

Unlocking Hebrew and Greek

Guys, maybe the coolest—and toughest—part of your journey to the pulpit will be learning the biblical languages. You'll take four years of Greek and two years of Hebrew at MLC. It's quite an adventure—at least that's what these four preseminary students say: **Micah Boehm** (SCLA / Crown of Life-West St. Paul MN, pictured, blue shirt), **Luke Rogotzke** (MVL / Zion-Sanborn MN, pictured, plaid shirt), **Joel Sauer** (LPS / St. Peter-Sturgeon Bay WI), and **Isaac Boettcher** (LPS / Prince of Peace-Salt Lake City).

The Coolest Part: Joel: “My favorite thing is easily going through and translating the biblical texts themselves. Our Hebrew professor got us into this quickly in the first year.” **Micah:** “I most enjoy the biblical insights our professors provide. We might be learning new vocabulary, but there's something suddenly profound about hearing where such vocabulary is actually used in a story or passage we already know by heart.” **Isaac:** “I love knowing I'll eventually be able to understand Scripture better through knowing Greek and Hebrew. I also love the bond that comes from learning with guys that are all in the same boat I am.”



The Toughest Part: Luke: “Hebrew is harder than Latin or Spanish just because the letters aren't familiar. There also aren't as many cognates in Hebrew as in Greek, so the vocabulary takes time to learn.” **Micah:** “The grammatical structure of Greek doesn't rely on word order as much as English or Hebrew does. However, I view Greek as a little puzzle. Just take inventory of all the nouns and verbs in each sentence, and all the sentence pieces drop in exactly where they're supposed to.” **Joel:** “Hebrew is definitely more difficult than Greek because it's so different. Even though you may know exactly what all the words mean, the ancient Hebrews thought about things differently, so you still need to interpret what's being said. However, even after working with it for only a semester, our professor already was confident in having us work through the book of Jonah. It was a welcome challenge.” **Isaac:** “The time commitment. It's good to get used to spending a solid amount of time on Greek every night. Some days will be more work than others. But it's definitely manageable, even if you play sports.”

The Best Tips: Isaac: “Flashcards get the job done. I recommend writing out your own. I study by myself most of the time, but it's a good idea to check over your work with a friend. My biggest takeaway is to study until you *know* it, not just until you think you know it.” **Micah:** “My best advice is almost too simple: repetition. First, I write the English vocabulary terms in a column, and then I write the corresponding Greek or Hebrew words to the right of those. Then I add another column that reverts the words back to English. Do this strategy a couple days, and it'll be no problem to commit vocabulary to long-term memory.” **Joel:** “Starting a study group with my friends. This forces all of us to schedule time to work on our worksheets and translations together. We've created so many inside jokes you may find us shouting Hebrew at each other across campus.”

The Payoff: Luke: “The best part is getting to study God's Word with so many extremely knowledgeable professors who are here to prepare us to do what they're doing, sharing the Word with God's people. The more I'm in God's Word, the more I'm reminded of Christ's boundless love for us. He's with me every step of the way as I study to be a pastor!”