pictured—to canvass and take surveys for Peace Lutheran in Queen Creek. I had never been to the Southwest, so it was really awesome to see such a unique landscape. The memories will last me a lifetime. From front porch conversations with strangers to hours of preparing canvassing materials, I will always remember our awesome week in Arizona. MLC offers so many different opportunities for students to get out into the field and experience the public ministry firsthand. I plan on going on another Daylight trip this year.





isaac hayes

Arizona Lutheran Academy

Junior / Preseminary Studies

Last summer I had the honor of doing a Daylight trip all over the North Atlantic District. I traveled to churches in North Carolina, New Jersey, upstate New York, Virginia, and Massachusetts. The major things I did were plenty of canvassing, a VBS, and a couple campouts. It was great to see all the different dynamics in ministry with each church and the culture that surrounded each of them, but even greater (better put, the greatest) was the same, unchanging message of Christ that was shared.



colin bahmer

Golden Valley HS-California

Junior / Elementary Ed & PE

The summer after my first year, I served a church in San Diego, helping run a summer camp. We had a different theme every week, such as arts and crafts, cooking, sewing, soccer, and basketball. Last summer I took a Daylight trip down to Covington, Georgia, for the whole summer. Along with a couple of VBS and soccer camps, I helped with other events and canvassed the area, trying to spread the Word. For one week I helped with a summer camp called Camp South. (The photo is of me and the counselors and helpers after a little mud run!) My experiences in San Diego and Covington were an absolute blessing. The people I met, the places I saw, and the experience I gained will stick with me forever.



morgan shevey

Luther Preparatory School

**First-Year / Elementary Ed
& Social Studies**

I went to Mississauga, Canada, to help out with Cross of Life's huge soccer camp. While we had fun teaching soccer skills, the main focus was always on God and the work that Jesus did for us.



megan ungemach

Manitowoc LHS

Senior / Early Childhood Ed

My older sister Anna and I did a Summer Ministry Assistance trip to St. Louis. We packed our bags and lived with a host family for 10 weeks. I grew so much in that one summer. Not only did I discover even more why I loved teaching, but I saw firsthand how much planning and time goes into having your own classroom.

FELLOW Travelers



The best part of a journey is the company you keep. At MLC, your fellow travelers will often become your friends for life.



elsie koutia

Arizona Lutheran Academy

First-Year
Elementary Ed & Instrumental Music

I made a ton of new friends. When you participate in Forum, you definitely feel like you're part of a second family.



aaron swanson

St. Croix LHS

First-Year
Social Studies

The soccer team have become my closest friends. I can always count on one of them to be there for me.



crystal carmichael
St. Croix LHS

Sophomore
Elementary Ed & PE

Getting involved with activities at MLC is one of the best things you can do because you are bound to make lifelong friendships!



paul habermann
Manitowoc LHS

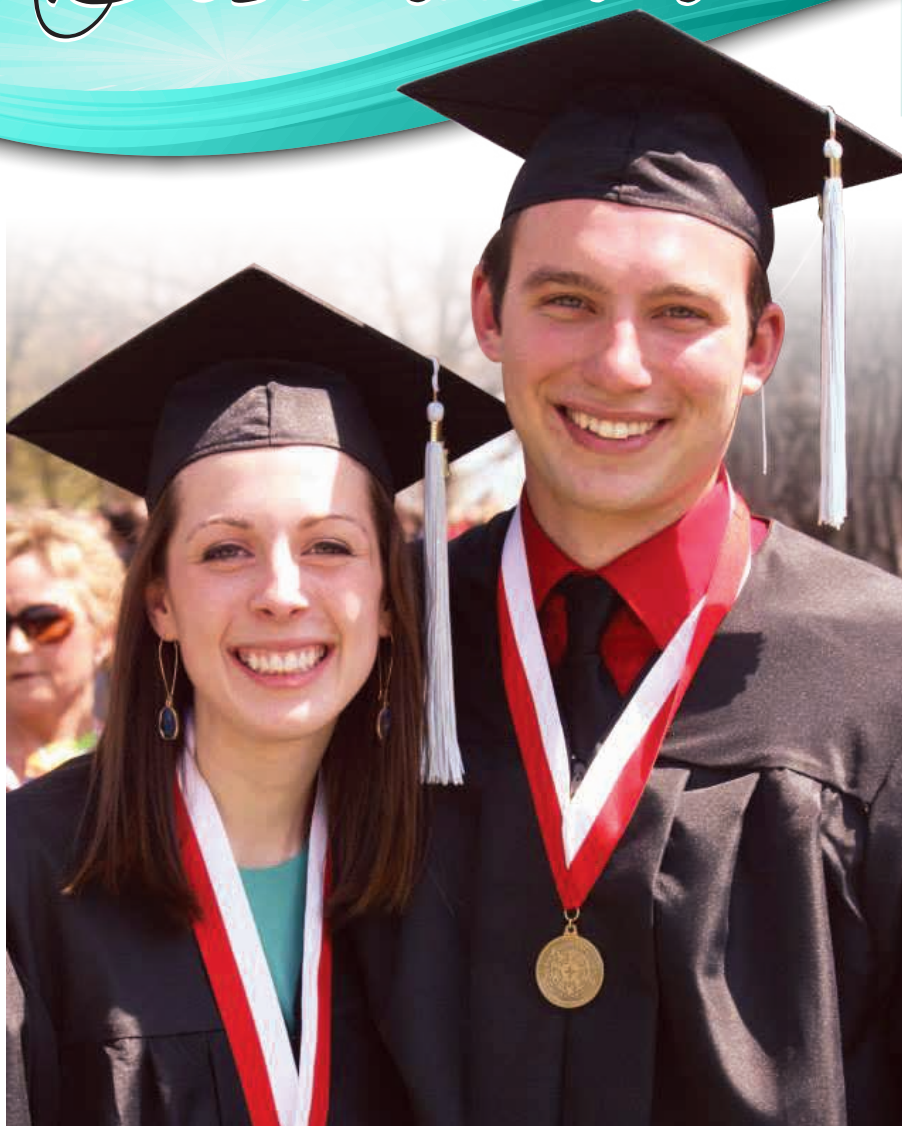
Senior
Elementary Ed & Life Science

The friendships I made on the football team will last throughout my life.

THE Destination



We might call it the end of the road, but really, it's just the beginning of your life as a called worker in God's church. One mission. Endless opportunities. It all starts at MLC.



Ryan Klatt and Jessica (Buller) Klatt

MLC Class of 2014

Sometimes you find the love of your life at MLC. Ryan and I met freshman year and had many of the same friends. We both lived in the Twin Cities, so we started hanging out. The summer after sophomore year we went to a Twins game, and a year later, we were engaged. We got married about a month after we graduated, which brought many changes in a short amount of time. New jobs, new home, and being married!

MLC was a great experience for both of us.

We loved being surrounded by Christian friends and professors who wanted the very best for us! We loved our time on campus, going to chapel, hanging with friends, and getting prepared for the calling that the Lord would send us.

God has given both calls to teach in

Manitowoc, Wisconsin: Ryan is the principal, half-time 7-8 grade teacher, and boys' basketball coach at First German. Jessica is the kindergarten teacher and assistant volleyball and girls' basketball coach at Bethany.

They feel well-prepared by MLC. All the early field experiences and clinical experiences allowed us to see how other teachers kept their classrooms running smoothly and prepared us to have classrooms of our own. Through our education courses, we learned how children interact and how to set up a curriculum and teach, so the students are engaged and learning to their fullest potential.

Best thing about MLC: MLC kept the focus on God being the priority in our lives. Not just trying to be the best teacher or making it through, but doing everything we can to thank God for all of the wonderful gifts he has given us.



Ryan and Jessica's wedding party included 11 friends from MLC.



nate wordell

MLC '12 WLS '16

As Assignment Day approaches: A call into the ministry is a crazy thing to think about. Huge responsibilities like leading people in their study of God's Word. Huge blessings like helping struggling people with their most desperate needs. Huge unknowns like where I'm going to live. So I try not to think about it. No matter where I go, the God who controls every molecule in the universe has his eye on me. He's in charge of what happens, and he's promised to bless me. So I try to take him at his word and not let my brain run away with crazy future-thoughts. Lord willing I'll be in full-time ministry soon. Then I'll have plenty of time to think about long-term plans and blessings.

That's what I'd tell a high school guy too. Nobody is asking you to commit to a lifetime. Nobody is asking you to be a super genius or the life of every party. We all need to focus on the same thing: working as hard as we can to use the gifts God has given us in the situation God has placed us—trusting God to bless our successes and our shortcomings. High school guy, don't worry about being a pastor right now. You've got years to learn about that. Just think about one semester. Work hard, have fun, and see where God takes you. That's all I'm doing!

When I look back: My time at MLC was crazy. I was always running from one activity to the next—class, sports, choir, friends, lots of stuff in between. I did as much as I could, learned as much as I could, and slept as little as possible.

The memories that stick with me are the children's theater plays—I had so much fun the first time I did it every year. Also the times I sat up late at night and talked with the guys. My roommates, the RAs, and even the tutors would stay up and talk about music, sports, worship, politics, girls, and everything in between! I made the best friends of my life at MLC.

MLC taught me about God's Word. Whether I become a pastor or not, the most important thing I can do is read my Bible. That is hands-down my biggest takeaway from MLC.

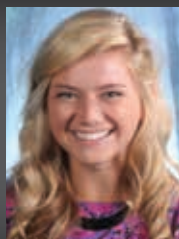
MLC helped me better understand people. As I chatted with people at lunch, did group projects for class, learned about history and literature and science, I learned about people. I learned that no matter how neatly everyone polishes up their outside appearances, they're all just like me on the inside, at least in one way: we're all messed up. MLC taught me how much people need Jesus—myself included.

At the seminary we work hard to put together people knowledge with Bible knowledge. If I can be a pastor who knows *who* people need, and knows what the Bible tells us about that man, that would be a wonderful blessing. I started getting those tools at MLC.

When I was like 6 years old, my pastors were Bill Bader and Norris Baumann in Onalaska, Wisconsin. I thought they were so cool. They were important, but they still knew who I was. When it came time to think about college, I remembered those pastors, and I thought I'd regret it if I didn't at least give MLC a shot.

I went to MLC with an open mind. I'd be fine if I stayed; I'd be fine if I left. When I got there I fell more and more in love with it. The classes were tough but interesting, the people were encouraging, and the activities were fun. So I stuck around. Another thing that kept my interest was mission trips. Every year during spring or summer break I worked with a VBS or a summer camp. Those were good motivators.

So now here I am a few months from Assignment Day. Sometimes God changes lives through big emotional events, but sometimes he changes lives slow and steady through really regular stuff. That's how he blessed me.



THE
Journey TO THE MINISTRY
starts at MLC