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CROSSROADS

Lutheran Campus Ministry Spring 2015 Newsletter

Pastor Tammy's Message



"Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen" -Hebrews 11:1

Each of the pictures in this newsletter tells a story. There is the story of Youth Night, where almost 200 junior and senior high school students came to Crossroads to be encouraged in their faith. There's the story of the Winter Carnival, where over 200 people came to support the ministry of Crossroads at Messiah Lutheran Church. There's the story of the Campus Cupboard food pantry, which gave away 1,649 pounds of food in April, and there is the story of our \$1 lunch that has grown to feed 80 or more students every week.

Pandita Ramabai, a nineteenth-century Indian activist, said "People must not only hear about the Kingdom of God, but must see it in actual operation, on a small scale perhaps and in imperfect

form, but a real demonstration nevertheless."

The pictures within this newsletter are pictures of God's kingdom on campus. The stories they tell describe what God is doing here which is, at its heart, evangelism. Through our ministry people who would never seek the Kingdom of God encounter Christ when we welcome them, feed them, and include them in the work Christ is doing here.

Coming up in the Fall, we plan to serve another weekly meal, and to offer another worship opportunity. The Campus Cupboard will be a satellite of the Second Harvest food bank, and so we'll be able to continue to give away thousands of pounds of food to students. Thank you for supporting the ministry of Crossroads, for hoping for what we hope for, and for making our stories your own.

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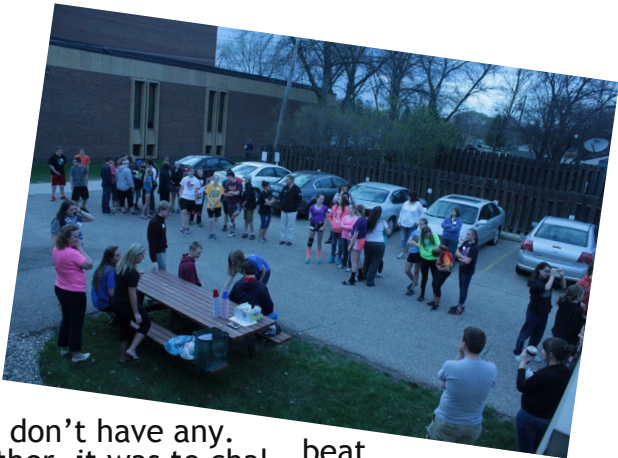
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Highlights

High School Youth Night

On April 15th, we hosted almost two hundred junior and senior high school students at Crossroads for our third Youth Night. The theme of the gathering was “The ONE Thing.” One thing is necessary, Jesus told busy, distracted, worried Martha in Luke 10:42- and it won’t be taken away from those who choose it.

We chose this theme because many junior and senior high school students are worried and distracted about many things. They wonder how faith can still play a role in their busy lives when other priorities crowd out church, and they want to know how to keep Christ first in the long line of obligations and demands placed on them. Our goal was not to give them magic answers-



we don’t have any. Rather, it was to challenge them to think of creative and personal ways they can keep Christ first. College students told some personal stories, youth shared their thoughts in small groups and everyone enjoyed fun and up-

beat worship music. Here are some quotes from students who came:

“The topic of the night was perfect and so relatable. BUSY is my life!”

“I’m coming to MSU next year, and I’m super-excited!”

“The best part of the evening were the music and the fun atmosphere.”



Crossroads Carnival

We raised slightly more than \$5,000 on March 1st at our Winter Carnival, which was held at Messiah Lutheran Church in North Mankato. Students, Board members and volunteers from the community worked together to organize and run the ambitious event. There was a chili cook-off, a silent auction with over 100 items, bingo and games for children run by college stu-

dents. Best of all, there was a sense of fun and camaraderie. There is a strong community of people who support campus ministry, and who care about the mission and ministry of Crossroads. It was fun for us to get together!



Individual Donors (February 2014-January 2015)

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Janet (Shiao) Wood
Randy and Rachel Wood
Donald & Margaret Wynnemer
Kathleen Yale
Arvid & Jane Zenk

Special thanks to all who came to support us, and to celebrate with us, at the Winter Carnival, and to Messiah Lutheran Church for hosting it, and to all of the community members who supported the event!

* If you gave us a gift in 2014 and your name is not on this list, we are very sorry. Please let us know so that we can apologize, and put your name in our fall newsletter.

Thank you to our Supporters

Generous Supporting Congregations and Groups (February 2014-January 2015)

Ascension Lutheran Church Women, Albert Lea, MN

Augustana Lutheran Church, St. James, MN

Bear Creek WELCA, Grand Meadow, MN

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women, Mankato, MN

Blue Earth River Conference

Central Freeborn Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN

Christ the King Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

Cross of Glory Women of the ELCA, Hartland, MN

Dale Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN

Danebod Lutheran Church, Tyler, MN

East Chain WELCA, Blue Earth, MN

East Freeborn Lutheran, Albert Lea, MN

Faith Lutheran Church, Dodge Center, MN

Faith Lutheran Church, Janesville, MN

First English Lutheran Women, Ortonville, MN

First English WELCA, Faribault, MN

First Evangelical Lutheran Church, LeSueur, MN

First Lutheran Church, Blooming Prairie, MN

First Lutheran Church Women, St. James, MN

Glenville First Lutheran F.L.C.W., Glenville, MN

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Wells, MN

Grace ELC Women, Nerstrand, MN

Grace Lutheran Church, Mankato, MN

Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN

Greenfield Lutheran Church, Harmony, MN

LeRoy Lutheran Church Women of the ELCA, LeRoy, MN

LeSueur River Lutheran Church WELCA, Madelia, MN

Lunder Lutheran Church, Albert Lea, MN

Mabel First Lutheran Church WELCA, Mabel, MN

Mansfield Lutheran, Alden, MN

Messiah Lutheran Church, No. Mankato, MN

MN River Conference

Moland Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN

North Blue Earth Lutheran Church, Bricelyn, MN

North Waseca Lutheran Church, Waseca, MN

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Spring Valley, MN

Our Saviors Lutheran Women, Kiester, MN

Our Savior's Lutheran Church Women, Rochester

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN

Pontoppidan Lutheran Brotherhood Church, Ellendale, MN

Redeemer Lutheran Church, Good Thunder, MN

Salem Lutheran Women of ELCA, Albert Lea, MN

SE MN Synodical Unity Emmons, MN

Six Mile Grove Church WELCA, Lyle, MN

South Blue Earth WELCA, Bricelyn, MN

St. John's Lutheran Church, Mapelton, MN

St. John's Women of ELCA, Waseca, MN

St. John's Lutheran Church, Kasson, MN

St. Matthew WELCA, Granger, MN

St. Michaels Lutheran Church, Waltham, MN

St. Olaf Lutheran Church Women, Austin, MN

St. Paul Lutheran Church German Lake, Cleveland, MN

St. Paul Lutheran Church Women, LeCenter, MN

St. Paul Lutheran Church, Meriden, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church Women, New Richland, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church, Blue Earth, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church Women, Spring Grove, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church, Wanamingo, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA, Hayfield, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church Women, Albert Lea, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church Women, Alden, MN

Trinity Lutheran Church WELCA, Benson, MN

United Lutheran Church, Walters, MN

Vista Evangelical Lutheran Church, New Richland, MN

Wanamingo Lutheran Church Women of ELCA, Wanamingo, MN

Women of Trinity, Ostrander, MN

Zion Lutheran Church, Lake Crystal, MN

Zion Lutheran Church, Stewartville, MN

Zion Lutheran Church Women, Lake Crystal, MN

Zion Women of the ELCA, Appleton, WI

Zumbro Women of the ELCA, Rochester, MN

Special thanks to the Nicollet and Blue Earth County Thrivent chapters for their generous and continued support!

of the year!

Weekly Events

Lunch 4 \$1. This is a time where local churches or organizations come to serve Crossroads lunches that only cost each person a dollar to eat! This is a great opportunity for local groups to really get to interact with the college students and for students to get to know one another.

After lunch, second semester from 1pm to 1:45pm, Pastor Tammy



Homecoming Chili Feed

MSU, Mankato's Homecoming game was against Southwest Minnesota State University. Our friends from SMSU Campus Ministry joined us for chili before the game, and they stayed to watch it with us afterwards. We had over 50 people from the

hosted a Bible Study called **Pause** which allowed stressed-out college students to take a "pause" in their week and focus on Jesus instead.

On Wednesdays, first semester, there was a book study on Shane



Claiborne's **"The Irresistible Revolution"**.

On Wednesdays at 8pm we held our weekly **Worship** services where we were led in music by the Crossroads Band and heard a great message by Pastor Tammy. This year we also had the opportunity to hear some of

our own students' faith stories during worship!

Mandate was moved to Wednesdays for the second semester. This was a time for men (and women, too!) to get together for fellowship. Movie nights, video game marathons and going out to eat were among these weekly events.



Departing Student Leaders & Band Members

Goodbyes to some of our 14-15 Leaders & Band Members of Crossroads who made a difference and will be missed very



Chris has been active at Crossroads since '12. He does cleaning, dishes, office work, I.T., and he is also the mission coordinator, bass player and one of our worship leaders. He is always around to help and he will be missed!

Levi has been active and a part of Crossroads longer than any of us! He has served as the guitar player and represented both South Central Community College and Concordia-St. Paul.



Sarah has been with us since '11 and has been very active. She has served as student president & connections coordinator as well as attending every event that she can!

Hannah became active at Crossroads in '12. She served as a connections coordinator this year but has been involved at Crossroads in social events and worship all these years!



Katie started attending Crossroads in '14 with her husband Wes. This school year she co-led the worship band with her beautiful voice and shared love for Jesus.

Bryan was involved at Crossroads for only a few weeks when he became the drummer for the band in Sept. He brought humor & smiles to everyone around him and we will miss that!



*Some members not listed include Jason, Ed, Tyler and MANY others who have helped and been involved in Crossroads these last few years. Thank you! You will be missed!

2014-2015 Student Board President Message (Tierney Kelsey)

Crossroads Campus Ministry has made a huge impact on my life. Crossroads is one of the few constants in my life. I am a busy person with clubs, meetings, school, and work, but Crossroads is always on Wednesday. This year I was Student Board President, and could not be more proud of our stu-

dent board. We implemented so many new things as leaders, and continue to grow the ministry even larger! This year we helped with everything from the Winter Carnival to helping out with youth night as well as many other events. Without Crossroads, I would not have that weekly re-

minder that God is always with me, I would not have that weekly \$1 lunch where I see new faces every time and God would be harder to seek out in this busy college life. I am so grateful for Crossroads being part of my life and I wouldn't trade it for the world. Although I will not be the Stu-

dent Board President next year, I am staying connected by serving as a Connections Coordinator. I am excited to continue growing the Crossroads community for all to discover the love of Jesus.

-Tierney Kelsey

Campus Cupboard Update

A Message from our intern, Oksana Schrunk

We served about 100 students in April! To replenish our supplies, students from Crossroads, the International Student Center and several other student clubs helped with food drives and fundraisers. It was fun to get to know each other and to work side-by-side!

The Campus Cupboard has formed several key partnerships. The local Salvation Army donates left-over bread and baked goods to the Campus Cupboard bi-weekly. There are bins for food donations at Wells Fargo on campus and at Grace in Mankato. The youth group from Grace in Fairmont is planning a food drive for Campus Cupboard, and high schoolers from Bethel in Rochester left care packages for students when they used the building on a ski trip. We hope for increased collaboration

with the Echo Food Shelf and The Second Harvest Food Bank as well.

To meet the needs of this rapidly growing ministry, we've submitted three grant requests. We asked the Laura Jane Musser Fund for \$9600 to provide a stipend for me to stay on and run Campus Cupboard next year, and to serve "Lunch for \$1" twice a week. We asked the Bromelkamp Foundation for \$1500 for the same purposes, and we asked the Mankato Area Foundation to help us buy a refrigerator so we can provide students with fresh food. We are looking for other grant opportunities to pay for transportation expenses, food delivery, a laptop and printer, and to buy food and toiletries to give away. We are asking churches if we can



leave a food bin for donations and give a 10-15 minute Power Point presentation about the Campus Cupboard and ways people can support us. We are also calling grocery stores and local businesses to obtain permission to leave food donation bins with them. We currently plan to become a satellite for the Second Harvest food bank.

care packages with Campus Cupboard information included to bring awareness of the student's food shelf and Tuesday lunches for \$1.

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



After the youth group from Bethel Lutheran Church in Rochester left care packages in the Campus Cupboard, it gave us the idea to have a weekly table at the Student Union, where we've given away around 500



Crossroads Board Members

A Message from Jess Lanes, the President of the Board

Spring is here! As the world springs new life and things begin to grow and change, the Crossroads Board of Directors is changing as well.

Our needs as a campus ministry are ever-expanding. The students continue to dream big and challenge themselves (and us!) with doing more for the campus community at large. In order to support these large dreams, we need to be strategic and deliberate about how to be organized in order to assist them with the work that God is doing with the ministry. The work of the Board of Directors is to support the students. The mission of the students is to share the love of Jesus with others. The Board of Directors' goal is to provide opportunity for this mission to continue into the future. Students are the life of this ministry, and that we are the support that sustains the ministry as it evolves with every semester.

The Board of Directors is trying to determine if the structure that we have is effective in accomplishing our tasks. We are trying to increase our effectiveness. We realize that in order

to maintain our goals and achieve more in the future, we need to become more of a working board. However, even with a 12-person Board, we need the help of people who care about the mission but are not on the Board.

Can you help?

The Crossroads Advocates Program was created as a way to extend the reach of the Board of Directors to individuals and to congregations who care about our ministry.

An Advocate serves as a liaison between Crossroads and his/her congregation, sharing updates from Crossroads and being a presence for campus ministry in the community. We have begun to identify Advocates in a few congregations as a test of this new program, and look forward to how this grows our relationships with these congregations.

Anyone can help - Would you consider becoming an Advocate?

If so, please email lcmcrossroads@gmail.com or call 507-625-6779.

What a blessing it is to be involved in a ministry that is constantly redefining itself! As students come and go, one constant remains.

Jesus is here. The love that the students have for each other through Jesus is apparent in every aspect of what we do. The love of Jesus is shared daily.

The Board of Directors is blessed to share in their mission, and we hope that our efforts allow the ministry to flourish well into the future. We look forward to what God will do in these next few months as summer provides a rest, and as we organize for the next school year.

God's Blessings,

Jessica Lanes

President, Board of Directors



From left to right: Karen Gieseke, Synod Liaison; Alyssa Lillehaugen, Student President; Jess Lanes, President of the Board of Directors; Tammy Dahlvang, Campus Pastor; Shelly Olson, Vice-president; Scott Olson, Treasurer; Kathy Eiden; Nancy Altmann, Secretary

Not pictured: Dennis Sandersfeld, Gary Zandstra, Kathy Yale

2015-2016 Student Leaders



(From Left to Right) Front Row: Katie Murphy, Tierney Kelsey, Alyssa Lillehaugen. Back Row: Aaron Geringer, Connor McVey, Wes Huntington

Alyssa—Student Board President

"Looking back at my life, I have a strong base in my faith. I have never lost sight of God, but at times the view got a little foggy. I would like to be a Crossroads leader because I have always been a natural leader and I think I have many good ideas for bringing in new faces and fellowship. I also want to have an active role in helping others find God."

Katie—Connection Coordinator

"I've struggled a lot with my faith but I've never doubted that there is a God...The thing I love most about being in a Christian community is the love and the realness of it. Right now I think about God every single day and I have this hunger to learn about Him...I love Crossroads and want to do what I can to make it a beautiful place for anyone who wants to come and worship and feel welcomed and loved."

Aaron Geringer—LGBT Outreach Coordinator

"I feel my role in the church is to show love and acceptance to everyone. I really want to see Crossroads form a welcoming and loving connection with the LGBT center so we can communicate that Crossroads is a safe place for a person of any religious, spiritual, sexual, or gender identity."

Wes—Student Resident

My father was the main one who taught me about God. He taught me that God will always provide for you, even in the worst circumstances. Sometimes I feel like my faith is good, and other times it isn't...We can have a solid foundation in our faith, but if we had perfect faith we'd be Jesus.