

# knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

www.mlc-wels.edu

December 13, 2019



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MLS / St. James-Portage MI



## A "Jesus Cares" Christmas

"Individuals with special needs are used to being often and easily overlooked," says **Eliza Punzel** (*LPS / St. Peter-Appleton WI*), a junior who helps coordinate events for Jesus Cares, a group that reaches out to individuals with special needs. "By committing to serving these people, a congregation is showing Christ loves and cares about them."

This sentiment is especially true at Christmas time. Each Advent, MLC students involved with Jesus Cares help these differently abled individuals learn about the true meaning of Christmas and find some holiday joy.

"Our Christmas program started with a mini-service in the sanctuary led by **Caleb Paul** (*Rocky Mountain / Lord of Life-Thornton CO*), which included hymns and a sermon," says **Chris Robbert** (*LPS / King of Kings-Wasilla AK*), a sophomore who has been involved with Jesus Cares since high school.

"After the service, we gathered in the fellowship hall for a special snack and a Christmas-themed craft," Eliza says. "We sent everyone home with a small gift, wished them God's blessings as they celebrate their Savior's birth, and invited them back in January!"

**Elizabeth Schoeneck** (*KML / Morning Star-Jackson WI*) admits that working with special needs individuals can be intimidating at first. But after volunteering for the first time, she's never turned back.

"Jesus Cares provides a safe place to learn, practice, and grow skills for working with the special needs community," Elizabeth says. "Nothing beats the joy found in the students' faces as they listen to the story of Christ," adds Chris.

*Pictured top:* Elizabeth and Chris help a participant make stable animals out of marshmallows and pretzel sticks for snack time. *Middle:* Jesus Cares participant Gina and her mother display their Christmas crafts.



## Joy Has Dawned

Do you love Christmas? So do we! Each year MLC's musicians join together in a sacred concert to welcome our King, and there are many ways to get involved.

Women's Choir, Männerchor (men's choir, *pictured*), Chorale, and College Choir are MLC's four choirs, and all of them sing in the Christmas Concert. Wind Symphony members also join in, both as accompanists and to play some beautiful pieces of their own. How about handbells? MLC has those too, and the group always makes an appearance at the Christmas Concert.

There are opportunities to accompany songs on the organ or piano and to play stringed instruments as well. Or, if you'd rather just soak it all in, that's ok too!

*Did you know?* More than one-third of MLC students sing in a choir.

