

Meet
YOUR PEOPLE!



KNIGHTWATCH

FALL
2021



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MLC KnightWatch is published by Martin Luther College Admissions Office and is intended to inform, inspire, and motivate young people who are considering enrolling at MLC to prepare for public ministry in the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Comments are welcomed and should be directed to Laurie Gauger at gaugerlf@mlc-wels.edu or Martin Luther College *KnightWatch*, 1995 Luther Court, New Ulm MN 56073. 

The mission of MLC is to train a corps of Christian witnesses who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

Meet YOUR PEOPLE!

Meet Your Admissions Team

They want to hear your story and answer any questions you have as you make your college decision.

Meet MLC Students

Get the inside scoop on their life at MLC, how they got here, and what they're looking forward to.

Meet MLC Alumni

They've been there, done that. Now they're ready to talk about the adventure of gospel ministry and how MLC got them ready for it.

Paying for College 101

We'll help you make it work. Scholarships? Grants? Loans? You've got questions. We've got answers.

Apply now! mlc-wels.edu/application



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE



Meet YOUR ADMISSIONS TEAM



TED KLUG
Director of Admissions
Lakeside LHS



His story: God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve at five different schools, spanning from second grade to college. In that time, I've had the opportunity to work with so many students and families. I was able to see God working in the lives of kids and families in four different states, at many different ages and many walks of life. Above all, God has worked through my many shortcomings to educate, equip, and encourage so many of God's children. For that, I am eternally grateful.

His message to you: The most important advice I can share is that you can't find a more rewarding career. You get to see first-hand God working in the hearts and lives of the people that you serve. Think about the fact that as a called worker, you get to be part of some of the most important times in people's lives: baptizing a baby, confirming a child in the faith, teaching a child every day about Jesus, coaching a young person, directing a musical piece, marrying a husband and wife, consoling a grieving family. The list could go on and on. It is a great joy to do this!

You might not know: I once scored on an actual NBA player in a pick-up game in San Antonio. (Granted, he was warming up, but it still counts, right?)



WENDY RISTOW
Admissions Office
Administrative Assistant
Michigan Lutheran Seminary



Her story: I was assigned in 1982 to East Fork Lutheran School on the Apache Indian Reservation in Whiteriver, Arizona, where I taught grades 3-4 and coached all varsity and JV girls' athletics. Then it was off to a central city school, Pilgrim Lutheran in Minneapolis. My final teaching destination landed me at St. Paul's right here in New Ulm—the "City of Charm and Tradition."

My second service to my Savior was nine years as director of women's housing here at MLC. What a huge blessing to live in the dorm with future called workers! And now I'm here in the Admissions Office.

Her work for you: When you dial the MLC Admissions Office, that's my voice you're hearing. I do all the paper work for your application and admittance. I help organize the Focus on Ministry visits and generally keep things humming smoothly. Finally, I'll make you a mean cup of coffee if you visit!

You might not know: As hinted above, I have lived in a dorm for many years—17 to be exact! It's because I like pajama/dance parties and caf food—oh, and people!

Meet YOUR ADMISSIONS TEAM



DAVE BIEDENBENDER

Admissions Counselor

Kettle Moraine LHS



JOEL THOMFORD

Admissions Counselor

Zumbrota HS – Minnesota



His story: Len Collyard, my teacher and coach at KML, had a big impact on my decision to attend DMLC. He was a great example for me, and he mentioned to me that I could be a positive leader someday as a teacher and coach. I really appreciated his encouragement.

The Lord has blessed me with a variety of opportunities to serve in the teaching ministry. I've taught in grade schools, high schools, and college. I've also been able to use my musical and athletic talents in the different places I've taught.

His message to you: MLC is a great place to prepare for the public ministry. One of the neatest things about MLC is the opportunity to be around people of your same faith every day. Everyone here is working toward a common goal. Whether you're in class, athletics, or musical groups, the people you're working with are all on the same page. That was very comforting to me.

You might not know: When I was assigned to St. Paul's in Brownsville, Wisconsin, in 1988, I was called to be the head organist and adult choir director. Most people wouldn't believe that when they see me today.

His story: I went to public school from K-12 so attending one of our worker training schools for the first time was a big and wonderful change for me.

I was a parish pastor for 31 years, serving parishes in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Willmar, Minnesota; and Chesaning, Michigan. I thoroughly enjoyed being a parish pastor and found it to be the most rewarding work I've ever done in my entire life. Here's a real irony for me. I often miss serving back in the parish as a pastor. But serving as an admissions counselor at MLC gives me an opportunity to talk to high school students about the joy of serving in the public ministry. I pray that they might prayerfully consider Martin Luther College and begin the path toward the public ministry.

His message to you: When you come to MLC, you do not have to be certain that the public ministry is for you. You might come with many questions and uncertainties about whether you should serve as a pastor or teacher or staff minister. But MLC is a great place to determine whether the Lord wants you to serve him as a called worker in the public ministry or as a layperson in your life and in your congregation.



MARTÍN SANTOS

Admissions Counselor

Mount Rainier HS – Washington



LORI UNKE

Admissions Counselor

Northwestern Prep (now Luther Prep)



His story: I was born in Mexico and raised Catholic, but when I stepped into Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Washington, it felt like home. It was like God whispered to me that he had been with me the whole time, but I was just looking in the wrong places.

Pastor Tom Voss encouraged me to go to MLC, where I met my wife, Hailey, and graduated with a degree in secondary social studies education. After graduation, I taught upper grades at my home congregation, Holy Trinity, and then served as an instructor and dorm supervisor at Nebraska LHS and California LHS. This is my second year as an admissions counselor at MLC.

His message to you: I like to share the following statistics with high school students. About 30% of college first-years will drop out of college, and 37% will transfer out of their chosen college to a second college. That just shows how rare it is for any high school senior to really know what they want to do with their life. We understand that! That's why, when you talk to an MLC admissions counselor, we first talk about your hopes and dreams, your gifts and talents. Then we talk about how those might intersect with ministry. And if you're really not sure—like so many students—we encourage you to give MLC a try.

Her story: Where I am in the ministry right now is totally because of God's doing. And a little bit of my dad's. He was my biggest influence because he made his "job" look so much fun! He was a PE teacher and coach. So I decided to give it a try. The rest is history. Call #1: MVL as a PE teacher and coach. Call #2: St. Paul-Lake Mills, Wisconsin, PE teacher and coach. Call #3: Trinity-Nicollet, Minnesota, grade 6-8 teacher, AD, and coach. Call #4: MLC, PE professor and women's volleyball coach. Now? I am privileged to share all of these experiences with you as your admissions counselor. Go, Knights!

Her message to you: 1. Pray often about your future. 2. Evaluate your God-given gifts. 3. Do your college research. 4. Listen to those around you that care about you most. 5. Trust the call . . . Who can make a better decision concerning our future in ministry than our Lord?

You might not know: I almost became a flight attendant. My favorite attire is hanging out in shorts and a tee. And Nikes, of course.

KRISTIN UHER



**KRISTIN
UHER**

Wisconsin LHS '18

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Life
Science Education

Minor: Science

*Student Senate, STEM&M,
College Choir, Forum (actor
in Oz, head of props for
Cat in the Hat, head of
costumes for Big Fish), piano
lessons, Campus Beautification
Committee, RA and
Centennial Hall dorm
supervisor, jobs at bookstore
and receptionist desk, STEM
Camp teacher, Soccer
Camp coach*

Early Field Experiences (EFE)

every year: EFE 1 is the first taste of teaching, and it is awesome that we get to experience it right away, during our first year. It gives us a chance to interact with students at different grade levels and teach a subject of our own choosing. I got to teach a science lesson all about fingerprints. It was so fun to see the fourth and fifth graders identify the patterns of each of their fingerprints and see how God has made each of them unique.

Teaching tools and toys—she

found them: The Curriculum Room is filled with all sorts of materials, manipulatives, toys, textbooks, teacher's manuals, and tools for planning and teaching lessons on all different subjects. These items and more can be checked out from the library by students as they practice teaching.

It's not just STEM, it's STEM&M:

STEM&M stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, & Ministry. Members of this club set up STEM-related challenges for the student body to try while employing science and engineering principles. Some recent challenges included making strong rope out of toilet paper and making aluminum foil boats that could hold lots of candy hearts. This club is also looking outside of the MLC campus to the area grade schools to get the students there involved in STEM activities too.

Student Senate serves: Being involved in Student Senate has given me many opportunities to serve my fellow students while using and improving my gifts. I got to head up the Winter Carnival Committee this past year, gaining leadership experience I can apply to my future ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD: She's ready

for anything—K-12! When I graduate, I'll be able to teach any grade from K to 12. I enjoy working with kids of all ages and am eager to get teaching! If God places me in a high school, I'd be excited to teach science. Wherever I end up, I'd love to get involved in any sort of drama program that the school may have, as well as music and sports programs.

The inside look from teacher-parents:

I've wanted to be a teacher since I was little. Both of my parents are WELS teachers, and I always wanted to be just like them. Growing up, my siblings and I used to play school, and we'd teach lessons to each other and hand out assignments drawn in crayon or marker. I had my mom as a teacher in both third and fifth grade and my dad as a teacher in seventh grade. Having teacher-parents gave me an inside look at what teaching would be like, so I'm excited I get to join them in the ministry soon!

HER ADVICE: Take a look at Romans 12:4-8 and then take stock of your gifts and talents. God made you just how he wants you to be, and he's given you all the tools and abilities you need to serve him. Ponder where your gifts may be best utilized to serve God and others, whether in the public ministry or as a layperson in your church. Also, listen to the people around you, your teachers, pastors, relatives, and friends. They know you and can see how your gifts might be well used.



EARLY FIELD EXPERIENCE

Not sure whether teaching is for you? No problem. At MLC, we offer Early Field Experiences already your first year of college! This on-campus weeklong event gives you a glimpse into all different aspects of teaching, including an opportunity to teach your own class—like Kristin Uher, *pictured here*.

It's another way we help you clarify your thoughts and find the path that's best for you and your gifts. Read about EFE 2019 here:

mlc-wels.edu/EFE-story



CARSON OESTREICH



**CARSON
OESTREICH**

Pierce HS '20 – Pierce, Nebraska

MLC '24 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Football, track & field, guitar lessons, Männerchor (men's choir), Studies in Pastoral Ministries (SPAM) Committee, weight room supervisor job

Yeah, he had offers: I was blessed to receive scholarship offers to play football at colleges around my area, and I seriously thought about taking one of the offers and going into law enforcement. I eventually decided to decline these offers and follow my passion for pursuing public ministry.

Does MLC take football seriously?

As I considered coming to MLC, I really wondered how serious everyone would be about the football team. I now see that all the coaches and players make football a big part of their daily lives, but they also do an outstanding job of making sure to prioritize faith over everything.

So many reasons to love MLC

football: Being involved in football gave me a chance to meet lifelong friends. Football has taught me many lessons too. The coaches don't only make winning important, but they continually teach us how to be faithful leaders in the real world and how to get through adversity in life. This is a very important characteristic to have as we all train to be ministers of the gospel.

Encouragement from all quarters:

Being at a public school, I never told anyone about my consideration of the ministry. Even without telling anyone these thoughts, I had a few of my public school teachers tell me I should consider the ministry. And my parents were very supportive of my decision and helped provide advice.

KEY QUESTION: Do public school students fit in at MLC?

Something that surprised me about MLC was the students here and how much fun college can be. Coming from a public school, I was worried I wouldn't fit in. But everyone here has the same passion in their hearts for attending this school. As soon as I stepped onto campus, I immediately had that in common with all of the other students.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love to start out my ministry by being part of a mission church. The challenges behind growing a small church are something I'd love to take on.

HIS ADVICE: Don't keep your thoughts about your future to yourself. Make use of the adults and others around you. Discuss with them the pros and cons of certain decisions. Most importantly, pray and ask God for guidance as you narrow down your decision. Jeremiah 29:11 helped me as I prayerfully considered my future. God has a plan for everyone. Trust his process, and you'll find yourself walking in God's footsteps as he paves a road for your life.



FOOTBALL AT MLC

If you play football at MLC, you'll be stepping into a top-flight program. In 2018 and 2019, the Knights were undefeated in the UMAC, and 14 different players earned All-UMAC First Team honors. You'll be playing for a two-time UMAC Coach of the Year in Coach Mark Stein. To see the latest news on Knights football, as well as this year's roster and schedule, go to mlcknights.com/sports/football.



RUTH BUCHHOLZ



**RUTH
BUCHHOLZ**

*Arizona Lutheran Academy '16
Teacher at Kingdom Prep LHS*

MLC '21

Major: Life Science

Minor: Science

*Activities at MLC: Volleyball
(Second Team All-UMAC)
basketball, president of Student
Athletic Advisory Committee,
president of The Heart of
Teaching (urban ministry
committee), RA and Augustana
dorm supervisor, Bible study
leader, piano and organ
lessons, Women's Choir,
intramurals, track coach
at MVLHS, New Ulm
volleyball referee*

Ruth graduated from MLC in 2021 and was assigned to teach science at Kingdom Prep LHS. She had emergency-taught at Kingdom Prep in 2019-2020.

What's your dream call? For most of college, I never had an answer to that. I was excited to go anywhere, because I'm a firm believer that there are good things and good people no matter where you are.

Turns out, her dream call is teaching at an all-boys high school: At Kingdom Prep, I'll teach physical science and biology, serve as a pack leader for about 12 boys, and coach track & field. I'm also part of the Worship Committee and Exploration Thursday planning teams. Exploration Thursday is a unique program where we end classes early each week and provide students with new experiences. Sometimes it's job-related, sometimes it's working to transform their community, and sometimes it's bobsledding.

We're urban-adjacent: One of the best things MLC did was connect me with the Center for Urban Teaching. I would encourage everyone to utilize the partnership MLC has with CfUT and teach in a city for at least one summer. When I first started, I didn't want to teach in a big city, but I knew they would teach me good, solid teaching practices that I could use anywhere. Then, after my emergency call at Kingdom Prep, I knew that I really enjoyed being there, and as we approached Call Day, I was really hoping I would be called back.

Back in high school, she couldn't decide: Going into senior year, I was pretty sure I wanted to be a teacher,

but I loved science and was strongly considering following in my mom's footsteps and becoming a nurse. In December, I shadowed a nurse and really loved it. I could clearly picture my life as both a nurse and a teacher, and I knew there wasn't a wrong decision. Through many prayers and tearful conversations with my mom and a few teachers, I decided to be a teacher. I majored in life science because it seemed like the best compromise between the two professions.

SHOUT-OUTS: My campus pastor and volleyball coach, **Pastor Brad Bode**, encouraged me to become a teacher. He was good at pointing out how I could use my gifts in my ministry. My choir and band director, **Andrea Oppermann**, was also a big influence. The way she built relationships with her students and talked with us about the real-life challenges and blessings helped me see how much of a positive influence a teacher can have on their students. At MLC, I had so many wonderful professors. **Professors Paul Grubbs, Steve Thiesfeldt, and Greg Diersen** come to mind as excellent examples of the called worker I want to be.

HER ADVICE: As you contemplate your decision for this next step, know that God has a purpose and a plan for your life. Choose a college that will help you find God's purpose for you on this side of eternity. Some colleges do this better than others. If you choose to go to a public university, take advantage of opportunities to share your faith through your words and actions, and surround yourself with people who will help you continue to live for Christ.



Kingdom Prep

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL



Meet THE ALUMNI



**URBAN
MINISTRY
AT MLC**

MLC offers targeted training to prepare teachers for service in urban settings. Our Urban Educational Ministry minor offers coursework and immersive field experiences in Milwaukee, Minneapolis, Chicago, Baton Rouge, and New York City. We also partner with the Center for Urban Teaching in Milwaukee. For more information, go to mlc-wels.edu/academics/urban-educational-ministry.



RYAN KLUBA



**RYAN
KLUBA**

Manitowoc LHS '18

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Secondary Instrumental
Music Education

Major: Secondary Vocal
Music Education

Forum (three-time president of Forum Board and also actor, producer, music director, or director for seven productions), College Choir, Wind Symphony, Praise Ensemble, voice and instrumental lessons, counselor at WELS Band Camp, co-president & music director at Peter Quince Performing Company and music director mentor at Treehouse Theater (both Manitowoc community theater companies)

Breaking a leg for the team: In Forum, I've learned a great deal about what it means to be a servant leader. I've been given the wonderful privilege of being elected as president for three years. It's allowed me to work with others to oversee our organization and to understand the intricacies that make it function each year. I love the team effort that everyone puts in to put on each of our four productions. And no production team is the same, so you're always meeting new people and establishing friendships.

How much of a commitment is Forum? That's up to you! It all depends on how much time you want to put in.

LOOKING AHEAD: He'd love to do theater in a Lutheran high school:

I've found great joy in conducting a group of musicians through a musical production. Theater is a place for students to express themselves and bond over a multi-layer process. A fellow student at MLC asked me, "Why did you cast me in your show? I've auditioned countless times before, but have never made it. Why me?" I was able to tell them they were excellent for the role and they had what it took to make our show amazing. It's these moments that I strive to repeat—filling students with the confidence that they're good enough and that hard work pays off.

Since Second Grade: I've wanted to be a teacher since second grade. My twin sister and I would force our older sister to play school with us when we were younger. My older sister, **Katie Krug**, went on to graduate from MLC in December 2015, and currently teaches down in Kissimmee, Florida. It was the visits to New Ulm when she was a student that sealed the deal. Her path and impact allowed me to see what was possible.

SHOUT-OUTS: My high school music and theater teachers, **Mrs. Natosha Cole**, **Mr. Joel Ungemach**, and **Mrs. Renee Schmill**, are great role models for me, and they pushed me to pursue a music education degree at MLC.

HIS ADVICE: Pray about it. Never underestimate the power of prayer. It's okay to struggle with this decision, and it's okay to come to MLC just to give it a try.



MLC
FORUM

If you like to act, sing, dance, or entertain, come break a leg at MLC—like Ryan Kluba, here portraying the Narrator in *Dr. Seuss's The Cat in the Hat*. Forum is one of the most active organizations on campus, staging four productions per year: fall musical, one-act play, spring play, and children's theater. About 20% of the student body gets involved with at least one Forum production per year, whether on stage, backstage, or in the pit. **Learn more** at mlc-wels.edu/forum.



LEXI DABE



**LEXI
DABE**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary '19

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Early Childhood Education

*Student Senate Executive
Committee, RA, organ
lessons, Chorale, pastoral
administrative assistant at
Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati*

When your summer job is ministry:

Last summer, I worked at my church, Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati, as a pastoral administrative assistant. This included drafting bulletins, stuffing mailboxes, answering the phone, managing enrollment forms, tracking attendance, and many other church secretary things! I also had the opportunity to plan and run a variety of events, including vacation Bible school, STEAM/Sports Camp, Teen Group, and Sunday school. Since I didn't grow up in a called worker family, it's truly been a blessing to see the ins and outs of ministry. They've given me a taste of what my future ministry will be like!

She can't wait to be a resident

assistant (RA): From the moment I stepped on campus, I've heard over and over again, "Relationships. Ministry is all about relationships!" Therefore, I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve my fellow students as an RA. I can't wait to be someone that students can turn to if they need advice, if they need a shoulder to cry on, or if they need a friend to laugh with! What an honor!

Pleasant Surprises: One thing that surprised me about MLC was how kind, supportive, and encouraging the student body is! I've made so many lifelong friends, and I can't wait to support and lean on one another when we're all in the mission field! Another thing that surprised me was how much the Chapel of the Christ has become my solace. College is hard—there's no denying it! But it's such a relief to return to the Lord's house twice a day and be reminded of God's amazing love. And to be reminded of God's promises with my brothers and sisters in Christ is a blessing unlike any other!

LOOKING AHEAD: Though I don't know what the Lord has in store, I'd love to serve as an early childhood director someday! One of the most amazing blessings of ministry is that, unlike other jobs, there is so much flexibility in what you could end up doing! As an early childhood major, I could serve as a preschool teacher in Wisconsin or an early childhood director in Florida or a primary grades teacher in Colorado. How cool!

Still unsure sometimes—and that's

OK: I didn't decide to come to MLC until April of my senior year, and there are still times when I'm unsure if the public ministry is for me! But what I am sure of is this: There's simply no career more eternally rewarding than serving in God's mission field every day. Sometimes I imagine sitting in heaven and seeing all the parents and students in whom God worked faith through me. To know I had even a small part in spreading the gospel message to them is the most incredible feeling!

HER ADVICE: I'd encourage spending time in prayer! Talk to your teachers, pastors, parents, grandparents, and friends about what gifts from God they see in you. And, in the end, know that whatever decision you make will be the right one! God will use you in unimaginable ways in whatever vocation you choose. And I pray that this passage, which brought me a lot of comfort when I was struggling with my college decision, does the same for you! "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. . . . In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps" (Proverbs 16:3,9).



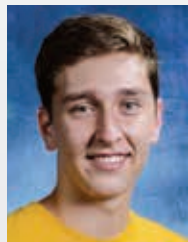
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Did you know that WELS has more preschools than elementary schools? It's true. And these early childhood ministries need teachers! If you love the littles, consider an MLC degree in early childhood education. You'll learn everything from infant and toddler care to creating a literacy program for kindergartners. With an ECE degree, you might be assigned as a second grade teacher, a lead teacher in a 4K program, an early childhood director apprentice . . . Imagine being the person who first tells a child—and then their family—about the Savior who loves them!

mlc-wels.edu/academics/early_childhood



AARON BODE



**AARON
BODE**

Arizona Lutheran Academy '20

MLC '24 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Coaching

*Baseball, intramurals,
Männerchor (men's choir),
piano lessons, Events
Committee for MLC Alumni
Association, student athletic
trainer job, Sunday
school teacher*

He Wasn't Sure: I didn't always know MLC was the school for me. My other option was Grand Canyon University, which is less than 20 minutes from my house. I didn't fully commit to MLC until a quarter into my senior year. After having effective meetings with my admissions counselors, Unke and Thomford, and finally getting to see campus my junior year, I was slightly leaning towards MLC. Another visit by an MLC counselor at the beginning of my senior year sealed the deal.

KEY QUESTION: **What if I don't know anyone at MLC?** When I arrived on campus in the fall, I knew fewer than 10 people. Getting involved played a huge role in branching out and making new friends. While playing baseball, I had the opportunity to grow and create strong bonds with my classmates, as well as upperclassmen. Two other activities that helped me grow and meet new people were Männerchor and working as a student trainer. While I was in choir, I met a large group of guys from my class, both teacher and pastor track. Being a student trainer was also a huge help because I was introduced to many athletes in every grade.

He loves his MLC job: When you think about a part-time job, you don't expect it to be enjoyable. That was a surprise for me, because working in the trainers' office was a lot of fun. I met many new people, and I learned skills that I will most likely use in my future ministry.

LOOKING AHEAD: We have no idea what God has planned for us, but we do know that whatever he has planned will be a blessing for us. I would really enjoy teaching a younger grade in elementary school such as kindergarten or first grade, as well as coaching. I grew up playing sports at a WELS grade school, so it would bring it full circle for me to coach at a WELS grade school someday.

SHOUT-OUT: Watching how **Coach Randy Cox** runs a baseball practice and how he manages a team will certainly help me in my future ministry.

HIS ADVICE: You shouldn't be worried if you haven't decided where to attend college quite yet. You don't want to rush yourself. Whatever decision you make, you know that God has a plan for you, and he will work it out in the end.

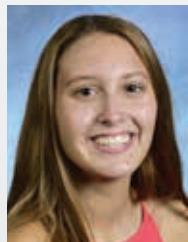


BASEBALL AT MLC

Step into the batter's box and take a swing at Knights baseball, coached by former UMAC Coach of the Year Randy Cox. Who wouldn't want to start spring early by traveling to Florida for preseason baseball games? To see the latest news on Knights baseball, as well as this year's roster and schedule, go to mlcknights.com/sports/baseball.



KATIE FINK



**KATIE
FINK**

Shoreland LHS '19

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Early Childhood Education

*Student Ambassador for
Admissions Office, football
team manager, Women's Choir,
piano lessons, VBS teacher*

Campus Job 1: Hundreds of high

schoolers: As a Student Ambassador, I give tours of our campus to high schoolers and talk to them about what MLC has to offer. This year I'll also help plan Focus on Ministry trips and coordinate with high schools the details of their trip to New Ulm. I enjoy this because I get to help others look at MLC as their future college and help them see the possibilities here. For me, picking my college was easy, but I know it's not like that for everyone.

Campus Job 2: Fifty brothers:

I think managing the football team has taught me the most. I've learned time management along with multitasking. But the greatest part about this job is the feeling that I'm a part of a team. While I clearly don't play football, I feel as if I'm part of the football family, and I know if I ever need help I will have over 50 brothers in Christ willing to help.

LOOKING AHEAD: A girl can

dream: I'm in the Early Childhood program. It's always been my dream to teach kindergarten. However, I know that my placement is up to God, and wherever he sends me is where I'll serve him.

SHOUT-OUT: My kindergarten

teacher, **Mrs. Rose Greenstreet**, really inspired me to become a teacher. She still has had the biggest impact on me throughout all my schooling, and I want to be just like her.

When she was in second grade: There was an MLC table at my church, and I found out that's where our teachers go. Ever since that day, I've known MLC was the place for me. I was very blessed to know where I wanted to go at such a young age.

HER ADVICE: Pray about it. It's a big decision. God will lead you in the right direction—all you have to do is ask. Another big thing to remember is that you can serve God from anywhere. Obviously, we need pastors and teachers, but that's not the only way you can serve God. Be a light in your workplace, wherever it may be.

What's surprising about MLC:

Everyone at MLC is so kind, helpful, and understanding. I was definitely not expecting this. A great example of this is walking through the hallways on your way to classes the first week and getting lost. In high school, you might get laughed at. At MLC in my first week, I had to ask a lot of people where to go, and they helped me and were so kind about it and understood that it can be difficult for someone new.



STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

About 250 students work on the MLC campus in 450 jobs. (Yes, you can have two jobs!) If you have financial need, as demonstrated by your FAFSA, you may qualify for Federal Work Study. Whether you're an FWS student or not, check out all the opportunities available to you at mlc-wels.edu/student-employment.



EZRA BLUMER



**EZRA
BLUMER**

St. Croix Lutheran Academy '19

MLC '23 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Basketball, soccer, Student Ambassador for Admissions Office, Männerchor (men's choir), Bible study leader, high school ministry and praise band at Northcross-Lakeville MN, summer traveling ministry—presenting Teen Nights with his sister in the western US

Just a little internship—at the Olympics! This summer, I interned with NBC overseas in Tokyo for the Olympics. I'm writing this from Olympic Stadium in Tokyo, where I'm helping with the production of the opening ceremonies and track and field events.

Before he was a Knight, he was a Gopher: I started at the University of Minnesota double-majoring in marketing and entrepreneurial management, but my real ambition was to get into DI basketball coaching. So I managed the guys' basketball team for a year and got to travel and support the team and coaching staff. I went through some pretty intense struggles with my faith during that time. But God sent some awesome guys who were trying to pursue Jesus at a major university, and they significantly changed my perspective. They encouraged me to take my faith seriously through personal devotion, community, prayer, church, and living differently. Something clicked, and I found Jesus filling every need. From there my faith was strengthened more and more each day, and I started to want to help others through the same trials I'd experienced. I brought this thought to my friends, and I thought they'd talk me out of it, but instead they pushed me toward it. I decided to come to MLC. I miss the U of M and my friends there, but I know what I'm doing now will have an impact that will last for so much longer!

Guys' group—growing in faith together: We started our "guys' group" first semester last year, and it demonstrates the type of environment MLC provides. Twenty guys on our floor meet weekly to talk about our walk with Jesus that week. What was hard? What went well? What do we

need prayers for? Becoming a called worker requires a lot of academic knowledge about the Bible, but it can be easy to simply view the Bible through the academic lens and forget about your own personal walk with Jesus. This is where guys' group comes in. Along with daily chapel, our group is a reminder that the life of a Christian and a called worker runs so much deeper than academic knowledge.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love the opportunity to plant a new mission church in one of the major American cities. I've lived in or near a city my entire life, and it's very sad to see the brokenness and sin within our cities. I'd love to help provide the only thing that can heal that brokenness, which is Jesus. If that could go hand in hand with a campus ministry, that would be awesome as well.

HIS ADVICE: Ask yourself, How do I want to make an impact? 1. *What's important to you?* Do you want a family life? Do you want to be there for your kids? Do you want a job where your faith can thrive? 2. *What are your gifts?* Take an inventory. You want to steward these in the best possible way, so know what they are and use them. 3. *Lean on others.* God has gifted you with other people. Ask them what they think you should do. Sometimes your parents know you better than you know yourself—ask them. 4. *Pray.* Try it. Trust me!

KEY QUESTION: **What if I'm a city kid? Will I fit in?** If you're a city kid and think there's no one here like you, there is! Trust me. There are people here from all demographics, backgrounds, and walks of life. There will be people here that you can lean on for support no matter where you may come from.



Meet THE STUDENTS



CAMPUS CULTURE AT MLC

You can be a global traveler or a country kid who's barely left home. Either way, you'll find your place at MLC. Here we're united by shared goals, a sense of community, and a vibrant campus culture—one based on the gospel of Jesus and marked by spiritual growth, service, and mission-mindedness. We offer twice-daily chapel, religion classes, student- and professor-led Bible studies, and service projects. You'll definitely grow here. It's a campus culture like no other!

SYDNEY & ASHLEY PETERSON



**SYDNEY
PETERSON**

Great Plains LHS '17

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Instrumental
Music Education

*Golf, volleyball, Chorale,
Wind Symphony, piano and
instrumental lessons,
intramurals, music division
TA, Fitness Center supervisor,
summer music teacher at
Rock of Ages-Payson AZ*

SYDNEY

Sometimes you just know: I've always known I wanted to go to MLC and be a teacher. It wasn't just one person that inspired me, but everyone. I saw the love of God in each of my teachers, and I wanted to be part of a profession that's centered on displaying that love.

Best summer job ever: The church in Payson, Arizona, holds summer music lessons and a music VBS. Being a part of the program for the last two summers has been such a privilege. I grew as a person and as a teacher. I had my own classroom, and I grew to love music on an even deeper level. Rock of Ages will forever hold a place in my heart.

LOOKING AHEAD: Ideally, I'd like to be an elementary school teacher with classroom music. But I love a good surprise and am excited to see where the Lord sends me! As Isaiah 6:8 says, "Here am I. Send me!"

HER ADVICE: Whatever you do, the Lord will guide you and use you for his purpose. It's easy to view called ministers as the only ones fulfilling the gospel goal. But in all we do, we have the opportunity to share the good news with everyone around us. Just live your life out of love for God, and he will guide your way.

Who knew MLC would be home?

I always thought it would just be school. But each August when I go back, I feel at peace knowing I am where I am supposed to be.

ASHLEY

A change of direction: I was in education at MLC for one year, but I got to EFE 1 and realized teaching wasn't for me. I took a year off to figure out what I wanted to do. Then my twin sister brought up the idea of staff ministry. I looked at what my schedule would be, and I was enrolled in classes a week later.

What drew her to staff ministry:

What drew me was that I could help people in a variety of ways—from parish education to youth ministry to member care and more. It all depends on what the church needs.

Getting practice: This summer I served as an intern for Chaplains in Schools in Milwaukee. Typically, I get very nervous when I have to present to a crowd of people, but I got to lead large assembly devotions every day of the summer school program, and it gave me confidence in what I hope to do in the future. It was very practical and made me more sure of my calling.



**ASHLEY
PETERSON**

Great Plains LHS '17

MLC '22 / Staff Ministry

Major: Staff Ministry

*Chorale, intramurals,
piano lessons, summer
intern at Chaplains in
Schools-Milwaukee*

KEY QUESTION: **Can you change your mind?** If it requires some time to figure out where your passions lie, that is completely fine. There's no shame in not knowing what field you want to get into. There's also no shame in changing your mind.

You can serve God . . . in any field he puts you. You don't have to be a called worker to be a messenger of the gospel. That's the privilege all Christians have.

HER ADVICE: If you're unsure, I'd encourage you to consider MLC. Even if you don't continue into the called ministry, MLC is a college like no other. The campus really is a family because of the Christ-like love that pours through the hallways.



EDUCATION AND STAFF MINISTRY AT MLC

At MLC, you can follow your gifts and your passions to your future ministry. A wide variety of education majors will prepare the way, including early childhood ed, elementary ed, special ed, and secondary ed (which offers many different subject-area majors). Maybe add a minor in coaching, urban ministry, science, Spanish . . . Not sure the classroom is a perfect fit? Try the parish music program or the staff ministry program, which prepares you for a wide variety of non-preaching congregational ministries, from worship coordinator to youth minister to church administrator. Want to double-major? We'll let you! Start exploring at mlc-wels.edu/academics/degrees.



YAFFET GABAYEHU



**YAFFET
GABAYEHU**

*Luther Prep '13
Tutor at Luther Prep*

MLC '17 / WLS '21

MLC Major: Biblical Languages,
Classical

MLC Minor: Spanish for Pastors

WLS: Master of Divinity

*Activities at MLC: Football,
tennis, RA, Chorale, job in
Fitness Center, Student
Ambassador for Admissions
Office, Events Team, Service
& Cross-Cultural Learning
Committee, piano
lessons, intramurals*

Yaffet graduated from MLC in 2017 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021. He was assigned to his alma mater, Luther Prep, as a religion instructor, dorm supervisor, and JV football coach.

How does “Dr. Gabayehu” sound?

I was initially thinking about the medical field. I liked people, and I wanted to serve them, and it would've been a whole different story—probably a great one too. But as a pastor, I get to serve people in a manner that's just as important, if not more so. I get to share the gospel and create these relationships so we can serve Christ together in this life and ultimately live together in heaven.

SHOUT-OUTS: So many LPS faculty members pulled me aside and gave me encouraging words about MLC. **Tutor Aaron Schumann** was great. When I was going through tough times, he knew exactly what to say. My mom had a big impact on me, encouraging me to try it out. And my pastors in Dallas, **John Koelpin** and **John Vieths**, and their families gave both direct and indirect encouragements. “Man, these are men of God,” I thought, “and I'd love to be a servant like them.” I'm still trying to do that every day.

From MLC to the seminary: I feel like MLC more than prepared us to handle the Greek and Hebrew biblical studies at the seminary. And by senior year at MLC, there's a new level of maturity. My preseminary classmates and I knew we were taking the next step. We knew being under-shepherds of Christ is an important calling, and we were looking forward to it. We wanted to do that boldly, humbly, in a way that would

encourage guys under us to do the same thing. That's the theme in the pastor track—the camaraderie and the brotherhood.

The student is now the tutor: It's dawning on me how much I didn't know about what the Prep tutors did when I was a student here. It's an important job, and I'm humbled and blessed to carry it out. I'm going to learn a lot from my peers and from the students, as I get to know them. I remember how special the tutor-student relationships were for me. I want to do that for my students—give them both law and gospel in as specific a way as possible and encourage them to serve God, whatever they do. Maybe that's MLC!

HIS ADVICE— Take 1: If you love God, love his people, and love his Word, then try out MLC. MLC will equip you with the tools you need to serve the people around you and serve your God in a way that's so rewarding because you get to be the person who shares the message of the gospel. It's a unique and wonderful mission and calling. And MLC gives you the tools to do it.

HIS ADVICE— Take 2: If you're thinking of the pastoral ministry, find a pastor you can talk to openly about anything—reservations you have or any excitement you have. It's good just to have someone to chat with, and because it's an open conversation, it doesn't have to lean one way or the other. It's just getting things on the table and hashing it out.



PRESEMINARY STUDIES AT MLC

If you're interested in sharing the gospel as a pastor, MLC is the place for you. Our four-year BA program emphasizes theology and the biblical languages (Greek and Hebrew), but you'll do so much more than go to class. You can play sports, sing in choir, do ministry and volunteer work, and—of course—enjoy dorm life. At MLC, you'll grow spiritually, mentally, emotionally, and socially. Upon program completion, you can apply to Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, where you'll finish your pastoral training. For more information, go to mlc-wels.edu/academics/pre-seminary_program



JENNA BOGGS



**JENNA
BOGGS**

Luther Prep '19

MLC '24 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Social
Studies Education

*Student Senate, president
of Art in Ministry, Forum
(actor in Big Fish, Spamalat,
The Mouse that Roared),
Praise Ensemble, Chorale,
piano lessons, RA, library
job, worship team at
Divine Savior-West Palm
Beach, Florida*

Here comes the president: Being president of AIM (Art in Ministry club) was such a blessing last year. I worked with lots of great people to create events that combined people's artistic talents and our ministry—things like making cards for Jesus Cares and a mother's group at church. Being part of a club at MLC helped me to become better at leading meetings and planning larger events such as Bob Ross Night. This will translate well into my future ministry, when I have to plan things for my classroom and church.

Join the club: Prospective students should be excited about the many opportunities to get involved with clubs like AIM, STEM&M, and Anchor. It gets you involved at school while supplementing your studies with things you're passionate about. And the best part about our clubs is how Christ-centered they are. Whether science or art, you know our faith will be central to them.

KEY QUESTION: **What do MLC students do outside class?** What surprised me the most about attending MLC is the variety of things you can be involved in. Whether it be president of AIM or STEM&M, part of the Student Senate, captain of the football team, or part of the paint crew for plays, there is always something you can get involved in. MLC has been one of the biggest blessings in my life.

Back home in West Palm Beach: Last summer I was really involved with our worship team at church. I sang and recorded for just about every Sunday service that we posted on Facebook and YouTube. I also helped lead our VBS and created a video for that.

She always thought she'd be a teacher, but . . . in high school I realized I did have other options. I remember a career day test told me I should be a doctor. But when my family moved to Florida and I transferred to Luther Prep, I saw just how my path was leading me into ministry. One professor in particular, **Professor Mark Schroeder**, told me in class that he would trust me to teach his kids. I think that was the moment that solidified my desire to go to MLC. Now I can't imagine having gone anywhere else.

Sometimes it's a family affair: Two of my siblings have gone to MLC, and the third wants to follow in our footsteps. The first six of my 24 cousins have gone to MLC as well.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'm really excited to go wherever God leads me through my call one day. My dream has always been to be a tutor, like my dad was. But I could be teaching first grade and I would be happy with that as well!

HER ADVICE: Pray. God is here to help you through a time that seems like one decision can ruin or make your future. Yet whatever you choose, MLC or another school, God will guide you through. Also, talk to students who have made the decision to go to MLC. Chances are they had the same struggles as you and can share lots of advice and ways that helped them shape their decision.



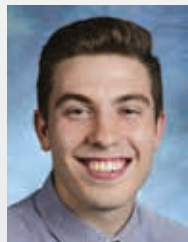
CAMPUS LIFE AT MLC

Our students don't go home on weekends. They stay here and have a blast with cocurriculars like music, drama, athletics, intramurals, and clubs. You and your friends can get funding to form your own club—from chess to disc golf to art. Of course, big events mark the calendar as well: Homecoming, Winter Carnival, and Swine Sizzler are huge. And then there are the informal activities that make college so memorable: sledding, hiking, ice skating, swimming, going to a game, grabbing a latte at one of the great coffee shops downtown, or running to Mankato or the Twin Cities for a concert. There's no end to the fun at MLC.

mlc-wels.edu/student-life



JACOB PRICE



**JACOB
PRICE**

Northland LHS '17

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Vocal
Music Education

*Basketball, College Choir,
Praise Ensemble, Forum (actor
in Camelot, Crazy for You,
and Big Fish), music lessons
(piano, voice, and guitar),
music coordination at
St. Peter-Schofield WI, AAU
basketball coach, voice
clinician at Wausau
Conservatory of Music*

A dream come true: Being a member of a college basketball team was a dream of mine since I was a kid! While some things were just as I'd pictured, the bond that the teams over the years shared and the life lessons I learned far exceeded any of my expectations. It's truly special to take the court with guys who share both the same faith and a love for playing the game at a high level. Go, Knights!

Something else he'll never forget: College Choir! To sing five days a week with such talented musicians who also share your faith is an experience that doesn't come around often! I love to reflect on all the ways we were able to share our faith and bring the life-giving Word to people all across the world. I'm grateful I was able to be part of this long-standing tradition for four years.

KEY QUESTION: Can you be an athlete and a musician at MLC?

Yes! I get to see every day how MLC enables young people to live out 1 Peter 4:10—using all gifts in service to others—both now and in future ministries. The faculty and staff understand the importance of students being involved in cocurriculars for their own enjoyment and for ministry preparation.

LOOKING AHEAD: A teacher that busts the stereotypes: I'd love to be involved in both the music and sports programs at a school someday. I hope to impress on my students that it's good to use any and all of your God-given talents, even if the

combination of them may not fit stereotypes of the world. At the same time, what is most exciting to me about ministry is the opportunity to share and live my faith while guiding students in the way of the Lord and in knowledge for this life.

Did he have moments of indecision? Definitely. At times, I thought about going into the sports industry, either sports management or physical therapy.

SHOUT-OUT: One teacher in particular, **Mr. Marc Shambeau**, through both his example and his encouragement in the classroom and on the court, helped push me toward ministry. I'd also say that as my love for coaching basketball and teaching music grew, I knew that being a WELS teacher and using those skills on a daily basis was the right thing for me.

HIS ADVICE: First, don't ever underestimate the power of prayer! Talk to God for guidance as you reflect on your gifts and interests to see where they best fit! Then, once you make a decision, live in the moment! Each choice we make is simply a learning experience. If you stick with that decision like I did, great! If you change your mind and decide to do something else, that's fine too! Just remember two things: to use what you learned and to trust that God is at your side every step of your life!



ATHLETICS AND THE ARTS AT MLC

Can you play sports and sing in a choir at MLC? And maybe even play in band and act in a play? Yes, at MLC you can. It takes discipline, good time management skills, and strong relationships with your professors, but students do it. We want you to develop all your gifts while you're here. That way you're even more qualified, more well rounded, as a teacher, pastor, or staff minister.

PAYING FOR

How Will You Pay for College?

PARENT CONTRIBUTION

Thanks, parents! It would be very difficult for your student to pay for college without your help!

STUDENT CONTRIBUTION

You're probably working hard to save money for college right now. You may continue to work while attending MLC too.

JOBS: Find on-campus and off-campus jobs at mlc-wels.edu/student-employment. You may be eligible for work-study jobs, which become part of your financial aid package.

SCHOLARSHIPS*

- **MLC Merit Scholarships** – You don't have to apply. We award you money based on your cumulative GPA and your ACT score as an incoming first-year student. These are renewable.

MLC SCHOLARSHIPS

National Merit: \$4,000 to each Merit Finalist

Presidential: \$3,000 to student ranked first in their class and/or earning a 4.00 GPA

Messenger: \$2,000 for 3.75-4.00 GPA or ACT score of 30-36.

Witness: \$1,500 for 3.50-3.74 GPA or ACT score of 27-29.

mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/scholarships

- **Outside Scholarships** – You should apply for every scholarship you can while in high school—from your community, your employer, your parents' employer, etc.

You can also search online for outside scholarships.
mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/scholarships/#outside-scholarships

GRANTS*

- **WELS subsidy:** The synod pays for part of your college education even before you see the bill.
- **Need-based grants** are awarded to you based on the information you supply on your FAFSA.

NEED-BASED GRANTS include MLC Grants, Federal Pell Grants, Minnesota State Grants, and others.

- **CPGP:** Ask your congregation to assist you through the Congregational Partner Grant Program.

CPGP: If your congregation gives you a grant through the CPGP, MLC will match it, dollar for dollar, up to \$1,000. Deadline: July 15. mlc-wels.edu/cpgp

** All SCHOLARSHIPS and GRANTS are “free money.” You don't have to pay them back.*

LOANS

These are a last resort, but for many students, they are necessary. You must pay your loan back—along with accrued interest—after you graduate. So don't borrow any more than you need!

Available loans include Federal Direct Student Loans (subsidized/unsubsidized), private student loans, Direct Parent PLUS loans, and alternative Parent PLUS loans. See mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/loans.

WHAT WILL MY COSTS BE?

Use MLC's net price online calculator to get an estimate.

mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid/estimate



COLLEGE 101

How to Apply for Financial Aid (Scholarships, Grants, Loans)

1. Create your **FSA ID** (Federal Student Aid Identification) at studentaid.gov/fsa-id.
2. Complete the **FAFSA** (Free Application for Federal Aid) online at fafsa.gov.
 - You can file the FAFSA for your first year of college beginning October 1 of your senior year in high school.
 - MLC's school code is 002361.
3. Complete the separate **MLC Financial Aid Application** (mlc-wels.edu/finaid-app) and submit it to the MLC Financial Aid Office.

Due date for both the FAFSA and the MLC Financial Aid Application:

 - April 15 for the following fall semester OR
 - November 1 for the following spring semester

Applications received after the deadline will forfeit MLC need-based financial aid.
4. You may have to provide **additional documents**. This is simply to verify the information you supplied on your FAFSA.
5. Review your **financial aid award!** Watch for the email telling you it's ready.

mlc-wels.edu/apply-for-financial-aid



We take our students' financial wellbeing very seriously. Our financial wellness coordinator, JoElyn Krohn, helps students enhance their money management skills through our financial wellness program, MLC Direction.

Mrs. Krohn is available to meet with any student to make plans for the future and to discuss relevant topics: paying off loans, budgeting, using credit cards, creating an emergency fund, and even saving for retirement.

Our New Website Answers Your Questions *Even If You're Not Coming to MLC*

MLC has a new financial aid website—and it's not only for the Knight Nation.

The MLC website will help you figure out the world of college financial aid—even if you're going to a different college. This is just one way the WELS College of Ministry serves all WELS students and their families.

The site has answers for several groups of people who wonder about the cost of college and about planning for those costs:

- Pre-high school students
- High school students
- College students
- Post-college students
- Parents

And, of course, the site contains all the answers you need if you're coming specifically to MLC, including our financial aid packages and our Financial Wellness Program.

Check it out:
mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid



Please contact us if you have questions about the application process or your specific situation. We are more than happy to help you navigate this process.

507.233.9154 / mlcaid@mlc-wels.edu

Let's talk about ...
college ... ministry ... *you!*

ONE MISSION • Endless Opportunities

VISIT MLC



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

- **Choose a day** that works for you.
- **Experience campus life** with MLC students, faculty, and staff.
- **Enjoy** a personalized experience focused on your areas of interest.
- **Explore** ways to use your God-given talents as you prepare for ministry.

Set up your visit!
507.233.9133



mlc-wels.edu



@MLCAdmissions