

# knightwatch weekly



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March 6, 2020

MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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MLS / St. James-Portage MI

## Singing Down South

Going someplace warm over spring break? For Prof. Smith and the MLC College Choir, the answer is “Yes!” The group has sung through Tennessee and Georgia, and is now soaking up a bit of sun in Florida. But warmth isn’t the reason.

“The most wonderful part of tour,” says **Hannah Stegman** (*West LHS / Holy Trinity-New Hope MN*), “is sharing the gospel with so many people.” Hannah can’t wait to visit Divine Savior Academy and learn about the ministry there, but she’s already doing a bit of ministry herself. “We have the opportunity through our concerts and random conversations to share the love of Jesus with people that may not get it otherwise,” she says.

**Kaitlyn Roux** (*MVL / St. John-New Ulm MN*), who loved the architecture of St. Augustine, Florida, says that meeting the members at each of the congregations is one of her favorite parts. “It means so much to them when they have the choir at their church,” she says.

Sunshine and singing—it sounds idyllic, but that’s just one of the many ways MLC students dive into ministry over break.



## PROFile: Professor Wurster

It’s easy to believe there’s a “classic” WELS story, but no two journeys are quite the same. Prof. Miles Wurster, for instance, veered pretty far from the typical path.

“I didn’t attend MLC,” Prof. Wurster explains. “I wanted to be a high school band director, specifically in the public school system. It’s what I knew, and it’s what I had a passion for. I had terrific music teachers growing up who modeled excellence and passion in what they did. Music became a way I could express myself in a way I couldn’t with words.”

Prof. Wurster graduated from Bethany Lutheran College with a Bachelor of Arts in music education and began teaching in the public schools. “Coming to MLC was certainly not part of my career plans,” he says. However, when the call came, asking Prof. Wurster to conduct band for a year at MLC, he says, “It didn’t take long to know in my heart that the connection between music and faith was something that I could no longer separate as an educator.”

After making this decision, Prof. Wurster didn’t want to leave. He prayed that God would allow him to continue serving in this way that allowed faith and music to meet. “Fifteen years later,” he says, “I still am in awe that the Lord would trust me with this responsibility.”

In addition to Wind Symphony, Prof. Wurster also teaches instrumental conducting, instrument technique courses (which music majors take to learn how to play and teach all of the instruments), and Teaching Music in Middle and Secondary Schools.

“The study of music is a lifelong pursuit of growth and discovery,” he says. “That’s part of what makes it so exciting.”

To students considering a calling as a music teacher, he says, “Music education is certainly about being the best musician one can be, but it is also the desire and passion to instruct others in this discipline. Teaching is about empowering students to realize their full potential. The role of education is to guide students in their discovery and understanding of the world the Lord has given us to live in and care for.”

