

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Student Editor: Cameron Schroeder
Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI



Zach Gregorius (LPS / St. Luke-Watertown WI), **Event Coordinator Michelle Gartner**, **MLC President Rich Gurgel**, **Prof. Jon Laabs**, and **Noah Uhlenbrauck** (FVL / St Peter-Appleton WI) joined many others to put on the event.

One Faith, One Hope, One Lord

One of the coolest parts of coming to school at MLC is getting to meet like-minded young people from around the country. When that magic atmosphere is combined with a shared love for music, you get Choral Fest—a highlight of the semester for our campus family and the hundreds of high school students who came to sing for us.

Choral Fest was a fully immersive experience that gave students a chance to make new friends, receive tours of New Ulm and campus, and worship in area WELS churches on Sunday morning. When it came to the music, these choirs certainly did not disappoint. The gymnasium was packed to the gills on Friday night for the pop showcase, and more than a thousand gathered on Sunday for the sacred concert. More than half the assembly was dressed in a beautiful array of choir robes. Everyone who grabbed a seat enjoyed a diverse selection of music and a little foretaste of heaven.

Interview with Adrian Smith, MLC Professor and Choral Fest Clinician

What's it like to stand on the podium at Choral Fest and direct hundreds of voices with the wave of a baton?

“It’s a truly awesome experience. There is trust between the director and singers—the singers trust that the director knows the music to lead, and the director trusts that the singers know the music to sing confidently. This is eminently magnified with hundreds of voices present!”

You’ve been directing Martin Luther College Choir for more than a couple years now. What’s the coolest part about playing this role for such a celebrated ensemble?

“From a young age, I knew I wanted to teach. The coolest part of serving as College Choir director is working with the students. There is a special relationship that develops between the director and choir as you prepare a program of music for performance. I think this is especially true when preparing sacred choral music to take on tour or for worship. We have a common goal to share the gospel through song, which I can see reflected on every face in the choir.”

You’ve decided to take some time away from directing the choir to pursue your doctorate. What went into that decision?

“I’ve found that there is always more to learn, and the pursuit of a doctoral degree provides that learning in a formal way. I’ve had the opportunity to sharpen my skills as a choral conductor and learn new tools and techniques that will help me better serve the students I work with at MLC.

“I’m looking forward to returning to College Choir second semester and having the opportunity to see students every day who are preparing for ministry, who share a passion for choral music.”

Didn’t make it to Choral Fest? Concert videos are available on MLC’s streaming site at [livestream.com/mlc-streams](https://www.livestream.com/mlc-streams).



The Smith family: (back row) Sebastian, Josiah, Prof. Adrian Smith, Mrs. LaShawn Smith; (front row) Isaiah, Gabriella, Nathanael