

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Luther HS / St. Paul-Onalaska WI

Coming Soon to Your School!

It's with great joy that we introduce Mr. Martín Santos, our newest recruiter at Martin Luther College! I had a fantastic chat with Mr. Santos over the phone this week, and I was blown away by his story. From beginning to end, it's abundantly clear that God guided him to exactly where he is today.

Mr. Santos was born in Mexico and eventually moved to America with his mother. He was raised Catholic and described how the first two decades of his life felt like one big search for God, who felt so far away. But when Mr. Santos set foot in Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Des Moines, Washington, for the first time, it felt like home. His grandmother had just passed away, and a friend invited him to church to learn more about what God could teach him through the situation. Mr. Santos remembers, "It felt like God whispered to me in that moment that he had been with me the whole time, but I was just looking in the wrong places."

Mr. Santos soon became a member at Holy Trinity. In a matter of months, his pastor encouraged him to go to MLC to become a teacher. He did just that! Some of Mr. Santos' best memories from his time here include helping with local Spanish ministry, meeting his wife, Hailey (*pictured with him above*), and playing on a non-competitive intramural basketball team. He chuckled as he described his team as "a group of guys who had all the basketball knowledge in the world, but no actual ability to apply it in real life." After graduating with his degree to teach high school history, the first few years of Mr. Santos' ministry took him all over the US, serving one-year calls in Washington, Nebraska, and California before his call to MLC in October 2019.

I asked Mr. Santos if he had a key message he wanted high school students to hear. He told me about Call Day, when he and his then-fiancé received their first assignments . . . across the country from one another. This was a tough pill to swallow, but it taught him an important lesson he'd like to pass on to you: "Did the assignment committee give me exactly what I wanted? No. But one thing's for sure: God doesn't make mistakes. He had me right where he wanted me." As you consider how you will serve God in the next phase of your life, be sure to schedule a meeting with Mr. Santos when he swings by your school. I know he'd love to discuss how MLC might be part of the journey God has in store for you!



President Gurgel gets to know an excited first-year student outside the Chapel of the Christ.

A Passionately Personable Prez

Mr. Santos isn't the only new member of our campus family who is excited to meet new people and share Jesus' love. Just about every evening for the past few weeks, President Gurgel has sat at a picnic table outside the chapel, having meetings with first-year students. When I asked why he was taking so much time to do this, his answer was simple. "It's just a chance to let each student know they're important to our school—that each of them deeply matters here."

In addition to setting aside time to make people feel loved, President Gurgel "went the extra mile" this weekend by leading a fleet of students atop bicycles during an event called "Pedal with the Prez." This was a tour of the bike loop he rides a few times each week to stay in tiptop shape. The tour was complete with tidbits about the history of New Ulm and even some tasty treats from local businesses. What a wonderful event! We treasure our close-knit family here at MLC!