

## Capstone Clinicals Boost Confidence

As a high schooler, you may find it hard to picture yourself as a called worker. No worries! At MLC, we give you lots of “practice” before you receive your assignment into full-time ministry. The capstone clinical experience for education majors is student teaching, and for practical theology majors, it’s a staff ministry internship. This concentrated hands-on experience will boost your confidence and amp up your excitement for your ministry! In this issue, we’ll let a former student teacher and a current staff ministry intern tell you what it’s like.

**Sarah Kramer '24** can’t say enough about her student teaching experience in the kindergarten classroom of **Amy Herkstroeter MLC '96**. It was just what she needed to launch her into her own classroom just a few months later.

“Amy has so much energy, joy, and love for teaching and her students,” Sarah said. “After observing just the first couple of days, I thought to myself, ‘That’s the type of teacher I want to be.’”

Sarah watched how Amy managed her classroom—teaching the children how to line up and when to be quiet, for instance—and how she supported and encouraged each little student in their development.

Sarah left that classroom in Fond du Lac ready to share the love of Jesus in her own classroom—which she’s doing right now at Trinity Lutheran School in Brillion, Wisconsin. “My confidence in my teaching abilities and running a classroom grew significantly under the mentoring of Mrs. H. We talked about everything. She was not only an amazing mentor but she was—and still is—a great friend!”



**Noah Kvidth '25** is excited about all the different things he’s doing as a staff ministry intern right now at his own church: Divine Savior in Doral, Florida. He’s planning a new Faith and Family Night, visiting members, sitting in on vision action team meetings, and sharing the Word in so many ways: through devotions, confirmation class, high school theology class, and more!

Noah’s learned so much from his supervisor, **Pastor Ben Kuerth MLC '02, WLS '06**. “Pastor Ben lives the gospel,” he says. “The zeal and joy that he brings to his work each and every day is amazing. His energy and happiness is contagious.”

Noah’s biggest takeaway might surprise you: “Ministry is messy,” he says, “*and that’s a good thing*. When the front we all put up is taken down, we reveal the messiness of our lives. It is there where ministry truly happens. That’s where we have the privilege to share what God did for us. He got down into the muck and mud of our lives, got dirty himself, and pulled us out of that pit. And as ministers, we get to do that work with him! We get to be with people in all the ups and downs of life.”

Noah encourages high school students like you to consider staff ministry.

“There are so many unique opportunities with staff ministry! So, if you are like I was in high school, unsure of what you want to do in your career, but you love Jesus and sharing his love with others in some way, shape, or form, I encourage you to consider staff ministry!”