

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Let Freedom in Christ Ring: MLK Day at MLC



"Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that."
– Martin Luther King Jr.

On Monday, students and faculty took the day off from classes and homework for a very important purpose. It wasn't really a "day off" at all, but more of a "day on"—a chance to reflect on the legacy of a man who stood for more than the furthering of his own agenda. Dr. King fought for love to reach into the darkest corners of each and every heart. This goal is one that we at MLC are focused on as well, if for no other reason than the Middle Eastern man with holes in his hands who showed his perfect love for us 2,000 years ago.

MLC's Service & Cross-Cultural Learning Committee planned the day, which began with a special chapel service and a presentation by Fletcher and Pat James about preaching the gospel with a heart of love for all. Special electives followed soon after, as well as a panel discussion (*pictured*), which included two members of our campus family, **JuanDa Escobar** (DSA / Divine Savior-Doral FL) and **Prof. Aaron Robinson**.

Pastor Terry Schultz was another esteemed guest of the day, leading a band of talented musicians in African spirituals for our morning worship. Senior **Matthew Rugen** (Michigan LHS / Grace-St. Joseph MI) was moved, saying, "It was great to be exposed to another type of worship and to participate by clapping to the songs."

Special electives included fine arts and music workshops, a chance to think more deeply about the problem of racism by analyzing a documentary, and a perspective-bending Social Dynamic Simulation activity. "The simulation took a bunch of students and polarized us socially on a bunch of issues," said first-year **Luke Wegner** (WISCO / St. Marcus-Milwaukee). "It became super clear just how toxic picking sides can be."

Senior **Chloe Robbert** (LPS / King of Kings-Wasilla AK) let the gears begin to turn, applying the day to her future ministry. She said, "We *will* have people in our classrooms and congregations who are dealing with racial inequality. We need to be ready for that, to love them."

Called workers—pastors, teachers, and staff ministers alike—will never be perfect vessels of the gospel. But MLK Day at MLC was all about doing what we can to educate ourselves about the challenges that some of our brothers and sisters in Christ face. The road forward can be a long and winding one, but our goal is simple: striving to let freedom in Christ ring to every nation, tribe, people, and tongue. Will you join us?



Brice Guse (LPS / St. Peter-Fond du Lac WI) delivers a speech during the simulation.



Olivia Robinson (LPS / Fairview-Milwaukee) and **Alyssa Thompson** (WISCO / St. Lucas-Milwaukee) enjoyed creating a flag together during the fine arts workshop.