

# knightwatch weekly



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MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

## First-Year Preseminary Guys Immersed in Ministry

If you're thinking of becoming a pastor, but you really aren't sure, we're here to help! Our new Early Ministry Experience will get you into a congregation for several days your very first year at MLC. You might assist in worship, help prepare a Bible class, sit in on important meetings, visit shut-ins, and much more. Most important, you'll have a chance to talk with the pastor, ask every question you have, and find out what he does and why he loves it.



Staff Minister Derek Gulrud MLC '22, Isaiah Carlovsky (MVL / St. Paul-New Ulm MN), William Lambrecht (WISCO / Pilgrim-Menomonee Falls WI), Aaron Economy (WISCO / Good Shepherd-West Allis WI), Pastor Hans Thomford MLC '15, WLS '19

**God's Grace in Amarillo TX:** Isaiah Carlovsky went to Grace in Amarillo, Texas, and worked with Pastor Hans Thomford and Staff Minister Derek Gulrud. *Here's what Isaiah learned:*

**A church is a family:** Ministry is more than pulpits and Bible studies. It's relationships with your members. What I noticed in this church is they're very close. They're a family. Maybe because they're smaller, they check in on each other, help each other.

**Words of wisdom from Pastor Thomford:** Pastor Thomford kept emphasizing the idea that not all churches are like small-town Midwestern churches. The church is changing. And though lots of things don't change—and shouldn't change—we do have to help the future church grow.

**Other Texas highlights:** We went to a Texan tea place. I'm imagining old ladies with tea cups, but it's actually vats of all kinds of tea. We bought three gallons. We went to a ranch and helped a member do some chores. We also went to the Big Texan and ate an 18-ounce steak.

**Looking ahead to his ministry:** I was already set, but this experience confirmed my decision. 'Wow, this is fun,' I thought. I think maybe I could handle this kind of mission work.

**Building on the Sure Foundation in Brandon SD:** Andy Raasch went to Sure Foundation in Brandon, South Dakota, and worked with Pastor Craig Wilke. *Here's what Andy learned:*

**Building Fast:** My favorite part of the entire trip was sitting in on the Building Committee's meeting. They're a young mission start-up, and they're already making plans to build a multi-million-dollar church.

**Ministry from an Entrepreneur's View:** Having an entrepreneurial background, I thought it was super cool to see the numbers behind everything. It was also awesome to see the visual models of what the church might look like. I hadn't thought of how entrepreneurial being a pastor was, but shadowing a pastor of a mission start-up definitely revealed that.

**Looking ahead to his ministry:** My EME trip affirmed and fueled my desire to pursue pastoral ministry! It excited me for the possibility of getting called to serve at a mission start-up church!



Andy Raasch (SCLA / Salem-Stillwater MN) and Pastor Craig Wilke MLC '15, WLS '19