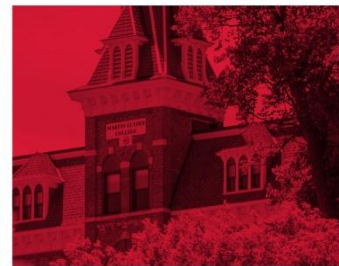




MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

knightwatch

WEEKLY



APRIL 24, 2026

Hey, First-Years, How Was It?

It's almost May! As we rev up for the last few weeks of the semester, we asked a few first-year Student Ambassadors to step away from their final projects and papers and give us a little review of their first year. Was the WELS College of Ministry what they expected? As they began their journey to be *Knighted for Ministry*, what really made an impression?

Henry Schapekahn



Wisconsin LHS
Mt. Lebanon-Milwaukee

Elementary Ed &
Secondary Social
Studies Ed

Activities: Student
Ambassador, cross
country, track, Chorale,
Outdoor Education Club

I love the constant Christian love and support from friends, professors, and many others at MLC.

Professors at MLC genuinely care about you, and they build connections that go outside the classroom. They're here to support and guide us in life and in our faith throughout college, and for that I could not be more grateful.

I was curious about dorm life, but I ended up really enjoying it! Living with some of my closest friends has been incredible. I can't wait to be in the ministry with them in a few short years.

Pleasantly surprised: I was in just about every group possible in high school, and I had no idea if I could be as involved in college. I was pleasantly surprised by the seemingly unending number of groups and clubs that are available to all students.

Samantha Priem



Michigan Luth Sem
St. John-Bay City MI

Elementary Ed

Activities: Student
Ambassador,
volleyball, Women's
Choir, intramurals,
tutor, Daylight
volunteer

It was a hard decision: I almost chose a school closer to home in Saginaw, Michigan, to pursue a medical or education career. But through encouragement from family, teachers, and friends—along with experiences like ministry trips and choir tours—I began to see how God was guiding me in a different direction. Those moments helped me feel more confident in choosing MLC, and I am so glad that I did!

What I've loved most here are the people. Everyone is so kind. Being involved in volleyball, admissions, and other campus activities has helped me build great relationships and made this campus feel like home.

Centennial Hall was a surprise. It has a very fun and inviting atmosphere. I've really loved getting to know the girls on my floor.

Caleb Martin



Michigan Luth Sem
St. Paul-Saginaw MI

Pre-Seminary Studies

Activities: Student
Ambassador, Student
Senate, Chorale,
baseball, Hilltop
facilitator

Worshiping together with a few hundred people every day is unlike anything else. You may have the impression that chapel is something you're forced to attend, but it's the best thing on campus! And the musicians are incredible. It's amazing to see fellow classmates use their God-given gifts in chapel music.

Leading a small-group Bible study: As part of Hilltop, I've had the blessing to lead a small-group Bible study of eight first-year guys once a week. It's opened doors to many wonderful conversations that I never thought about having, and it's also provided an open door to anyone in our group to talk about whatever they want—from the Bible to life in general. It's so encouraging to share your faith and experiences in a tight-knit group.