

## **WELCOME TO OUR NEW PIANIST, LOUIE ORTIZ**

We are pleased to welcome pianist Louie Ortiz to St. Thomas of Canterbury!

Luis Ortiz, who goes by Louie, was born and raised in San Diego. Since he was 8 years old, he dreamed of becoming a concert pianist and managed to average about 4-5 hours of practice per day when he was in his teens. Along that journey, he learned violin, guitar and organ as well as other musical instruments. The son of a band director, Louie was destined to live a musical life. He served as a choir director, director of music, and principal organist at Baptist, Methodist and Lutheran churches. However, while in his second year of university studies as a music major, he was encouraged to use his teaching gift as an educator and so he changed his major to elementary education. After a few years as an elementary teacher, he received his MS in Education Administration and became an assistant principal. Later, he earned an Ed.S. in Education Leadership at La Sierra University and became a principal at Poway Unified School District in San Diego. Louie now serves as a principal at the Murrieta Springs Adventist Christian Academy in Murrieta. His school belongs to the Southeastern Conference of Seventh-day Adventists, of which he is a member.

Louie serves as Director of Music at the Murrieta Springs SDA Church and enjoys performing on their Hamburg Edition Steinway Concert Grand. His other passions include: birding, mountain biking, Civil War history, archeology, deep sea fishing with his dad and son, and drawing. In fact, Louie is a published wildlife artist, with several of his bird drawings having been featured on the cover of San Diego Audubon Sketches Magazine.

This year, Louie would like to begin a journey of visiting as many US National Parks as possible, in his Land Rover, over the next few years. Adventureloo, as he likes to call himself, has his sights set for a grand tour of America. Without a doubt, he is proud to be a Christian and proud to be an American.