



First Trinity Student Ministries

Parent and Volunteer Newsletter

October 2012

What's Happening in Crossroads...

Sunday Mornings

We kicked off this school year on Sunday mornings by joining the Congregations Wide study called **"40 Days in the Word."** Each week we adapt the videos and lessons from the adult study to learn a new way to study God's Word. Students are then encouraged and challenged to practice this using the workbook throughout the year. This ties in with one of our key topics this year "Personalize Scripture".

We encourage you to ask your child how their study is going throughout the week and share with them what you are learning from God's Word as well.

After this we will continue focusing on applying God's Word in life by doing a series called **"Explode Your Bible"**.

This is a process by which students mark and personalize their Bibles to be able to use God's Word as a guide and comfort in every day situations.

Thursday Nights

Tomorrow is our third week of Crossroads CONNECT, our Thursday night program for youth. We are excited to have **Scott and Tara Lombardo** as well as **Anne DiCenso** back on the Crossroads CONNECT team this year.

Thursday nights are meant to be a time for students to pause in the middle of the week and connect with each other and with God. We strive to create an environment in which they can be reenergized in their faith through a short devotion with direct application of who Jesus is in their lives, games, activities, service projects, prayer, and more.

Crossroads CONNECT is designed to be a great "entry point" for new students whether new to the faith or just new to First Trinity.

Other Events and Activities

The **Crossroads Fall Retreat** will be held at Pioneer Camp and Retreat Center on October 5-6. Participants will have a chance to connect with each other and with God. Our theme is "Learning the Ropes" and we will use our activities, including time on the High Ropes Course to review/learn basics of our faith and discuss what it means to trust God in our everyday lives.

Workcamp 2013 will be here before we know it. This year we will be going to Hastings, MI to serve others in Jesus' Name. Information about Workcamp, our Mission Madness Fundraiser, and registration forms for both youth and adult participants are available at FirstTrinity.com/Sign-Ups. **Registrations and a \$50 deposit are due to Bekah by October 28.**

Upcoming Events

October 5-6

Fall Retreat at Pioneer

October 28

Workcamp Registration Deadline

November 3

Mission Madness
(Workcamp Fundraiser)

NOTE: The Youth International Mission Trip will now be in 2014 (instead of 2013). Therefore, the October 21 meeting has been cancelled. We will meet in the spring to begin planning this trip.

Resource Corner

A few great resources from Fuller Youth Institute for parents and volunteers about **communicating with teenagers** on various topics:

Asking Good Questions:
Fulleryouthinstitute.org/2012/09/the-best-question-ive-asked-a-young-person-recently/

Connecting with Students about what they do online:
Fulleryouthinstitute.org/2012/08/back-to-school-for-parents-and-the-internet-ignorance-is-not-bliss/

A 30 Minute Online "seminar" on talking with them about sex:
Fulleryouthinstitute.org/2012/05/how-do-i-talk-about-sex-with-my-teenager/

Catch The Vision - Summer Trips

This section of the newsletter each month will be dedicated to sharing about one specific aspect of the overall vision for high school ministry. It might focus on the importance of parents and other adults involved in ministry or how what's happening in high school ministry fits in with the overall mission and vision of First Trinity. Some months might outline updates from the (soon-to-be-formed) Crossroads Leadership Team. It's kind of a "behind-the-scenes" look at the hows and whys. This month, I wanted to share a little about the plans for youth **summer trips**

Last spring, after much prayer and opportunities to gather feedback from parents, youth, and volunteers, the decision was made to change our summer trip rotation which at the time involved attending the LCMS National Youth Gathering every 3 years and Workcamps on the alternating years. We created a four-year ministry rotation that helps ensure we cover everything we want students to learn or experience before they graduate, and the hope is that our summer trips each year will serve as a great concluding piece to reinforce what we discovered throughout the year and/or a launching point into the themes of the upcoming school year. These trips may range from Workcamp mission trips, and teambuilding events to weeks dedicated more to personal spiritual growth through Bible study, worship, and workshops (similar to the National Youth Gathering or a Christian Music Festival).

In addition, on the years we are not attending Workcamp, we would like to offer a chance for older high school and college age students to experience and share God on **an international mission trip**. This is an opportunity for their perspective to be broadened even more and journey closer to Christ. The first of these trips is likely to be offered the summer of 2014 and will be available every other year. Decisions about where we are going will be made as we begin to plan in Spring of 2013.



Share the Story

Here you can find a Crossroads Ministry story each month, as witness to what God is doing in this place. Sometimes it will be written by me (Bekah) and other times a student or volunteer will share this piece.

As we begin to prepare for this coming year's Workcamp, here are a few from the impact of past Workcamp trips:

"I learned... I don't need to know how to change the world, or how to build a porch. I just need to be willing to be used by God."

Jordan (2012 Youth Participant)

"[My son] is a new person. I cannot believe the change that took place in him through that week at Workcamp and can't wait for him to go back."

A Parent (Referring to the 2011 trip 8 months later)

"It didn't take me long to figure out what God wanted to make new in my life [on this trip]. He wanted to renew my trust in Him..."

Stephanie (Adult Leader 2012)

Read more stories at

[http://JoyfullyBlessed.wordpress.com/
category/mission-work/](http://JoyfullyBlessed.wordpress.com/category/mission-work/)

Join the Team

As you can probably figure out. This section each month will have opportunities for people to get involved with what's happening in high school ministry in a variety of ways. If at any point you have an interest to serve at First Trinity (in high school ministry or other places) please contact me or another staff member so we can see where you could best use the gifts God's given to serve Him and His people! Here are some ways you can get involve in what God is doing:

Workcamp

Adult Leadership Team - Go to WC

Apply to be a workcamp drive/
chaperone at FirstTrinity.com/Sign-Ups

Workcamp Coordinator

Help Bekah plan logistics of housing,
transportation, after-events, etc.

High School Ministry Team

Join a group of 6-7 adults and youth to
focus on high school ministry planning,
goal-setting, evaluation, training, and
more. (5-6 meetings throughout the year
with a few responsibilities beyond those
meeting times.)

Sunday Small Group Leader— Adults

are needed to facilitate discussion
among small groups of youth on Sunday
mornings. Able to serve in 6-7 week
segments throughout the year.

MANY other opportunities available.

Contact Bekah for info

Questions? Concerns? Want to Get Involved? Contact Rebekah Freed, Director of High School Ministries
RFreed@FirstTrinity.com ~ (716) 835-2220 ~ [Facebook.com/BekahFreed](https://www.facebook.com/BekahFreed)