

You Can Be a Preacher!



Guys, if you're thinking about being a pastor, but the idea of stepping into that pulpit is terrifying, you're not alone. Good news: you get preparation and practice already here at MLC! We asked **Jon Holtz** (LPS / St. Paul-Appleton WI, pictured left) all about it.

He gets it: When I was in high school trying to decide if I wanted to go to MLC, preaching was the thing I was worried about the most. So if you're in a similar spot—don't worry about it! Seriously, all of us were in the same boat at some point or another. Whether it's your hometown pastor, your favorite preacher, a random MLC senior, or maybe even the preaching professor—I'd be willing to bet

they all had quite a bit of nerves when they started preaching. It's normal and, you'll find, in many ways part of the fun.

How he prepares: My general process follows a little phrase we learned in our Advanced Christian Rhetoric (ACR) course taught by Dr. Mark Paustian: Study yourself full (hours of digging into the text). Think yourself empty (spend some time thinking and freewriting all this stuff you're absorbing). Then write yourself clear (distill it down and revise it).

And of course he prays: Whether you're writing your sermon and asking for help after hitting a roadblock, or your hands are shaking and it's 15 seconds before you stand up in the pulpit, you'll get to experience the simple but undeniable comfort that bringing these things to your God in prayer provides.

Psst: I'll also let you in on a little secret: There's actually quite a few pastors on campus (aka guys that know how to write really good sermons). They are great sources to draw from, and they love it when you run stuff by them. I have used them often.

He loves ACR: This preaching class is awesome. It takes you step by step through the entire process of writing and delivering a message. This slow, detail-oriented pace not only makes the process a lot less daunting, but leads to a quality product that you're excited to share with people. And it's very collaborative. Everyone works together, bouncing ideas, offering advice, hyping each other up. Through experiences like this, you really start to form a cool bond with your classmates.



It's such an awesome experience and so cool to be coached and mentored by such amazing professors as Dr. Paustian at MLC.

Luke Wegner
(WISCO / St. Marcus-Milwaukee)



When I was preparing for my devotion, I was wondering, "Who is this going to grab? Who's going to hear this message and let it inspire their lives?" The easy thing to do is put all the pressure on yourself, but in the end, the Word of God will reach the hearts of those who listen.

Johannes Bourman
(LPS / Mt. Lebanon-Milwaukee)

Read the full interviews of Luke and Johannes here:

