

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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“To Be God’s Instrument”

Have you found yourself watching some awesome spiritual leaders in your life and imagining yourself in their shoes? So has **Tutor Philip Schroeder**. He said, “My tutors in high school and college were some of the greatest examples and encouragers for ministry. They lived it, spoke about it, and showed how much they loved it. I am privileged to follow in their footsteps!”

Tutor Schroeder really has taken ownership of his role as the dorm supervisor for Summit Hall, where most of the junior and senior men live here at MLC. In fact, he considers one of the greatest challenges of the job to be a blessing in disguise. “There’s a significant on-call nature to being a tutor,” he said. “Sometimes you just need to drop everything to help someone or take care of something, but that’s a good reflection of how life can be sometimes. I have great RAs, and the rest of the dorm staff are always willing to help.”

Tutor Schroeder has a strong desire to encourage young people to consider MLC. “I would encourage you to visit MLC at least once, talk to your pastor or teachers about ministry, and pray,” he said. “Paul writes to young Timothy in 1 Timothy 3:1, ‘Here is a trustworthy saying: Whoever aspires to be an overseer desires a noble task.’ This calling is to be God’s instrument in leading people to salvation—how awesome is that?”

“God Looks at the Heart”

Tutor Orié Thomford knew from a young age that he wanted to serve God with his life. Whether he was musing about life as a missionary in a faraway country or looking forward to religion class each day in school, Jesus seemed to always be on his mind and in his heart.

But the road to ministry isn’t always an easy one, and that’s ok. Tutor Thomford would be the first to admit that he encountered some struggles along the way. “I had two major roadblocks—I was shy, and I had a stutter . . . and was considering a job that requires lots of speaking and interacting with others,” he said. “But as I grew and received encouragement and help from my parents, teachers, and friends, God helped me get these apparent shortcomings under control. It turns out that preaching and speaking in front of others can be pretty fun! Rhetorical ability is something that can be learned, along with being outgoing.”

Tutor Thomford wants to see others overcome their own obstacles too. “Do you have the ability to be a called worker?” he asks. “Do you have the personality to be a called worker? The kind of servant that God delights in isn’t necessarily a rock star or a genius. God doesn’t look at athletics, your GPA, or how popular you are. God uses ordinary people and blesses their efforts. God looks at the heart.”

Do either of these tutors’ stories sound like yours? Maybe it’s time to schedule a campus visit. Come learn more about what it’s like to train for ministry at MLC!



Tutor Schroeder lives in Summit Hall with his wife, Sarah, and their son, Solomon (who some say is the cutest child ever).



Tutor Thomford lives in Concord Hall with his dog, Silva. They can be seen going on frequent walks around campus too!