

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI

Nearly Ready for What's Next

Whether they've studied to be pastors, teachers, or staff ministers, there comes a time when MLC seniors are ready to spread their wings and fly! One of the cool things about studying in our called worker training program is that every single student gets a chance to be immersed in their future career before the rubber meets the road—before Call Day, that is. We've got friends learning all over the place right now.

Lynnea Starzl (*Home School / Prince of Peace-Yankton SD*) grew up with lots of younger siblings, so she's used to being around kids. Nevertheless, student teaching has been incredibly helpful as she looks forward to Call Day in a few weeks. "Every single teaching class at MLC provides your professors with evidence that you can teach," Lynnea said. "Student teaching has let me prove to myself that I can handle a classroom. Taking over a class of my own was something I was nervous about doing before, but not anymore! God-willing, I'll get to apply what I've learned in a classroom of my own very soon."

Ashley Peterson (*GPLHS / Good Shepherd-Sioux Fall SD*) is an enthusiastic student in MLC's staff ministry program, which involves a senior internship as the final step before graduation. Ashley is currently serving at St. Mark in De Pere, Wisconsin, and learning from their staff minister every day. I can hardly fit all her highlights in this issue. "One of the coolest things about staff ministry is the range of what you can do at a church," she said. "I've taught children's church lessons during Sunday worship and midweek Bible history lessons for 2nd-5th grade. I wrote a devotion series for Holy Week and started a Bible study with the 7th-8th grade girls at our grade school. I even get to help with the church's podcast as well as the visitation ministry." If you want to work in ministry but aren't so sure about the pulpit or full-time teaching, check out staff ministry—there are countless ways to serve.

You may be thinking, "Wait . . . aren't preseminary seniors gearing up for more education at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary?" You'd be correct. For the men studying to be pastors, immersive ministry experience happens after two years at the seminary, when the young men become vicars and serve in churches around the country and even internationally. **Vicar Jeremiah Wallander** serves the congregation at Hope in Toronto, Canada. A native Wisconsinite, Jeremiah has loved exploring how WELS does church ministry in a totally different culture. "Over 25 different countries are represented among our members," Jeremiah said. "In fact, we have members from six different continents, which has certainly broadened my horizons in terms of preaching styles, worship music, and food choices."

Vicar year is followed by one final year of instruction at the seminary. Jeremiah continued, "I'm learning so much. When I get back to Sem, it will be awesome to take those lessons and hash them out in the classroom. I have a feeling God will be teaching me life lessons all the way until the day he takes me home."

Where could you be sent for an immersive ministry experience? It's so special that God chooses us to carry his gospel! He'll bless classrooms, congregations, and even people outside the church through normal people like you and me. MLC is a great place for you to get started on your journey toward full-time ministry. Schedule a campus tour today so our admissions staff can tell you more!



Lynnea is eager to start her ministry as her fiancé, **Jake Zabell** (*LPS / St. Paul-Green Bay WI*), enrolls at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary next fall.



Ashley has been a weekly guest host on St. Mark's podcast, which covers a variety of theological topics.



Percussion is a huge part of worship at Hope, and Jeremiah fits right in.