

knightwatch weekly



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Insights in Israel

“It’s one thing to read a portion of Scripture from a dorm room, another to read that same account actually standing in the place it happened,” says **Austin Claflin** (*Southern Door HS-WI / Salem-Sturgeon Bay WI, pictured top*), a preseminary junior who visited the Holy Land this summer. Armed with pickaxes and a passion for biblical history, students and professors from MLC, WLS, WLC, LPS, and MLS (*pictured below*) dug into the experience of a lifetime.

“A day on the dig started with a 4:00 am breakfast, an hour bus ride to the dig site, and an uphill climb,” says Austin. “We began digging around 6:30 and quit around 11:00.” In the afternoon heat, the crew returned to Jerusalem to scrub their discoveries—broken pottery, some pieces large enough for archaeologists to date and reconstruct into jugs and bowls.



The crew also toured the Mount of Olives, the Garden of Gethsemane, and two possible sites of Calvary. Masada, the caves of Qumran (where the Dead Sea Scrolls were found), Capernaum, Nazareth, and the Jordan River rounded out an impressive list of locations.

Even a dip in the Dead Sea was in order, an adventure which, Austin explains, “though being a remarkably strange experience, was a little painful since the salt water quickly reminded me of every cut and blister I had received after a week of swinging a pickax in the desert!”

Nevertheless, Austin highly recommends the trip: “I can picture Jesus riding into Jerusalem, being dragged from Gethsemane, and walking on the Sea of Galilee. Throughout the trip I tried to choose my daily devotions in accordance with the sites we had visited that day, and I read them like I never had before.” The next journey to Jerusalem is in 2021, so lace up your sandals and get ready to step into the pages of Scripture!



Choral Fest Camaraderie

Did you see the MLC musicians at Choral Fest? Former participants themselves, they welcomed an opportunity to return to the scene of cherished high school memories. Here are the highlights:

Samantha Kiecker (*ALA / Emmanuel-Tempe AZ*): “I loved being surrounded by so many people who share an appreciation for music and a love of their Savior.”

Sydney Peterson (*GPL / Ascension-Plymouth MN*): “Choral Fest is a big reunion, so I had the chance to say ‘hi’ to old directors, family friends, and friends who are student teaching at these high schools. There is no experience like hearing 500 teenagers profess their faith.”

Natalie Zirbel (*Manitowoc / Zion-Greenleaf WI*): “I was excited to cheer on my former high school and to participate in the concert with them. Choral Fest brought back great memories and even greater joy watching everyone sing praises to God in the Sacred Concert.”

Pictured: Professor Wurster and 13 student instrumentalists spent a weekend at Choral Fest, serving God with their musical gifts.