



# Ministry Report 2025

## Chosen People, Special Purpose



### Student Profile: Hayden Powers

As an 8th grader, Hayden Powers was vehemently opposed to attending Michigan Lutheran Seminary. He planned to pursue engineering and felt that his local high school had more opportunities for him to attend advanced classes and hands-on courses that would better fit that path.

The Powers family had been aware of MLS and its purpose of encouraging young people to serve in the ministry, the daily chapel services, and the small school environment, but they acquiesced to their son's choice for high school. When Hayden approached them in the summer after his sophomore year about attending MLS, to say they were shocked is an understatement. Why would he want to change schools? He was excelling in his classes earning honor roll recognition in advanced course work. But, by Hayden's own estimation, something was missing.

Fast forward 2 years and Hayden is a proud member of the MLS class of 2025. He is enrolled at MLC in the pre-seminary program with the goal to serve his Savior in the pastoral ministry. The ministry encouragement and experiences he received while on the MLS campus brought into focus the joy of doing something that had eternal implications. What was missing from his high school education prior to MLS was a Christ-centered focus on excellence in education and service for the gospel's sake.

***"As a parent, there is nothing better than hearing your sons ask to stay at school for evening chapel. Well, maybe there is; it's even more humbling when you hear your son say that he volunteered to lead evening chapel in front of his friends. That's why we love MLS."***



It is for students like Hayden that MLS exists. Very few young people know when they enter high school what their life's goals are. A school like MLS that gives evangelical encouragement and ample ministry experiences allows students to see themselves serving God's people in ministry situations while they receive a well-rounded education that will set them up for whatever vocation they choose for themselves.

We are proud to be our synod's preparatory high school located in Saginaw, Michigan since 1910. We encourage you to visit and experience the culture of ministry that is being blessed by our Lord to encourage and equip future servants of the Word.

# Congratulations Class of 2025!



Congratulations to the MLS Class of 2025! 23 of the 42 members (55%) of this class have enrolled at MLC and will continue their path toward ministry in WELS. Every single one of those 23 received a scholarship from MLS to assist with their tuition at Martin Luther College. In total, the entire MLS Class of 2025 has received over \$300,000 (and growing) in scholarships toward their future education.

## We're From Seminary...Couldn't Be Prouder!

*We had some notable achievements from our Seminary athletes both on and off the court/field!*

### TEAM

- Academic All State - Football, Boys' Cross Country, Wrestling, Boys' Basketball & Girls' Basketball
- Conference Champions - Wrestling
- District Champions - Girls' Basketball, Wrestling & Softball
- Regional Champions - Softball
- State Semi-Finals - Softball

### INDIVIDUALS

- Will Salgat (Basketball) - 1000 points
- Ally Coffey (Softball) - 1000 strikeouts
- Joey Cain (Shot Put) - 2<sup>nd</sup> Place at State





# Strategic Plan: Goals/Accomplished

*In 2023, MLS launched a three-year strategic plan entitled “Chosen People, Special Purpose” that established 5 goals and several key initiatives to accomplish those goals.*

- Goal #1: Mission Support: Maximize the efficient use of human resources through a careful and thoughtful review of our administrative structure.
  - Beginning in 2024-25 school year a new Administrative structure was implemented.
  - All position descriptions have been reviewed and MVOs of all committees have been completed, reviewed, and updated.
- Goal #2: Facilities Enhancement - Develop a master site plan that maximizes use of current space, allows for future enhancements, and provides the facilities necessary for effectively educating a high school student in the 21st century.
  - MLS is currently working with the Credo team to create a master site plan.
- Goal #3: Communication Coordination - Improve internal and external communication by coordinating existing resources and utilizing available technology tools.
  - MLS produces a monthly staff newsletter, the MLS Minute, to communicate executive council decisions and items happening on campus.
  - MLS has engaged Blueprint Schools to refine PR offerings, enhance recruitment efforts, and refresh the MLS website.



- Goal #4: Student Growth - Refine campus goals for excellence in academic and extracurricular offerings.
  - MLS developed a Curriculum Review Cycle with the Mathematics department review happening in the 2024-25 school year.
  - All current extracurricular programs were reviewed during the 2024-25 school year to determine their effectiveness and alignment with the MLS mission of encouraging future servants of the gospel.
- Goal #5: Ministry Encouragement: Enhance current admissions efforts for matriculation of incoming students, retention of current students, and encouragement to continue preparation for the public ministry of the gospel beyond MLS.
  - MLS is currently in discussion with CFS to bring a licensed counselor back on campus 2 days a week to serve the mental health needs of our student body.



In February 2025, MLS launched the Blueprint Schools Project to examine how MLS can strengthen its long-term future, better define its identity, and improve how MLS connects with students and families, especially within the broader WELS community. Working with the consulting group Blueprint Schools, MLS began Phase 1 by gathering input from key stakeholders. This included 27 in-depth parent interviews, a study of 14 schools both inside and outside our fellowship, and a marketing survey completed by 63 parent participants. The goal of this phase was to get a clearer picture of how MLS is perceived and where there may be room to grow. The data will be used during the summer of 2025 to develop a Strategic Growth Analysis and practical action plan, including a stronger brand message, an annual marketing strategy, and a redesigned school website. It is the prayer of the MLS administration that these steps will help MLS grow in enrollment, better reflect its mission of preparing students for lives of serving others, and communicate more clearly with future families.



## New Math/Curriculum Courses

In the Fall of 2024, the Math Department began an overhaul of our current offerings. These needed changes allowed us to comply with new state requirements for courses that will be mandated of all students graduating after 2028, as well as generate more math options and the opportunities for our students to attain college credits. In keeping with our school's mission of encouraging students to consider full-time ministry, MLS began to lay the groundwork for our first Dual-Credit option to be taught here on our campus in cooperation with Martin Luther College. Beginning in the fall of 2025, new classes being added to our course offerings are AP PreCalculus, AP Calculus AB, AP Computer Science, Consumer Math/Personal Finance, and our new Dual Credit Elementary Statistics with MLC, which has nearly 20 students presently enrolled. We look forward to continuing to expand our options and give students similar opportunities in our other departments.

## Admissions Update

One of our most consistent ministry recruitment initiatives at MLS is our annual Taste of Ministry. This program sends every member of our senior class into a classroom, pulpit, or church office to see the work of called workers up close, further clarifying for our students whether ministry is the vocation for them. These past three years, we have been blessed with the financial support to send each of our pastor-leaning young men to home mission congregations across the country, from Chattanooga, TN to Joplin, MO to Thornton, CO. We rejoice in our partnership with the Board for Home Missions as we expand these ministry prep opportunities for our students on campus and away!

If you would like to schedule a visit to MLS for your family or someone in your congregation, travel assistance is available in the form of reimbursement of expenses up to \$500. A campus visit could be exactly what a prospective student or family needs to see that MLS might be the best place for them for their formative high school years, surrounded by like-minded Christians and receiving ministry encouragement and experience along the way. Are you picturing someone right now? Reach out to them! You are part of our ministry recruitment team. We're glad to have you aboard!





## Campus Improvements

Over the past year, several campus improvements were completed to enhance student life and learning. One of the most visible changes was the gym floor, which was sanded down and refinished, now featuring a sharp new design with the updated cardinal logo at center court. The Inter-Dorm Office (IDO) also underwent a major renovation, creating a more welcoming space and adding a kitchenette area for student use. In the academic wing, a classroom was fully remodeled as a prototype for future upgrades. This space now includes new carpet, fresh paint, updated technology, additional outlets, new student furniture, improved intercom, and other modern classroom features.



## Michigan Lutheran Seminary By The Numbers

Projected Enrollment  
2025-26



**196**

Extracurricular  
Participation  
2024-25



**95%**

Average GPA  
2024-25



**3.77**

Tuition  
Room & Board Costs  
2025-26



Tuition - \$8,451  
Room & Board - \$5,365

Student Teacher Ratio  
2025-26



**7:1**

Avg. Financial Aid  
2024-25



**\$3,675**

**55% of the Class of 2025 Enrolled at MLC!**