

Are College Fairs Important?

All Saints Lutheran Church and Campus Ministry believes it was a huge opportunity to be invited to the welcome days at Grove City College and at Slippery Rock University. They welcomed All Saints to their fairs which were times on their campuses where we could introduce our church and invite students to our church in nearby Slippery Rock.

All Saints had a very colorful table at Grove City's fair. We encouraged students to take the cookies, candies, and many interesting booklets like Portals of Prayer and CPH booklets on addiction and witchcraft. The item that drew the most interest was the photo of our church van. The Grove City students were very relieved to see the photo of the van. They recognized it because it had been parked on their campus for several days. They felt reassured because they had seen the van that would take them to All Saints. They came to All Saints several miles from Grove City. Campus ministry at All Saints believes that the first worship a student attends when coming to college is often the one he continues to attend.

The Grove City College Lutheran Student Fellowship president, Mathew Purufer, invited students to join the Lutherans on campus at a Bible study. He invited them to church events like shooting clay pigeons at the Sportsmen's Range in Grove City.

Rev. Vincent Mroz (and his very friendly service dog) drew students to our table at the Grove City College fair. Students told Rev. Mroz that they had attended church at home, but were now looking for a church near their campus. Pastor warmly greeted them and encouraged them to come to worship with us.

SRU student Hayley Jamison told the GCC students that they would be warmly welcome not only to worship but also to the outstanding adult Sunday School class taught by Dr. Jay Hilfiger. This very wonderful class features films on Biblical topics, which leads easily into class discussion of the films. An added attraction in attending this class is the freshly ground real coffee and latte served to class members by coffee specialist Peter Rigney, who understands how to run the coffee grinder for making very tasty freshly ground coffee with various flavored additives. Very good!

The fair for greeting Slippery Rock University students was just as useful as Grove City's College Fair. It was a hot day to stand by the All Saints' table greeting the many students who streamed past. Our church president, Peter Rigney, just about made students stop in their tracks. They often tried to resist the cookies and candies heaped on the table. However, they could not resist Peter's urging them to "Take a handful of candy and cookies for a friend if not for yourselves!" They had to laugh at his enthusiasm.

Rev. Mroz handed out his stickers for his deaf ministry, a ministry dear to his heart. And he, too, invited students to take cookies and candy, because "They are good for you!" Of

course, he explained what being a LCMS Lutheran believes. Most students didn't know what Lutherans believe because most attend Reformed churches.

And our SRU student, Hayley Jamison explained where we are located. She made it easy to understand by telling them that "We are across the street from McDonald's." And she also told students that we provide two very popular booklets which are especially useful in dealing with witchcraft, which can be a problem in the dorms, and one called "A Biblical Response to Addiction," published by the Concordia Printing House.

All Saints had a great time at the fair. Meeting so many students was blessing. We pray that they will make All Saints their "Home away from home."

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