

CROSSROADS

Lutheran Campus Ministry Newsletter

Fall 2014

Pastor's Message



Imagine how happy I was when I received this message on Facebook:

Hi Pastor Tammy! So I had such a great time at Crossroads that I decided to rearrange my class schedule so I can come to worship every Wednesday night! Thank you for providing such a welcoming and fun environment and for the opportunity to praise God right on campus. I'm excited to continue to come to Crossroads and to see what God has in store for me this school year! -Katie Murphy, sophomore

Katie is the room mate of one of the students who has been involved in the Crossroads ministry for over a year. She is just one of the growing number of students who have started coming to worship this fall. The presence of the Holy Spirit, made known by the infectious love of the students at Crossroads, has drawn her into our Christian community.

Our first guiding principle at Crossroads is:

Welcoming and honoring all.

We create an environment within our community of honesty, trust and support. Each person's fundamental being and integrity are valued. Following Christ's commands to love each other, and not to judge others, we offer complete acceptance to all so that everyone can grow in their faith.

Communities where all are welcomed and honored are rare, both on and off

of campus. Churches, like beacons shining in the darkness, remind everyone that God's acceptance and grace are here for all. Jesus' love is for everyone.

Your prayers and gifts give us the resources to reach out to students like Katie. Thanks you for your support. I hope that you will continue to keep the ministry of Crossroads in your prayers, and that you will also consider increasing your level of financial support for the ministry. With many competing messages on campus, your gifts enable the good news of Jesus' love to be made known by a community that welcomes and honors all. -Pr. Tammy

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What does Crossroads mean to you?

"To me it means a home away from home where the community is friendly, welcoming, and loving." - **Levi Janssen, Senior, Concordia University in St. Paul**

"I love the way Crossroads is 'out-there' as a visible resource for the college community." - **Kathy Yale, Mankato Community Member**

"It means a place where you can be yourself and still feel accepted for who you are." - **Ashley Kuhlman, Junior, Minnesota State, Mankato**

"It means that students who live on or near campus have a warm, inviting place to meet new friends, share conversations and meals, and participate in lively worship." - **Lan Evenson, Mankato Community Member**

A Message from Gary Zandstra

Hi. I'm Gary Zandstra, one of the new members of the Board of Directors for Crossroads. I came to Mankato in 1988 from southwest Minnesota. I am an active member of Messiah Lutheran Church in North Mankato. I serve there as a Sunday School class leader, Visitation Team Member, Sound Board and Video Screen Operator, and Greeter. I have always enjoyed working with young children and adults and seeing their faith grow.

I serve as the chairperson of the Development Committee at Crossroads. We

are currently planning our first "February Fundraiser." This event will feature a Chili Cook-off and a Silent Auction. It will be held on Sunday, February 22nd, from 12-4pm at Messiah Lutheran Church. In addition to chili and the auction, we will also have Bingo for the adults. Bring your children and grandchildren, because the Crossroads college students plan to lead some fun organized games for the kids. We are really looking forward to this upcoming fundraiser, and we hope you can all join us.



February Fundraiser

The February Fundraiser Chili Cook-off/ silent auction/ bingo/ family carnival will be held on February 22 (the Snow Date is March 1) from 12-4pm. We hope you can come and support the ministry while enjoying this amazing day of fun, games and great homemade chili with

your whole family! If you want to enter the chili cook-off, please email lcmcrossroads@gmail.com or call 507-625-6779.

There will be a \$100 prize for the best chili! PS- there will also be macaroni and cheese available for those who don't care for chili!

Give to the Max

Give to the Max Day is on November 14.

By partnering with GiveMN, an online giving website for Minnesota nonprofits, and donating on November 14, Crossroads will have 25 chances to maximize your online gift on Give to the Max Day! By making a donation on Give to the Max Day, your gift of any size could help Crossroads win an extra \$1,000 for our ministry in the community.

At the end of Give to the Max Day, one donation from across Minnesota

will be randomly selected for a \$10,000 Supersized Golden Ticket! Help Crossroads increase our odds by making your gift on November 14!

Donations can also be scheduled in advance if you will be busy or traveling on November 14 ... or are just forgetful!

To make a gift on November 14, you can go to <https://givemn.org/organization/Lutheran-Campus-Ministry-Crossroads> on . Thank you!



Student Board President's Message

Hello, I am Tierney Kelsey and am a sophomore this year at MSU Mankato. I am a Law Enforcement major with a minor in Spanish. I am secretary of Law Enforcement club, Sergeant of Mankato Police Explorers, and Student Board President of Crossroads Lutheran Campus Ministry. I also work for MSU Security on campus, and recently became a member of the Sigma

Sigma Sigma sorority! I am originally from White Bear Lake, MN and was very involved at my home church, St. Andrew's Lutheran Church. I wanted to bring the experiences I had there to Crossroads, along with making new experiences. I knew I wanted to stay involved in church because I was so involved back home with peer ministry, Sunday school and vacation bible

school. I decided to go to the campfire worship my freshman year and I absolutely loved it! We sang the songs from Bible camp and that is always one of the ways I see God connecting with myself and others. From that point on I was sold. I continued to attend Crossroads and am now a student leader. I not only attend Crossroads to strengthen my own rela-

tionship with God, but also to help others do the same. This year we student leaders have worked very hard to let people know that we are here for them as fellow Christian, friends, members of the campus community and generally nice people willing to help in any way possible. We hope for a great year and to provide the environment where faith and love intersect.

Weekly Offerings

This year we have begun the practice of taking weekly offerings at Crossroads. These offerings are not used for the ministry's operating expenses, but are designated for different causes within the community. This is the beginning of an intentional focus on the question "What do we do with what God

has given us?" How do we use our gifts in our workplaces, in our communities and in our homes? It is our hope that, when young adults begin considering these questions early in life, a foundation of reflection may be built around how we spend the whole of our lives.

Campus Kitchen Update

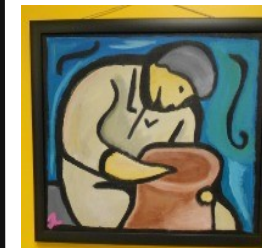
The Campus Kitchen received a generous gift from MSU this summer. The university paid for a new sink and some new shelving units. Thank you, MSU!



Campus Ministry Sunday

Campus Ministry Sunday is coming up on November 9! Students and Board members from LCC in Winona and Crossroads will be visiting congregations and sharing stories about campus ministry in our Synod. Congregations are encouraged to lift up

campus ministries in their prayers, and to consider providing regular financial support, as well. **Please contact semnsynodcampuspastors@gmail.com if you'd like to celebrate a Campus Ministry Sunday in your congregation!**



**CAMPUS MINISTRY
SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 9**

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. Thanks!

Crossroads Connections

Crossroads Luau 2014

On August 24, the day before classes, we welcomed students back to campus at our third annual luau. There were about 150 students who came, many of them freshmen! Some who came to the luau had seen posters advertising the event, others followed the path that was chalked on the sidewalk and some came when they were handed invitations by our student leaders, who combed the campus looking for people to invite. It was a very fun way to kick off the year, and the positive response on Sunday energized the student leaders and affirmed that God was preparing the way for a great new year!



Campfire Worship

At 8pm on August 27 we held our kickoff worship service in the parking lot. As darkness began to fall we started to sing together, and something amazing happened. We had to keep going to the utility closet to bring out new chairs. Our average worship attendance last year was about 25. At our first campfire worship service this year we had close to 50 worshipers, many of whom returned to worship the next week. Following worship we enjoyed s'mores and watched the student leaders take on the Ice Bucket Challenge to raise money for ALS.



Dinner Church

Because we are a congregation of students, most of the members of our Crossroads community are gone during the summer. Enough of us stayed in Mankato over the summer this year that we wanted to continue to worship together weekly. We decided to try out a style of worship called "Dinner Church." In Luke 24, Jesus was made to his companions through the breaking of the bread on the journey to Emmaus. As it was for those early Christians, so Christ's presence was felt among us as we communed, ate together, and prayed with one another. This intimate style of worship would not be easy to adapt for the larger group that makes up our congregation during the academic year, but it was very meaningful and powerful for those who participated this summer. It will undoubtedly become a beloved summer staple at Crossroads!



Our Student Leaders

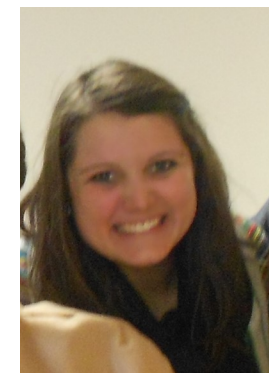
Tierney Kelsey



Student President

"Hello, I am Tierney Kelsey & am the Student Board President. I attend all the board meetings and help run the student board meetings. So far as a group and community we have done lemonade stands, luau, campfire worship, and the never failing lunch for \$1. I could not be more happy to be part of this amazing community!"

Sara Rendall



Connections Coordinator

"Having been involved in Crossroads for almost four years now, I have been blessed with the strength and love of this Christian community. College is a crazy time but Crossroads always brings you back to the peace and love of Jesus."

Hannah Brown



Connections Coordinator

"As a student leader at Crossroads I try to make every person that walks in our doors feel welcomed and loved. As leaders we plan many social events to get people together and build relationships, while also spreading the love of Jesus."

Connor McVey



Student Resident

"My name is Connor McVey and I am one of the residents at LCM Crossroads. While living at Crossroads I function as a cleaning mechanism, as well as a social worker, and occasional carpenter. Being a jack of all trades and master of none, I work to make Crossroads a better place for all students."

Tyler Schwab



Student Resident

"My name is Tyler Schwab and I am one of the residents at Crossroads. There will be many fun events this upcoming year, and I hope Crossroads can be a place where young adults can build their faith and make many new friendships. I hope to see you there!"