

Welcome Vicar Wessel!

Picture the scene: it is Call Night at the Fort Wayne Seminary, April 24, 2023. Members of All Saints Lutheran Church and Student Center have made an evening of the event and are now watching the Call Night service on a big-screen in our undercroft. We don't know whether or not we have been granted a vicar, so we are watching intently the service taking place in the seminary church. We know that thirty-seven vicars will be chosen. So, after thirty seminarians had been chosen as vicars to various congregations around the country, it did not look good for All Saints. As it turned out, the vicars were given their assignments in alphabetical order and the vicar chosen for All Saints had a last name beginning with "W."

But then it happened! Right there on the screen as large as life were the words "All Saints Lutheran Church-Slippery Rock, PA." We were all thrilled to see our little town mentioned on a national broadcast. But more than that, it meant we were going to receive a vicar! Then the vicar's name was announced: Zachary T. Wessel, from northern Minnesota, would be our vicar.

Church members felt like shouting for joy. Everyone was thrilled to have a vicar at All Saints. He will learn from campus pastor Rev. Jacob Deal. And he will meet the members of All Saints: we can hardly wait. Is he coming to Slippery Rock tomorrow? Surely at the very latest next week! No, it will not be until June 11! Weeks away! The ladies are already planning a luncheon to let him know how glad we are to have him with us.

All Saints has a lot to offer our new vicar. We will give him our support and encouragement so that he will finish his vicarage feeling he will want to do this for the rest of his life. We will also joyfully introduce him to the ministry of working with our college students who attend Slippery Rock University and Grove City College.

Vicar Wessel will arrive in time to attend new-student orientations on Slippery Rock University campus this summer. Orientations are an especially satisfying time because All Saints Fellowship, our student organization, is allowed to have a table advertising All Saints' activities so that we can attempt to attract students to come to All Saints and participate.

Most importantly, incoming freshmen often are stressed out by what they are facing in the fall. Absolutely everything will be new: a stranger will become my roommate! What will he/she be like? What will the food be like? What will I do without my parents to advise me? The point is that All Saints wants to be the students' guide in dealing with life's problems. Orientations are a wonderful opportunity. All Saints gets to offer not only meals and events, but also we get to let the students know we will help them with the stress of beginning college life.

We are now also attending an orientation for Lutherans at Grove City College. Grove City College has allowed All Saints Fellowship to come onto their campus where we will tell the students there about our campus ministry at ASLC. A significant number of Lutherans attend Grove City College, in spite of the fact that Grove City College is a Presbyterian college, and

therefore enrolls an overwhelming number of Presbyterians. Since increasingly Lutheran students consider marrying Presbyterian students at GCC, we want to make sure that Lutherans understand how we are different theologically from Presbyterians.

All Saints will send out letters to LCMS congregations in our region asking them to send us the names of their college students who will attend Grove City College or Slippery Rock University. All Saints Fellowship will do the rest. We will contact the students, invite them to worship for which we will gladly provide transportation. We will let them know that we are here to make All Saints their home while they are at college. All Saints has a pastor, a vicar, and a congregation which would like nothing more than being their church family.

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