THIS IS OUR COLLEGE THESE ARE OUR STORIES KNIGHT

1

8

KNIGHTS

8

MLC



IN THIS ISSUE • STORY OF MY KNIGHT LIFEPASTORS & TEACHERS IN TRAININGTHE MUSIC OF KNIGHT LIFE

• THE SPORTING KNIGHT LIFE

SPRING 2017 f y v Ø

STORY OF MY KNIGHT

Har



MLC students don't all look the same. They come from Lutheran high schools, public schools, home schools, and international schools. Their parents are called workers, lay people, and unchurched. They love choir, cross country, chemistry, and ee cummings. What does unite them, however, is their mission in life. They all want to serve God with their gifts, and they're at MLC to see whether the public ministry is the way to do it. This thing called Knight Life—they're giving it a try.



Fox Valley LHS Senior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish

Student Senate, volleyball, basketball, track, student basketball coach, Spanish teaching assistant, RA, piano, waitress

I come from a family of called workers, where a majority are called workers or are aspiring to become called workers. My whole life everyone always told me how wonderful a teacher I'd make, how I'd be just like everyone else in my family. I was honored to receive these compliments, but I also rebelled against them. I wanted to be my own person, to stand out, do something out of the ordinary, use my gifts and spread the gospel in a different way.

I went through a variety of career choices, including veterinarian, marine biologist, and architect. I applied to many different schools, figuring MLC could be my backup. But when time was running out and I still hadn't chosen a career path or a school, by default I chose MLC. When I arrived, I was fairly nervous but automatically felt like I fit in. I realized this was a place where my faith would grow, and the rest would figure itself out on its own.

Today I cannot even begin to explain how different I am from the day I first stepped foot on this campus. Here are three things I learned: 1. Getting involved is beyond important. If I wouldn't have gotten involved right away, I'm not sure I'd still be here today. It brought so many people into my network of friends who have all impacted me in a variety of ways and encouraged me to focus on the important things. 2. Don't compare yourself to other people. God has given everyone different gifts, and if you get into the comparing game, you'll lose every time, because it's way easier to see your faults than to see your gifts. Treasure the unique gifts you've been blessed with and work together with others, always giving glory to God. 3. Spending time with Jesus is the most beneficial thing you can do. You can pull yourself into 1000 different pieces getting involved and completing your studies, but taking time to say a prayer, have a personal devotion, and go to chapel will greatly improve your day, your mood, and ultimately your faith!



Coming into college I knew I would participate in volleyball and track, but little did I know God had bigger plans for my collegiate sports career. I also played basketball for four years and now have the blessing of helping coach 13 wonderfully talented girls, most of whom have been my teammates. I may not have been the best player. I may not have played many minutes or scored many points. But I learned what my role on the team was and always strove to fulfill it to the best of my ability. This whole

experience has really shaped me as a person and a future called worker. Everyone has their own unique talents; the key is to figure out what they are and use them to God's glory.

STORY OF MY KNIGHT

. Michael wu



California LHS First-Year / Secondary Social Studies

Chorale, AVCO, piano, campus photography

I come from a Buddhist family,

so growing up I learned a lot not only about Buddhism and atheism, but also about the people and thought processes

behind those beliefs. I was introduced to the church early on in grade school. My parents decided to send me to a private school because they believed that the better education was a benefit to me in the long run. Thanks to their decision and the amazing faculty at Reformation-San Diego, I've become the person I am today.

Growing up with Christian friends, I was actually peer-pressured into going to church—something not so common in other schools. I was baptized in 2009 and confirmed at the end of eighth grade in 2012. I'm extremely grateful to my family, friends, teachers, and everyone in my life who nurtured me physically, mentally, and spiritually during those crucial times of my life.

Going to MLC was a difficult decision for me. Public ministry wasn't even a consideration until about four months before graduation. What made it especially tough was having to tell my parents I wasn't following the typical path of a "successful career." I didn't want to become a doctor or a lawyer. Suddenly I'd changed my mind and wanted to travel almost 2,000 miles away to become a teacher.

While my decision was not well received, I was certain. I owe it to the teachers and pastors who encouraged me all my life to consider the public ministry. Without their guidance, I would never have come to MLC, an incredible school, with incredible people, in an environment where I can grow and mature in my faith and as a person.





Divine Savior Academy First-year / Elementary Ed & Communication Arts & Lit

Cross country, track & field, Women's Choir, piano & organ, Newspaper Club, Alumni Relations student assistant

I finished my eighth grade year and high school at Divine Savior Academy, a PreK-12

school in Doral, Florida, with an enrollment of 839. (That's me in the picture with my friend from DSA, Soyoun Park.)

DSA is unique in that most of the students who attend the school have not grown up in a traditional WELS background, or even a traditional American background. The vast majority are from other countries—Colombia, Venezuela, Argentina, Puerto Rico, and Cuba, to name a few—and some of them come with very little knowledge of English. Many were raised Catholic, and some are not affiliated with any religious body at all.

This opens up a whole new door for ministry! The students are instructed in the Word of God in religion classes and chapel services, and parents take Bible information classes. I was given countless opportunities to share my faith.

It is humbling to be a part of such a unique and rapidly growing ministry. Witnessing the Holy Spirit work in their hearts and bring many of them to faith instilled in me a desire to "go into all the world" and share my faith with people.





Great Plains LHS Senior / Secondary PE

Basketball, Fitness Center supervisor, intramurals, basketball/fitness mentor, job at KwikTrip

I started out at Presentation College in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I spent a year and a half studying sports administration

and participating on the basketball and golf teams. I wanted to shift my studies to the education route, and I also wanted to become a coach. By making the transition to MLC, I knew I would get a great education, hear God's Word daily, and continue to play college basketball.





Wisconsin LHS Sophomore / Preseminary Studies

Football, intramurals, piano

My parents weren't WELS.

They were looking for a church right before I was born, when a WELS pastor out canvassing knocked on their door. So they took Bible information class and

became members. Since I'm not from a WELS family, I really didn't know I could become a pastor. I didn't think that was a thing I could do. Then my confirmation class went to visit the seminary, and my pastor, James Wilcox, pulled me aside and said he thought I could be a good pastor. He even visited my parents and talked to them about it. He explained how the schooling worked, and he encouraged me to take Latin at WISCO.

I received additional encouragement at WISCO. My junior year Mr. Al Greschner did a devotion at the beginning of every physics class period. He asked each of us to read the daily chapter before we got to class, and because he knew I wanted to be a pastor, he pushed me. He expected a lot of me. And I appreciated it, because it got me to read my Bible every day, to make my faith my own. I also appreciated everything Pastor James Becker taught me. He gave me straight Bible knowledge and lots of tools—tools for ministry and tools for life.





Luther Prep First-Year / Elementary Ed & Vocal Music

Forum, Chorale, voice, organ

In seventh grade I moved almost 1000 miles from my parents' house in Memphis, Missouri, to live with my grandma in Arlington Virginia

grandma in Arlington, Virginia, so I could go to Grace Lutheran

in Falls Church. My parents had already sent my three older sisters to live with Grandma too. I'm sure it was hard, but something they were more than happy to do for us so that we could go to a WELS school. At Grace the pastors and teachers told me I had many gifts fit for ministry. The vicar, Christopher Ewings, was especially encouraging. Because of all the encouragement I received there and at Luther Prep, I decided I do want to serve in the public ministry.





Castries Comprehensive-St. Lucia

Junior / Elementary Ed

Service & Cross Cultural Learning Committee secretary, cross country, piano, Women's Choir, steel pan player, teaching assistant, job at MLC Library

My F1 Visa was denied at

the US Embassy in Barbados

15 years ago when I planned to come to the US for school. I took this disappointment hard. Plans after that landed me in the tourism industry, where I spent eight years. On October 4, 2012, I woke up and said to myself, "This is not what I'm meant to be doing." I resigned my position within hours that same morning.

From there I went on to teach music and French, both at private and public elementary schools, and used that as a springboard to get me into education professionally. The Caribbean Christian Training Institute (CCTI) scholarship and conversations with my home pastor, Tom Spiegelberg, and former staff minister, Erik Landwehr, were factors that led to my enrollment at MLC in the fall of 2014.



STORY OF MY KNIGHT

Jonah backus



New London HS-Wisconsin First-Year / Preseminary Studies Football, Forum, worship bands, track

I'm the oldest of seven children

in my family. Coming from such a large family, I couldn't afford to come to MLC. I was actually going to join the military. I called MLC to tell them I was pulling out, and I found support that I hadn't found

elsewhere. God works in mysterious ways, and I'm here by the grace of God only. Ministry is a very important calling, and I want everyone struggling with money not to let that be the reason you turn tail. MLC will work with you because they know the value of a called worker. For that I'm grateful. The love and fellowship here is extraordinary, and I get to live it every day.

Ruth BUCHHOLZ



Arizona Lutheran Academy First-Year / Elementary Ed & Secondary Life Science

Volleyball, basketball, Women's Choir, organ, piano, intramurals

I debated a long time between nursing and teaching. My dad's a pastor, my mom's a nurse, and my sister's a teacher. When my mom would come home and talk about

her day at the hospital, I wanted to be a nurse. When my sister would tell me about her days in the classroom, I wanted to become a teacher. My family members reminded me that I really could not go wrong with either decision. In the end, I chose MLC because it felt like the best choice out of all of the colleges. At first I had the mindset of, "This seems like the right decision. I'll at least give it a year." Now that I've been at MLC a few months, my mindset has changed to "I'm sure this is where I'm supposed to be, and I'm looking forward to when I get to teach students someday."

Cassie doering



Lakeside LHS Junior / Early Childhood & Elementary Ed

Student Ambassador, softball, Daylight, piano, Women's Choir, athletic department employee

I was born in New Ulm only a few weeks before my dad graduated from MLC. I've always known I wanted to go here! I had

quite a few aunts and uncles go through MLC before me. My Aunt Jenny has definitely been one of the most influential people in my life as a whole and especially in my decision to come to MLC. She's just an overall great role model, and seeing how much she loves teaching children about their Savior really solidified my desire to do the same!

Brent schmidt



Arizona Lutheran Academy Sophomore / Elementary Ed & Secondary Chemistry

Chorale, waiter

My dad passed away suddenly during the summer between my sophomore and junior year. My ALA campus family and local church helped me through those hard times. They are the

reason I'm pursuing my education as a called worker. I hope that someday I'll have the opportunity to share that same comforting news of grace and love from Christ to a student in need.







Winnebago Lutheran Academy Junior / Elementary Ed

Soccer, Student Senate, Chorale, piano, intramurals, job with athletic department, Lutheran grade school tutor

I'm going to be the first called worker in my family, so choosing to come to MLC was not an easy choice. My mom's

best friend is a teacher, and in high school many teachers encouraged me to consider MLC. So I came on a Focus on Ministry trip and fell in love with the campus and the idea of being a teacher. I think the biggest thing that has changed about me since coming to MLC is how excited and willing I am to share God's Word with others. If you would've told me I'd be leading Bible studies to large groups when I first got here, I probably would've laughed, but now I've led a few and it was such a great opportunity.

Abbie MLEZIVA



Manitowoc LHS Sophomore / Elementary Ed College Choir, piano, Forum, waitress

I never had an epiphany moment when I suddenly knew I was meant to go to MLC. I was the first person in my family to pursue a career in the public ministry, so this whole MLC thing

was unfamiliar, intimidating, and even a little scary to me. (Maybe you students can relate, maybe you can't.) I'm so thankful for the people and experiences God used to lead me to MLC, because now I can't imagine myself anywhere else. Involving myself in mission trips, volunteer work, and working with kids anytime I could helped me realize that I would enjoy being a teacher. Now I can't wait to get my first call!

Rylee weisensel



Minnesota Valley LHS Junior / Elementary Ed

Volleyball, track, Women's Choir, piano, Student Athletic Advisory Committee, waitress

I was homeschooled until high school. Being taught by my mom made me want to be a teacher. It was the way she taught. She let us discover things, but she was

always there if we were stuck on something. I'm the oldest, so I helped teach the younger ones too. I liked the idea of being a teacher, and my mom was my role model.

I got an offer to play volleyball at another university, but it would have been year-round, and I didn't want volleyball to be ruined for me. I liked the idea of a smaller college, where you can play more than one sport.

Some people say MLC is a glorified high school, but it's a college. As soon as you step foot on campus, you're on your own.

Lucy BARTZ



Michigan LHS First-Year / Special Ed & Early Childhood Ed

Chorale, piano, Jesus Cares, intramurals

I lived in Blantyre, Malawi,

where my dad was a missionary, for grades 1-3. I remember going to international school, being part of the swimming team, and

also the mission retreats for Malawi and Zambia. So I'd be okay with getting a call overseas. There's a need for it, and I've experienced it, so I'm not as nervous as others. It's a way to travel and tell people about Jesus.





Ask MLC alumni what they miss most about college life, and most will say, "Chapel." Worshiping at Chapel of the Christ is a highlight of the day, a refuge, an oasis. But chapel is only part of MLC spiritual life. You'll also take theology courses and go to Bible studies. You'll pray before games and drama productions. You'll sing the gospel in choir. You'll talk about your faith in the dorms. That doesn't mean there's no sin here. Everyone walking these sidewalks is a sinner, still growing in faith and maturity. But what makes this place different is that Christ lives in our hearts, and Christ is at the heart of everything we do. The atmosphere here is warm, accepting, and forgiving. Life on our campus—Knight Life—is special. You'll notice the difference.





Wisconsin LHS

The sound that **fills the chapel space** when the entire assembly sings a hymn is indescribable! One of my favorites is evening chapel when our fellow upperclassmen preseminary and secondary education male students have the opportunity to lead chapel. It is such a wonderful blessing to be encouraged in my faith by my friends and future coworkers!





Jonah BACKUS



New London HS-Wisconsin

Coming from a public school where Christianity is the minority, having chapel twice a day is a huge change. The **love of God flows** through the campus and the people like nothing I've experienced before. Jenna MAURER



Luther Prep

Even outside of chapel, every aspect of college here has a solid foundation in Christ. Classes are taught with a **Christian worldview**, prayers are solicited and made often, and Christ's love is shown through the students' actions. Plus, it's wonderful to be surrounded by such great Christian friends who

aren't afraid to encourage you and say, "Hey, I want to talk to you about chapel attendance" or, in a difficult time, ask, "Can you help me through this problem by praying for me?"





Manitowoc LHS

I care about my relationship with Christ. My professors also care about my relationship with Christ. So do my friends, so do my RAs, and the list goes on. MLC is a truly incredible place to grow in your faith. One of my favorite parts of the week is getting dressed up on Sunday morning to go to church with my

friends! The two coolest moments I can think of during my time at MLC so far are 1) **taking communion** as a campus family during the World Missions service and 2) witnessing my first call service. I am so thankful for the Christ-centered people and environment at MLC as my relationship with him grows stronger.





Arizona Lutheran Academy

Having attended a public college, I find MLC to be unlike any campus I've been blessed to attend. It's almost impossible to find a place on campus where you're not surrounded by the Word of God.

SPIRITUAL KNIGHT

Mitchell BAUMGARTNER



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

There are so many different ways to strengthen and share your faith with others, such as **Bible studies almost every night**, Anchor, Daylight programs, and more. If you're ever feeling weak in your faith, your friends are there to bring you back up and remind you that God is always

Rylee weisensel



Minnesota Valley LHS

in control

I definitely rely on **my personal devotions** and Bible verses a lot more now that I'm on my own. I'm more of an introvert, so personal Bible time is important to me.

Elena mueller



Divine Savior Academy

I'm constantly amazed by the Christ-centered atmosphere and the **spiritual encouragement** I receive from peers, professors, coaches, and teammates. It keeps me focused on why I'm really here—to be a light shining for Jesus now and in my future ministry.

Maddy MCMULLEN



Roland-Story HS-lowa

Our Centennial dorm staff leads a Bible study for first-year women. I've loved leading it, learning from it, and growing with our girls. I try to be involved with **WELS Women's Ministry** too. They come to campus for Bible studies, and they have a tea here every spring. We've also

used their Advent by Candlelight materials. (I even did a skit.) Finally, there are so many role models here for personal devotion time. I've learned many new ways to approach personal Bible studies.





Michigan LHS

Compline is my favorite. I think it's easier to focus because it's more peaceful. It's late at night, and people are doing their own stuff, but you can come and chill. Everyone is focused. They're more silent before the service. And more stay after and pray.





Manitowoc LHS

I've found chapel to be the high point of my day. It's the time when I can put all my studies and assignments and papers aside and just focus on the reason I'm here to study—Jesus Christ.

FAMILY KNIGHT

It's a special blessing when siblings can prepare for the public ministry together. But whether you have relatives here or not, you'll immediately belong to our family. We're all brothers and sisters in Christ, pursuing the same goal here at the WELS College of Ministry.

Mackenzie ROTHFUSS



Michigan Lutheran Seminary Senior / Secondary PE

Volleyball, basketball, MLC Fitness Center supervisor, Chorale, freshman girls' basketball coach at Minnesota Valley LHS, intramurals

Having my brother, Caleb,

here is such a blessing. Caleb encourages me to be the best I can be. Especially my freshman

year, I'd go to him, worried and missing home, telling him I didn't think I'd make a good teacher. He'd immediately point me to my strengths, helping me grow to become a confident student and future teacher. We also encourage each other to stay firm in our faith. Caleb and I've been going to church and school together since I was born, and I wouldn't have it any other way. He may not realize it, but I give him most of the credit for me being here and striving to be the best teacher that I can be.

Caleb ROTHFUSS



Michigan Lutheran Seminary Senior / Preseminary Studies

Hockey club captain, intramurals, hockey coach at New Ulm Civic Center, waiter

Having my sister, Mackenzie,

here on campus with me is a huge blessing. It isn't always fun being this far away from family and friends back home. With her

here it brings a piece of home to MLC. I know I will always have someone here who will encourage me, and I'll always do the same for her.

We often hear that MLC is just like MLS or LPS, but it's so much more than that! All in all, I've definitely grown in my education as well as my spiritual life since being on this campus. It's been such an amazing blessing being here, and I encourage anyone considering the ministry to give MLC a try.



PASTORS-IN-TRAINING: PREPARING FOR PARISH LIFE



If you're thinking about becoming a pastor, your four years of study at MLC will include Bible, doctrine, Greek and Hebrew, a 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.

From MLC, you'll go on to enroll at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where you will complete your pastoral training and be eligible for assignment to the parish, pulpit, and pews God has waiting for you.

Carl BOEDER

Minnesota Valley LHS Senior / Preseminary Studies

Forum Board president, College Choir president, Wind Symphony, Jazz Band, RA, teaching assistant, Daylight USA, organ, intramurals, waiter

I gave chapel for the first time in fall 2016. It was nerve-wracking, of course, but it was also an excellent chance to learn and receive encouragement from classmates and friends.

Participating in chapel is wonderful too, of course. It's not only a worship opportunity, but it's also such a great resource for us as future ministers of the gospel. To hear the message in many different ways from many different, excellent leaders is honestly invaluable.

I actually started at MLC with majors in secondary instrumental music and elementary education. During my Early Field Experience my sophomore year, I realized that although I enjoyed leading music, it wasn't the only thing I wanted to do. My parents reminded me that I could be asked to lead or perform music as a pastor too, and they helped me see that I have gifts to be a pastor that might not otherwise be used as a music teacher.

It's been a busy transition, to say the least. I'll be attending MLC for five years, with credits on credits and several co-curriculars filling my schedule to the brim. This semester has been the hardest, challenging me with three different languages—Greek, Hebrew, and German—at once. I wouldn't have it any other way!



Caleb ROTHFUSS



Michigan Lutheran Seminary Senior / Preseminary Studies

Hockey club captain, intramurals, hockey coach at New Ulm Civic Center, waiter

I'm the first one to come to

MLC. No one in my family is in the public ministry. During my sophomore year, I came on a Focus on Ministry trip, and I

remember loving it here. The atmosphere is so different here than at any other school.

I always thought the idea of being a high school teacher would be the path I wanted to pursue. However, many of my teachers at MLS and my family saw potential in me to pursue being a pastor and encouraged me to enroll in preseminary studies. It was the best decision I've ever made. It hasn't always been easy, but the teachers here want nothing more than for you to succeed. It's such a privilege to learn the Bible in the original languages and, God willing, someday share the great joy of the gospel with those who haven't heard it.

Ryan GURGEL



Kettle Moraine LHS First-Year / Preseminary Studies Cross country, College Choir, Student Senate, Event Team, intramurals

I've learned to be very disciplined at MLC. Preseminary studies is a lot of work, but through daily work in Greek, Spanish, and other courses, I've learned to work diligently and

make good use of my time. Also, I feel more motivated to study, because professors and staff constantly remind me to keep my eyes on the goal, which is to go and make disciples of all nations. Joshua FRAILING



Fox Valley LHS Sophomore / Preseminary Studies

Football, Chorale, intramurals, male cheerleader

I never imagined myself standing in a pulpit and sharing God's Word with a congregation during my years in high school. I saw myself becoming an engineer

because I loved seeing how machinery worked, and I wanted to learn how to play a part in the creation of new and improved technology. However, my senior year one of my campus pastors asked me if I ever thought about going into the ministry. I spent much of that year contemplating what he said, and it wasn't until the spring that I finally decided to give MLC a chance. It was one of the best decisions I've ever made.

Moah BRUCKSCHEN



Manitowoc LHS First-year / Preseminary Studies Chorale, dairy farm employee

I fell in love with the language

classes at a Focus on Ministry trip. I had actually applied to MLC as a secondary social studies major. But then I sat in on both social studies classes and preseminary classes at the Focus, and the following

week I switched my major. Now it's Greek, Greek, and more Greek. Since my first day of college, my course load has been dominated by one class, and that is Greek. I've never had a class challenge me as much as this Greek class, and I've never enjoyed a class as much as I do Greek. Professor Schmidt expects a lot from his students going into the course. It takes constant preparation and dedicated study, but I've learned that finding friends and working through the assignments with each other helps out a ton in the long run.

TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING: PREPARING FOR A LIFE OF





Lakeside LHS Senior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish

Football, student football coach, MLC Fitness Center supervisor, Männerchor, piano, Daylight, intramurals

Last year I was blessed to receive an emergency call

to teach middle school at Trinity-Neenah, Wisconsin. The education courses at MLC did a great job in preparing me to teach, but nothing could fully prepare me for the challenges and blessings that came from having my own classroom of students. The skills and lessons I learned have not only positively changed the type of teacher I will be in the future, but changed who I am as a person.

More important, though, the relationships with students, parents, and other teachers that I developed will be with me for the rest of my life. I look forward to finishing my degree so I can return to the classroom!

It was Pastor Clark Schultz who played a huge part in my decision to come to MLC. During religion classes at Lakeside, he made MLC real for me. Through his stories, he gave a fun

and enriching snapshot of MLC that inspired me to give it a try. More important, though, he imparted a ministry mindset that encouraged me to explore the possibility of becoming a full-time called worker. One of his favorite phrases was "You'll have that in your ministry." I guess I took that to heart.

At MLC, Christ truly is the center of campus life. Nobody here is perfect, but the Christian friendships I've developed have been invaluable in strengthening my faith.

College can be a defining time in any young adult's life. When I reflect on how I've changed since my first year, it's incredible. Throughout my time at MLC I have learned, matured, expanded my worldview, created memories, formed lifelong friendships, and, most important, grown closer to Christ.

CLASS



Dreaming of life in a classroom all your own? MLC is the only college that 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 years of study here will include gen eds, theology, and professional education courses geared specifically to the level and content area you hope to teach.

MLC also provides lots of experiential opportunities, including an Early Field Experience (EFE) your first year, a get-your-feet-wet week during spring break where you plan and teach a lesson to grade school students. Sophomore and junior EFEs build on that experience, and then you jump into a public school classroom for a clinical experience. By senior year you're ready to student teach in a WELS school. It's all meant to stretch you, boosting your competence and your confidence as you prepare for the teaching life.





Fox Valley LHS

I was privileged to fulfill my elementary student teaching

at St. Paul-Onalaska, Wisconsin. My 23 seventh graders taught me more than I could've ever taught them. (I hope they're not reading this because they still think I taught them a lot.) As most typical middle school children, they were crazy, rambunctious, loud, and super wonderful! Those preteens, along with my classroom supervisor, made me realize that I use the word 'super' way too much, that life will never be totally organized, that playing pranks can end badly, and that 10 weeks is too short a time to be with such cool kids. I learned that being a teacher means telling jokes that aren't funny, throwing away the lesson plan sometimes, and taking time to talk with your kids about life. It means staying up late in the school kitchen to make cookies for class and being the person that fails the most—just to show that nobody's perfect. And most important, it means being the person who gets to tell them about Jesus every single day, not only in religion class, but in every situation that life throws at us.

TEACHERS-IN-TRAINING: PREPARING FOR A LIFE OF

Jassia CHANNEL CLEMENT



Castries Comprehensive-St. Lucia

My EFE II and clinical experiences landed me with two dynamic teachers, one Lutheran and one public school. The guidance, feedback, and principles I received and learned from my supervising teachers grounded my love for teaching. With every experience

in a real classroom here, I take a few seconds to smile and whisper, "Thank you, God. Yes, this is where you want me."





Luther High

As I have more and more chances to work with children and other teachers, I am encouraged that this is my calling and that I want nothing more than to be a teacher.

Maddy MCMULLEN



Roland-Story HS-Iowa

I worked with a sixth grade class for my clinical junior year. I was really nervous about working with older students, but instead I found them delightfully sassy and charming. It was a reminder that God doesn't give us more than we can handle.





Arizona Lutheran Academy

After my first Early Field Experience on campus, I can't wait to have my own classroom full of eager learners. It was great to teach real students and watch them connect with the lesson. After teaching our small groups of students in the daytime, I was attending a Lenten worship

service where I ran into one of my students. She was so happy to tell me that she enjoyed my science lesson earlier in the day and told all her friends about what she had learned.





Luther Prep

The level of **confidence I have** in myself as a teacher has skyrocketed. I came into MLC thinking that I wanted to be a teacher but also not knowing the first thing about it. I've gotten so many experiences and words of advice from my professors that

instead of being uneasy and unsure about my future, I'm ready for it to come soon!







Great Plains LHS

Before my EFE and clinical experiences, I never imagined teaching outside of the high school setting. My clinical experience was at the elementary school in Windom, Minnesota, grades K-3. I thoroughly enjoyed this time in the lower grade setting. It **broadened my vision** for the

grade levels that I want to teach in the near future.





Wisconsin LHS

I feel extremely prepared

through the many experiential learning opportunities I've had. Not only did my clinical and EFEs give me a taste of a wide variety of grade levels, but they also gave me a taste of many different environments. For example, for EFE 3, I went down to Pooler, Georgia.

I love that MLC gave me the option to explore regions outside of the Midwest! Now my first student teaching experience at St. Philip-Milwaukee is proving to be a learning experience that will greatly benefit my future ministry.





Manitowoc LHS

My first-year Early Field Experience was a really exciting time for me. For the first time I was a real teacher with real kids! **But my favorite experience so far was last year's urban ministry immersion** trip to Milwaukee. These experiences make me so eager to have a classroom of my own in the near future!

BABINEC



Luther High Sophomore / Elementary Ed Football, basketball, piano

I wasn't 100% sure I wanted to be a teacher until I did EFE 1. I ended up teaching first grade PE and just fell in love with it. After one year here, I'm so thankful for choosing MLC and can't wait to see what God has in store for me these next three years.



Joshua VONDEYLEN Luther Prep Junior/Elementary Ed

Football, basketball, RA, Chorale, organ, waiter

EFE was a great time to further develop my public speaking skills. My teacher had me teach a few different classes in front of him and one of his assistants, and helped me become **more confident in my speaking.**

DAYLIGHT: A TASTE OF LIFE OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE



Many MLC students add another layer to their ministry training by leaving the campus bubble and immersing themselves in a different congregation, different culture, even a different country. Some students study abroad. Some teach abroad. Some assist a congregation in New York or California, Alaska or Florida, for a week. Some intern for an entire summer. The choices are yours. We call this Daylight International and Daylight USA, and it's all part of your preparation for your life's work.

aulon WEBER

Kettle Moraine LHS Junior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish Volleyball, Spanish tutor, Daylight, piano, director of Turner Hall Gymnastics in New Ulm

I studied abroad in Santiago, Chile, for five weeks in May and June of 2015 with Professor Paul Bases' Spanish immersion program. It was the experience of a lifetime. Along with grammar-intensive classes, I went sightseeing and horseback riding in the Andes Mountains, experienced Chilean asados (barbeques), and ate ice cream at Emporio La Rosa, one of the top 25 ice cream shops in the world! (That's what I am doing in the picture!) It was crazy how much the environment assisted my Spanish fluency. No textbook could teach me the culture in which I became immersed.

This summer, I'll travel to Mahahual, Mexico,

to teach English as a Second Language to poverty-stricken students. I'll be in Mexico for five weeks with another teacher. Five teams of teens from St. Paul-New Ulm will come down to Mexico, one group per week, to assist us. We'll incorporate God's Word into all we do and even teach Bible stories in Spanish. It will be an excellent opportunity for me to practice my Spanish skills and ultimately to share the love of Christ.







Through MLC, I've gone on two Daylight USA trips. The first was to **Reformation-San Diego** to help out with their summer VBS. The second was to **Peace-Queen Creek**, **Arizona**, to help canvass for their Easter service. Both experiences greatly increased my fire for sharing the gospel! The interactions I had with children and adults alike who had just learned about Jesus made me even more excited to go out into the public ministry and share that message with so many more people!





This past summer, **I spent a week at Hope-Penryn, California,** with a high schooler from Nebraska LHS. (Hi, Roam!) We dispensed over 750 flyers for the church.... After my freshman year, I was in **Idaho** helping run a Back-to-School Prep program. Through my various field experiences, I've learned about the different backgrounds children come from. We have to be ready to listen to people's stories.

Jenna MAURER

Luther Prep

Last spring I went on a Daylight USA trip to **Sure Foundation-Queens.** We spent a lot of time canvassing the neighborhood and inviting people to the church's Easter service. Queens is a very diverse city, so we had a great opportunity to reach out to people in different stages of life and with different needs. The best part was wrapping up the week with Easter worship, where we sang for English and Spanish services!



DAYLIGHT: A TASTE OF LIFE OUTSIDE THE BUBBLE



Grace SCHULTZ



Fox Valley LHS

Junior / Elementary Ed Basketball, volleyball, Anchor service club, Daylight, Women's Choir, piano

I spent 10 weeks in North

Hollywood two summers ago, helping run St. Paul's Sizzlin' Summer Camp (pictured, above). Katie Zietlow (Luther Prep), Megan Lepke (Luther HS), and I helped

prep by gathering supplies, organizing paperwork, and creating the weekly schedules. We also helped run their vacation Bible study. Some of the themes during the summer were backpacking and hiking, forest animals, travel and camp games, camping safety and first aid, and campfire music. We played games, made crafts, held devotions, and went on field trips.

I learned that there are so many kids that need to be loved, and there are so many ways to show love to them. I learned that it's important to remember how blessed I am to have been raised in a Christian household. I learned that it's important to take some time for myself when life gets busy. I learned to live in the moment. I learned that there's a different dynamic outside of the Midwest, where I've grown up. And I learned that no matter where in the world I am, there will always be someone that supports and loves me, and I can be confident that God will bless our work.

When I stepped on this campus my first year, I wasn't sure I wanted to be a teacher. Now I know for certain. I've learned a lot about myself and how much students need to be loved. I can't wait to share Christ's love in my own classroom someday.

Aaron BUSH



Wisconsin LHS

Last year, right before the application deadline, I decided to apply as a **counselor for Camp Phillip.** I worked there all summer long, and each week a new group of kids, from grades 2 to 8, would come. I led Bible study, wrote and gave my own devotions, told kids about Jesus—all really good preministry experiences.

Maddy MCMULLEN



Roland-Story HS-lowa

I spent the last two summers interning with **St. Peter-Fort Collins, Colorado.** I wrote Sunday school lessons from scratch and taught them. I co-led the Jesus Cares Program and helped with Kids' Night, which was sort of like Pioneers, once a week. I was a camp counselor for one week

of Rocky Mountain Christian Camp. I helped choose hymns, played piano, sang solos. I did some administration work because the church secretary was on maternity leave. Basically I did whatever the church needed. I learned to recognize my strengths and weaknesses, and to try to turn my weaknesses into strengths. I grew so much.

THE MUSIC OF KNIGHT





Senior / Elementary Ed

College Choir, Forum, piano, organ, voice, Daylight, intramurals, restaurant manager

My fondest memories of my time at MLC are filled with the sound of music. From assisting with worship through the organ, piano, or praise ensembles . . . to singing with one of the many choirs on campus . . . to using God's gifts for recitals, plays, or other events . . . there is no shortage of opportunity to make music. The best part is that it is all to God's glory.

Mitchell baumgartner



Michigan Lutheran Seminary First-Year / Elementary Ed

Forum, tennis, Männerchor, organ, advanced choral conducting ensemble, intramurals

Continuing to serve the Lord in music was something very

important to me when I was looking at colleges, and MLC had exactly what I was looking for!

One of the most inspiring ways to demonstrate your faith is through music, and everyone in the music department helps you reach the potential of your gifts.





Junior / Elementary Ed

College Choir, organ, Forum secretary, organist at St. John-Fairfax & Trinity-Belle Plaine MN, jobs at State Farm Insurance & Cabinet Shop

I love playing the organ! It's one of my passions. I feel

privileged to lead worship on such a beautiful instrument as the Chapel of the Christ organ. I also absolutely love to sing. I've been taking voice lessons for five semesters. I've learned more about good singing techniques—and just to be myself. When the College Choir sings, the texts sometimes move people to tears. I speak from experience: the gospel works in very powerful ways. All these experiences have helped me grow as a person. You never know what you'll get to do as a called worker, so being well-rounded will help you be more prepared.

Hannah stegman



West LHS First-Year / Elementary Ed & Special Ed Chorale, Forum

I love participating in the choir. It's really helped me to connect with people and ultimately with God in another way.

ADDING A LITTLE DRAMA TO YOUR KNIGHT





lllinois LHS Senior / Early Childhood Ed

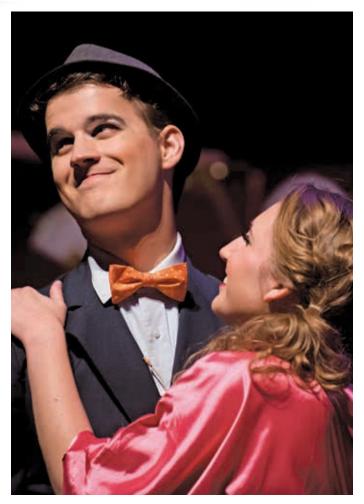
College Choir, Wind Symphony, Daylight, RA, St. Paul's worship band, intramurals

Forum has been a huge part of my life at MLC. I was in four shows, helped produce two Children's Theater shows, and was the Forum treasurer for a year and a half. And this fall I was blessed to play the part of Maria in *The Sound of Music*. It's funny to think that a week before auditions I decided I wasn't going to audition. A friend of mine convinced me that I should still try out. So I decided to go big and audition for Maria! I'm so grateful I did, because it was the experience of a lifetime. My favorite part was running around stage singing 'Do Re Me' with the children. It was hard to do because it takes a lot of breath, but the energy of the children helped me through it. I miss the kids so much!

I grew so much throughout the show. I learned to have a lot more confidence in myself. I got better at taking constructive criticism. And I learned how to work with people who are nothing like me, which helped me learn how to communicate in different ways. Time management was a huge thing too, since I had practice every night from 6 until 9 or later.

In my academic life, I'm an early childhood major, and the experiences I've had at MLC have only reaffirmed my love for early childhood education. The professors really have a passion for teaching. Through their courses I realized how important early childhood is. And since I took an administration course and worked with an ECE director in Lake Crystal during my clinical, I can now see myself as a director at a center someday. I'm not sure where God will send me, but I do know that I'm ready for whatever he'll throw at me. I'm anxious to see what he has in store for my future.







Forum, our student-run theater organization, has allowed me to make **lifelong friends** while growing in theater skills. I've enjoyed being in the pit orchestra for *Into the Woods* and in the dance chorus for *The Music Man*, playing Valere in *Tartuffe* and Nathan Detroit in *Guys and Dolls* (pictured), and helping with props and sets. Finally, I was the music director for this year's show, *The Sound of Music*. My speaking skills, capability as a presenter of the gospel, and management skills have grown greatly. It's been a wonderful learning experience and just plain fun!



Abbie MLEZIVA Manitowoc LHS

My favorite activity so far is Forum, MLC's theater group. Last year I tried out for Children's Theater and played the quirky role of Granny in *Once Upon a Wolf*. It was without a doubt the highlight of my school year. I made so many friends while we worked really hard to create something amazing! If I remember correctly, we held 11 performances for almost **7000 audience members!**

ADDING A LITTLE DRAMA TO YOUR KNIGHT





It's a really unique experience to work with your future colleagues to put on such big productions. I'll remember being Liesl in *The Sound of Music* for the rest of my life. Being one of the von Trapp children, I was fortunate to work with the grade school children cast as my siblings. After a while, they all started to feel like actual family. And it wasn't just the kids, it was everyone in the show. What's so neat about theater is that **you become this whole other character** from a whole other world, and that character becomes a part of you. You take that character with you for the rest of your life. Some of my closest friendships have been formed on the stage, and I wouldn't trade them for anything.



Jonah BACKUS New London HS-Wisconsin

My first comostor boro

My first semester here I participated in **football** and *The Sound of Music* at the same time. I'll tell anyone it was very hard, and for a couple weeks I didn't have any free time, but it is possible. It all depends on your drive, what you like to do, and what you're willing to



sacrifice. Everyone is different, though, and the first thing you have to learn in college is your own limits. Don't try to do too much and burn yourself out, but at the same time try new things, explore, and have fun.

THE SPORTING KNIGHT life





Winnebago Lutheran Academy Senior / Elementary Ed

Soccer, Student Ambassador, Event Team, KnightVision broadcasting, Children's Theater, Thank-a-thon Committee, Männerchor, piano, intramurals

Soccer has been an incredible blessing to my life for the past 17 years. The MLC soccer program is a big part of that. I got to play a sport I love with a bunch of guys that love Jesus and love soccer.

One of my favorite moments was Homecoming of junior year, when we defeated Northwestern 4-0. We played our best game of the year in front of our biggest crowd of the year, and it was a ton of fun. That memory is rivaled by this entire last season—my senior season. I was honored to be a captain of the team these last two years. The bond we had on the field was great, and being captain taught me some things about leadership and responsibility—traits I hope to apply to my ministry.

I've also been involved with KnightVision broadcasting. Since sophomore year, I've had the chance to broadcast and commentate several sporting events at MLC, including volleyball, football, and basketball games. My junior year I was put in charge of the organization. It's been fun organizing it and being so involved in the athletic department outside of just playing on the soccer team. It means a lot to me when people come up to me on Parents' Day and tell me how much they appreciate me as the "voice of Knights sports." That's a title I never thought I'd have, but it's been a lot of fun holding it! Sports journalism was something I considered as an alternative to MLC, so it's a tremendous blessing to experience this sort of thing while I'm studying to step into my dream job!

THE SPORTING KNIG

enna maurer



sport for the majority of my life, and playing soccer at MLC was really a great way to end my career.









Luther Prep

Soccer has definitely been one of the best **co-curriculars** I've been a part of. My first year, the season started right away before we even had classes. The girls I met those first couple practices have stuck with me through the years and are fantastic friends! Soccer has been my favorite







Luther High

Playing football and

basketball at MLC has been a blast. I've been able to make tons of friends and continue to play sports competitively. It is also a great way for me to show my faith and glorify God with my talents.

Northland LHS First-Year/Elementary Ed

Anchor service club, basketball, baseball, piano

College basketball is way different from high school

basketball. The amount of thinking and the intensity of the game is doubled. The challenge pushes me and has been molding my character to persevere and work my hardest.





Minnesota Valley LHS

College volleyball is a lot

more intense than high school ever was—not just the speed but the intensity of all the girls. You can't get a scholarship, so you're here because you love the sport, and that shows. You put all your time and energy into that sport, and it's a little scary at first—until you get

used to it. You have all these college classes, and homework, and it's a huge commitment to be in a sport, but it's worth it. Playing here—it's a family for me. I have great relationships with all the girls, and it's fun to be a small WELS college and compete against larger schools and do well.





Kettle Moraine LHS

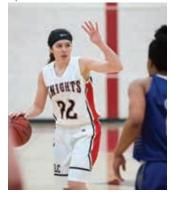
I've always enjoyed

running but wanted to be somewhere where the sport wouldn't become my life for four years, and where I could still take part in other co-curriculars too. MLC was perfect for me. Cross country was an incredible experience. Grinding out long runs and tough workouts with my teammates has really made

us great friends. The team was extremely welcoming and friendly to me as soon as I got on campus. I felt like I was part of the family right away, and there is nothing I regret about my decision to take part in cross country as I prepare for the public ministry. GIGATT!







Fox Valley LHS

I love basketball not only because it's a great sport, but because my team is my family. There's nothing like the support and encouragement from those sisters that you spend a lot of hours with. I also love basketball because it's not just about the sport. I've learned so many life lessons during my career.

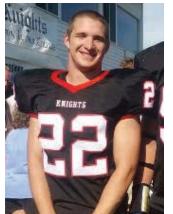




Fox Valley LHS

The game of football is not just a game for us. It is an important building block as we are growing older and becoming strong Christian men. The game has taught and will continue to teach us to overcome adversity and to push through the challenges that will come our way, especially in our ministry. Like MLC as a school, we

also build strong relationships on and off the field that will last us a lifetime. That's my favorite part about being a Knight.



lason zweifel

Lakeside LHS

This year I had the opportunity to be a student coach for the MLC football

team. Being on the other side of the sideline is definitely a change, but a rewarding one. In my eyes, the two aspects of the MLC football program that set it apart from any other college are its mission and comradery. The three goals for the team are Serve, Trust, Win,

and these goals define the type of coaches and young men on the team. Coaches are dedicated to preparing young men to be successful leaders at their future churches and congregations. After this year, I'm excited to apply what I learned when I continue my coaching career in my own ministry.





Divine Savior Academy

The MLC cross country team has been my favorite college

experience so far. Not only did I get to participate in a sport that I love, but I made so many good friends with whom I shared countless fun, memorable experiences. The atmosphere on the team was close-knit, encouraging, and always

centered on Christ, and we made it our goal every day to work hard and run to give glory to God. Even though our season just ended, I miss it already and I can't wait until next season!





Wisconsin LHS

Football is a wonderful analogy

for ministry. It's a team, and you have to rely on a lot of people. It's hard to be successful. Little things can trip it up, destroy the team, destroy the ministry. You never reach the top, or finish, or settle. You have to keep your nose to the grindstone. It's also a great family

atmosphere where you're having fun and building bonds that will last a whole life.

CLUBS AT MLC: THE SPICE OF KNIGHT





Wisconsin LHS Senior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Math

Anchor service club secretary, Student Ambassador, RA, softball, Daylight, Chorale, piano, concession stand manager, intramurals

I loved being part of Anchor, a service organization set up to serve our MLC family and our community. (That's me on the left with my Anchor T-shirt!) The events we put on, such as the Harvest Hoedown and the Night on the Town fundraisers, helped me to connect with so many students at MLC! They also helped to develop other skills and traits I'll need in my future ministry, such as leadership and organizational skills, and cooperating with others.

I stepped onto this campus thinking I'd walk away on graduation as a teacher. I now know it's so much more than that! I've grown to be a Christian leader, friend, encourager, and role model for my future students. My passion for ministry has greatly increased since first walking onto this campus. I cannot wait to see what God has in store for my future, God-willing, on Call Day this May!





Luther Prep Senior / Elementary Ed & Secondary Spanish

Soccer, Student Senate, Meet Math, Daylight, Chorale, piano, intramurals

I ran for Senate because last year I had quite a few tasks given to me that required leadership and organizational skills, and I realized I could use these gifts on

Senate too! Senate meets once a week to organize and run many events, including Homecoming and Winter Carnival. Every meeting starts with a hymn and prayer, and then we complete our tasks for that week. It's really cool because the atmosphere allows us to share ideas and questions openly and freely, without judgment—like a big brainstorming session!







Roland-Story HŠ-Iowa Senior / Elementary Ed

Aulic, WELS Women's Ministry, RA, teaching assistant, College Choir, organ, Daylight

I enjoy being part of the Aulic Committee. We work to put on presentations for the students. Most recently we were able to have Debbie Turner, Marta from *The Sound of Music* film, come speak about her life and time working on the film. It warmed my heart to see not only our students engaged in her presentation, but also community members and even grade school students. I'm also an RA (resident assistant). This is more a job than a club, but we do so much to assist students in their daily lives at MLC. Orientation is an especially fun event, because we help move the new first-years in, and then we help run the Big Ballroom Blast, where they all get to know each other. (That's me at the Blast in the picture above!)

Aaron Markgraf

Winnebago Lutheran Academy



I've tried to make the most of my four years here, trying to get involved in as many ways as I can—hosting the Talent Show . . . serving admissions as a Student Ambassador . . . being in the cast of the Children's Theater production of *The Ugly Duckling* my sophomore year . . . singing in a

men's a cappella group with a few friends ... writing skits for the Talent Show ... being on the MLC Day Thank-a-thon Committee junior year, a great experience as we organized an event in which we thanked donors for helping us with our tuition costs ... serving on MLC's Event Staff this year, planning and running events on campus. They've all been fun ways for me to work on my organizational, communication, and people skills.

Cassie doering



Lakeside LHS

I'm one of 11 Student Ambassadors on campus. We're the students who help with the four Focus on Ministry trips throughout the year, as well as helping out with other students who visit MLC as their potential future home. I give tours to numerous visitors and get to interact closely with students who are considering MLC.

MLC: A LIFE-CHANGING COLLEGE

Mackenzie ROTHFUSS



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

MLC has changed me for the better. I have grown in my faith and matured immensely here. I have become closer with my family, my friends, and, most important, my Savior.





Manitowoc LHS

I do all of my own laundry now. I buy my own shampoo. This week I even brought my car to the mechanic. I've also learned to be a better friend, roommate, Christian, and future called worker. Every day I want more and more to be that jar of clay that Paul talks about in 2 Corinthians chapter 4.

MLC has made me so appreciative of the freedom we have in Christ and stoked to see how God will use all of us as his tools in ministry.

Mitchell BAUMGARTNER



Michigan Lutheran Seminary

MLC has definitely made me less afraid of sharing my faith. I feel so much more comfortable letting my faith shine, and I want to share it with everyone I see! There are so many opportunities to do this on and off campus, and that's one thing I love about MLC.



Kettle Moraine LHS

MLC has made me confident that I am capable, prepared, and qualified to serve God and his people throughout my life.







Wisconsin LHS

Going to any college, you have to grow up and make your life your own, because your parents can't do everything for you anymore. At MLC you also grow up spiritually. No one makes you go to church or do your personal Bible study. You do it on your own. Everyone is great at encouraging you here, though, encouraging you to make your faith your own, to be bold in telling others about Jesus.

And there's great guidance and leadership. There's a light at the end of the tunnel: though the nights can be long and the homework is hard, you will become a pastor or teacher eventually.





Winnebago Lutheran Academy

Remember Paul's words in 1 Corinthians that can be summed up in this familiar saying: "God doesn't call the equipped. He equips the called." Serving God in his church is such a tremendous honor and blessing. While you can serve the Lord in whatever career path you choose, MLC provides you with a great education in a small campus family that prepares you for a lifetime of service in his

church. No matter what your gifts are, there is a place for you in the body of Christ. MLC will help you realize those gifts and mold you into a true servant. Even if you don't think MLC is the place for you, give it a try and find out! You can transfer out after a semester or two if you need to. Even if you do that, you will have received a quality education and met some friends that you will not soon forget!

KnightWatch Staff

WRITER/EDITOR Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

PROOFREADER Heidi Schoof DMLC '86

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 Galen Holzhueter MLC '14

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.





On our cover: Senior **Aaron Markgraf** enjoys a Knights' victory on the soccer pitch.



Address Service Requested

