

Opportunities

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center has a wonderful opportunity that our congregation is challenged to deal with. Ours is a small, chapel-sized church. We need to use our space wisely, especially now that even more college students from Grove City College are attending worship. This is a great challenge and a wonderful opportunity to make space for all the college students so that they can continue to grow in Christian faith.

Space is not the only opportunity. Rev. Jacob Deal serves two parishes, so time is precious, but he sees this as an opportunity. He uses every opportunity he gets to meet students personally and that gets results. An example is the confirmation Christmas Eve day of a student Rev. Deal met at the beginning of the fall semester at Grove City College. Rev. Deal immediately made time to invite the student to come to worship; to Sunday afternoon student Bible study and told the student to call him anytime.

Rev. Deal clearly values students, even learning their names immediately. In addition to his use of the opportunities to draw students to faith, he has brought the vicar, Zachary Wessel, into opportunities like leading student meals. These two men have combined determination to make use of opportunities with the college students. This is infectious as they banter back and forth at the student meals. The students clearly enjoy being at the meals with them.

Despite the fact that Grove City College is seven miles from All Saints, it has proven to be an outreach opportunity. Several members of All Saints have volunteered to frequently drive students to and from worship from Grove City, to and from the airport for students going home for semester breaks, to the grocery store or to social events at All Saints. This transportation is much more than helping get students from point A to point B. It is a definite way to establish trust and friendship with the conversations held in the car while making those trips. More than one student has even invited the car drivers to their weddings. Transportation is an opportunity that provides time to grow close. What a blessing.

The monthly student meals are more than opportunities to feed hungry students. Rosemary Rigney really touched the hearts of the students at a recent meal by asking them "What would you like to eat for our next meal?" They had never been asked that question before and were very excited about giving her their answers. They were impressed by the care she showed them with this question. It was an opportunity to let them know how much they matter.

The downstairs door at All Saints opens on Main Street, and therefore some students walk past it on the way to classes. Beautifying and enlarging the door area leading into the downstairs will be an excellent opportunity to make All Saints more inviting to students. This will show them our church building is a place to study, have coffee, and come to talk with the Campus Ministry Director. It's also a location to put up colorful signs saying "Free prayer," "Time to have snacks," "Time to talk," and "Welcome!"

A Muslim international friend continues to give All Saints a very special opportunity. She found out years ago that Christians are kind, so she came to All Saints for friendship and conversation with the Campus Ministry Director, and she still does. She comes in because she can share her life, the good and the bad. She often describes how impossible it is for her to forgive a person she had loved with all her heart, but now does not because she was so hurt in the relationship. I tell her that the Bible teaches that forgiveness is essential in relationships.

All Saints is grateful for the opportunities to share God's love.

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