

## Luis René Olana Aguilar



On December 23, we lost one of the valued leaders of the Seeds of Hope program in El Salvador who was also a diaconal pastor in the Lutheran Church in El Salvador. Luis Rene was a dear friend, with whom I enjoyed many conversations over the years, including most recently a month ago on one of our hour or so Facetime chats. At Iglesia Luterana Emaús, Guazapa he led the young people for many years and was an inspiration to them to help follow their dreams, work hard in school and get a university degree. He provided a listening ear and encouragement when needed. We always spent a day in the community which was one of the highlights of the trip. Along with Pastor Gloria, Luis would help plan our time together. On our last trip, he wanted to be sure our group had the time just with the youth to hear and learn from them. I know especially these young adults are feeling his loss deeply, and I pray that they know not only the impact he had on them, but the impact they had on Luis. He was so proud of each of them. Rest in peace, my friend. You are living an eternal life with God and you are deeply missed by your family and friends.

*Written by Jill Cornell, SOH Coordinator for  
Trinity Lutheran Church, Long Lake, MN.*



Luis was born March 13, 1964 and was ordained as a diaconal pastor on August 5, 2023. He served as co-pastor of Emaús Lutheran Church from 2015.

