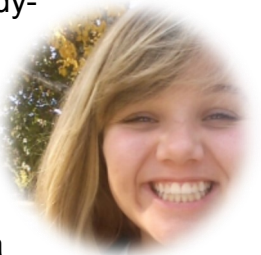




Lutheran Campus Ministry Fall 2015 Newsletter

News from our 2015-2016 Student Leaders

My name is **Alyssa Lillehaugen**. I am a sophomore at MSU studying Computer Information Technology and the **Student Board President for Crossroads**. Crossroads is in a time of re-growth. Last year we had a lot of seniors graduate; we even lost the entire band! We student leaders knew that we needed to get the word out about our ministry. Over the summer we talked to many new people interested in Crossroads. We were able to fill an entire band (although we're still looking for a drummer!) and find an amazing worship leader who is only a freshman! We are very blessed with the growth we've seen this semester. Campus Cupboard is booming, and we landed a spot as a satellite for Second Harvest and can now keep our shelves stocked. I enjoy how much the ministry has grown and become a fixture in many people's lives since the school year started. Lunch 4 \$1 is serving almost 100 people every week. It's fun seeing all the new faces come through the door. I love being Student Board President, because it really gives me the opportunity to share God's love with other students just like me. It's wonderful to see how our lives can change when we have a little faith. We're excited to continue growing as the year moves on. Crossroads is always open to everyone looking to find a relationship with God or just find new friends. I am excited to be a part of something that could be so valuable in someone's life, it brings a smile across my face.



I'm **Tierney Kelsey**, and I'm a senior majoring in Law Enforcement. At Crossroads I serve as one of the **Connections Coordinators**. Basically, I help update our social media. I also help welcome others at our various events, including ManDate, Lunch for \$1, Worship, and any other activities we do.



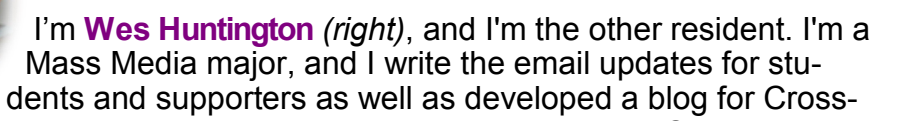
I'm **Katie Murphy**, and I'm a junior majoring in Parks and Leisure Services. At Crossroads I also serve as a **Connections Coordinator**. I help manage the social media accounts, greet people when they come to worship, make sure everyone feels welcome, and let students stay up to date with what's happening at Crossroads.



We are the **Student Residents** this year! My name is **Connor McVey** (left), and I am a senior studying manufacturing engineering technology. I came to Crossroads to find a family at MNSU, and I found one.



I'm **Wes Huntington** (right), and I'm the other resident. I'm a Mass Media major, and I write the email updates for students and supporters as well as developed a blog for Crossroads. When not working on that or school work, Connor and I are helping to keep this place clean!



What does Crossroads mean to the Worship Band Members?

"Crossroads means fun, friends and fabulous people!" - **Katie Gieseke, Freshman, Worship Leader/Guitar/Vocals**

"Crossroads has been my church away from home, providing me many friends, opportunities and memories from my college experience!" - **Ashley Kuhlman, Senior, Guitar/Vocals**

"Crossroads, for me, means community. Not only is it an inviting and engaging space, but it also serves as a resource that fosters opportunities to seek and find God with others." - **Charlie Leftridge, Graduate Student, Piano/Vocals**

"Crossroads means a place of peace on campus, and many friends." - **Joshua Balbach, Junior, Piano/Soundboard**

"Crossroads is a great place to meet new people and get to know each other!" - **Drew Sagsveen, Freshman, Bass**



Thrivent Giving



Thrivent Members - In order to designate Thrivent Choice Dollars to Crossroads, please search for us under **"Lutheran Campus Ministry-Crossroads."** Thrivent Dollars help a lot. Also, consider using Thrivent Action grant to provide Lunch 4 \$1 or Dinner & Discussion! Thanks!

Pastor Tammy's Greeting

Greetings, friends!

There is much to be grateful for at Crossroads this fall! New students with new passions have stepped forward to lead the ministry. Wes Huntington's blog (crossroadsmnsu.blogspot.com) is an example of their clear and fresh vision. It is a blessing to see younger leaders reach out to provide opportunities to experience Jesus' love to a dynamic and fluctuating campus community.

Here's what's new!

At our **Sunday night gatherings**, we eat together, read scripture, discuss a topic, and pray with and for each other. One night we invited students from six different religions to join us and over 20 students came! On another evening,

we went through the Apostle's Creed to explore what Christians believe. Sunday nights are meal-centered but more than a meal for \$1, worshipful but not really a worship experience, prayerful but not a prayer meeting, educational but not a Bible Study or a class. This hard-to-peg, hybrid experience is experimental and has become meaningful to us.

The expansion of our food ministry never slows down.

I want to thank our social work interns and Kathy Yale, the Director of the Campus Cupboard. They have worked hard to build up Lunch for \$1 and the Campus Cupboard. There is need on our campus not only for healthy food, but for the community formed when we gather around the table together.

Finally, in the coming year we will be blessed to work with Mike Ward. Mike is a development professional who is doing work in our synod. Mike has volunteered his time to help us create and **implement a comprehensive development plan.** This work is necessary because of dwindling support from the larger church, but it has turned out to be unexpectedly fun, too. I love to share the story of what is happening at Crossroads with people who believe in our mission, and who are willing to support it!

As we grow, Crossroads continues to offer the MSU-Mankato community varied and plentiful opportunities to experience Jesus' love. **Thank you for your financial support and prayers, which have made it possible for the ministry here to happen.** God bless you.

-Pastor Tammy



Find Jesus! I love this picture because sophomore Jaycee Nelson had been given a picture of Jesus colored by her church's Sunday School children. She was supposed to take Jesus with her, and she brought him to Crossroads! He's watching over Alyssa :)

Campus Cupboard Update from Intern Amanda Baker

The Campus Cupboard was open this summer! We served about 50 students and distributed 530 pounds of food. From August 25th to Oct. 15th, we served over 70 students and distributed over 701 pounds of food.

We continue to partner with the Salvation Army, Echo Food Shelf, Panera Bread, the Campus Kitchen and more. Student organizations such as the National Student Speech Language Hearing Association have already collected and donated over 206 pounds of food and personal care items to the Campus Cupboard. Other student organizations on campus are also working together to fundraise, volunteer and bring awareness to campus. "Students helping-students" remains our mission.

In late August, we became a participant of The Second Harvest Food Bank located in Minneapolis. Five Hundred pounds of food and personal care items can be ordered each week at low or no cost.

We continue to apply for grants. Our current need is a refrigerator. A refrigerator will open the doors to many items of food we currently cannot store, such as meat, fruit, vegetables, milk, yogurt and more.

Thank you for your support. We couldn't feed these hungry students without you!



From left to right, this picture is of Yermoua (junior intern), Amanda Baker (senior intern), Kathy Yale (Campus Cupboard Director) and Heather Natterstadt (volunteer)

Crossroads Wish List - Can you please help us?

Can you please help us raise money to:

- Tile and landscape around the building to eliminate the flooding in the basement? (\$2500)
- Clean the stone floor in the sanctuary and the main floor halls professionally? (\$2,000)
- Paint the walls on the main floor? (\$350)
- Purchase a new lawnmower? (\$200)
- Build up an emergency fund that we can access when unanticipated emergency repairs need to be made? (\$10,000)

- Put all LED light bulbs in the sanctuary? (\$800)

can provide fresh food for college students

Or can you volunteer?

- Volunteers prepare and serve Lunch 4 \$1 (some people are using Thrivent Action grants to pay for the food ingredients!)
- Volunteers make our Sunday \$1 Dinners

- Food and funds for the food pantry (can your congregation hold a food drive?)

And we always yearn for your prayers - thanks!

Or can you help us raise money for the Campus Cupboard? We need:

- A commercial cooler so that we



A Message from Roger Haug, Board President

My name is Rev. Roger Haug and I've just been recruited for the Crossroads Ministry Board. Upon participating in 2 meetings I realized this is a calling for me. I have a passion for doing ministry and working with Pastor Tammy and the board to effectively reach some of the next generation of Christians and Christian leaders through Crossroads Campus Ministry, ELCA



Someone has said that this is a time of transition for Crossroads Ministry. The board is working hard to put together new board job descriptions and responsibilities. It is our intent to be a very active board.

At our board retreat on October 31st, we developed norms for our group, evaluated our job responsibilities, planned for the future, and set in place strategies for meet the important needs we have. We will keep you updated as these strategies unfold.

In my time on the board so far I have experienced just excellent group interaction. We have identified our biggest chal-

lenge and opportunity to improve outreach, which is fix our building's structural challenges. Unfortunately, the place leaks from the top to the bottom when it rains. What we can do to resolve this matter will involve all of us who value Crossroads' Ministry at MSU. We will keep you up to date on progress towards resolving this issue.

Another concern that has been developing for quite some time now is the lack of a reliable stream of funding for our ministry. We will lose \$13,000 of our grant from the Minnesota Synods this year, at the very time when we'd like to continue to

expand our ministry. We've been told that cutbacks will continue. We will be focused on communicating our vision and mission, and showing the results of our worship and outreach ministries. We will present our needs to you, be prudent in our spending of your gifts, and solve our funding challenges together.

I personally want to thank all of you as partners in this most vital ministry. We need your patience, your prayers, and your continuing financial support during this time of transition. I overheard a board member remarking to another member after a recent meeting stating, "I really enjoyed this meeting today. It was fun and productive." Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian, once said, "The Church is always one generation away from extinction." Let us do our part as Crossroads Ministry partners to prepare the next generation of Christians and Christian leaders through Crossroads' Ministry at MSU.

In Christ,

Rev. Roger Haug

Crossroads would like to give a big shout out and thank you to the Board of Directors! They work very hard to provide for the Crossroads ministry so that we can continue to grow and develop.

The members of the Board include: **Pastor Roger Haug, Dennis Sandersfeld, Pastor Shelly Olson, Nancy Altmann, Pastor Scott Olson, Kathy Eiden, Pastor Al Girtz & Kathy Yale**

Thank you for all that you do! - *Alyssa Lillehaugen, Wes Huntington, Tierney Kelsey, Connor McVey, Katie Murphy, Leslie Kane & Pastor Tammy*



This Semester at Crossroads



Lunch 4 \$1

Crossroads offers a weekly \$1 lunch for all students and community members. Numerous churches prepare and serve food for about 100 students each week. The menu can range from homemade casseroles and goulash to simpler fare, such as walking tacos and sloppy joes. Lunch runs from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thrivent members - please consider using Thrivent Action Grant to pay for lunch 4 \$1 or Sunday Night Dinner & Discussion!



Dinner & Discussion

We have created something new this year. Since lunch 4 \$1 is popular, why not have Sunday "Dinner and Discussion for \$1."? On Sunday evenings we have a home-cooked dinner followed by a discussion about anything. We also invite the international students once a month to join us as we cook and learn as well as create long-lasting relationships with that community.

Worship

Worship starts at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays! We have an entirely new band, as many of our band veterans have graduated and moved on. Our worship leader this year is freshmen Katie Gieseke who is doing a great job creating a new band. Great music, relevant messages and a lot of community - Worship Rocks!



Affirmation

Affirmation is a peer-run group of LGBT and ally students at MSU, with the goal of providing a safe-space for students to explore their experiences. What is it like to be {Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, etc} and Christian? The group meets every week to discuss issues and experiences navigating the intersections of faith and identity.

ManDate

ManDate is our men's fellowship group, but it's so much fun that the women always come, too! ManDate usually meets on Monday nights, but they also go out after worship on some nights, or they do something over the weekend...it's actually more of a concept than an specific weekly event. Thanks, Connor and Wes!

