

# knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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## New! Early Ministry Experiences for Preseminary Guys

Any of you guys thinking about becoming a pastor? MLC has a new program that will get you into the life of a congregation, allow you to see how things work, assist where you can, and ask a lot of questions. It's called Early Ministry Experience, and three preseminary students just finished one over spring break. They set up a gym for worship, read a sermon in church, went to Bible classes, visited the homebound, prepped a huge mailing, attended a circuit pastor meeting, read books to preschoolers, and—maybe most important—talked about real ministry with real pastors.



**Adam Arrowsmith** (*MLS / Trinity-Bay City MI*) went to Foundation-Las Vegas and worked with **Pastor Matt Frey** *MLC '02* and **Pastor Tom Unke** *NWC '88* (pictured).

**What Adam learned:** Ministry comes in all different shapes and sizes. Something that works here might not work there. In the mission setting, you need to figure out how best to serve the community. Also, you wear a lot of different hats. You don't have a secretary or a maintenance guy. You are the guy, so be ready to serve.

**This is new:** I grew up in a church that's been around for over 125 years, so being in the mission setting was a good experience. If the WELS is trying to open 100 new missions in 10 years, I think it'll be beneficial for more students to get experience in the mission setting.

**Benjamin Springstroh** (*Freedom HS-WI / St. Luke-Little Chute WI*) and **Jake Bigelow** (*FVL / St. Peter-Appleton WI*) went to another church called Foundation, this one in Falcon, Colorado, where they worked with **Pastor Steven Prahl** *MLC '01*.

**Ben appreciated all the talk:** We talked to members like Le (pictured with Ben, left, and Jake, right), who were all very passionate about worship and their faith. We also asked Pastor some questions about the seminary and talked to him about his experiences in the mission setting, including the logistics side of starting a mission.

**Reading Dr. Seuss:** Jake and I both got to read a Dr. Seuss book to the kids. The preschool teacher said it was very important for a pastor to be present around the kids, especially at drop-off time, so that the parents can get to know a friendly face. And if he does devotions occasionally in a robe, the kids get used to seeing a pastor dressed up and aren't as uncomfortable if they come to church.

**It'll be a few years before he steps into a pulpit, but . . .** I'm even more excited about pursuing public ministry as a way to share what I believe with other people while learning more about their life stories. Everybody is different, and I've come to see that as a blessing for ministry.

**Jake saw that ministry's so much more than sermons on Sunday:** The ministry is not a 9-5 type of job. It's an all-day-everyday-how-you-live-your-life type of work. As the pastor, you're always there for God's people, whether it be Sunday morning at church or on a Monday night going out to eat. Everybody wants to talk to you, and everybody is open and willing to talk about God's Word. Some have miraculous stories of coming to faith later in life by God's grace, while others share their doubts about whether or not they believe in God.

**He's excited to get his own congregation someday, and . . .** it also made me realize that much of what I learned can be applied now. I don't need to be a pastor to share Jesus' love with all the people I run into in my day-to-day life.

