

knightwatch weekly



MARTIN LUTHER COLLEGE

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Celebrating Hispanic Heritage

Our Cultural Engagement Center is all about welcome, engagement, and education. It provides a welcoming space for our diverse students to express themselves and an engaging space for cross-cultural conversations among all of us—the kind that lead to greater awareness, cultural humility, and respect for all.

This month, the CEC celebrates Hispanic heritage. Events include a presentation from **AnaCristina Iglesias** (*Lakeside LHS / St. Mark-Watertown WI*) about her heritage, a Spanish worship service, and a presentation about the Spanish immersion trip to Argentina.

Juan Carrasquero, pictured, is a first-year from Divine Savior Academy near Miami, which has students of many different cultures enrolled. “It’s cool that there’s a Hispanic Heritage Month,” he said. “It’s good to learn about different cultures, helping everyone to be more engaged in the college itself.”

One of the CEC event organizers, **Renée Johnson** (*Canterbury HS / St. Paul-Ottawa ON*), noted that every day at MLC we are also celebrating another heritage: God’s Word. “The hope with the cultural engagement events,” she says, “is not only to help MLC students learn about and appreciate other cultures they may minister to, but also that the student body might be more culturally competent so we may make disciples of all nations.”

3,000 Miles to the Ministry

Born and raised in Bogotá, Colombia, until the age of 11, **Juan Escobar** (*DSA / Divine Savior-Doral FL*) was a Catholic mostly out of tradition. His first love was basketball, but he had no idea that a team basketball camp in Florida would change his life.

The basketball camp was at Divine Savior Academy—his first encounter with the WELS. Recognizing the talent of Juan’s team, the DSA administrators encouraged them to apply to DSA. Juan was accepted. Seeing this as a beneficial opportunity, his family moved to Miami.

“When I moved to Miami,” he says, “I never thought of becoming a pastor. At first, I wanted to be a doctor, then a lawyer. But I addressed my passions differently in my junior year. I realized that I *love* talking to people, I *love* traveling and getting out of my comfort zone, and I *love* to spread the gospel. Then I knew there was no better job for me.”

Juan is now a senior in the preseminary program and serves as Student Senate president. He’s looking forward to attending Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary next year. “Though I continue to experience challenges in my ministry journey,” he says, “I know I am not alone, because God looks on me with favor and blesses my every step.”

