

Crossroads Campus Ministry, E.L.C.A.  
331 Dillon Avenue  
Mankato, MN 56001

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
MANKATO, MN 56001  
PERMIT NO. 132  
  
ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED



CROSSROADS

# Lutheran Campus Ministry

## Spring 2016 Newsletter

### Departing Student Leaders

#### A Farewell Message from Ashley



The purpose of Welcome Week at any college is to help the incoming freshmen to adjust to a new style of living and encourage them to get involved in campus organizations. I remember feeling terrified when I first came to Minnesota State University, Mankato in 2012. I was unsure if I would find a place I would belong. It was Crossroads that changed that for me when I attended their luau event and stayed long past the ending of the event because I was having a fun time. At Crossroads, I feel accepted for who I am and I can show my love for God without being judged. In these past four years of being involved I have been pretty active by attending regular events, serving as a student leader, working as the janitor and in the office in communications, participating in the band and so much more! My involvement here has given me many opportunities in which I will reflect and use my experiences for the rest of my life as I continue my journey with God and in life. Crossroads has provided me with many volunteer opportunities and has furthered my relationship with God. I've also developed many strong friendships and the ability to time manage God in my fairly busy life. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

#### A Farewell Message From Wes



I've been a part of Crossroads for two years, and now it is time to say goodbye. I have made a lot of friends here and a lot of memories. I have been very involved in the ministry, and for the last year I've been living in the building as a resident. I've concentrated in building a multimedia presence with the ministry as a whole. I started the blog, [crossroadsmnsu.blogspot.com](http://crossroadsmnsu.blogspot.com)-check it out if you haven't seen it! I am going to miss everything and everyone I have known in this ministry. A good friend of mine said that I have blossomed as a person while being a part of Crossroads, and I can say that the past two years have been the most rewarding of my life. Thank you to everyone who has ever supported me while I was here. I know my time with the ministry has been brief, but it has been fun. Thanks for supporting this ministry!

#### New Staff



Hello All! I am the new office staff here at Crossroads! My name is Josie and I am very excited to be able to be working at this amazing place! My husband Matt and I have been involved with Crossroads since 2011 through attending worship, holding bible studies and cooking meals. I have had the opportunity over the years to watch and help students grow at Crossroads through God's love. Our family dynamics have changed in the last year with the addition of our beautiful little girl Aurora in March of 2015. I love that Crossroads has given me an opportunity to work and spend time with my daughter.

**Inside this Issue:**  
Pastor Tammy's Message - Pg. 2  
Events and Gatherings Pg. 3-4  
Student Leaders Pg. 5  
Leader Messages Pg. 6  
Campus Cupboard Pg. 7



#### Stay connected!

- Email us at [crossroadsadvocate@gmail.com](mailto:crossroadsadvocate@gmail.com)



Instagram



Crossroads is a great place to connect with people and just be who you are. God's love is here for all! - Josie

I love Crossroads' willingness to go out in the community and spread God's love- Ann



I love how Crossroads offers communion to everyone, even if they are not Lutheran. - Katie

I loved catching the \$1 lunch in between class with classmates! The home cooked meals helped us get through our long days on campus! - Amanda



# Pastor Tammy's Message

Things are changing very, very quickly...

Friends,

We're used to change at Crossroads...Every year, the ministry grows and evolves as new students join and depart. The Board of Directors is constantly morphing to meet the requirements of their role. Their level of commitment to Crossroads, both personal and financial, has become an enduring constant in the ministry. I am deeply grateful for their willingness to steer us through the coming years as we determine what shape the governance and ministry at Crossroads will assume.

The Board's hard work has enabled me to focus more attention on developing relationships with individuals and congregations who support the ministry. In 2015, we received gifts of over \$30,000 from individuals (\$12,000 more than we anticipated!) and over \$40,000 (\$10,000 more than we had budgeted) from supporting congregations. Thank you for supporting this ministry.

Most of the rest of our \$125,000 budget comes from a grant we receive from five of the six Synods in Minnesota. In 2016, this grant is being decreased by \$13,000. There will be motions put forward this summer by each MN bishop at each MN synod's Annual Assembly to dissolve this funding completely by January of 2018. This is why it is so critical that our support from congregations and individuals increased last year and will continue to increase this year. Our ministry is vital and we can continue to keep it strong even as traditional funding changes.

It is wonderful that our ministry continues to grow. As you know, when we grow, we have more expenses. Our facility is aging and needs constant work. However, it is all worth it because we are helping to form Christian leaders for our church. We will continue this work in spite of any financial challenges that we face.

Despite the challenges we face, I am committed to staying at Crossroads



until at least December of 2017. During that time, Crossroads will enter a time of strategic planning and visioning for the future. Everything from staffing to programs to our fundamental mission will be on the table. The ministry must take a shape that is sustainable, and I am positive that we can figure out how to do that because I believe God will show us the way. While we are seeking God's guidance, I will also begin a new personal venture. After close to 20 years of ministry, I am pursuing an advanced degree in accounting. I hope to become a CPA in 2018. However, I am committed to making certain that Crossroads is set up to continue this vital ministry before I transition to another venture.

Thank you for your continuing support of the ministry here. Now is both an exciting and challenging time for Crossroads, and we covet your prayers and increasing financial support. God has begun many good works here and God will see them to completion. Thank you for being part of what God is doing here.

God bless you!

## Campus Cupboard Update



Following a winter break lull, the number of students going through Campus Cupboard has been increasing steadily. Last month, the equivalent of 777 pounds of food was distributed to 84 students. That's more than 9 pounds of non-perishable food items per student per week.

The feedback that we're getting from a variety of sources is that students don't just "use" Campus Cupboard; they actually "rely" on Campus Cupboard as their only source of food for the week. It is truly a blessing to be able to serve college students who are in need of food.

With food from Second Harvest, the Boy Scouts' food drive, and various donations, Campus Cupboard has been fully restocked with over 800 pound of healthy food in March. This will likely keep our shelves stocked through the end of the semester and maybe even into the summer months.

In other exciting news: ECHO Food Shelf has been increasingly able to share fresh produce with us, things like baby carrots, potatoes & yams, cucumbers and mushrooms. Also, any hungry student can now walk through Crossroads on any weekday and take a free PB&J - no questions asked. Good things are happening!

Pictured here is Kathy Yale who is the main person making sure that campus cupboard is running and the students have food. Thank you Kathy for everything you do!



## How can I support Crossroads?

There are several ways that we get support from our donors and congregations.

Lunch 4 \$1 is one of the main ways our partner congregations are helping Crossroads. Every Tuesday Crossroads offers a healthy lunch from 11am to 1pm to all and those who come only have to pay \$1. The best way for us to get support for this weekly event is having a church group provide the meal to the students. We normally have anywhere from 70-100 students show up to eat, which has grown over the last year.

We would like to thank all the people and churches who have vol-

unteered their time and efforts this semester.

Not able to donate your time due to your schedule? There are several other ways you can support Crossroads by donating money to help us spread the love of God.

Here are a few popular options that people choose to send donations:

**Thrivent Members** - In order to designate Thrivent Choice dollars to Crossroads, please search for us under "Lutheran Campus Ministry - Crossroads".

You can also send money via **PayPal**. All you need to do is go to the

send money to friends and family. The email address our account is linked to is [lmcrossroads@gmail.com](mailto:lmcrossroads@gmail.com)

You can also use the site **GoodSearch** and choose us as the organization to support. You can either search by looking for us using our location or by finding us using "Crossroads Campus Ministry" Every time you search or purchase something a certain percentage goes directly to crossroads.

Feel free to e-mail us if you would like to receive our monthly e-news.





# Messages from our Leaders

## A Message from our Board Chair Rev. Roger Haug

Greetings to all,

I want to thank all of you who participated and /or contributed in any way to our winter picnic fundraiser. We offer our most sincere appreciation to the wonderful Pastors, staff, and parishioners of Christ the King, Mankato, for the use of their facility.

As I thanked people, great stories were shared such as, "I had to check this out after Wes Huntington announced the event on the local KMSU college radio station," or "I will always support this ministry because of their ministry to me while I was there."

As we move forward, one of our priorities as a Board is to evaluate and act on building concerns. We owe much to those who've gone before us in acquiring and fixing this building through the years. Now, though, there are some major challenges. The interior building stairwells have deteriorated substantially. A new drainage system and/or foundation repair is likely considering continuing leakage issues. The roof has been patched a number of times. As estimates of repairs become available, we will likely need a capital fund drive to fully meet those repairs.

As we move forward, we will never lose focus of our mission. The Gospel has undergirded and nourished us as a Board, campus Pastor, students and staff. The Gospel has led us into outreach and spiritual growth. So it is that the Gospel of Jesus Christ will nourish and purpose us for future life and ministry of Crossroads' Campus Ministry, at MSU, Mankato, Mn.

Thank you so much as partners for what we have accomplished and what we will accomplish together for the furthering of the Gospel of



Jesus Christ.

In Christ,

Pastor Roger Haug,  
Crossroads' Board Chair

## 2015-2016 Student Board President Message (Alyssa Lillehaugen)

I am going to be a Junior next fall here at MSU. Crossroads has been a great opportunity for me to help grow my faith as well as helping others grow. With that being said, growing has been a hot topic here at Crossroads. Last spring, about half of our congregation either graduated or decided to transfer. So, this last fall the student leaders

knew we had our work cut out for us. I like to think of our ministry as a flower. Last spring, we decided to cut the flower and put it in a vase. This past fall, we planted a new seed and all year we have been watering the soil. It's refreshing to see the ministry grow. Our sun is God's love and he's shining down on us everyday. Next fall I think our ministry will be

blooming. Thank you to everyone who supports Crossroads with their gifts and prayers.

-- Alyssa



# Recent Events

## Reunion

On December 22nd all the previous Crossroads members and current members got together to catch up on their ever-changing lives. A reunion is held every year around Christmas when the most people are available and in the area.



## Wow Zone Event

On January 23rd we went bowling at the local Wow Zone. Everyone divided up into two teams, women versus men. The Women's team won although everyone had a great time.

Connor McVey said "It was great people and lots of fun!"

## Birthday Celebrations

Once a month after worship everyone goes out to celebrate those who have had a birthday by going to somewhere like Cold Stone for a treat.



## Movie Night

Many of the students who attend Crossroads' worship and events aren't Lutheran. In order to learn more about the history of Lutheranism, and to spark conversation, some of our student leaders decided to show the Luther movie at Crossroads. The group who watched it had a great conversation about what it means to be Lutheran today. If you've never seen the movie, we recommend that you watch it!

## LUTHER MOVIE



## Winter Picnic

We raised almost \$3,000 on February 21st at our Winter Picnic, which was held at Christ the King in Mankato. Pastor Shelly Olson headed up this event this year. We could not have done it without her. Students, Board members and volunteers from the community worked together the day of the event to keep everything running smoothly. There was a chili cook-off, a silent auction with over 50 items, bingo and games for children run by college students. 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!



The pictures to the right are of some of student leaders helping serve chili and volunteers with the silent auction.

The bottom right picture is of Shelly, Mary and Kathy without these amazing ladies this event would not have taken place!





# Gatherings and Small Groups

On Tuesdays, we host **Lunch 4 \$1**. This is a time where local churches or organizations bring food to serve at Crossroads. These lunches only cost each person a dollar to eat which is a great price for students on a budget! 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.



On Thursdays, there is a **Bible Study** that is led by Pastor Tammy. First Corinthians is their focus at this time. Coffee and tea are provided since it is held in the morning.



On Wednesdays at 8pm we hold our weekly **Worship** is led by Crossroads Band and hear a great message by Pastor Tammy. Throughout the year we also had the opportunity to hear some of our own students' faith stories during worship!



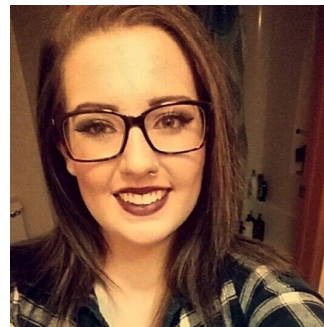
**Affirmation** is a peer-run group of LGBT and ally students at MSU, with the goal of providing a safe-space for students to explore their experiences. What is it like to be Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, etc. and Christian? The group meets every week to discuss issues and experiences navigating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

On Mondays, we do **Tabling** in the Student Union (CSU). Tammy and students who don't have class provide information to students at the CSU about Crossroads.



# 2016-2017 Student Leaders

## Katie Murphy's Message



My name is Katie Murphy and I'm the Connections Coordinator at Crossroads which means I get to make connections with the people that come, keep everyone up to date with events, make sure everyone feels welcome, and make sure the presence of God is felt not only within our community, but by everyone I can possibly reach. Of course a lot of those things are the jobs of all the student leaders at Crossroads, and each and every one of them do an amazing job.

My goals and hopes for Crossroads this coming year is that we can reach as many people as possible to share God's love, but also keep the focus on God. I hope to help college students find a place where they feel welcome to be themselves, to love God, to be curious, and to ask questions. God's love is for all, and all are welcome at Crossroads.

## Drew Sagsveen's Message

My first trip to Crossroads was a couple weeks into school. I was bored and starting to get a little lonely. I had received an invitation from Pastor Tammy to play bass in the band, so I decided to make an early trip on a Sunday night for what they called "Dinner and Discussion"

I walked in the door and was instantly greeted and given a nametag to wear with "DREW S." printed on it. That night, we talked about a variety of world issues, as well as shared our up's and down's for the week.

The next Wednesday was the first actual church service, and I joined the band on the bass guitar. I have been playing almost every week since, and it is usually the high point of my week.

Crossroads promotes a relaxing, casual church service where everyone is welcome, no matter what their religious beliefs may be. It is a different type of worship, where the emphasis is not to conform yourself to the church, but rather to come as you are. If you've never set foot in a church, there's usually free food hanging around, so come join us. For me, it was the community I needed.



## Katie Gieseke our Worship Leader



The pervading tone or mood of a place, situation, or work of art is how the dictionary defines atmosphere. Worship is all about the atmosphere and is a place, situation, and work of art all at the same time. Worship is typically thought of as a place to go connect with God, so that is what we plan to make worship into, a place to come and connect with God. Worship is also a situation for the same reason.

This situation is set up to be a place to hear God speaking through music, prayer, or through the sermon from our Pastor Tammy. Let's not forget that worship is also a

work of art as one can worship in so many different ways, and if done with the right heart, just like art, it works out perfectly. My goal for worship next year is to present new ways of thinking about worship. To make worship a desirable and safe place to be. To have a place to connect with God on a new level. My name is Katie Gieseke and I am the worship leader at Crossroads. I am a freshman majoring in Biotechnology and therefore have no time to do almost anything, yet God seems to fit time into my schedule when I need to plan worship. I lead worship because I know God wants me to help others to follow Him. When you trust in God, and you make time for Him, He will help you find time for everything else.

Feel free to join us anytime at worship!

## Jon Soucek's Message

My name is Jonathan Soucek, I am a sophomore who has a double major Political Science and History. I want to help people and do the most good that I possibly can, and I think I can do this at Crossroads. I would like to help find ways to increase church attendance while at the same time creating a fun and enthusiastic atmosphere.

