

A Staff Member's Perspective

Vicar Benjamin Ehlers
—Student Vicar—

To supporters of The Point of Grace Campus Ministry:

Dear Friend,

Have you ever felt **on top of the world** one moment only to be **chopped down at the knees the very next**? Don't think too hard about this, think of your years of school. In kindergarten, you started out a little uneasy being away from home but gradually made friends and learned the ins and outs of school. Then you were thrown into a completely new environment in grade school. There, you slowly climb the ladder year by year until you finally reach the top in 8th grade. After that you graduate to the bottom of the pile as you begin high school. Then **it happens again in college**. At this stage, students have to **start over with friends**, figure out **what they want to do with their lives** and try to find **some sphere of comfort and familiarity** before they are thrust out into the world.

With all this upheaval and change, coupled with growing independence and a secular environment, it is no wonder that so **many college students are leaving their foundation of faith**, being influenced by their college environment. That's **where campus ministry comes in**. Christian students are looking for a safe haven, a place where they can lower their defenses a bit; a place where they know they will be fed what is truly beneficial.

I joined the Point of Grace ministry team at the beginning of this school year with the role of ministering to students through a weekly chapel service. When I began the year, I was amazed to see students giving up precious time during their week to gather around God's Word. After chatting with these students and getting to know them, I shouldn't have been surprised. These are students who have held onto the values they have learned from little on. **These are students who thirst for the Gospel**. These are **students who are forced to relentlessly maintain their defenses** as they sit through class after class with others who do not share their beliefs. After half a year of getting to know these students, I see it from a different perspective. **These students look forward to relaxing in the living-room of the campus ministry house as they gather with friends around God's Word**. It is their weekly opportunity to receive what is **eternally beneficial – a safe haven where they can feel at home**.

Sincerely,
Vicar Benjamin Ehlers



Benjamin Ehlers is a fourth-year student at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. We are blessed to have him lead our weekly chapel services. He currently resides in our Kenwood property with his wife Ruby and 5-month-old daughter Neriyah.