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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Emily Raymond (*Lakeside / Peace-Sun Prairie WI*) and Alyssa Heckendorf (*FVL / Immanuel-Greenville WI*) making friends.

## Make a New Friend!

Once a month, about 100 people with special needs come with their caregivers to the MLC caf to eat supper, make crafts, and hear a devotion. It's called New Friends. Why? Because MLC students join along with them—helping, smiling, chatting, and, well, making new friends. It's a blessing to everyone involved!

"Being there just makes you happy," says **Hannah Oelhafen** (*LPS / Trinity-Waukesha WI*), a double major in special ed and elementary ed. "I love seeing everyone's personalities shine through and bringing God's Word to them."

"I think my favorite part about New Friends is its twofold ministry," says **Micah Otto** (*LPS / Salem-Milwaukee*). "Not only are we reaching out to people with special needs in New Ulm, but it's also a chance to reach out to their caregivers—many of whom are unchurched and unfamiliar with the peace that's found in Christ."

"Honestly, it's the highlight of my month!" says senior **Emily Schmidt** (*KML/Crown of Life-Hubertus WI*), who serves as the leader of New Friends. "What's great is that some of the friends that come to these events work in the cafeteria at lunch, so I get to talk to them then too. They'll come up to me, excited to know what we'll be doing at the next New Friends event." Are you interested in forming friendships? Consider helping with New Friends when you come to MLC!



**Doug Vaquero** on timpani is a member of Wind Symphony, which—together with Chorale, Männerchor, Women's Choir, Hosanna Ringers, and College Choir—filled Chapel of the Christ with God-glorifying music last weekend.

## **Christmas Concert Reflections**

**Noah Vogt** (*Durango HS-NV / Mt. Olive-Las Vegas*): I've only ever been in a small church choir, so to experience something like the Christmas concert—to be a part of something so beautiful and to praise the Lord like that—was amazing.

**Doug Vaquero** (Mountain View HS-GA / Messiah-Johns Creek GA): I thought the concert went extremely well. There was so much musical talent all in one place that was used to glorify God. My favorite parts were all the musical groups playing together and watching the people in the crowd smile at the beautiful music we performed.

**Mikayla Hodkiewicz** (*DeForest HS-WI / Lord of Love-DeForest WI*): Singing in the mass choir with 260 people who all share my faith was an amazing experience, and it made me reflect on how awesome it will be to sing with all believers in heaven someday.

**Nathan Wranovsky** (WISCO / St. Paul-Muskego WI): I think my favorite part was the coming together of all the different fine arts at MLC. When the student choirs, a children's choir, and an orchestra were all declaring God's praises together through this awesome version of "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel," I got some major chills. It's truly a special weekend.