

# knightwatch weekly



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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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## Praise Him with Drums and Bass Guitar

“I love serving with music,” says Professor David Bauer, “whether on the organ bench, behind a guitar, or coordinating chapel services.” And worship band—well, that, he says, is “pure joy and fun.”

Arranging music, transcribing it in software, and helping students grow in their musical talents, Professor Bauer has spent the past five years directing MLC’s Praise Ensembles, which regularly play for chapel. Since many of our congregations include contemporary music in their services, introducing this new music to the student body helps prepare them for their future ministries.

While we may be reluctant to step aside from traditions, Professor Bauer hopes to foster a service mindset of putting others’ preferences before our own. “As long as worship focuses on the means of grace and the gospel in Word and sacrament,” he says, “the style of music is negotiable.”

Student instrumentalists comprise the group, and some also get experience with planning and coordinating the services. “We have a spreadsheet that outlines the hymn, Scripture text, and preacher for each service,” explains vocalist **Maddy Leckwee** (*KML / Trinity-West Bend WI*). “We find contemporary songs that fit the theme and have text that is doctrinally sound.” Students also work with music software and the technology that controls sound levels, microphones, and the speaker system.

On Evangelism Day, MLC’s Praise Ensemble had an unforgettable opportunity when **Brian Davison** ’03, the lead singer of Koiné, joined them. Although the weeks prior required extensive practice and were a bit nerve-wracking, all of the Praise Ensemble members thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

“Singing with Brian Davison has definitely been a highlight of my year so far,” says **Rebecca Heyer** (*FVL / Immanuel-Greenville WI*). “I’ve always enjoyed Koiné’s musical arrangements, and it was such a blessing to work with him.”

“Brian is so talented,” Maddy (*pictured*) adds, “and you can tell that he truly enjoys making music to praise his Savior.”

Which gets us back to the heart of MLC’s Praise Ensemble. “When we play, we are reflecting the love that Christ has shown to us,” says Maddy. “As musicians we can reach lost souls through music because it spreads the gospel to everyone who hears it.”



## Evangelism Day Excitement

Brian Davison wasn’t the only cool WELS person on campus last week. Evangelism Day brought a break from classes as students attended stellar seminars and got fired up about proclaiming Christ.

“Evangelism Day,” says Maddy Leckwee, “is filled with energy and fire for the gospel. It makes you excited for the work you are training to do.”

Pastors, teachers, and laypeople presented on topics ranging from youth ministry and social media outreach to the gospel in China and witnessing to Mormons.

Others, such as junior **Erika Rosenbaum** (*Michigan LHS / Grace-St. Joseph MI, pictured*), snagged an opportunity to practice confessing their faith with Praise and Proclaim Ministries’ evangelism training. The group looks forward to canvassing later this spring.

