

# KNIGHTWATCH



IN THIS ISSUE:

54 MLC *Moments*

JANUARY  
2018





## KnightWatch Staff

### WRITER/EDITOR

Laurie Gauger DMLC '87

### STUDENT EDITORIAL ASSISTANT

Julia Schibbelhut '21

### GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Lime Valley Advertising, Inc.

### PHOTOGRAPHERS

William Pekrul DMLC '80, PR Director  
MLC Photography Team

### PROOFREADER

Heidi Schoof DMLC '86

## Office of Admissions

### DIRECTOR

Mark Stein DMLC '92

### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Wendy Ristow DMLC '82

### COUNSELORS

Ross Stelljes WLS '89

Lori Unke DMLC '83

David Starr WLS '14

Galen Holzhrueter MLC '14

David Biedenbender DMLC '88

## 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](mailto:gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu) or Martin Luther College *KnightWatch*, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073. 



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE



**On our cover:** This mosaic image of our Martin Luther statue brilliantly illustrates the many, many MLC moments this issue portrays.

# MLC Moments

This issue of KnightWatch contains 54 MLC moments! From **First-Year Moments** to **Ministry Moments** and **"MLC's Got Talent" Moments**, these little stories will tell you a lot about who we are and why we hope you'll join us here.

In the meantime, our MLC admissions counselors would love to spend a few moments with you! Watch for their visits to your school or area. Or give us a call and visit us. We'd love to see you and talk about your future.

## Personal Visit

Juniors and seniors, choose a day that works for you. Come with your parents. Then plan to stay overnight with your personal MLC student host. Visit classes and enjoy cocurriculars. For the best experience possible, please contact us several weeks ahead of time to schedule your personal visit.

## Lutheran High School Students

Admissions counselors come to all WELS high schools. Ask your guidance counselor when your school is scheduled.

Admissions counselors also attend Choral Fest, Band Fest, some Parents' Nights and Career Days, and also some high school sports events, plays, and concerts. Stay tuned!

## Public School, Private School, and Homeschool Students

We would love to visit with you when we are in your area. Please contact us: [admissions@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:admissions@mlc-wels.edu) / 507.354.8221.

## Parents

If you would like to hear more about MLC, we'll be happy to visit with you when we're in the area. Please contact us: [admissions@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:admissions@mlc-wels.edu) / 507.354.8221.

## Meet Your Admissions Counselors



**Director Mark Stein**  
[steinma@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:steinma@mlc-wels.edu)



**Lori Unke**  
[unkell@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:unkell@mlc-wels.edu)



**Ross Stelljes**  
[stelljra@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:stelljra@mlc-wels.edu)



**David Starr**  
[starrdd@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:starrdd@mlc-wels.edu)



**Galen Holzhrueter**  
[holzhugc@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:holzhugc@mlc-wels.edu)



**David Biedenbender**  
[biedendk@mlc-wels.edu](mailto:biedendk@mlc-wels.edu)

# JOURNEY Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### ... I knew I wanted to be a pastor or teacher.

Some of our students have known forever. Since they could walk and talk, they've been playing school in the basement or standing on kitchen chairs and preaching sermons to their little brothers and sisters.

Other students don't decide to pursue the ministry until the summer before college.

And many come to MLC with their hands in the air, not sure at all whether the public ministry will be the path for them.

Here's the thing: We take all comers! MLC can be the place where your lifelong dream begins. Or it can be the place where you get gen-ed credits while you prayerfully decide what to do with your life.

**One other note:** A few of the students here can pinpoint the very moment when they were convinced to give MLC a chance. That kind of feeling doesn't come to most students though. Most just weigh the pros and cons, talk to people they respect for advice, do a lot of praying, and then take the plunge. Our God is wise and wonderful. He brings people here in all different ways.



**KERI JACKSON**

**Junior**

*WISCO / St. John-New Ulm MN*

Major: **Biblical Languages, Classical**

Emphasis: **Latin**

1

I was planning on becoming an astrophysicist, but that all changed senior year during a chapel service at WISCO. Our campus pastor, Aaron Robinson, got a call to a church nearby, so he gave a little farewell speech to the school. He talked about the lack of African-American pastors and members in the WELS. When he said those words, I felt something move inside me. I believe that the Spirit called me to enter the ministry, where God could use the gifts I've been given to help advance the spread of his good news to all peoples. I pray that one day, I will be able to serve God by preaching his gospel and shepherding his flock.



**RACHAEL KOTEK**

**Junior**

*Luther HS / St. Paul-Bangor WI*

Major: **Elementary Ed**

Minor: **Social Studies**

2

As a young high school student, teaching was the last thing I wanted to do. But one day, after a weekend softball practice, I had a chunk of time to fill before my ride home arrived. I remembered one of my teachers suggesting we attend the Kingdom Workers Convention being held that weekend. A little hesitant, I meandered into the building. I found my way into the room where a couple was giving a presentation on the different things Kingdom Workers participate in. I left that classroom that day with a new passion. The passion for ministry. Martin Luther College was the obvious choice. The journey began.

**READ MORE "THAT MOMENT WHEN I KNEW" STORIES  
ALONG THE BOTTOM OF THESE PAGES.**

# MINISTRY Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...



3

### ... you're a teacher already in your first year of college.

After her first early field experience, **Megan Koester** (*Luther Prep / St. Paul-Fort Atkinson WI, pictured*) summed up her feelings: "I can't wait to be a teacher and lead little children to know and love their Savior."

Like all education majors, Megan completed her first early field experience (EFE) during Spring Break of her first year, teaching a group of children who came to campus for that purpose. That first EFE is a clarifying experience, usually assuring students that yes, they really do want to be a teacher! And subsequent experiences do the same.

Megan's sophomore year she completed another EFE off campus. Now a junior, she's doing clinicals, and next year she'll student teach. When she graduates, she'll truly be ready for her first call.

### ... you preach your first chapel sermon.

"I thoroughly enjoyed the process of preaching for chapel from start to finish," says **Phil Waldschmidt** (*LPS / St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI*). "There's something so special about an honest, straightforward discussion, first with God in his Word, then with myself, then with God's people. Did it seem a little scary at first? Yes! Did I get nervous beforehand? You bet! But the opportunity to dig deeper into Scripture and show my classmates God's comfort and guidance trumps any nerves I had going into it."

In addition to preaching an occasional sermon, preseminary majors like Phil concentrate on the biblical languages, Greek and Hebrew. They also study history and literature, math and science and PE. And some study other languages as well: maybe German or Latin, Spanish or Chinese. And of course they play sports and sing in choirs and act in plays and belong to clubs—all the ingredients of a great college experience! It's just the kind of preparation they need to move on to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where they will continue their pastoral education.

4



5

**PAUL RITTER**

**Junior**

*Harlem HS / Peace-Loves Park IL*

Major: **Biblical Languages, Classical**

After I graduated I enlisted in the army. I learned much while I was away, and it forced me to grow up fast. For me it was a reality check. At a young age, I was going through things most adults would never experience. No matter how bad things seemed to get, I clung to the one thing that promised me solace. I held onto my faith in the Lord, and it brought me great comfort. When I came back home, I wanted to share that feeling of comfort that is a lighthouse to those who are lost in this sinful world. When I enrolled at MLC, I started my journey on the road to ministry.





6

### **... you play your guitar for Jesus.**

Jonah Backus and the Conquerors played for morning chapel this semester. They are the newest of many vocal and instrumental ensembles who use their musical gifts to beautify MLC worship.

"The staff at MLC has been so supportive," says **Jonah Backus** (*New London HS / Emanuel-New London WI, pictured second from right*). "We loved having the opportunity to use our gifts to benefit God's kingdom."



7

### **... you travel 2,000 miles to tell little kids Jesus is their hero.**

"I loved my Daylight trip to California," says **Cassandra Doering** (*Lakeside LHS / St. Paul-Lake Mills WI*), who's pictured giving a devotion on how Jesus is our hero. "I got to be a part of a great VBS, and on top of that I made friendships that will last a lifetime!"

The Daylight USA program offers students the opportunity to travel to churches across the country to canvass, run VBS programs, and help with other outreach programs like soccer or STEM camps. Besides being rewarding and exciting, Daylight trips also bless students with great ministry experience.



**MICHAELA BESSLER**

**Sophomore**

*Evergreen LHS / Bethany-Port Orchard WA*

Major: **Elementary Ed**

8

Because my stepdad serves in the US Navy, I have lived all over the country: Arizona, Hawaii, Wisconsin, Washington. My older brother entered the Air Force, and my older sister attends the Merchant Marine Academy in New York. Coming from a background like that, it seems odd that I would choose to go into the public ministry. My mom is the reason I decided to break the trend. She was a music teacher and worship coordinator for many years in Tucson. I remember seeing her work late at night with a smile on her face. That servant's heart attitude opened my eyes to the ministry.

# MINISTRY Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...



9

### ... you get more than you give.

"I really enjoy going to the nursing home with Anchor," says **Bethany Lisowski** (Luther HS / St. Matthew-Winona MN, pictured in the striped shirt).

Anchor, one of many MLC student organizations, is dedicated to gospel-motivated service. Meetings are held once a week, and students can sign up to help with activities.

"We usually do a craft with the nursing home residents, chat a bit, and sing a few hymns. They're all such special people with interesting stories to tell, and it's always a treat to be able to spend even a few hours making new friends with them. This wonderful lady was telling us about how much she loved the green pattern on the paper because of her Irish heritage. These visits are an amazing opportunity to share our faith and let our lights shine, and I'm extremely grateful for them."

### ... you're finally a student teacher.

"Every education major anticipates student teaching," says **Hannah (Midthun) Uher** (WISCO / Grace-Milwaukee). "There are many things you can't learn about teaching until you're actually in front of a classroom."

Double-majoring in secondary chemistry ed and secondary life science ed, Hannah student taught at Minnesota Valley LHS, teaching mostly science classes and helping with the drama productions of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and *James and the Giant Peach*. Here she poses with some of the students on opening night in November. (She's the middle one in the front row.) "The kids were all kinds of excited to finally present what they had been working so hard on for over a month!" she says.



10



**JEREMIAH WALLANDER**

**Junior**

Fox Valley LHS /

Eternal Love-Appleton WI

Major: **Biblical Languages, Classical**

Emphasis: **Latin**

I became interested in the public ministry when I saw how much pastors help people. I do not consider myself one of the smartest guys, but I am very passionate about helping others and showing them the greatness of our God.

11





12

### *... you hear where you're assigned on Call Day.*

Their faces say it all. In May 2017 **Amber Zibrowski** (MVL / Mt. Olive-Mankato MN) and **Seth Zoellner** (St. Croix LHS / Bloomington-Bloomington MN) heard they were called to the Milwaukee area, Amber to St. Lucas-Milwaukee and Seth to Trinity-Waukesha. The couple was married in July.

The Call Service is a worship service like none other. At the end, MLC grads listen carefully as the synod president announces where each will begin their service, a place carefully chosen for them based on their gifts and the congregation's needs. It's one of the most exciting days in a young teacher's life. Since the calls are issued in alphabetical order, Miss Zibrowski and Mr. Zoellner had to wait a long time, but they did hear their assignments within the same minute or two.

### *... you're so ready for the next step.*

These preseminary studies graduates have finished their last Greek exam, Hebrew quiz, and doctrine paper—at MLC anyway. Now they're off to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where they will continue to study and grow in spiritual maturity, complete many different early ministry experiences, fulfill a yearlong vicarship (read: internship) at a WELS congregation, and then in four years, hear where they will be called to serve as pastors. It's a big step, but MLC has made them ready for it.

13



**RACHEL HARTMANN**

**Junior**

*LPS / Atonement-Milwaukee*

Major: **Early Childhood Ed**

I was blessed with the opportunity to go on a mission trip to Antigua after senior year of high school, and after helping out with VBS for two weeks, I felt confident that studying at MLC to become an early childhood teacher was exactly what I wanted to do.

14

# FIRST-YEAR Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...



### ZACHARY BLOOMQUIST

WISCO / St. Jacobi-Greenfield WI  
Major: **Elementary Ed**

**MLC Athletic Moment:** *Starting quarterback until his midseason injury*

**Team first:** We play as a team first. It's not one individual who does everything. It's a team-first attitude here.

**Stepping it up:** In high school, we had the regular lifting, meetings, and practices. But at the collegiate level, it's picked up a little more. More workout sessions, meetings, and practices. More of an opportunity to get better every single day.

**Four years down the road:** I hope I have the opportunity to coach kids. Sports have made such a big impact on my life, and they can be such a great teaching opportunity for kids.



### MADISON LECKWEE

Kettle Moraine LHS / Trinity-West Bend WI  
Major: **Vocal Music Ed & Elementary Ed**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Sings in College Choir, played Lady Magdalena in Camelot (pictured)*

**Priceless:** My favorite part about our music and drama programs at MLC is that you get to meet so many new people that you might have never known otherwise. Especially as a first-year, I've met so many awesome people who I share a love of music or theater with, and that is priceless.



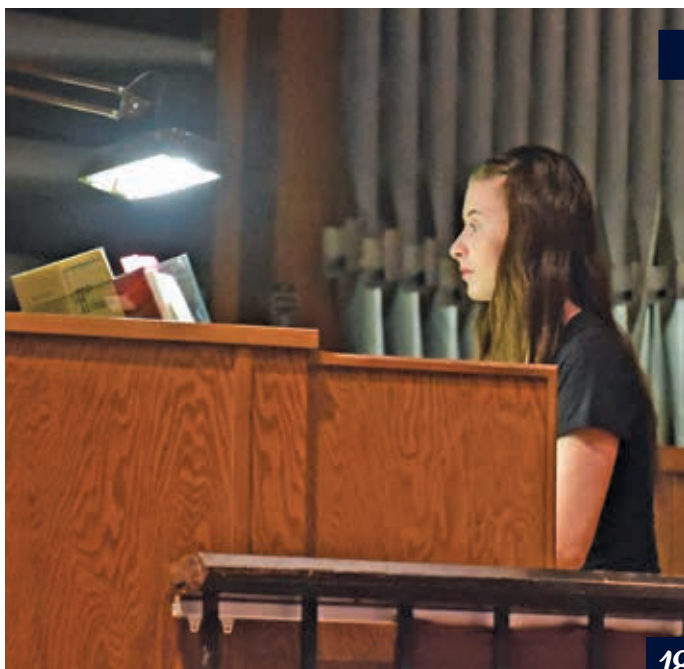
### BEN BITTER

Junior  
WISCO / St. John-Milwaukee

Major: **Biblical Languages, Classical**  
Emphasis: **Spanish for Pastors**

Last year I was a student at a state university majoring in mechanical engineering when I met a missionary from Nepal and discovered he had one of the coolest jobs in the world. He's like the apostles in the New Testament, proclaiming the great news of Jesus to anyone who will hear it. While I was attending classes, I discovered that many of the students I sat next to did not have the hope we have in Jesus. Many were struggling to deal with the idea that their next test grade would define them and define their future, and they didn't have an outlet to find hope or comfort in. I wanted to share with them the hope that I had. Soon after, God started to work even more in my life and lead me to the idea of transferring to MLC. I have never looked back.





## MICHAELA JOHNSON

Luther HS / St. Paul-Bangor WI

Major: **Parish Music & Elementary Ed**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Played organ at Homecoming service & Christmas concert (pictured), plays handbells in the Hosanna Ringers, sings in Women's Choir*

**It's an honor:** It's such an honor to be a part of ensembles with talented people and directors. The music we have in chapel every day is outstanding. Our Reformation services were amazing. I am really looking forward to the Christmas concert as well. Everyone here is so blessed by the Lord!

**God willing . . .** I could see myself directing church choirs, playing organ for church, planning service music, and teaching piano lessons.

18



## LUKE MEIHACK

WLA / Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI

Major: **Physical Ed & Elementary Ed**

**MLC Athletic Moment:** *UMAC Men's Soccer All-Conference Honorable Mention*

**Yes, he said 'plethora':** There are a plethora of things I absolutely loved about my first year of college soccer. Right off the bat my teammates made me feel welcome. They didn't look at or treat me differently just because I was a freshman. And it didn't matter if it was in a practice or in a game, win or lose—we always had a leader that would pick us up when we were in a slump or pat us on the back when we did something well. To me that was extremely gratifying.

**What better way?** I pray that sports will be a part of my ministry someday. My dream would be to get a call as a high school phy ed teacher or athletic director. Whatever call I receive, I'll probably be coaching at least one sport. I love sports! What better way to serve the Lord than by doing what you love every day?

19



## DANIEL WESSEL

Junior

MVL / St. John-New Ulm MN

Major: **Biblical Languages, Classical**

Emphasis: **German for Pastors**

A semester spent in Hong Kong as a sixth grader made me realize just how big the world is and just how much the world needs to hear the good news that we have been so very blessed to know.

20

# FIRST-YEAR *Moments*

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### EMMALIE OLSEN

Kettle Moraine LHS / Good Shepherd-West Bend WI  
Major: **Life Science Ed & Spanish**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Plays flute in Wind Symphony, sings in Women's Choir, played percussion in pit orchestra for Camelot*

**MLC Athletic Moment:** *Runs cross country*

**Laughter:** One of the best things about Wind Symphony is the people I get to play with. There's so much laughter during rehearsals, and we still work together to play really well.

**Balance:** Balancing all the activities wasn't terribly difficult because my coach and directors were in contact with each other to resolve any conflicts that arose. Also, since I'm passionate about both cross country and music, I was very motivated to prioritize my time for these activities and for my classwork.

**Service:** I've really enjoyed having opportunities to play music and praise the Lord in chapel. I hope to be able to play flute in church and teach flute and piano lessons eventually.



### LISA LINDEMANN

**Senior**  
*Manitowoc LHS / St. John-Newburg WI*

Major: **Elementary Ed**  
Major: **Staff Ministry**

My senior year was spent looking at all the different options, from business and accounting to being a doctor or a vet. After visiting many different colleges, none of them seemed right for me. I went to visit MLC on a high school trip, and within minutes I knew this was the school for me. The atmosphere on campus just spoke to me, and I knew I had found a home.





## LEAH MILLER

*Luther Prep / Shepherd of the Hills-Knoxville TN*  
Major: **Secondary English Ed**

**MLC Athletic Moment:** UMAC Women's Cross Country All-Conference Second Team

**Team = family:** I was amazed by how close our team got. Both our teammates and our coaches were always extremely positive and encouraging of one another, and we felt like a family in the end.

**Unique to MLC:** Our coaches and captains had this amazing ability to relate everything we did to Christ. We had weekly devotions, prayers before and after races, and they frequently reminded us of how immensely God has blessed us—specifically by giving us the ability to run. This was very encouraging to all of us and really helped to eliminate the pressure of being in such an intense sport.

**I pray . . .** I would absolutely love being able to coach cross country someday, and I pray that God will bless me with that opportunity in my future!

23



## NOAH MELSO

*Manitowoc LHS / Bethany-Manitowoc WI*  
Major: **Secondary Math Ed**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Plays organ, sings in College Chorale*

**Let me tell you about music at MLC:** There are lots of opportunities to use your musical abilities to praise God, from morning and evening chapel services to all of the special concerts. Also, the music professors here are great! They are very knowledgeable, helpful, and fun.

**So I'm a math major, not a music major:** I'm sure I'll still be able to use music in whatever ministry I'm involved in. Organists are always in high demand at many churches. I may be able to give organ lessons or even direct a church choir someday. Ultimately, I hope to help in whatever ways I can in order to serve the needs of the Lord's people.

24



## RACHEL GRESOCK

**Sophomore**  
*MLS / Gloria Dei-Grand Blanc MI*

Major: **Secondary Social Studies Ed**  
Minor: **Chinese**

During high school I was able to teach Sunday school at my church and lead vacation Bible school for several years. These first acts of leadership cemented my desire to work with children. When I saw each child experience their 'lightbulb' moment of finally understanding something, particularly a Bible verse, I just knew MLC would be the place for me.

25

# FIRST-YEAR Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...



**LYDIA BITTER**

*Bemidji HS / St. Mark-Bemidji MN*  
Major: **Elementary Ed**

**MLC Athletic Moment:** *UMAC Women's Soccer All-Conference Honorable Mention*

**Chemistry 101:** These girls are more than just a team. They're friends and they're family—on and off the field. We had deep team chemistry, and it showed in our play.

**Not the same old, same old:** It was challenging playing with new and different players and adapting to a high-paced level of play. Working through this with the team made me a smarter player and helped me to up my game.

**This little light of mine:** There are so many opportunities to let your light shine through athletics, and I want to help young athletes see that. I've been blessed with so many great coaches throughout the years, and I'd love to be a coach someday, inspiring someone the way my coaches inspired me.

26

## AIMEE OLSEN

*Manitowoc LHS / Zion-Kiel WI*  
Major: **Instrumental Music Ed & Elementary Ed**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Plays clarinet in Wind Symphony, sings in College Chorale, played in pit orchestra for Camelot*

**MLC Athletic Moments:** *Three-sport athlete: cross country, basketball, track & field*

**Why MLC?** I chose to come to MLC because I knew that I would be surrounded by a community of believers who have come to MLC because they're passionate about sharing the Word through their area of teaching.

**Her role model:** My band/choir director in high school was really a great example of sharing Christ's love in a musical setting, so he was definitely a big influence on my choice of MLC and of my choice in music.

**Managing it all:** Managing practice and game schedules, homework, and instrument practicing can be tricky and overwhelming. Staying focused and making sure I plan everything ahead of time makes it easier to enjoy what I'm involved in!

**She doesn't know where God will lead her . . .** but I know whatever he has planned will be where he needs me. I hope to help spread his Word through music and my love of music wherever he sends me!



27





## JACOB PRICE

Northland LHS / St. Peter-Schofield WI

Major: **Vocal Music Ed**

**MLC Music Moments:** *Sings in College Choir, played Castor in Camelot*

**MLC Athletic Moment:** *Plays basketball*

**Doing it all for the glory of God:** I am thankful that MLC provides me the opportunity to use all my gifts to the fullest and helps me grow into the Christian man I want to be.

**He's got rhythm:** I enjoy my time learning about music and, on a more detailed level, the voice, because both have been passions of mine. MLC does a great job of showing us how music is God's gift to us to praise him for all he has done for us.

**He's got chops:** I was a part of the cast for the musical *Camelot*. It was an incredible experience to make new friends as a first-year student, perform on stage, and make lifelong memories.

**He's got game:** It's a ton of fun to play college basketball. The competition at this level and overall unity required to be successful make the experience thrilling. Certain values the team has—such as urgency, enthusiasm, and unity—are habits that will help me in the rest of my life.

**Making it work:** It's definitely a challenge to balance the commitment that athletics, the arts, and schoolwork brings; however, being involved in a variety of tasks is exactly what I enjoy, and I wouldn't trade it for more free time.



28



# ONLY-AT-MLC Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### ...you spell the Hebrew word shofar with balloons.

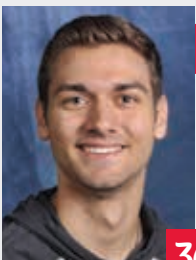
MLC preseminary students—often called SPAMmers because they're enrolled in Studies in Pastoral Ministry (SPaM)—meet regularly for fun and mutual encouragement at SPaM gatherings.

**Isaac Hayes** (pictured far left) explains: "The purpose of these gatherings is the brotherhood and fellowship with our fellow brothers who are on the pastor track—not just among the students, but the professors as well. We gather together not only to have a good time, enjoying entertainment and good food, but to encourage each other with the Word and assure each other of Christ's promises to us."

See the beverage on the table? That would be orange drink. "The orange drink is the sacred elixir reserved for our SPaM gatherings," Isaac says.

And on a more serious note, he adds, "Here at the seminary, we are praying that our brothers at MLC may come here after their college graduation and continue to share in our brotherhood and in the joy we have in Christ!"

Pictured from left are MLC 2017 graduates and first-year seminary students **Isaac Hayes** (ALA / Emmanuel-Tempe AZ), **Philip Schroeder** (LPS / St. Peter-Modesto CA), **Dan Schmidt** (LPS / St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI), and **Yaffet Gabayehu** (LPS / Shepherd of Peace-Powell OH). The hands holding the last letter belong to **Jake Shepherd** (LPS / Christ Our Redeemer-Aurora CO).



**MITCHELL GIOVANNETTONE**

**Senior**  
GPLHS / St. Martin-Watertown SD

Major: **Elementary Ed**  
Major: **Secondary Social Studies Ed**

I had talked to the MLC recruiters throughout high school, but I decided to go to a state university and enroll in the pre-dentistry program. However, about halfway through the semester, the Lord led me to change my mind. I transferred to Martin Luther College. That was the best change I could have imagined.

30



*Some moments cannot be reproduced at other colleges.  
There's something one-of-a-kind about the Martin Luther  
College campus and culture.*



31

**... you play predawn  
Reformation hymns  
from the roof.**

**Christian Willick** (*LPS / St. John-Wauwatosa WI*) and **Jacob Klug** (*Lakeside / St. John-Juneau WI*) organized the ensemble that braved freezing temperatures to wake up the campus with Reformation hymns for the campus Reformation 500 festival. They played on the Luther Student Center roof.



32

**... you take selfies with  
Martin Luther.**

The "Back to the Luther" Homecoming theme sent students scrambling across campus to take pictures with MLC icons, including the Luther bust in the library. **Lucy Matteucci** (*CLHS / Living Hope-Wildomar CA*, pictured right) says, "I loved that history was mixed in with our campus life in this event. We don't realize that history is all around us!"



**FAITH OTTE**

**Sophomore**  
*Nebraska LHS / Bethel-York NE*

Major: **Elementary Ed**  
Minor: **Spanish**

33

My parents both attended MLC. They got married shortly after college, and they both became teachers. I always loved going to work with Dad and playing in the classrooms and hallways at the high school. When I got to high school myself, I realized there is another more important reason to want to be a teacher, besides just loving school itself. You get to teach everyone you meet about the only way to heaven! What could be more important than that?

# ONLY-AT-MLC Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### ... you impersonate Martin Luther and no one gives you a second look.

**Grant Hagen** (FVL / Immanuel-Greenville WI) won the UMOC (Ugliest Man on Campus) award for his Luther impersonation during Winter Carnival 2017.

What's UMOC? An old college tradition where one sophomore, junior, and senior guy compete all week to win campus hearts through their creative and hilarious antics.

Oh, and don't be thrown off by "ugliest." This is a coveted award. Being voted UMOC carries lifelong prestige.



34

### ... the organ drops out at chapel and the congregation becomes a four-part a cappella chorus of angels.

Most first-time worshipers at MLC chapel are blown away by the music—from the choirs and the instrumentalists, yes—but also from the congregation itself. When the organ occasionally drops out around stanza three and the campus family spontaneously breaks out in confident four-part a cappella, you feel just a little closer to heaven.

MLC students worship at Chapel of the Christ every morning and evening, Monday through Friday—as well as at 10 pm Monday Compline services. The Compline services have been variously described as peaceful, reflective, strengthening, and "the best part of Monday." But really, all campus worship is an incredible blessing, where God speaks to us and strengthens our faith through his life-saving good news.



35



**ELLIOTT BUTLER**

**First-Year**

*Lakeside LHS / St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI*

Major: **Elementary Ed**

Major: **Physical Ed**

Minor: **Coaching**

I had my choices narrowed down to MLC and UW-Madison. There were a lot of things to consider, like distance, what I wanted to do with my life, cost, and size, just to name a few. I prayed about my decision a lot and asked as many people as I could what they saw in me. I visited both schools, and when I came to MLC I was on an individual tour with a student who is here now and is my football teammate and fellow

36





37

**... you aren't afraid to look a little foolish if it'll help you win the Mr. Concord title.**

The Mr. Concord competition is a hilarious mock beauty pageant for first-year guys consisting of finely choreographed dancing, deliberately awkward swimsuit modeling, random interview questions, and a bizarre talent contest.

**Joshua Schroeder** (*LPS / St. Peter-Modesto CA*), a 2017 contestant, explained: "Some may call it a beauty pageant, others may call it pure humiliation. As for me, I believe it is a wicked hybrid of the two. We are all beautiful inside and out, and the competition truly helped show that. We also made ourselves look like fools in front of the entire student body, but we feel no shame."

The talent is incredible every year, from singing to standup comedy to unicycling.

Recent winners include **Joe Herrewig** (*WLA / Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*), **Paul Ritter** (*Harlem HS / Peace-Loves Park IL*), **Luke Rosenbaum** (*California LHS / Living Hope-Wildomar CA*), and **Carl Boeder** (*MVL / St. John-New Ulm MN*), who's pictured here playing Miley Cyrus's "Wrecking Ball" on the trombone—with his foot.

**... you add your thumbprint to a Luther's Seal mural.**

As part of the Reformation 500 celebration, students contributed their thumbprints to a Luther's Seal mural outside Wittenberg Auditorium. AIM, the Art in Ministry club at MLC, facilitated this project. For one week in October 2017, students like **Eric Dorn** (*Illinois LHS / Trinity-Crete IL, pictured*) lined up after morning chapel, dipped their fingers in paint, and made their mark.



38

student ambassador. He may not think he had much of an impact on me, but the way he showed off MLC really went far. It helped solidify my choice—and persuaded me to get the on-campus job of student ambassador. Ultimately, the deciding factor was that I want to serve God in the ministry and be able to influence young people just like all my teachers did when I was growing up.

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### ... you don an appropriate wig for Bob Ross Paint Night.

We're not sure how much actual talent was displayed, but students like **Christian Monday** (*LPS / Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati*) and **Dan Gensmer** (*MLS / Christ Our Savior-Columbia TN*) had a blast painting while watching a classic Bob Ross video.

At the end of the night sponsored by AIM, the Art in Ministry club, first place went to **Micah Otto** (*LPS / St. John-Baraboo WI*), who said he enjoyed getting away from his homework and "attempting to paint the trademark happy little trees."



39

### ... you play Captain Hook and make thousands of kids scream and laugh and sing.

"I hadn't performed in any drama productions since grade school, but I somehow worked up the courage to try out for *Peter Pan*," said **Eric Dorn** (*Illinois LHS / Trinity-Crete IL*). "To my amazement, I was cast as Captain Hook! I'll always remember the pure joy I felt when hundreds of kids packed into that auditorium and cheered, laughed, and sang at the top of their lungs."



40

### ... you're chosen by the Milwaukee Brewers to sing the national anthem.

Four Times the Charm sang "The Star-Spangled Banner" in front of 40,000 people last summer at WELS Night at Miller Park. We "proudly hail" this group made up of **Jacob Ungemach** (*Manitowoc LHS / First German-Manitowoc WI*), **Luke Dorn** (*Luther HS / St. John-Lewiston MN*), **Nic Gartner** (*MVL / St. John-Redwood Falls MN*), and **Carl Boeder** (*MVL / St. John-New Ulm MN*).

"Honestly," said Nic Gartner, "the idea of singing in front of so many people is terrifying, but at the same time, I couldn't be any more excited to use my God-given singing ability to praise him, as well as salute this country."



41





**... you realize that, like Luther, you nailed it.**

MLC's own Reformation 500 contest winners were **Raquel Freese** (Klein Collins HS-TX / Abiding Word-Houston TX), who wrote "We Marvel," the award-winning Reformation hymn sung by the student body in chapel; **Kylah Schroeder** (LPS / St. Peter-Modesto CA), who won the art contest; and **Hannah Midthun Uher** (WISCO / Grace-Milwaukee), who won the T-shirt design contest. Hannah's T-shirt features Luther poised in front of the Wittenberg Castle Church door and says, "HAMMERTIME."

42



43

**... you play drums with vegetables.**

"You see some really crazy stuff at the talent shows here," says **Zachary Scharlemann** (MVL / St. Paul-New Ulm MN). "Playing drum set with carrots, cucumbers, and corn for hundreds of my friends is definitely something that is going to stay with me. The talent shows are something I look forward to every year, regardless of which side of the curtain I might be on."

# INTERNATIONAL Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...



44

### ...you see snow for the very first time.

**Montara Hamilton** (*Princess Margaret Secondary School / St. John-St. John's, Antigua*) left the beautiful Caribbean sunshine of Antigua to study early childhood and special education at MLC.

Our international students this year also hail from South Korea, China, Canada, Pakistan, and St. Lucia.

If you're an international student considering Martin Luther College, please know that our International Services Office will assist you every step of the way—with the admissions process, orientation, acculturation, and post-graduation decisions.

### ...you can speak only Spanish.

Students on immersion trips pledge to speak only Spanish (or Chinese if they've landed further east).

**Julia Schibbelhut** (*Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI*), **Faith Otte** (*Nebraska LHS / Bethel-York NE*), and **Annie Russell** (*MLS / Emanuel First-Lansing MI*) took the pledge and made the trip to Argentina, and it increased their fluency and their cultural competency.

Other students choose summer or full-semester study abroad programs in places like Germany, China, or any country of their choice.

45

**Daylight International:** MLC students and graduates also teach abroad at preschools, elementary schools, high schools, and adult education programs in China, Thailand, South Korea, Vietnam, Russia, St. Lucia, Antigua, Dominican Republic, and Peru. When you are here, other countries may have positions open as well.



46

### ANNALIES BRANDER

**Senior**

*Picture Butte HS / St. Paul-Calgary AB*

Major: **Early Childhood Ed**

Minor: **Special Ed**

I went to public school from kindergarten to grade 12, so I had never experienced attending a Lutheran school. All I really knew was that I love working with children and I'd love a chance to grow my faith. I talked to my pastor and his wife, who had recently come from MLC, and they told me about their experiences. After everything they told me, I couldn't wait to start at MLC. My advice would be, if you're even considering MLC, try it for at least a year. Even if you decide to go elsewhere, that year will bless you in countless ways that will help you wherever God leads you in life.



# ON-THE-JOB Moments

THAT MOMENT WHEN...

... you land the perfect job.

**MLC Ambassador:** Who wouldn't want to be paid to talk about the college they love? MLC Ambassadors work with visiting high school students: leading tours, facilitating events, answering questions, giving the kind of excellent guidance they got when they were in high school!

Campus visits are the number-one factor in most students' college decisions, and the college ambassadors often leave the most lasting impressions on the students at those visits.

The 2017-2018 Ambassadors are (back row): **Evan Arrowsmith** (MLS / Trinity-Bay City MI), **Harrison Hochmuth** (St. Croix LHS / St. Paul-Cannon Falls MN), **Michael Radue** (WISCO / Mt. Calvary-Waukesha WI); (middle row): **TJ Babinec** (Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI), **Allison Grunke** (MVL / St. John-Fairfax MN), **Moriah Hackbarth** (Lakeside / St. Paul-Lake Mills WI), **Hailey Johnson** (FVL / St. Paul-Green Bay); (front row): **Josh Wong** (MVL / St. Paul-North Mankato MN), **Allison Boggs** (WLA / Hope-West Palm Beach FL), **Morgan Shevey** (LPS / St. Paul-Muskego WI), **Elliott Butler** (Lakeside / St. Matthew-Oconomowoc WI).



47

**Student Editor: Julia Schibbelhut** (Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI) is the 2017-2018 student editor for the admissions department. Her job is to create the *KnightWatch Weekly*, which includes doing research, interviewing students and professors, working with photographers, and writing two or three stories every week. Her publication is sent by email to more than 3,500 people every week.

"I love my job!" she says. "I get to hone my writing skills, work in my pajamas, and set my own hours. The best part, though, is that each week I'm able to learn more about the people that make MLC great!"



48

MLC employs lots of students in jobs that run the gamut, from teaching assistant to athletic trainer, snow shoveler to office assistant, resident assistant (RA) to event team member, custodian to photographer. You get to use your gifts, learn new skills, and make a little money.



**MIKAYLA HODKIEWICZ**

**Sophomore**

De Forest HS / Lord of Love-De Forest WI

Major: **Elementary Ed**

Minor: **German**

I'm not from one of the longstanding WELS families. My parents were the first ones in both of their families to join a WELS church, but I will be forever grateful for that choice. My church is part of my family, and I always feel welcome there. I want to be a part of making that happen for other people.

49

# SENIOR Moments

## THAT MOMENT WHEN...

### ... you get to direct *The Sound of Music*.

"It was awesome," says **Luke Dorn** (*Luther HS / St. John-Lewiston MN*), "to see 40 men and women come together to make a wonderful story come to life. I learned many things about drama productions, but also some very valuable life lessons and skills."

MLC Forum stages four productions a year, and students take leadership roles in choosing the shows, auditioning for cast and crew, creating sets and costumes, and everything else!



50



51

### ... you and your friends finally make the WCC Photo Wall.

Large picture frames line the wall in a busy hallway of the Wittenberg Collegiate Center. Only the best photos are exalted to this place, so finding your face on the photo wall is a majestic moment at MLC.

This was especially meaningful to **Rebecca Gast** (*Northland LHS / St. Paul-Wisconsin Rapids WI*), **Emma Plocher** (*California LHS / King of Kings-Garden Grove CA*), and **Lydia Thiesfeldt** (*WLS / Redeemer-Fond du Lac WI*).

# Not sure what to do with your life? Talk!





### **...you come from behind to get the victory.**

"We had a crazy come-from-behind victory in the fifth set," says **Taylor Weber** (KML / Bethlehem-Germantown WI, the libero in red). "We were losing 14-7, and then we came back to top the Bethany Vikings 16-14. It was the most thrilling game I have ever played in, and I've never felt so proud to be a Knight."

MLC belongs to the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC) and competes in 16 different sports: volleyball, football, men's and women's soccer, men's and women's cross country, men's and women's tennis, men's and women's golf, men's and women's basketball, baseball, softball, and men's and women's track and field.



52

### **...you get engaged at the Eiffel Tower**

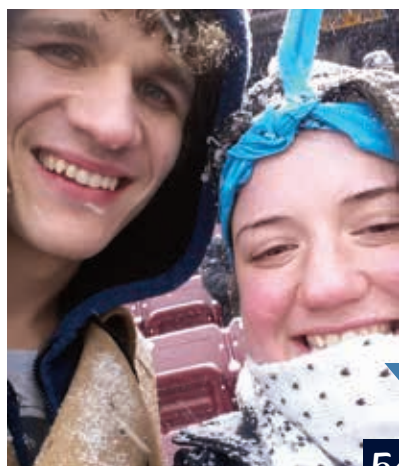
**Lydia Wassermann** (Luther HS / Mount Calvary-La Crosse WI) loves all things Paris, especially the Eiffel Tower. So **Joel Prange** (MLS / St. John-Burlington WI) decided to build a replica of the tower for his marriage proposal moment.

He built the nine-foot structure off campus and then secretly brought it to the college auditorium. "Lydia loves the stage and theater," he says on their wedding website, "so I knew I wanted to do it on the MLC stage, where we have shared many a show together."

The night of the engagement, they were studying in the library when Joel received a fake text that something from the set of the upcoming play had broken and he had to fix it right away. He asked Lydia to go with him, and when they got onto the stage, that's when he got down on one knee.



53



54

### **...you get engaged in an MLC elevator.**

"I got engaged in the elevator, right outside the Spanish classroom on third floor Old Main," says **Ruth Nitz** (Evergreen LHS / St. Paul-New Ulm MN). "I'm lucky Professor Bases wasn't watching from around the corner!" Ruth is pictured with her fiancé, **Conifer Berg** (LPS / Trinity-Appleton WI).

We know you're coming to MLC to prepare for ministry. That's your goal, and it's our goal for you too. But sometimes you leave MLC with your diploma, your call, AND a partner in ministry, marriage, and life. Call it a double blessing.

**Talk** to your family and friends, your pastors and teachers. Open the conversation: "I'm trying to figure out what to do for college. . . ." Then see what they think. What gifts do they see in you? What careers can they envision you in?

**Talk** to God. These are the best conversations to have. The Almighty God created you and gifted you and has already prepared good works for you to do (Ephesians 2:10). Ask him for his guidance and wisdom. And be sure to read the Word, because that's where he talks to you!



