

Meet
YOUR PEOPLE!



KNIGHTWATCH

SPRING
2022



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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.

MORE *Meet* YOUR PEOPLE!

Meet MLC Students

Get the inside scoop on 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.

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*ICYMI: Check out the
September 2021 KnightWatch
"Meet Your People" edition*



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE



Meet YOUR ADMISSIONS TEAM

and hear their best advice!



TED KLUG

Director of Admissions

Lakeside LHS

The most important advice I can share is that you can't find a more rewarding career. You get to see firsthand God working in the hearts and lives of the people that you serve.



LORI UNKE

Admissions Counselor

Northwestern Prep (now Luther Prep)

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?



DAVE BIEDENBENDER

Admissions Counselor

Kettle Moraine LHS

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.



JOEL THOMFORD

Admissions Counselor

Zumbrota HS - Minnesota

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.



MARTÍN SANTOS

Admissions Counselor

Mount Rainier HS - Washington

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.



WENDY RISTOW

**Admissions Office
Administrative Assistant**

Michigan Lutheran Seminary

When you dial the MLC Admissions Office, that's my voice you're hearing. I do all the paperwork 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!

KATE ASWEGE



**KATE
ASWEGE**

Kettle Moraine LHS '18

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

*Captain of volleyball team,
Student Athletic Advisory
Committee, Event Team,
Daylight, piano lessons,
Women's Choir, summer nanny*

It's been a ball! I've really enjoyed my time on the volleyball team because it was an instant way to make friends. In fact, one of my teammates is now my best friend and roommate! We have a lot of fun together.

It's her serve: My campus job on the Event Team has been a huge blessing—and a great way to serve—during my time at MLC. Being on the team allows me to pick which events I can attend, working out incredibly nicely with my school and volleyball schedule. The job has also pushed me out of my comfort zone because it requires me to talk to a number of different people, ranging from fellow students to licensure officials. This job might seem easy, but it takes a lot of planning and organization to run an event!

Don't tell anyone, but at first MLC was her safe school: Deep down I've always known I wanted to be a teacher. However, I definitely tried to deny this fact by exploring other career options. My top occupations were nursing and, as a backup, teaching. I eventually ended up being accepted into the University of Wisconsin for nursing school and the University of Minnesota for elementary education. I'd also been accepted into Martin Luther College but applied only as a safe backup option in case the other two didn't work out.

SHOUT-OUT: During the spring of senior year, I had a really hard time deciding between nursing and teaching. The person who helped talk me through my choices was **Mr. David Bartelt**, the superintendent of KML at the time.

Looking back: I can see God's hand working to shape my life, despite my attempts to take matters into my own control. I've never regretted my decision and have spent some of the best years of my life at MLC. I'm able to play the sport I love, and I met some of my best friends and even my fiancé, **Ethan Aguilar** (*California LHS*), here!

MLC = Relationships: With a common goal and faith, it's effortless to be friends with almost anyone you encounter! I have lifelong friends that I met playing volleyball and living in the dorms. Also, the rumor that MLC stands for Making Lutheran Couples is totally true . . . but it's nothing to be ashamed of!

LOOKING AHEAD: **Just let her talk:** I'd love to be involved in anything that utilizes my social skills! I enjoy being a part of any outreach opportunity and being able to speak to people about my church, school, and Savior.

HER ADVICE: I know the weight of making a decision about your career and college is heavy. Everything seems uncertain. As a senior in college, I'd tell you 1) go with your gut feeling and 2) don't worry so much! A college decision is never locked in stone. It's not a life-ending circumstance if you choose to pursue a different career. Sometimes we're so focused on the present that we forget that God has a bigger picture for us.

Meet THE STUDENTS



FRIENDSHIPS & FUN

At MLC, you make friends everywhere—on the court, on the stage, in the classroom, in the dorm. We have all kinds of students here—different backgrounds, different personalities—but because they're united in their faith and in their purpose, they get each other. Want to meet your lifelong friends? They'll be waiting for you at MLC.

CAMERON SCHROEDER



**CAMERON
SCHROEDER**

Luther HS '18

MLC '22 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

*Forum (actor), College Choir,
Praise Ensemble, Admissions
student writer, Bible study
leader, Camp Phillip junior
staff director*

Just because he's a Schroeder . . .

Contrary to what my last name might lead you to believe, I'll be the first called worker from my immediate family. I definitely didn't always think I would pursue ministry. In fact, I remember specifically *not* taking Latin my first year of high school because I thought it would be useless unless I became a pastor. It wasn't until my junior year of high school that I seriously considered the ministry.

SHOUT-OUTS: Pastor Jon Bilitz

my religion teacher at the time, encouraged me to chat with **Pastor Ross Stelljes** who was visiting to recruit for MLC. He even told me I had gifts that would make me a great pastor—affirmation I didn't even know I needed. Soon I was applying to MLC, and I've loved every step of the journey ever since!

He's singing a new song: I'm really passionate about worship, and God has blessed me with a guitar and a lot of quality time to learn my way around it. I love showing people that we can worship our God in a variety of different ways with all of our hearts.

It's about Jesus. Period. I'm passionate about living life in a way that gives people a taste of how much Jesus loves them, and the blessing of singing and preaching powerful truths all over the country is such a cool way to do that. It's definitely a great foretaste, not only of the joy of sharing the gospel in ministry, but of the glorious worship that we'll all be a part of in heaven!

KEY QUESTION: What will MLC

do for your faith-life? It's ridiculously easy to saturate your entire day with God at MLC. You'll hear story after story of college students drifting from the faith or failing to go to church regularly during the college years. While MLC certainly isn't immune to these temptations, there is so much opportunity to be in the Word: Bible studies, chapel services, and more. I lead a weekly worship session to lift students up through prayer and the Word one extra time in the middle of a busy week of school. It's a great place to grow as a Christian as you train to be a vessel for the gospel.

Maybe someday: It's nearly impossible not to think about where it might be cool to serve someday. I've always thought I'd enjoy a mission startup. There's something really great about the idea of bringing the gospel in its truth and purity to a place where the WELS hasn't had a strong presence before.

HIS ADVICE: Pray, pray, and pray some more. God can absolutely use you in the ministry or anywhere else. Don't feel as though you need to choose a path and commit to it for life! Just take the first step and see where he leads you! MLC is a great first step.



Meet THE STUDENTS



PRESEMINARY STUDIES

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, and do ministry and volunteer work. 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/degrees



EMILY (UNKE) RIDER



**EMILY
(UNKE)
RIDER**

*Manitowoc LHS '14
Math teacher at Michigan LHS*

MLC '18 / Education

Major: Secondary Math Education

Activities at MLC: Softball, soccer, intramurals, president of Meet Math, Jesus Cares (ministry for individuals with developmental disabilities), job in athletics department, dorm supervisor

Emily graduated in 2018 and has served in several ministries already: admissions counselor at MLC, English and religion teacher in Southeast Asia, teacher's aide at Carlsbad Christian Academy-Carlsbad AZ, K-2 teacher at King of Kings-Maitland FL, and (currently) upper-level math instructor and dormitory supervisor at Michigan Lutheran High School.

Ministry starts at MLC: I'm so thankful for MLC! The doctrine classes really help us "be prepared to give an answer for the hope that we have." Also, the attention that each professor gives the students is unmatched at any other teaching school. Teaching and preaching is what MLC does, and they do it so well.

KEY QUESTION: **Isn't the teaching ministry, well, a little boring?** My husband, Jesse MLC '19, and I never thought we'd take the road God has led us on. Jesse is someone who loves the Lord and is willing to go on some crazy adventures with me. In the three years since graduation, we've lived in Minnesota, Southeast Asia, California, Florida, and now Michigan!

In Southeast Asia: I knew I'd be trying to help spread the Word and help others' faith to grow, but I never knew how much my personal faith would increase. Seeing people who've been forbidden to learn these things go from not knowing who Jesus is to thanking the Lord so sincerely for saving them and loving them really puts the reason we do ministry into perspective. Growing up with the Word always around makes it hard to see just how precious it is. Being involved in this ministry made me want to keep it as close to my heart as I possibly can.

God uses every experience: It seems clear why God placed me in each ministry to prepare me for my call at Michigan Lutheran. Being an admissions counselor prepared me to build relationships with students and encourage students to consider the public ministry. Teaching younger grades taught me patience. Teaching in Southeast Asia prepared me for the international ministry I now have in the dorms and showed me how important it is to let the light of Christ shine in my life. I'm sure this ministry at Michigan LHS will come with lots of unexpected challenges, but I'm confident God will be with me all the way.

SHOUT-OUT: My high school math teacher at Manitowoc Lutheran, **Jim Carolfi**, was an incredible teacher, and I thought I'd try to be like him.

HER ADVICE: You don't need to have everything in your life figured out by graduation day. Try to identify the gifts God gave you and choose your college based on that. If you think God gave you a heart for ministry, give MLC a chance. God will get you where he wants you, no matter what decision you make.



TEACH ABROAD

Want to teach abroad? Our program connects MLC graduates like Emily and Jesse Rider with international mission settings. Service in these fields generally lasts one or two years, but participants sometimes opt to stay longer. It's a great way to share the gospel with people who often have never heard the story of Jesus before! And you'll grow too—personally, professionally, and spiritually.

mlc-wels.edu/international-services



BEN RIEGSECKER



**BEN
RIEGSECKER**

Nebraska LHS '18

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Secondary Math Education

Football, RA (resident assistant), Männerchor (men's choir), intramurals

It's great to sack the quarterback:

Playing football has always been a love of mine, and I'm very thankful for the opportunity to keep playing here at MLC!

Ministry—also a team sport: What I love about football is the team aspect of the sport. Some of my closest friends have come from playing football here at MLC! Football has helped me with teamwork and communication. You have to be constantly talking with your teammates and trust that they're going to do their job on the field. In ministry, I'll be working very closely with other called workers, and it's going to be important that I communicate with them so that we are on the same page, because we have the same goal of advancing the gospel!

KEY QUESTION: **Can I play college sports?** I hear lots of incoming first-years say they don't know if they're good enough to play college football or that it's going to be too much of a time commitment. My encouragement to them is to try it for one year! Anyone can play football for us, and the awesome thing is that we have a program that will help you develop your skills to the point where you can play college ball!

LOOKING AHEAD: **If it's God's will . . .** My dream would be to be a tutor at a high school and teach math there! Along with teaching, I would love to coach a variety of different sports, including football, basketball, and track!

Smooth move: What surprised me the most about MLC was how easy it was to transition into college life. I'd never lived in a dorm, and I was going to meet lots of new people and have lots of new experiences very fast. I was nervous about it. But playing football really helped with my transition! I met new friends right away, which helped settle my nerves. I also roomed with a friend from high school, so transitioning to dorm life was much easier.

SHOUT-OUT: I've wanted to come to MLC since I was a sophomore in high school. I've always loved math, and my math teacher that year, **David Ring** encouraged me to consider going to MLC. I talked with him lots about it that year, and he had a big influence on my decision! He said that he could see qualifications in me to be a called worker and that I have a gift for math that I could use to serve the Lord.

HIS ADVICE: Give it a try for one year! You'll have lots of experiences in one year of school that will help you see if teaching or being a pastor is for you! And even if you decide you don't want to do those, you'll still have gained new friends, experiences, and opportunities to grow your faith.



Meet THE STUDENTS



ATHLETICS

MLC offers NCAA DIII competition in 16 sports in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC). If you play football like Ben Riegsecker, you'll be stepping into a high-performing program coached by a two-time UMAC Coach of the Year. To learn more about athletics, go to mlcknights.com.



JOSEPH GRAMBSCH



**JOSEPH
GRAMBSCH**

Lakeside LHS '18

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Educational Technology

*Wind Symphony, Steward of
Wind Symphony Leadership
Team, junior class president,
Student Senate, Resident
Assistant (RA), Safety
Committee, Technology
Advisory Committee, piano,
College Chorale*

The choice was easy: For me, MLC was an easy choice. The only other career I really thought about was a police officer, but that idea went away quickly.

SHOUT-OUTS: Four people really had a huge influence on me going to MLC. My parents, who are both teachers, were and still are my top influences. They're always encouraging me. My grade 7-8 teacher, **Mr. Paul Ihde** was the first person who really pushed me to become a teacher. And **Mr. Matt Doering** is a great called worker, someone I could go to with any questions about ministry. I still keep in contact with him regularly.

One big happy family: One thing that really surprised me when I got here is the complete family atmosphere that engulfs the whole campus. We all know we're here for the same purpose, and we all just want to see each other succeed. Here you get to become close with all different kinds of people.

Wind Symphony—it's a blast: Wind Symphony was a huge part of my first three years at MLC. I loved it and would not have traded that time for anything else. **Professor Miles Wurster** is an amazing director and someone who I always enjoyed growing in my musicianship with.

Yeah, he's tech-savvy: I'm an educational tech minor, and serving on the Technology Advisory Committee gives me a chance to see how the "big dogs" do it, and learn the ins and outs of working with technology in a school. It also gives me a chance to be more connected to some professors, talk with them, and ask questions whenever they might come up.

He wants to lead: My dream is to serve as a principal. Nothing intrigues me more than running a school and working with fellow teachers and pastors and all staff to provide the best Christ-centered education we possibly can to our students. I also believe that working as a technology director would be extremely fun as well, but my real dream is to become a principal and help schools grow in every way possible.

KEY QUESTION: **New Ulm's not really a "college town," is it?** MLC is a special place. Some people don't like it because they think this isn't a college town. But this is a place where you make a lot of your own fun and create your own memories with your friends! Coming to MLC was the best decision, and I would never go back and change it. I love it here, and I think you will too if you just give it a chance.

Meet THE STUDENTS



INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

You'll have lots of opportunities to further your instrumental music gifts at MLC. That's because one of our purposes is to prepare worship leaders, pianists, organists, band and choir directors, classroom music teachers, and parish music coordinators. Coursework, lessons, and performance opportunities allow you to develop all your God-given gifts. mlc-wels.edu/music



ANNA TREDER



**ANNA
TREDER**

California LHS '19

MLC '24 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Spanish
Education

*Volleyball, basketball, Student
Ambassadors, Wellness Team,
piano, Women's Choir*

Representing MLC with a smile: I love being a Student Ambassador at MLC, especially giving tours to high school students. It's so fun to show them around! We get one hour to get to know each other. It's cool to hear all of the different stories and experiences everyone has. I love being able to tell them how MLC is different from any other college they could attend. It's amazing to be at a place where you know you share the same faith with everyone on campus. That fact really helps me since I'm so far away from home. (Also, the professors open up their homes to those of us who are far from home. That makes it much easier as well!)

At first, MLC was a no-go: I grew up in southern Wisconsin, and while I lived there I had absolutely no desire to go to MLC. Both of my parents are called workers, so I wanted to do something else—anything else—with my life. However, the summer before my first year of high school, my dad got a call to southern California. It was then that my entire perspective changed. It blew my mind that I was going to a high school with only 80-some kids, even though California is the most populated state in the US! Then I realized there was nothing else I wanted to do with my life than tell other people about Jesus. Not only that, but in California there's a large Spanish-speaking community. That's why I became a Spanish major. So many people need to hear about Jesus!

She's a two-sport Knight: One thing I really love about playing sports at MLC is the family aspect. I love being able to share the court with people I'm going to be coworkers with one day. Not only that, but playing sports is such a great way to learn how to deal with adversity that I might encounter later in life.

We may be calling her Coach:

I would love to coach one day! Coaching is a great way to build relationships with your students and can help their learning in the classroom. Coaching at an upper level would be awesome, but I think teaching younger grades would be so much fun! I also think it would be very cool to be in a southern state or somewhere warmer in general.

HER ADVICE: If you're trying to decide between MLC and another college, I would encourage you to give MLC a try. Come here for some general education courses and see if it's the right fit for you. I'd also strongly suggest that you pray a lot about your decision!

Minnesota nice: One thing that surprised me about MLC was how nice everyone is. It is so crazy how everyone smiles as you walk through the hallways and on the campus. We really are like one big family.



Meet THE STUDENTS



STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Anna is one of 10 Student Ambassadors who work for the Admissions Office, representing MLC and assisting prospective students like you. They know how difficult the college decision can be, and they'll do whatever they can to help! Working as an Ambassador is one of many, many campus jobs. This year, 250 students work all over campus in 450 jobs. (Yes, you can have more than one job!) Check out all MLC's student employment opportunities here. mlc-wels.edu/student-employment.



CALLAHAN & KINCAID DIERSEN



**CALLAHAN
DIERSEN**

*Minnesota Valley LHS '17
Teacher at California LHS*

MLC '21 / Education

Major: Secondary Chemistry Education

Major: Secondary Life Science
Education

Minor: Science

*Activities at MLC: Baseball,
STEM&M co-founder and
co-president, Meet Math,
Daylight, STEM camp leader,
biology tutor, Fitness Center job*

CALLAHAN

Callahan graduated from MLC in 2021 and was assigned to California LHS.

Prayer answered and dream come true:

At California LHS, I'm teaching a plethora of courses: physical science, biology, physics, calculus, and technology. Other responsibilities include head baseball coach and technology. I'd prayed for a call in which I could serve at a small high school, teaching a variety of science courses. God certainly answered this prayer.

STEM&M: Being a member of STEM&M (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math, and Ministry) at MLC and teaching at STEM camps gave me valuable ministry experience. As the club co-president, I led meetings and planned activities, many of which can be adapted for classroom use.

Doing vs teaching: MLC had always been on my mind since both of my parents served in the teaching ministry after attending (D)MLC, but it took me a while to realize that it was definitely the path for me. I seriously considered careers in wildlife biology and statistics. Around Christmas of my senior year, I realized that, as much as I loved doing science and studying God's creation, I found more joy teaching science and sharing a passion for the created world.

HIS ADVICE: Ask that God allow you to reflect on the things you enjoy while searching for careers. Consider the gifts and passions he's given you and think about how you can serve God's people with them—whether that's in the public ministry or as a lay member. Trust that the Lord will bless you in whatever you choose.

College is not like high school: It's amazing that differences that might've mattered in high school don't really matter at MLC. In college, anyone can become friends with anyone.

KINCAID

STEM&M: My recent STEM camp experience at St. Mark-Eau Claire WI was a major component in my ministerial growth. I was in front of a classroom with real students eager to learn about STEM concepts and investigations. It served as a helpful reminder why I wanted to teach in the first place.

It's not rocket science—or is it? I've almost always known that teaching was what I wanted to do, but the main question was what I wanted to teach. Eventually I landed on sciences, partially because of classes and teachers in high school but also because of Callahan and my father. After deciding that science was for me, I dove even deeper, and my passion for science as a whole, but especially chemistry, grew. *(Pictured, inset: Kincaid and Callahan on the bleachers at Great Plains LHS, where their dad taught science for 16 years before being called as an MLC professor)*

Come Call Day, he's ready to serve:

I really look forward to filling in wherever I'm needed. Any course that needs teaching



**KINCAID
DIERSEN**

Minnesota Valley LHS '20

MLC '24 / Education

Major: Secondary Chemistry Education

Major: Secondary Life Science
Education

Minor: Science

*STEM&M, STEM camp
leader, Student Senate,
College Chorale, biology tutor,
late-night cafeteria supervisor*

or activity that needs advising—if I'm deemed capable, I look forward to helping with that.

HIS ADVICE: Trust that God has plans for you. Whether you're 100% decided or still have no idea what your plans may be, God knows for sure. Trust in him and know that whatever you do, it can be for his glory.

Who knew MLC was so diverse? I always knew that MLC had students from across the States and even across the globe, but I never knew what that would mean to me. I now have friends living in each corner of the US who have different experiences with education and ministry.



Meet THE ALUMNI



SECONDARY EDUCATION

We offer education majors that prepare you to teach high school English, math, science, social studies, music, PE, Spanish, and special education. Many students opt to double-major in elementary education as well, making them qualified to teach in a variety of ministry settings.

mlc-wels.edu/academics/degrees



EMMA DORN



**EMMA
DORN**

Illinois LHS '18

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Coaching

Forum (director, actor, set crew), Wind Symphony, College Choir, dorm supervisor, intramurals

She got teaching experience her

very first year: I taught a music lesson for my first EFE experience. I had the students use drums to help them practice different dynamics. The experience gave me more motivation and excitement to keep growing as a teacher.

“And . . . Action!” Directing *Jack in the Beanstalk* for Children’s Theatre was such an amazing learning experience. I was very nervous to start the process, but with God by my side, it was one of my favorite experiences at MLC. One of my favorite parts was putting together this project with peers, though that intimidated me at first. Even if you haven’t met them before the play, they are like another family by the end of the production.

It’s all preparation for ministry:

On top of learning so many things that happen behind the scenes of a play, it gave me the opportunity to practice leadership, time management, organization, and trusting God.

No matter what happens on

Call Day: I’ll be content with the assignment I’m given, because I know that’s where God wants me. **Professor David Scharf** taught me that it’s really the best job ever, because God put you there, and he’s having you carry out his purpose in whatever you’re doing. If I could choose though, I sure think it would be fun to be a second or third grade teacher and coach volleyball. I’d also love to help with the VBS at my church.

KEY QUESTION: Is following the family path the easy way out?

My journey to MLC seems like that of a classic WELS family member, but I, along with countless others, didn’t just choose to go to MLC because the majority of my family has gone there. I decided to go to MLC because I want to live out the Great Commission, and becoming a teacher of Jesus’ little lambs seemed like the easiest way for me to do that.

HER ADVICE: Think about

your strengths. MLC is an awesome option for many people, but it’s not for everyone. If you have strengths or interests in another career, that’s perfectly okay, because God doesn’t only spread the gospel through pastors and teachers. If you are thinking about going to MLC, please don’t try to push it off because it doesn’t have a huge income or maybe doesn’t sound cool to your classmates. Being a pastor, teacher, or staff minister can be an amazing way to make the Great Commission a regular part of your life, and that’s pretty cool if you ask me.

BTW, Compline services are

awesome: Something that surprised me when I got to MLC was an evening chapel service every Monday night at 10:00. When I went to it the first time, I decided I wanted to go to as many as I could. It’s such a peaceful way to close out the day with our awesome God.



Meet THE STUDENTS



EDUCATION MAJORS

MLC offers a wide variety of education majors, including early childhood, elementary, special education, and lots of secondary education options. And we get you in front of children your very first year of college through Early Field Experience I. What age level do you love? What subject matter are you passionate about?

Choose your major and customize your program plan to fit your interests and gifts! Start exploring your options at mlc-wels.edu/academics/degrees.



JUAN ESCOBAR



**JUAN
ESCOBAR**

Divine Savior Academy '19

MLC '23 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Koine

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Student Senate, Service & Cross Cultural Learning Committee, Spanish Bible study leader, Chess Club founder & president, cross country, football, chaperone for Camp South (summer camp in Georgia)

New home, new heart: I was born in Bogota, Colombia. I called myself a Catholic, but I thought of it mostly as something people did on Sunday mornings or when they felt guilty for something wrong they did. It wasn't until I moved to the US that I could say something changed in my heart. I attended Divine Savior Academy in Miami, and it was there where I was first introduced to my Savior and began to reevaluate who I really was and the things I wanted to accomplish with my time on this earth.

MLC is special: It really does feel like you are part of something special here. I know a lot of high schoolers don't like it when their teachers get into their personal life, but the professors at MLC truly show they care about you and show great commitment to your ministry. Everyone wants to see you succeed.

Cristo yo te amo: My friends know that I love to talk about God, especially in my native language, Spanish. I knew I had to find a way to incorporate more of the Spanish language into MLC's environment. So **Benjamin Roekle MLC '21** and I decided to start our own Spanish Bible study. We follow the guidelines set by Academia Cristo, which is a multi-faceted effort of the Latin America WELS Missions team that seeks to make disciples in Latin America. We pray, discuss Scripture, ask questions, and bond in God's grace all while speaking in Spanish. *(Pictured: Juan teaching Spanish Bible class)*

KEY QUESTION: What if MLC doesn't offer something that's important to me? I not only started the Spanish Bible study, but I also started Chess Club. I had to find people who were as committed as I was, and then Student Senate approved it, and today we have 15 fully committed members. We had MLC's first chess tournament, which was opened to both faculty and students, and over 40 people signed up to compete.

He's ready to go with the gospel: I'd love to be a missionary in South America! There's something beautiful about meeting other cultures and their people. I'd also enjoy going back to my home congregation, Divine Savior Church in Miami, which has people from many different places. To be honest with you, I just can't wait to graduate from the seminary and be a called worker. No matter where I go, I'll give it my best because I know that's where God wants me to be.

HIS ADVICE: God gave you a unique set of skills and tasks that only you can accomplish. . . . Don't let anyone force you to make a decision. . . . Remember that everything you do is for the glory of God. When you have him at the center of your life, everything, despite how complicated it might seem, starts falling right into place.

One thing he knows for sure: You should never say the word 'never,' because God has a very interesting sense of humor. Wherever he calls me, I shall go because all I want is to please him.



INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

Our Cultural Engagement Center is here to help you before, during, and after your time at Martin Luther College. We will assist you with the admissions process, help you adjust to campus life, be here for you as you work toward completing your degree, and work with you as you make plans after graduation. We know your stay with us will be a positive, life-changing experience. And we know we'll learn a great deal from you as well!

mlc-wels.edu/international-services



GRACE SIEVERT



**GRACE
SIEVERT**

Rocky Mountain LHS '19

MLC '23 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Physical Education

Soccer, basketball, piano and organ lessons, Women's Choir, church basketball camp, playing piano for church

It's been a "ball": I've loved playing sports at MLC. Playing soccer helped me to meet new people and to get comfortable with the campus and others. I met most of my close friends through either soccer or basketball.

Ministry is a team sport: It's essential to get along with the people you're working with. That can be applied to the future too, when I'm in the ministry, whether with coworkers, parents, or students. Sports have helped me learn how to work with many different people. They've shown me the importance of teammates and teamwork.

She admits she was clueless: I had no idea what I wanted to do when I was in high school. It felt like I was changing my mind every week! Then, before I knew it, it was second semester senior year, and I still had no idea. I always thought about MLC and kept it in the back of my mind, but I wasn't entirely sure about it. I eventually decided that I would go to MLC even though I wasn't sure I wanted to be a teacher.

And now . . . I love MLC, and I can't wait to be a teacher in the ministry.

KEY QUESTION: **Isn't MLC sort of small?** MLC is a normal college! I know I thought MLC would be like high school since it is much smaller than most colleges, but MLC is college and feels like it. There are so many activities and events that you can participate in.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love to start up some sports camps at the school I'm assigned to. I think it's a great way to reach the community and introduce the kids to God's Word. I also wouldn't mind helping with music, whether in church or school, by playing the piano or maybe even the organ. (I have a lot of work to do on the organ, but hopefully I'll get there!) And of course, I'll be teaching at a school where I can tell kids about God every day.

HER ADVICE: Take a deep breath. It is okay to have no idea what you want to do or what school you want to attend. Also, don't be afraid to explore the things you're interested in and share your concerns with those who know you best. They can help you and provide good feedback for you. Most importantly, remember that God has a plan for you even if you don't know what that plan is. Pray to God about it all.



ATHLETICS & ARTS

Are you multi-talented? You can play more than one sport here. Do you also enjoy the arts? You can play sports and play organ and sing in a choir and play in the band and take a role in a theater production and and . . . At MLC, we want to help you develop all your gifts, because we know that after graduation, you'll share your expertise in your ministry.

COLIN KRUEGER



**COLIN
KRUEGER**

Fox Valley LHS '19

MLC '24 / Education

Major: Secondary Physics
Education

Major: Secondary Vocal Music
Education

Minor: Science

College Choir, Forum (vice president of Forum Board and also actor, production crew, or director of eight shows), Praise Ensemble, voice and piano lessons, VBS assistant

Singing the gospel: College Choir is very important to me. There aren't many things in life that are as moving as a large group of passionate people using their natural instruments to make a beautiful sound in praise of God.

It "shows": I serve as vice president of the Forum Board, and I've been involved with eight shows. I had the chance to direct a show my first year here, and this spring I'm directing *The Westing Game*. The most prominent thing I've learned from Forum is just how many people it takes to put together something great. So many people put their heart and soul into putting on our shows, and it shows (pun intended).

LOOKING AHEAD: **He prays that one day . . .** I will be a high school choir director, but any sort of musical involvement would be a blessing. If I am called as a science teacher instead, I would love to be able to participate in musicals or direct a church choir.

KEY QUESTION: **What about making money?** For years, I debated whether I wanted to go to Milwaukee School of Engineering, become an engineer, and make a lot of money, or go to MLC to be a teacher. It wasn't until my last semester of high school that I finally decided. I knew that singing in a choir with other people looking to praise God was something that always made me happy, and I knew I would always have a sense of purpose at MLC. There are obviously other ways people can find purpose in life, but what better way is there to make sure my life feels meaningful than dedicating it to the greatest purpose of all? That's what made me decide to come to MLC as a music education and physics education major.

SHOUT-OUTS: I have a large family, full of people who went to MLC and are incredibly inspiring and important to me. I also was greatly inspired by many fantastic teachers at FVL—teachers that are so passionate about their subject areas and their mission, as well as having so much love for their students. Each teacher taught so much more than just the content of their class. **Mr. Dan Vogel** for example, was my choir teacher, and his immense talent and humble, quiet dedication are something I've always sought to emulate.

HIS ADVICE: I'd recommend that you look at what makes your life feel purposeful. What is meaningful to you? Is it something that lasts? The world needs lots of people in lots of different positions to keep everything running, but everything eventually ends. The only thing that creates a truly lasting impact in people's lives is sharing the Word of God.

Only at MLC: In my first year at MLC, I discovered something you won't get anywhere else. At MLC, you'll get to know some of the greatest, most passionate people you'll ever meet. A number of times I've look at someone and thought, "I would love to be part of that guy's congregation someday" or "I'd love for that person to teach my kids someday." That's something you'll only come across at MLC.



VOCAL MUSIC

If you like to sing, MLC is the college for you. We have four different choral groups that are open to all students by audition. All four share the gospel in song in campus concerts and chapel services and in area congregations, and the College Choir also goes on tour every year. Whether music is your primary passion or just something you love to do on the side, we have a place for you and your voice.

mlc-wels.edu/music



NATHAN PAUSMA



**NATHAN
PAUSMA**

Winnebago Lutheran Academy '20

MLC '24 / Preseminary Studies

Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Soccer, track & field, Student Senate, Technology Advisory Committee, Safety Committee, Daylight, Bible soccer camp, summer VBS teacher

Letting his light shine: I was able to help with soccer/Bible camps at churches in Maryland, Ohio, and Wisconsin the last three summers. I also did a VBS at St. Luke's in Oakfield, Wisconsin, which was a great opportunity. I even gave devotions for a couple days. I definitely learned a few things that will help me in my future ministry.

Getting inspired: In Mansfield, Ohio, I helped a new mission church with their first-ever soccer camp. Some of us from WLA stayed with **Pastor Brad Wright** and his family. Seeing how much fun they had while hosting us and running the camp motivated me in my training to be a pastor. It's great to know I have people just like them modeling what a true Christian leader is supposed to be like.

HIS ADVICE Part 1: Talk to your local congregations, schools, or community organizations and do events that help other people. There's no better way to shine your light. And honestly, it's ridiculous how much you benefit from them as well. If you ask me, it's a win-win situation every time.

HIS ADVICE Part 2: You want to find a career in which you do something you love. As far as a college goes, you want to go somewhere that they put you first. If the counselors aren't asking about you and then showing you how their college can serve you, that college is one I wouldn't consider too much. You're paying the college to educate you, so go to the college that has the most tools in the toolbox for you to use in your future career. MLC's amazing counselors are super helpful at answering all your

college questions, MLC-related or not, plus they're just great people to have conversations with.

SHOUT-OUTS: My WLA track coach, **Mr. Seth Jaeger**, really was an amazing role model. After watching him every day, I wanted to be just like him. And two pastors, **Pastor David Haag** and **Pastor Josh Olson**, showed me how awesome being a pastor could be. They made me see the talents God had given me and instilled a desire in me to be just like them.

What surprised him most about MLC: How included—a part of something bigger, a member of a family—I feel here. I'm not the most social person, but after one year, I have so many wonderful relationships with not only people in my class but people in all of the other classes and many of the professors as well. MLC is more friendly and amazing than I ever thought it would be.

Dreaming about the future: I am definitely going to be happy wherever God places me, whether that's a well-established church in the middle of Wisconsin, a small country church in South Dakota, a medium-sized church in the suburbs of Florida, or a new startup in Mexico. God knows what's best for me, and I'm just excited to see how he'll use me and everyone else I know at MLC.



DAYLIGHT

At MLC, we believe some of the most valuable ministry training occurs outside the classroom. That's what our Daylight program is all about. Each spring and summer vacation, you have opportunities to serve a congregation with VBS, soccer/Bible camps (like Nathan Pausma), canvassing, music ministries, humanitarian aid, and more. Some students fill 10-week paid ministry assistant positions. If you love travel and gospel ministry, you'll love Daylight! mlc-wels.edu/daylight



EMILY MUIR

Emily graduated from MLC in 2018 and was assigned as a tutor at Luther Prep. Then in 2021, she was assigned to Evergreen LHS.

First call - tutor at LPS: Since attending Luther Prep, I wanted to come back as a tutor. I know how much my tutors did for me, and I wanted to do that for my girls as well. I looked after about 50 girls in the dorms, which included airport runs, trips to the hospital, appointments, supervising study halls, bed checks, and having deep chats with girls throughout the week. I was able to be their mom/sister/friend.

Second call - teacher at Evergreen: My first year at Evergreen I taught science and coached soccer, just as I did at LPS, but I added a few more classes, including two English courses, Yearbook, and Geometry, as well as helping with varsity basketball. It's an amazing opportunity to teach high school, because each student grows so much in each year. These are formative years, and as a teacher and/or coach, you get to be a part of it.

Encouragement along the way: In my immediate family, I'm the only person who's a called worker, even though most of my family is very involved in their churches. The first thought of becoming a called worker came from the encouragement of my teachers and the secretary at my grade school, Trinity-St. Luke's in Watertown, Wisconsin. It's safe to say I would not be a called worker without their encouragement. As a student at LPS, I was supported in my faith and was shown that being a called worker could be an exciting and fulfilling career. We were also given opportunities to experience teaching, and there was so much support to continue on this career path.

At first, she wasn't sure: I considered many other schools, and I was even accepted into an accelerated program for a Doctor of Physical Therapy degree. However, I knew I liked the size and atmosphere of MLC, and I felt comfortable that I could succeed there. So I gave my first year a shot. Then I taught in Milwaukee for the summer, using what I was learning in real life. Once I felt that connection and saw a way to use my talents, I decided to commit to teaching as my career choice.

KEY QUESTION: **Aren't MLC students all alike? Isn't there an MLC type?** Don't feel like you have to fit a certain mold to become a called worker. My whole family went to public high school, and I was the first to go to Luther Prep and then MLC. Do you have a talent, ability, or perspective that is unique? Then please use that uniqueness to diversify our congregations. For example, are you good at connecting with people? You could counsel students and other members. Are you good at playing an instrument? Amazing! Use that for church services or giving lessons. Are you good with a camera? Use that to promote your school! Are you good at sports/fitness? Connect outside of the classroom, share your passions, and share those gifts.

HER ADVICE: Choosing a college is hard. Take it from someone who has a hard time deciding things. Even more so, finishing college is hard, but MLC's professors want you to finish and do well. Consider all the gifts God has given to you and lean into those. He will bless those efforts. Let your light shine, because what makes you different will help you reach others in your ministry.



**EMILY
MUIR**

*Luther Prep '14
Teacher at Evergreen LHS*

MLC '18 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Minor: Math

Minor: Science

*Activities at MLC: Soccer,
basketball, track & field,
president of Urban Ministry
Club, piano, College Chorale,
security team (campus job)*



Meet THE ALUMNI



THE DIVINE CALL

Martin Luther College celebrates a very special day each May. It's Call Day—when the education and staff ministry graduates hear the name of the school or church where they'll begin their ministries. It's exciting to know that your gifts will be used to fill the church's needs, and God will be with you every step of the way.

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Because here, everyone belongs.



FOR YOU AT MLC

New Tennis Courts

We're serving it up just for you.



Centennial Hall

It's not new, but it's cool, especially since it now has air conditioning! First-year women, you'll enjoy this perk!



The Fisher of Men

Be reminded every day of why you're here.



The Patio

Gather at the fire pit. Grill some burgers. Or just study in the sunshine.



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

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