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On our cover: Two MLC Student Ambassadors, Corey Tipton Jr. (WISCO) and Sarah Vance (LPS)

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 men and woman who are qualified to meet the ministry needs of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

We are KNIGHT NATION

Meet Your Admissions Team

They want to hear your story and answer any questions you have as you make your college decision.

Meet MLC Students

Get the inside scoop on their 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.

What's New & Waiting for You

New fieldhouse. New student center rec room.

Apply now! mlc-wels.edu/application





Neet YOUR ADMISSIONS TEAM



TED KLUG Director of Admissions Lakeside LHS



His story: God has blessed me with the opportunity to serve at five different schools, spanning from second grade to college. In that time, I've had the opportunity to work with so many students and families. I was able to see God working in the lives of kids and families in four different states, at many different ages and many walks of life. Above all, God has worked through my many shortcomings to educate, equip, and encourage so many of God's children. For that, I am eternally grateful.

His message to you: 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. Think about the fact that as a called worker, you get to be part of some of the most important times in people's lives: baptizing a baby, confirming a child in the faith, teaching a child every day about Jesus, coaching a young person, directing a musical piece, marrying a husband and wife, consoling a grieving family. The list could go on and on. It is a great joy to do this!

You might not know: I once scored on an actual NBA player in a pick-up game in San Antonio. (Granted, he was warming up, but it still counts, right?)



HALIE FLORES Admissions Counselor California LHS



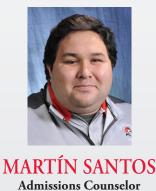
Her story: My favorite thing about the ministry is hearing others' stories—who they are, where they come from, and how their experiences in the ministry have shaped them. Every person's story is unique, and how cool it is that you can learn by listening to others' experiences.

MLC gave me so many opportunities to do this. Every professor is not only an expert in their subject area, but they also have real-life ministry experiences to share with their students.

Her message to you: No matter what path you take, whether you stay at a college for all four years or transfer, God's going to use you and your story to impact others. Continue being a light!

You might want to ask her about this: I eat carrots so often that the palms of my hands and soles of my feet have an orange tint to them.

Meet YOUR ADMISSIONS TEAM



Mount Rainier HS – Washington



His story: I was born in Mexico and raised Catholic, but when I stepped into Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Washington, it felt like home. It was like God whispered to me that he had been with me the whole time, but I was just looking in the wrong places.

Pastor Tom Voss encouraged me to go to MLC, where I met my wife, Hailey, and graduated with a degree in secondary social studies education. After graduation, I taught upper grades at my home congregation, Holy Trinity, and then served as an instructor and dorm supervisor at Nebraska LHS and California LHS. This is my second year as an admissions counselor at MLC.

His message to you: I like to share the following statistics with high school students. About 30% of college first-years will drop out of college, and 37% will transfer out of their chosen college to a second college. That just shows how rare it is for any high school senior to really know what they want to do with their life. We understand that! That's why, 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.

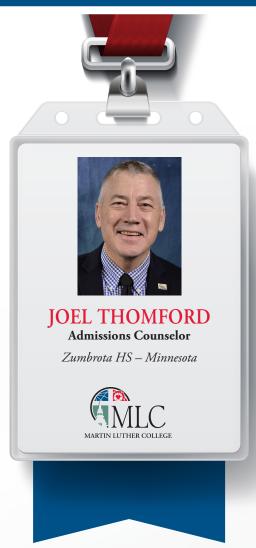


Her story: I attended a two-room school in Sebewaing, Michigan. Every recess, all 26 children in K-8 would pour out onto the cement top to play a game. Teacher Mr. David Lecker was always on the underdog team, yet somehow his team always won. In my upper grade years, Mr. John Festerling blew me away when he asked me if I wanted to create a bulletin board in our classroom. I couldn't believe he would trust me with such an awesome task! I spent hours designing, cutting, and stapling up my masterpiece. At MLS, our Dean of Women was a tough cookie—you didn't mess with **Sue Post**. But when a boy I was dating dumped me three days before prom, she offered me some solid advice and a tender hug.

I thank God for intense recess games, construction paper and borders, and a loving dorm mom to ignite in me the desire to teach.

Her message to you: Look for people that God has placed in your life! God put them there for a reason, and that reason might just be to encourage you into preaching, teaching, or staff ministry.

You might never have guessed: Out of almost 30 competitors, I placed third in MLC's co-ed ping-pong tournament of 2001.



His story: I went to public school from K-12 so attending one of our worker training schools for the first time was a big and wonderful change for me.

I was a parish pastor for 31 years, serving parishes in Green Bay, Wisconsin; Willmar, Minnesota; and Chesaning, Michigan. I thoroughly enjoyed being a parish pastor and found it to be the most rewarding work I've ever done in my entire life. Here's a real irony for me. I often miss serving back in the parish as a pastor. But serving as an admissions counselor at MLC gives me an opportunity to talk to high school students about the joy of serving in the public ministry. I pray that they might prayerfully consider Martin Luther College and begin the path toward the public ministry.

His message to you: 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 in the public ministry or as a layperson in your life and in your congregation.



Her story: Where I am in the ministry right now is totally because of God's doing. And a little bit of my dad's. He was my biggest influence because he made his "job" look so much fun! He was a PE teacher and coach. So I decided to give it a try. The rest is history. Call #1: MVL as a PE teacher and coach. Call #2: St. Paul-Lake Mills, Wisconsin, PE teacher and coach. Call #3: Trinity-Nicollet, Minnesota, grade 6-8 teacher, AD, and coach. Call #4: MLC, PE professor and women's volleyball coach. Now? I am privileged to share all of these experiences with you as your admissions counselor. Go, Knights!

Her message to you: 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?

You might not know: I almost became a flight attendant. My favorite attire is hanging out in shorts and a tee. And Nikes, of course.





EZRA BLUMER

St. Croix Lutheran Academy '19

MLC '23 / Preseminary Studies Major: Biblical Languages, Classical Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Basketball, soccer, Student Ambassador for Admissions Office, Männerchor (men's choir), Bible study leader, high school ministry and praise band at Northcross-Lakeville MN, summer traveling ministry—presenting Teen Nights with his sister in the western US

Ezra blumer

Before he was a Knight, he was a Gopher: I started at the University of Minnesota double-majoring in marketing and entrepreneurial management, but my real ambition was to get into DI basketball coaching. So I managed the guys' basketball team for a year and got to travel and support the team and coaching staff. I went through some pretty intense struggles with my faith during that time. But God sent some awesome guys who were trying to pursue Jesus at a major university, and they significantly changed my perspective. They encouraged me to take my faith seriously through personal devotion, community, prayer, church, and living differently. Something clicked, and I found Jesus filling every need. From there my faith was strengthened more and more each day, and I started to want to help others through the same trials I'd experienced. I brought this thought to my friends, and I thought they'd talk me out of it, but instead they pushed me toward it. I decided to come to MLC. I miss the U of M and my friends there, but I know what I'm doing now will have an impact that will last for so much longer!

Guys' group—growing in faith together: We started our "guys' group" sophomore year, and it demonstrates the type of environment MLC provides. Twenty guys on our floor meet weekly to talk about our walk with Jesus that week. What was hard? What went well? What do we need prayers for? Becoming a called worker requires a lot of academic knowledge about the Bible, but it can be easy to simply view the Bible through the academic lens and forget about your own personal walk with Jesus. This is where guys' group comes in. Along with daily chapel, our group is a reminder that the life of a Christian and a called worker runs so much deeper than academic knowledge.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love the opportunity to plant a new mission church in one of the major American cities. I've lived in or near a city my entire life, and it's very sad to see the brokenness and sin within our cities. I'd love to help provide the only thing that can heal that brokenness, which is Jesus. If that could go hand in hand with a campus ministry, that would be awesome as well.

HIS ADVICE: Ask yourself, How do I want to make an impact? 1. *What's important to you*? Do you want a family life? Do you want to be there for your kids? Do you want a job where your faith can thrive? 2. *What are your gifts*? Take an inventory. You want to steward these in the best possible way, so know what they are and use them. 3. *Lean on others*. God has gifted you with other people. Ask them what they think you should do. Sometimes your parents know you better than you know yourself—ask them. 4. *Pray.* Try it. Trust me!

KEY QUESTION: What if I'm a city kid? Will I fit in? If you're a city kid and think there's no one here like you, there is! Trust me. There are people here from all demographics, backgrounds, and walks of life. There will be people here that you can lean on for support no matter where you may come from.





You can be a global traveler or a country kid who's barely left home. Either way, you'll find your place at MLC. Here we're united by shared goals, a sense of community, and a vibrant campus culture—one based on the gospel of Jesus and marked by spiritual growth, service, and mission-mindedness. We offer twice-daily chapel, religion classes, student- and professor-led Bible studies, and service projects. You'll definitely grow here. It's a campus culture like no other!

HERE





MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Michigan Lutheran Seminary '19

MLC '23 / Education Major: Early Childhood Education

Student Senate Executive Committee, RA, organ lessons, Chorale, pastoral administrative assistant at Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati

LEXI DABE

When your summer job is ministry: During the summer, I worked at my church, Beautiful Savior-Cincinnati, as a pastoral administrative assistant. This included drafting bulletins, stuffing mailboxes, answering the phone, managing enrollment forms, tracking attendance, and many other church secretary things! I also had the opportunity to plan and run a variety of events, including vacation Bible school, STEAM/Sports Camp, Teen Group, and Sunday school. Since I didn't grow up in a called worker family, it's truly been a blessing to see the ins and outs of ministry. They've given me a taste of what my future ministry will be like!

She loves being a resident assistant

(RA): From the moment I stepped on campus, I've heard over and over again, "Relationships. Ministry is all about relationships!" Therefore, I'm so thankful for the opportunity to serve my fellow students as an RA. I can be someone that students can turn to if they need advice, if they need a shoulder to cry on, or if they need a friend to laugh with! What an honor!

Pleasant Surprises: One thing that surprised me about MLC was how kind, supportive, and encouraging the student body is! I've made so many lifelong friends, and I can't wait to support and lean on one another when we're all in the mission field! Another thing that surprised me was how much the Chapel of the Christ has become my solace. College is hard-there's no denying it! But it's such a relief to return to the Lord's house twice a day and be reminded of God's amazing love. And to be reminded of God's promises with my brothers and sisters in Christ is a blessing unlike any other!

LOOKING AHEAD: Though I don't know what the Lord has in store, I'd love to serve as an early childhood director someday! One of the most amazing blessings of ministry is that, unlike other jobs, there is so much flexibility in what you could end up doing! As an early childhood major, I could serve as a preschool teacher in Wisconsin or an early childhood director in Florida or a primary grades teacher in Colorado. How cool!

Still unsure sometimes—and that's

OK: I didn't decide to come to MLC until April of my senior year, and there are still times when I'm unsure if the public ministry is for me! But what I am sure of is this: There's simply no career more eternally rewarding than serving in God's mission field every day. Sometimes I imagine sitting in heaven and seeing all the parents and students in whom God worked faith through me. To know I had even a small part in spreading the gospel message to them is the most incredible feeling!

HER ADVICE: I'd encourage spending time in prayer! Talk to your teachers, pastors, parents, grandparents, and friends about what gifts from God they see in you. And, in the end, know that whatever decision you make will be the right one! God will use you in unimaginable ways in whatever vocation you choose. And I pray that this passage, which brought me a lot of comfort when I was struggling with my college decision, does the same for you! "Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and he will establish your plans. . . . In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps" (Proverbs 16:3,9).





EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Did you know that WELS has more preschools than elementary schools? It's true. And these early childhood ministries need teachers! If you love the littles, consider an MLC degree in early childhood education. You'll learn everything from infant and toddler care to creating a literacy program for kindergartners. With an ECE degree, you might be assigned as a second grade teacher, a lead teacher in a 4K program, an early childhood

director apprentice . . . Imagine being the person who first tells a child—and then their family—about the Savior who loves them!



mlc-wels.edu/academics/early_childhood





JUAN ESCOBAR

Divine Savior Academy '19

MLC '23 / Preseminary Studies Major: Biblical Languages, Koine Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

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

JUAN ESCOBAR

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 reading the Scripture in Spanish during International Education Week)

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'll 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







RUTH BUCHHOLZ

Arizona Lutheran Academy '16 Teacher at Kingdom Prep LHS

MLC '21

Major: Life Science Minor: Science

> Activities at MLC: Volleyball (Second Team All-UMAC) basketball, president of Student Athletic Advisory Committee, president of The Heart of Teaching (urban ministry committee), RA and Augustana dorm supervisor, Bible study leader, piano and organ lessons, Women's Choir, intramurals, track coach at MVLHS, New Ulm volleyball referee

RUTH BUCHHOLZ

Ruth graduated from MLC in 2021 and was assigned to teach science at Kingdom Prep LHS. She had emergency-taught at Kingdom Prep in 2019-2020.

What's your dream call? For most of college, I never had an answer to that. I was excited to go anywhere, because I'm a firm believer that there are good things and good people no matter where you are.

Turns out, her dream call is teaching at an all-boys high school: At Kingdom Prep, I teach physical science and biology, serve as a pack leader for about 12 boys, and coach track & field. I'm also part of the Worship Committee and Exploration Thursday planning teams. Exploration Thursday is a unique program where we end classes early each week and provide students with new experiences. Sometimes it's job-related, sometimes it's working to transform their community, and sometimes it's bobsledding.

We're urban-adjacent: One of the best things MLC did was connect me with the Center for Urban Teaching. I would encourage everyone to utilize the partnership MLC has with CfUT and teach in a city for at least one summer. When I first started, I didn't want to teach in a big city, but I knew they would teach me good, solid teaching practices that I could use anywhere. Then, after my emergency call at Kingdom Prep, I knew that I really enjoyed being there, and as we approached Call Day, I was really hoping I would be called back.

Back in high school, she couldn't decide: Going into senior year, I was pretty sure I wanted to be a teacher,

but I loved science and was strongly considering following in my mom's footsteps and becoming a nurse. In December, I shadowed a nurse and really loved it. I could clearly picture my life as both a nurse and a teacher, and I knew there wasn't a wrong decision. Through many prayers and tearful conversations with my mom and a few teachers, I decided to be a teacher. I majored in life science because it seemed like the best compromise between the two professions.

SHOUT-OUTS: My campus pastor and volleyball coach, Pastor Brad Bode, encouraged me to become a teacher. He was good at pointing out how I could use my gifts in my ministry. My choir and band director, Andrea Oppermann, was also a big influence. The way she built relationships with her students and talked with us about the real-life challenges and blessings helped me see how much of a positive influence a teacher can have on their students. At MLC, I had so many wonderful professors. Professors Paul Grubbs, Steve Thiesfeldt, and Greg Diersen come to mind as excellent examples of the called worker I want to be.

HER ADVICE: As you contemplate your decision for this next step, know that God has a purpose and a plan for your life. Choose a college that will help you find God's purpose for you on this side of eternity. Some colleges do this better than others. If you choose to go to a public university, take advantage of opportunities to share your faith through your words and actions, and surround yourself with people who will help you continue to live for Christ.

Kingdom Prep LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL









MLC offers targeted training to prepare teachers for service in urban settings. Our Urban Educational Ministry minor offers coursework and immersive field experiences in Milwaukee,

Minneapolis, Chicago, Baton Rouge, and New York City. We also partner with the Center for Urban Teaching in Milwaukee. For more information, go to **mlc-wels.edu/academics/ urban-educational-ministry.**



Ceet THE ALUMNI

MAIN

ENTRANCE





MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

Fox Valley LHS '19

MLC '24 / Education

 Major:
 Secondary Physics

 Education
 Secondary Vocal Music

 Education
 Education

 Minor:
 Science

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

Colin krueger

It "shows": I serve as president of the Forum Board, and I've been involved with 11 shows. I had the chance to direct a show my first year here, and last spring I directed *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). *Pictured: Colin as Frank Butler in* Annie Get Your Gun.

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.

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.



MUSIC & THEATER

If you like to act, sing, dance, or entertain, come break a leg at MLC. Forum stages four productions per year, involving about 20% of the student body. If band, piano, or organ is your jam, you'll have lots of opportunities to further your instrumental gifts at MLC. And, of course, if you love to sing, MLC is the place to be. Several auditioned choirs share the gospel in song in concerts, chapel services, and area congregations. The College Choir also goes on tour every year. Why so much music? Because one of our purposes is to prepare worship leaders, pianists, organists, band and choir

directors, classroom music teachers, and parish worship coordinators for the entire synod.





Sydney & Ashley peterson





MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

PETERSON

Great Plains LHS '17 Grade 5-6 teacher at St. Paul-Wonewoc WI

MLC '22 / Education

Major: Elementary Education

Major: Secondary Instrumental Music Education

Activities at MLC: Golf, volleyball, Chorale, Wind Symphony, piano and instrumental lessons, intramurals, music division TA, Fitness Center supervisor, summer music teacher at Rock of Ages-Payson AZ

SYDNEY

Sometimes you just know: I've always known I wanted to go to MLC and be a teacher. It wasn't just one person that inspired me, but everyone. I saw the love of God in each of my teachers, and I wanted to be part of a profession that's centered on displaying that love.

Best summer job ever: The church in Payson, Arizona, holds summer music lessons and a music VBS. Being a part of the program for the last two summers has been such a privilege. I grew as a person and as a teacher. I had my own classroom, and I grew to love music on an even deeper level. Rock of Ages will forever hold a place in my heart. **HER ADVICE:** Whatever you do, the Lord will guide you and use you for his purpose. It's easy to view called ministers as the only ones fulfilling the gospel goal. But in all we do, we have the opportunity to share the good news with everyone around us. Just live your life out of love for God, and he will guide your way.

Who knew MLC would be home?

I always thought it would just be school. But each August when I went back, I felt at peace knowing I was where I was supposed to be.

ASHLEY

A change of direction: I was in education at MLC for one year, but I got to EFE 1 and realized teaching wasn't for me. I took a year off to figure out what I wanted to do. Then my twin sister brought up the idea of staff ministry. I looked at what my schedule would be, and I was enrolled in classes a week later.

What drew her to staff ministry:

What drew me was that I could help people in a variety of ways—from parish education to youth ministry to member care and more. It all depends on what the church needs.

Getting practice: One summer I served as an intern for Chaplains in Schools in Milwaukee. Typically, I get very nervous when I have to present to a crowd of people, but I got to lead large assembly devotions every day of the summer school program, and it gave me confidence in what I hoped to do in the future. It was very practical and made me more sure of my calling.

KEY QUESTION: Can you change your mind? If it requires some time to figure out where your passions lie, that is completely fine. There's no shame in





ASHLEY PETERSON

Great Plains LHS '17 Staff minister at St. Matthew-Ontario WI

MLC '22 / Staff Ministry

Major: Staff Ministry

Activities at MLC: Chorale, intramurals, piano lessons, summer intern at Chaplains in Schools-Milwaukee

not knowing what field you want to get into. There's also no shame in changing your mind.

You can serve God . . . in any field he puts you. You don't have to be a called worker to be a messenger of the gospel. That's the privilege all Christians have.

HER ADVICE: If you're unsure, I'd encourage you to consider MLC. Even if you don't continue into the called ministry, MLC is a college like no other. The campus really is a family because of the Christ-like love that pours through the hallways.



EDUCATION AND STAFF MINISTRY AT MLC

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At MLC, you can follow your gifts and your passions to your future ministry. A wide variety of education majors will prepare the way, including early childhood ed, elementary ed, special ed, and secondary ed (which offers many different subjectarea majors). Maybe add a minor in coaching, urban ministry, science, Spanish . . . Not sure the classroom is a perfect fit? Try the parish music program or the staff ministry program, which prepares you for a wide variety of non-preaching congregational

ministries, from worship coordinator to youth minister to church administrator. Want to double-major? We'll let you! Start exploring at mlc-wels.edu/academics/degrees.







CARSON OESTREICH

Pierce HS '20 – Pierce, Nebraska

MLC '24 / Preseminary Studies Major: Biblical Languages, Classical Emphasis: Spanish for Pastors

Football, track & field, guitar lessons, Männerchor (men's choir), Studies in Pastoral Ministries (SPAM) Committee, weight room supervisor job

CARSON OESTREICH

Yeah, he had offers: I was blessed to receive scholarship offers to play football at colleges around my area, and I seriously thought about taking one of the offers and going into law enforcement. I eventually decided to decline these offers and follow my passion for pursuing public ministry.

Does MLC take football seriously?

As I considered coming to MLC, I really wondered how serious everyone would be about the football team. I now see that all the coaches and players make football a big part of their daily lives, but they also do an outstanding job of making sure to prioritize faith over everything.

So many reasons to love MLC football: Being involved in football gave me a chance to meet lifelong friends. Football has taught me many lessons too. The coaches don't only make winning important, but they continually teach us how to be faithful leaders in the real world and how to get through adversity in life. This is a very important characteristic to have as we all train to be ministers of the gospel.

Encouragement from all quarters:

Being at a public school, I never told anyone about my consideration of the ministry. Even without telling anyone these thoughts, I had a few of my public school teachers tell me I should consider the ministry. And my parents were very supportive of my decision and helped provide advice.

KEY QUESTION: Do public school students fit in at MLC?

Something that surprised me about MLC was the students here and how much fun college can be. Coming from a public school, I was worried I wouldn't fit in. But everyone here has the same passion in their hearts for attending this school. As soon as I stepped onto campus, I immediately had that in common with all of the other students.

LOOKING AHEAD: I'd love to start out my ministry by being part of a mission church. The challenges behind growing a small church are something I'd love to take on.

HIS ADVICE: Don't keep your thoughts about your future to yourself. Make use of the adults and others around you. Discuss with them the pros and cons of certain decisions. Most importantly, pray and ask God for guidance as you narrow down your decision. Jeremiah 29:11 helped me as I prayerfully considered my future. God has a plan for everyone. Trust his process, and you'll find yourself walking in God's footsteps as he paves a road for your life.



ATHLETICS

MLC offers NCAA DIII competition in 16 sports in the Upper Midwest Athletic Conference (UMAC). And at MLC, you can play more than one sport. You can also play a sport and participate in a choir, instrumental ensemble, or a Forum production. It takes discipline, time management skills, and

strong relationships with your professors, but we'll help you do it! We want you to develop all your gifts while you're here. That way you become an even more well-rounded teacher, pastor, or staff minister.







MARTIN LUTHER COLL 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 (UNKE) RIDER

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 bring 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.





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TEACH ABROAD

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Quest

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/cultural-engagement-center**







MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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.





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 during 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**







MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE YAFFET GABAYEHU

Luther Prep '13 Tutor at Luther Prep

MLC '17 / WLS '21

MLC Major: Biblical Languages, Classical

MLC Minor: Spanish for Pastors WLS: Master of Divinity

Activities at MLC: Football, tennis, RA, Chorale, job in Fitness Center, Student Ambassador for Admissions Office, Events Team, Service & Cross-Cultural Learning Committee, piano lessons, intramurals

Yaffet gabayehu

Yaffet graduated from MLC in 2017 and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary in 2021. He was assigned to his alma mater, Luther Prep, as a religion instructor, dorm supervisor, and JV football coach.

How does "Dr. Gabayehu" sound? I was initially thinking about the medical field. I liked people, and I wanted to serve them, and it would've been a whole different story—probably a great one too. But as a pastor, I get to serve people in a manner that's just as important, if not more so. I get to share the gospel and create these relationships so we can serve Christ together in this life and ultimately live together in heaven.

SHOUT-OUTS: So many LPS faculty members pulled me aside and gave me encouraging words about MLC. Tutor Aaron Schumann was great. When I was going through tough times, he knew exactly what to say. My mom had a big impact on me, encouraging me to try it out. And my pastors in Dallas, John Koelpin and John Vieths, and their families gave both direct and indirect encouragements. "Man, these are men of God," I thought, "and I'd love to be a servant like them." I'm still trying to do that every day.

From MLC to the seminary: I feel like MLC more than prepared us to handle the Greek and Hebrew biblical studies at the seminary. And by senior year at MLC, there's a new level of maturity. My preseminary classmates and I knew we were taking the next step. We knew being under-shepherds of Christ is an important calling, and we were looking forward to it. We wanted to do that boldly, humbly, in a way that would

encourage guys under us to do the same thing. That's the theme in the pastor track—the camaraderie and the brotherhood.

The student is now the tutor: It's dawning on me how much I didn't know about what the Prep tutors did when I was a student here. It's an important job, and I'm humbled and blessed to carry it out. I'm going to learn a lot from my peers and from the students, as I get to know them. I remember how special the tutorstudent relationships were for me. I want to do that for my students—give them both law and gospel in as specific a way as possible and encourage them to serve God, whatever they do. Maybe that's MLC!

HIS ADVICE— Take 1: If you love God, love his people, and love his Word, then try out MLC. MLC will equip you with the tools you need to serve the people around you and serve your God in a way that's so rewarding because you get to be the person who shares the message of the gospel. It's a unique and wonderful mission and calling. And MLC gives you the tools to do it.

HIS ADVICE— Take 2: If you're thinking of the pastoral ministry, find a pastor you can talk to openly about anything—reservations you have or any excitement you have. It's good just to have someone to chat with, and because it's an open conversation, it doesn't have to lean one way or the other. It's just getting things on the table and hashing it out.





PRESEMINARY STUDIES AT MLC

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, do ministry and volunteer work, and—of course—enjoy dorm life. 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/ pre-seminary_program







MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

California LHS '19

MLC '24 / Education Major: Elementary Education Major: Secondary Spanish

Education

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

Anna Treder is emergency teaching this year at Zion-Egg Harbor WI. She will be back on campus to finish her degree next year.

Anna treder

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 80some 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.





STUDENT AMBASSADORS

Anna is one of our 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.**



NEW & WAITING FOR YOU



Betty Kohn Fieldhouse Turf—36,000 square feet of it.

Our new fieldhouse features batting cages, golf simulators, track & field equipment, and more. Our athletic teams, PE classes, intramurals, and other student groups love it already. You will too!







COMING SOON



Luther Student Center



You'll be in this building every day—using the cafeteria,

the gym, the fitness center, or maybe all three. But this summer we have big plans for the gathering space outside the gym. We're completely upgrading the game room and adding new movable furniture that you can customize to your own needs—working together on a project, playing games, or just lounging for an hour with a cup of coffee and a new friend.



Ropes Course



We're planning to add this physical education training area to campus. Adventure education is all the rage, and our new ropes course will be a great tool for education, team building, and personal development.

Recital & Rehearsal Hall

We've got the architect's drawings, and we're excited to add more music rehearsal and recital space in the lower level of the beautiful Chapel of the Christ.

PAYING FOR COLLEGE 101

We're so happy you're considering gospel ministry as your career and calling! We know that—just like the other students and graduates in this magazine—you're going to love your years at Martin Luther College, where you'll prepare to become a pastor, teacher, or staff minister.

We also know that college is expensive, and that concerns us. We think about it all the time, actually, and we're doing all we can to lower costs. Why? Because we want you to be excited about your vocation, not worried about your cash flow. We don't want money nightmares to haunt your ministry dreams.

HERE ARE OUR TWO GOALS:

By June 2027 . . . as we ask for God's help . . . and work with families . . .

First-Years: No Loans! Our goal is that by June 2027, no MLC student will need to take out loans their first year of college.

Why is this important? We want high school students like you to give MLC a chance—even if you're unsure about your future. After a semester or two here, we pray that ministry preparation captures your heart and you decide to stay, as the vast majority of our students do! We know that the idea of your own congregation or classroom might be just a glimmer now, but as you dive into our classes and get ministry experience, that glimmer will grow into a raging fire, and come Call Day, you'll be saying, "Here I am, Lord. Send me!"

Graduating Seniors: Low Loans! Our goal is that by June 2027, MLC seniors will graduate with an average debt that is no more than 50% of the starting salary of a called worker.

Why is this important?

As you enter your ministry, we want you to concentrate on the joys of gospel preaching, teaching, and serving in your new congregation and school—without being overwhelmed by financial worries.

From the Class of 2022: Lynnea Starzl was assigned to St. Lucas in Kewaskum, Wisconsin. Her fiancé, Jacob Zabell, is attending Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. Morgan Gosch *(right)* was assigned to California LHS.

How to Apply for Financial Aid (Scholarships, Grants, Loans)

- 1. Create your FSA ID (Federal Student Aid Identification) at studentaid.gov/fsa-id.
- 2. Complete the FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Aid) online at fafsa.gov.
 - You can file the FAFSA for your first year of college beginning October 1 of your senior year in high school.
 - MLC's school code is 002361.
- **3.** Complete the separate **MLC Financial Aid Application** (**mlc-wels.edu/finaid-app**) and submit it to the MLC Financial Aid Office.

Due date for both the FAFSA and the MLC Financial Aid Application:

- April 15 for the following fall semester OR
- November 1 for the following spring semester

Applications received after the deadline will forfeit MLC need-based financial aid.

- **4.** You may have to provide **additional documents**. This is simply to verify the information you supplied on your FAFSA.
- 5. Review your financial aid award! Watch for the email telling you it's ready.

mlc-wels.edu/apply-for-financial-aid



We take our students' financial wellbeing very seriously. Our financial wellness coordinator, JoElyn Krohn, helps students enhance their money management skills through our financial wellness program, MLC Direction.

Mrs. Krohn is available to meet with any student to make plans for the future and to discuss relevant topics: paying off loans, budgeting, using credit cards, creating an emergency fund, and even saving for retirement.

Our New Website Answers Your Questions Even If You're Not Coming to MLC

MLC has a new financial aid website—and it's not only for the Knight Nation.

The MLC website will help you figure out the world of college financial aid—*even if you're going to a different college.* This is just one way the WELS College of Ministry serves all WELS students and their families.

The site has answers for several groups of people who wonder about the cost of college and about planning for those costs:

- Pre-high school students
- High school students
- College students
- Post-college students
- Parents

And, of course, the site contains all the answers you need if you're coming specifically to MLC, including our financial aid packages and our Financial Wellness Program.

Check it out: mlc-wels.edu/financial-aid



Please contact us if you have questions about the application process or your specific situation. We are more than happy to help you navigate this process.

507.233.9154 / mlcaid@mlc-wels.edu



\$500 Individual Visit Tuition Credit

If you schedule a qualified individual visit before May 5, 2023, we'll credit **\$500** to your tuition account.

HOW DO YOU SCHEDULE A QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL VISIT?

- Visit mlc-wels.edu/individual-visit
- Select an available date and time with our friendly Admissions staff
- Attend your cyber or in-person visit

* Focus on Ministry visitors and visitors coming with a school/church group do not qualify for the \$500 tuition credit.



Set up your visit! 507.233.9133

\$500 Early Deposit Tuition Credit

If you apply to MLC and send in your \$135 deposit by March 1, 2023, we'll credit **\$500** to your tuition account.

REMIT YOUR \$135 DEPOSIT NOW:

- mlc-wels.edu/go/pay-deposit (enter Student ID 0000)
- MLC Admissions 1995 Luther Court New Ulm MN 56073
 - * Deposits received after March 1, 2023, are not eligible for the \$500 tuition credit.



mlc-wels.edu