

WHICH IS THE KEY BUILDING ON CAMPUS?

AUGUSTA R. MENNELL / CAMPUS MINISTRY DIRECTOR
ALL SAINTS LUTHERAN CHURCH AND STUDENT CENTER - SLIPPERY ROCK, PA



This summer my husband and I traveled to California to see our oldest grandchild graduate from high school. Like all grandparents we beamed with pride as her name was called out at the graduation ceremony.

We spent time visiting our granddaughter, Karly, before returning home to Pennsylvania. One of the highlights was driving to see the college she will attend in the fall. We were impressed by the attractive campus, by the size of the art department (her major), and by the kindness of the professor, who was still on campus even though students had already left for the summer break.

He asked Karly if she planned to attend the school. When she said yes, he volunteered to give her a personal tour of the art department. He gave her tips on which classes to take, how to get internships, and where to locate the buildings where her classes would be. He made her feel very welcome.

As we left, the professor added that he comes to Pittsburgh once a year because it is his wife's home town. He has all sorts of Steeler paraphernalia in his home, including a collar for his dog with the Steelers logo on it. When we invited him to stop in at All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center when he comes to Pittsburgh, he exclaimed that he had attended a Lutheran camp in Erie when he was a kid. What a small world.

After meeting the professor, we slowly drove around the campus just to see what it looked like. We searched to see if we could find any sign of a Christian campus ministry center, where students like Karly could go for friendship and to get the chance to know more about the Christian faith. All Saints knows from experience that campus ministry is a difference maker. Campus ministry is crucial for students who come to college with faith as well as it is for those who come with no belief in any god, let alone in the Triune God. It would be a blessing to have a Christian campus ministry on every campus for all the nation's grandchildren to experience.

All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center in Slippery Rock believes that campus ministry is so important that we joyfully attend every Slippery Rock University orientation for incoming students. We do this so that we get to invite them to All Saints. You should see the anticipation, hope, and out right fear on the students' faces as they file by the orientation tables. What an opportunity All Saints Fellowship has to introduce our campus ministry to students.

We introduced ourselves to Spencer, who told us he is a Lutheran, that he did lots of volunteer work in his church, and would like to do volunteer work with us when he arrives in the fall. What a privilege to invite him to help us with his ideas for reaching

out to college students. We will certainly show him that All Saints is here for him.

Spencer is not the only Lutheran we met at orientation. We welcomed Brandon and Emma, too. They accepted our invitation to come to our Korean student meals. We even got to invite Robert, who still suffers jet lag because he had just arrived from San Diego, California. It is really a treat to let students know that our church and campus ministry is here for them.

Orientation is a great opportunity to share words of welcome and to give away good books like Lee Strobel's useful book, *The Case for a Creator*. A book my husband wishes had been available when he was an undergrad. It is a book he believes will help the students who struggle with the relationship of science and Christianity. Too often students have lost their faith because they believe the lie that God couldn't have created the universe.

Campus ministry cannot do it alone. Grandparents and parents are needed to pray with us for college students. Their prayers do matter. Prayers and more prayers will help our students, including grandchildren, because God could love them no more than He does.

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS KEEP US BUSY IN THE SUMMER

JUDY TANG/IFC DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CENTER/UNIV OF WI-MADISON

A sweet friend from Spain returned to Madison and the International Friendship Center (IFC) for vacation in August. She had been a visiting scholar in 2016 and when she was in Madison, she was a "English class junkie," attending classes at every church and community center around the city. But the IFC is "the most special and most important place!" Nothing compares to the togetherness, community, and warm friendship found at the IFC. She specifically came to the IFC to reconnect and feel the friendship and love of Jesus that resides here. So thankful!!

Always wanting to connect internationals to life in the U.S. and life in Jesus Christ, the IFC hosted 7 activities in addition to the 15 weekly English classes and Bible studies this summer.

We went to the Dairy Farm Breakfast, Concerts on the Capitol Square, and a "Weekend in Watertown". We enjoyed backyard BBQs at American homes and a boat cruise around the Madison lakes, and more! These events provide such wonderful opportunities to build friendships and share American culture.



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GOD IS LOVE

BOB DICKHUDT/ISM DIRECTOR
WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY-DETROIT, MI

My name is "Andrew" and I am the "adopted" grandson of grandpa Bob. I am currently a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Wayne State University and about to graduate soon. I have been with International Students Ministry (ISM) for about 2 years. ISM has become my family. Everyone is so nice and makes me feel and warm and welcome. Also, international students and scholars like us are their "kids/grandkids", especially in a spiritual sense.

Thursday is one of my favorite days of the week since it is like Thanksgiving Day. All members of ISM family at Wayne State University will get together, enjoy food together (especially some "fake Chinese" food grandpa Bob made, I like it very much actually), pray together, read Bible, learn English, care about each other, make friends, and so on. But, the most important one I have not mentioned above yet is to know God, our Holy Father. We got to know that, as Bible says, "Every scripture inspired of God is also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness". In ISM, we not only eat spiritual fruits but also can see images and likeness of God from those "parents" who feed us spiritually, care about us, hug us and teach us within the love of God.

During these two years, we were invited to visit Guardian Lutheran Church and school, and taught elementary school kids how to use chopsticks, how to pronounce and write Chinese words and let them know more about China and Chinese culture. We were also kindly invited to visit the Henry Ford Museum and enjoyed Middle Eastern food afterward. Undoubtedly, we had a very wonderful time there in the museum and had a very good try for the food. In addition to the above, we went golfing, water skating, fishing and so on. We had a lot of fun time and moments in God. We took tons of pictures of where we went and what we did. Very luckily, we witnessed and celebrated the 60 years anniversary of Grandpa Dennis and his lovely wife Norma at ISM. On that day, we talked about love and marriage. The



GRANDPA BOB AND "ANDREW" ENJOY A DAY OF FISHING TOGETHER.

"message about love from God has also been planted in my heart. A week later, I got to know that Grandpa Bob and his cute girlfriend have been married for 63 years. Can you imagine how wonderful this is, how great the blessing from God is, and I hope I will harvest this wonderful love as well.

Based on my belief, faith is not just to memorize some Bible verse or enjoy moments inside or outside our churches, it should be how you live with it and how you love and care about others, just like how God our Father treats us. Bob, Dennis, Rob and Kelly, they have set very good examples for us: how to love God, how to love each other, how to live within love and how to gradually turn your belief to trust. I would say that ISM will definitely be the most unforgettable and pleasant memory in my life. I love my "parents and grandparents" in this family of love. I may not have much to say or don't know how to express my feelings, but I truly can feel

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love is among us, God is with us and will be with us forever.

At last, I want to personally thank those who support and donate to ISM. Without people like you, our church and ministry can't have an impact or influence in our school communities. I also want to say thank you to all ISM members. Your presence and contribution are highly appreciated, and we want to pray that whatever you did, you did it to the Lord himself and will reward you highly. May peace be upon you all my dear brothers and sisters in God! John 13:34-35: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

NOW ARRIVING AT GATE 15... A FRIEND

**LIZ BEIKMANN, ISM FACILITATOR
ST. LUKE'S LUTHERAN CHURCH-KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY**

As the fall semester begins a new group of exchange students are arriving at Kansas State University and thanks to former students, the word spreading about host families at KSU. Exchange students from the Czech Republic are requesting to be paired with an American friend or host family.

American hosts from our ministry pick up each student as they arrive at the airport. They then open their home to the student to stay for couple of days until they can move into their own housing. A day prior to orientation, the host helps the student check into their campus housing and shows them around town and campus.

Some students arrive even earlier in order to travel before the semester begins. Daniel and Jan (pictured right) were met by their hosts at the Manhattan airport. They will be traveling along with a couple of friends until orientation begins. These students, and former students, have expressed how grateful they are for the help of the families in our ministry.



LITTLE BY LITTLE

**MARCIA MITTWEDE, ISM DIRECTOR
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS-AUSTIN**

Often when students come to us, they have very little knowledge of the Bible or Christianity. Many come from a background of no religion at all. When they begin to study the Bible it is all brand new. Such was the case for "A" who was in a Bible class for 3 years before the Lord finally brought her to Himself.

We thank God for the opportunity He gives us to proclaim the Gospel and that He is at work drawing students to Himself. Here is what "A" had to say on the occasion of her baptism in May, 2019:

It was not easy for me to take this step of becoming a Christian. Even though I respect all kinds of religious beliefs, I never thought about becoming a believer of anyone. All of my family members are atheists, which means I knew nothing about any kind of religion. Now, having been baptized, I treasure this relationship. I cherish God's love for me. I consider my baptism as a new start for my Christian journey and I hope my faith will continue to grow stronger and more solid.

Lord, we pray for spiritual growth, integration into a church and protection from the evil one for "A".



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A FAREWELL LUNCH FOR PASTOR PAUL HOEMANN OF UNIVERSITY LUTHERAN CHAPEL, COLLEGE STATION, TX. PAUL RECENTLY TOOK A CALL TO SERVE AS PASTOR AT CONCORDIA LUTHERAN CHURCH IN FROHNA, MISSOURI. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY AS YOU TRANSITION, PASTOR PAUL!