

knightwatch weekly



www.mlc-wels.edu

November 13, 2020

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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

The Day of Reckoning



Four directors—Hirschmann, Laabs, Smith, and Wurster—beam with joy after the Christmas Concert in 2019.

It was my first day at Martin Luther College. I was a nervous first-year who had almost no idea where to begin in this new environment. But I knew that I wanted to try out for College Choir more than anything!

I'd heard that MLC is pretty much synonymous with excellent music, and I wanted so badly to be a part of that. There was only one problem: I had come to school straight from my job as a summer camp counselor, and I had no voice left.

Still, I didn't want this opportunity to pass me by. I entered the choir room, steeling myself emotionally for my imminent demise, but I was caught off-guard by the smiling faces of **Professors Hirschmann, Smith, and Laabs**. As I explained my situation to them with my squeaky whisper of a voice, they told me that there are four choirs at MLC, with a spot for everyone who wants to sing.

Without a voice, I stumbled through the scales and sight-singing of the audition, but I practically skipped out of the Music Center that day, thankful that the directors were willing to trust that I could carry a tune, and even more relieved that I already had a place to belong on campus. I cannot emphasize enough how valuable this is. I strongly encourage you to join an MLC choir!

I had a wonderful semester singing in Chorale, and I was elated when the opportunity arose to join College Choir after Christmas break. That meant I would get to share in something very exciting—spring choir tour!

Musical Ministry Moments

The two choir tours I've experienced were some of the best weeks of my whole life. Imagine hopping on a bus with 70 Christian friends and road-tripping for 10 days, stopping only to eat delicious food, share tidings of how wonderful life is at MLC, and stay with generous church members for the evening. In return, you get to sing to these fantastic people for two hours every single night.

Junior **Grace Bain** (*Luther / St. Paul-Onalaska WI*) talked about the ministry opportunities on tour: "Music resonates in a way that words can't. It's such a blessing to share the gospel in song with people around the country!" Last year we traveled from Nashville to the Florida coast.

When we're not busy singing or en route to our next destination, there's plenty of time to explore. Students might find a caffeine fix at a local café, learn about the city's history in a museum, or catch some rays at a beach or park.

If you're starting to think tour sounds exhausting, you're onto something. But as our bodies ache and our eyelids droop during bus rides, the songs mean even more, and our friendships grow ever stronger.

This is truly the capstone of choir tour—growing closer to one another and meeting people along the way. College Choir President **Ben Roekle** (*Shoreland / First-Racine WI*) put it this way: "It's very fulfilling to meet all kinds of great people in the congregations we sing for. We make connections that wouldn't be possible if it weren't for tour! It's easy to see God's hand at work through it all."



College Choir performs a mini-concert at Divine Savior Lutheran Academy-Doral FL.



Grace Bain takes a selfie with friends **Jake Zabell** (*LPS / St. Paul-Green Bay WI*), **Lauren Stuebs** (*Luther / St. Matthew-Stoddard WI*), and **Nathaniel Brauer** (*LPS / Trinity-Watertown WI*) at a Florida beach.