

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI

Celebrating Our Differences

It's no secret that the last year has challenged our nation in many ways. Times like these cause us all to think a bit harder about where we stand and who we want to be, and MLC is no different! As we train to carry the gospel message wherever we go and "make disciples of all nations," we're always striving to find better ways to reach others with the hope that we have. This year a long-time dream is finally coming to fruition!

This week I spoke with **Mrs. Megan Kassuelke** (pictured), who will be the director of Cultural Engagement in July. She told me all about MLC's new Cultural Engagement Center (CEC) and what it will offer to our campus for years to come.

Mrs. Kassuelke completed her master's degree in ethnic and multicultural studies in 2019, focusing her research on diverse student populations on small, rural college campuses that are primarily white. She will be joined by **Pastor Aaron Robinson** and **Professor Tingting Schwartz** to round out the Cultural Engagement staff.



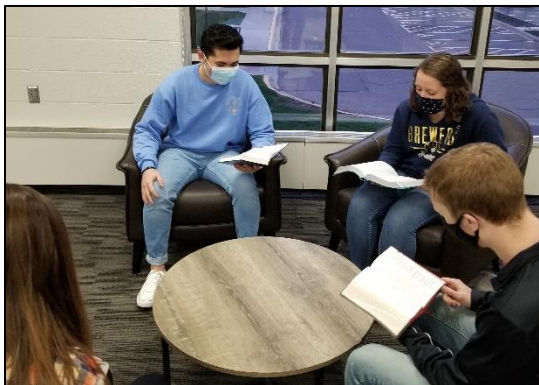
The CEC serves to accomplish three core goals: to provide a welcoming space for our diverse students and support them during their time on campus, to be a venue for our entire campus family to engage in cross-cultural dialogue and understanding, and to promote community on campus among students, faculty, and staff, regardless of ethnicity or background.

Mrs. Kassuelke said that an official CEC opening celebration is slated for the fall with greater opportunity for group gatherings. She and her team want the MLC family to know that the center is meant to be a "'brave space' where diversity and culture-related discussions can take place in respectful, mindful, and authentic ways." Why are these efforts necessary? She said, "Because our Lord said to 'Make disciples of all nations.' Because the church is growing in diverse countries, cultures, and neighborhoods. And because WELS has international and multicultural ministry needs now." We can't wait for you to get involved in MLC's many intercultural opportunities, whether in the CEC, in the classroom, or on a trip abroad.

Praising the God Who Makes Us One

It's super exciting to hear about the plans for the Cultural Engagement Center. Be sure to check it out next time you visit our campus! Our campus family has wasted no time in making use of the facility. Mrs. Kassuelke said, "In the few months the CEC has been open, we've hosted a Chinese New Year celebration, MLK Day displays and events, and a student-led Spanish Bible study."

The Bible study is led by sophomore **Juan David Escobar** (DSA / Divine Savior-Doral FL) and senior **Ben Roekle** (Shoreland LHS / First-Racine WI). Both are preseminary majors active in MLC's Spanish program.



Those who come to Spanish Bible study will typically look at a particular section and discuss important themes from that Scripture, such as what it means to be Christ's disciples or to love their neighbor. The group also utilizes video resources from *Academia Cristo*, a huge part of the WELS mission to reach Spanish speakers with the gospel. God is on the move in all nations, and it is the goal of Martin Luther College to mobilize students in a wide array of cultures to do his work.

Pictured: **Dana Pietrzyk** (LPS / St. Paul-North Fond du Lac WI), **Juan David Escobar**, **Hannah Mayer** (Lakeside LHS / St. Paul-Fort Atkinson WI), and **Ben Roekle** at Bible study.