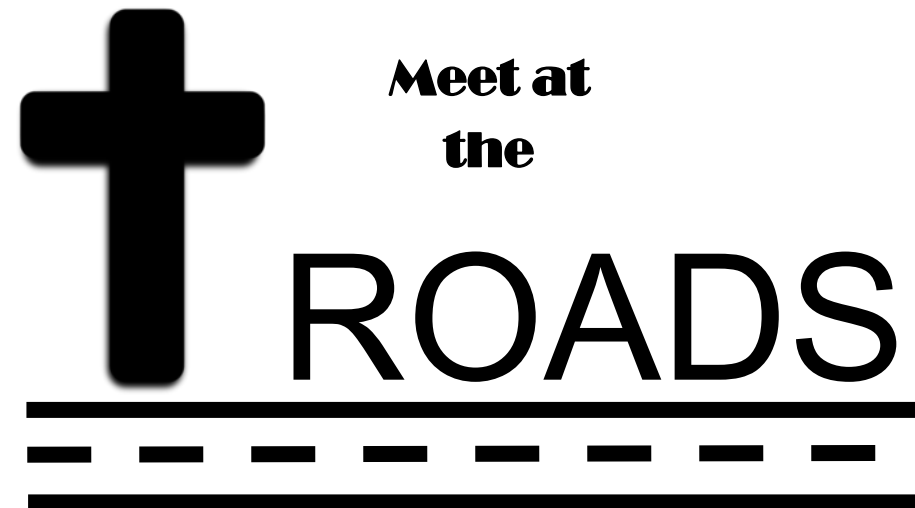


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Crossroads Campus Ministry ELCA

Spring 2013
Newsletter

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Message from a Board Member

One of the joys of campus ministry is the excitement of the students. They are energized by the Gospel. They can teach all of us a thing or two about what it means to be a faithful follower of Jesus.

As a Crossroads Board member, I have the fun of being part of this campus ministry. I'm excited about its future! A strategic planning process is underway right now. We are gathering input from students; MSU faculty, staff, and administration; area churches, pastors, youth leaders, and

members; and other members of the Mankato community; as well as from supporters near and far.

God has blessed Crossroads with an excellent campus pastor, Tammy Dahlvang, a great building, and wonderful students. The Spirit is at work.

You hopefully have received a letter that gives more details about the strategic planning process. Many interviews will be conducted in the next few weeks by Pastor Dick Wehrs, our guide through

this process. By April, we are planning to have a report of what was discovered. We'll keep you informed.

For now, though, let me just say two more things.

First, thank you. Thank you for the many ways you support Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry. Please continue to keep this ministry in your prayers, as well as your financial contributions.

Second, please know that you have an open

invitation to stop in at Crossroads for worship, for Lunch 4 \$1, or for a cup of coffee and a chat. Come and catch the excitement!

Pastor Don Holmstrom
Crossroads Board Chair



Crossroads is the ELCA campus ministry for students at Minnesota State University - Mankato. We also reach out to students at South Central Technical College, Rasmussen Business College, and Bethany Lutheran College in the greater Mankato area.

We believe that every single person is a unique child of God, and is created in God's image.

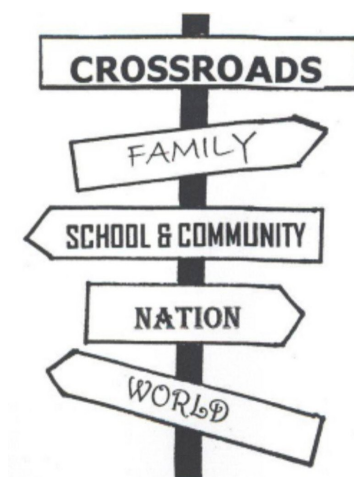
We believe that God has come to us in Jesus Christ, who is both fully human and fully God, and who died so that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Our sins are forgiven, and Jesus is alive!

We believe that the Holy Spirit has been given to us in baptism, and that the Spirit gives us moti-

vation and energy to love our neighbors, which means standing up for them, helping them out when they need it, speaking well of them, and generally treating other people the way we want to be treated.

We believe that God has work for you to do, that God created you with skills and talents, and we want to help you grow and discover how God can use you in the world.

Our **mission** is to proclaim the Gospel of Christ, **invite** young adults into a community in which the Word is spoken and the Sacraments are celebrated, **support** them in transition, **educate** leaders for the church, **challenge** them to integrate faith and life, and **equip** them for service and mission.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America -
Southeastern Minnesota Synod



Pastor Dick Wehrs talks to Crossroads friends during the strategic planning meeting.

Message from our Office and Communications Specialist

As I sit typing this, I have been a part of Crossroads for six weeks. These past six weeks have been a delightful adventure. I have met many people and made new friends.

About a week after I

started working here, I was talking to one of my close friends. I said, "Now I know what you were talking about. It is so nice to have a job where it doesn't feel like a job."

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Pastor's Message



Dear Friends in Christ,

We were preparing for Lent last week, when one of the non-Lutheran students, who is part of our ministry, asked me a lot of questions. What is Ash Wednesday? Why do people put ashes on their foreheads? What do the ashes and the purple cloth on the altar symbolize?

I told her this. As ashes are put on our foreheads, and the words, "Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall

return," are spoken, we are reminded of who we are, which is a mixture of dust and spirit. The ashes are a visible reminder that the bodies we love will one day be gone... they are a call to pay attention to the things of the Spirit... they serve as a reminder that God is here in the middle of our very busy lives.

The ashes and the words remind us to take time to wonder about God, and to ask the big questions. One of the questions we ask is if the future we are creating is the one that God wants for us. The ashes remind us that God IS.

There were 34 of us worshipping together on Ash Wednesday. We made

space in our lives to return to the God in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

Thank you for giving the campus community at MSU in Mankato a space in which to gather, and for all of your prayers and loving support. Thank you for making worship services, meals, Bible studies, and the love that is shared here, possible.

Thank you for providing a place for students to remember who God is, and what God is doing in their lives and in the world, on campus. May God bless your Lenten journey!

Pastor Tammy

Lunch 4 \$1

Lunch 4 \$1 is an all-you-can-eat healthy meal that Crossroads serves to students and other members of the campus community. This meal is prepared by members of local congregations. Lunch 4 \$1 is held each Tuesday, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There are still some openings left during the spring semester. If you or your congregation are able and willing to donate your time, and baking, we would greatly appreciate it! If you have any questions, or are interested, please contact Jina at the Crossroads office at 507-625-6779. Thank you, and thank you to all of those who have helped us and continue to help us with Lunch 4 \$1!



Kia Gronski, Amber Barnick, and Heather Johnson smile for the camera on Ash Wednesday.



Pastor Tammy and Sara Rendall on Ash Wednesday.

Message From a Board Member

I'm Jim Nagel, and I'm the newest member of the Crossroads Board. I just want to say, "Hi," and share a beginner's bite of what Crossroads looks like to me. First off, I'm keenly aware that after attending just a few board meetings, I have only a small handle on a really fantastic place and group of people.

Student reps Sara and

Ed report a list of activities that include: student led Bible studies; Tuesdays Lunch 4 \$1; student board meetings; worship and Bible studies with Pastor Tammy; GroupLife led by Matt and Josie Lust; and a wide variety of service projects - some that were already completed in the fall and others in progress and upcoming.

Although I'm retired, I have great memories of a place and people a lot like Crossroads in my life almost 50 years ago.

My wife, Marcia, and I met at a Lutheran center while attending Southern Illinois University. A few years later, and after I got back from the Army, we were married by our campus pastor. Now, with

the career done and having the time, I'm "paying it back" and having a good time in the process.

Jim Nagel



Message from our Office Specialist (continued)

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Being a part of Crossroads doesn't feel like a job. I am doing things I enjoy and love. I'm typing, editing, interacting with people, and showing students and members of the community how wonderful it is to be working for our Lord. I can honestly say this is the job I've been waiting for since I graduated from MSU - Mankato in 2010. My degree is a Bachelor of Arts in English and Technical Writing, with a Spanish minor.

Right now at Crossroads, I'm busy working on this newsletter, updating our mailing list, answering phone calls, and almost

anything Pastor Tammy asks me to do! I'm also leading one of our bible studies on Wednesday nights, which I'm finding is another way to bring me closer to the students and God.

If you want to know more about me, you can visit the Crossroads website, or you can stop by the office. I would love to talk to you and get to know you if I haven't already done so. I also want to say thank you to everyone here who has made me feel so welcome. I already feel like a part of the Crossroads family!

Jina Olson

Become an Advocate

A Crossroads Advocate is a liaison between your congregation and Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry. Advocates may be anyone from a church

congregation. Contact Pastor Tammy or Jina at 507-625-6779, or e-mail Jina at crossroadsadvocate@gmail.com to learn more about it!



The Crossroads Board had their monthly meeting on February 25th. Pictured (from left to right) are Phil Bachman, Rev. Don Holmstrom, Diana Olson, Kris Bauer, and Arv Zenk. Not pictured are L'Myra Hoogland, Jim Nagel, and Dr. Linda Duckett.