



CROSSROADS CONNECTIONS

NEWSLETTER FOR APRIL 2019

A note from Pastor Adam

April—noticing new life

This April is a great month to reflect deeply on what it means to be followers of Jesus. In this month, we live the in-between life. It is still Lent for the first half of the month. And then, halfway through, we celebrate and rejoice with resurrection hope in our celebrations of Easter new life. In short, in April of 2019, together we journey through the most transformative moments imaginable...from life, to death, then to new life. These transitions are some of the most painful, and regenerative, ones imaginable. Most of you have experience grieving the death of loved ones. Communally, as a congregation, we have done our share of grief as well. In the midst of these heart-breaking moments, as the church, we have glimpses of hope. Each year as we walk through Lent and Holy Week, journeying through the dark days of Jesus' betrayal and crucifixion, we know the rest of the story. We know that we will get to celebrate later that, in the end, life wins the day. Sometimes we sing it this way, "Goodness is stronger than evil, love is stronger than hate."

I hope this glimpse of Easter hope will help lead you through the remainder of Lent. I hope this glimpse of hope will sustain you as we finish the cold days of late winter. After all, the green shoots of early spring flowers are beginning to push through the ground. And I hope that this glimpse of new life can be our way to see ourselves as a congregation, too.

In some ways, Crossroads has been in a Lenten season. We've said farewell to many people and things that have been part of Crossroads' identity for the past decade (and much longer as St. James and Cleveland Hill and Ascension). At the same time, we have said yes to new life through partnership with St. Paul's and renewed engagement with the community around us. My hope and prayer for this congregation is that the 2019 Lent to Holy Week to Easter transition can be a time for us to make a parallel transition in this community's view of itself.

We need to shift our focus to the new life about to

spring up. In the midst of this season of farewell and grieving, I invite you, together and individually to open your hearts and eyes and minds to awareness of the glimpses of Easter new life around our congregation. I'd like to point out a few of them to you:

- The upstairs of the building—while it looks empty now, soon it will be updated, refurnished and ready for the congregation's and community's use in new ways
- Each month 25-30 middle school youth meet here for confirmation instruction where they discover and awaken to the enormity of God's love for them and the world around them
- The call committee has been established and is working towards calling Crossroads' next pastor AND the first pastor into the Crossroads/St. Paul's partnership
- Crossroads and St Paul's have hired Adam Weber as our next youth worker to walk alongside the young people of our congregations and community, even as we prepare to say farewell and a fond thank you to Kristen Arends
- The joint executive team of Crossroads and St. Paul's is imagining how to best share the story of the new life we are experiencing and expecting together both inside the congregations and out in the community
- and there are so many other things that we and St. Paul's and our neighbors are on the cusp of, that I'm going to end the list here.

I want to help Crossroads look at its life as a congregation, and its new life of partnership, as signs of the resurrected life that are central to what it means to be Christians. At our core, even in our seasons of grief and sadness and Lent, we are Easter people...people who believe in God's love and new life, for us and for the world.

Will you join me in pivoting into living our life together in this way? God is alive. And we are alive because of Christ. Let's celebrate and live like this is true!!

Desiring hope and joy for you and for all,
Pr. Adam

Council Corner

"Our Lord has written the promise of resurrection, not in books alone, but in every leaf in springtime". Martin Luther

Greetings! Happy spring! So glad to say spring is finally here! Springtime brings change and newness we hear the birds chirping, flowers start to bloom, grass starts to grow and the temperature gets warmer (hopefully).

Change is also in the air for Crossroads as we partner with St. Paul's and begin the Call process. I am excited and looking forward to what God has in store for us!

Just a few updates: Council for 2019 is up and running with our new members Vice President Ed Weiss & Treasurer Dawn Goran. I would like to say how much we appreciate former council members Kandy Svec and Andrea Weininger for all your hard work. John Svec is our property guy taking care and addressing all our building needs. John is also our Family Support Center liaison for the building renovations. We are still waiting on grant approval for renovations for the FSC. Lois Snyder is volunteering in the office on Mondays and Wednesdays to help our secretary Katie and to be a presence in our building. The Executive Leadership teams from both churches met in March with the Manzella marketing firm to brainstorm a name and elevator speech for our partnership. Stay tuned for more information. Our Call Committee has been formed and we will have our first meeting the first week of April. Members of the Call committee are Lois Snyder, Ed Weiss, Karen Barone, Arlene Eberhard, Kelley Omel & Kate Svec. We are excited and hopeful about finding a new pastor and trusting in our Lord to lead us to the right candidate.

The next several months will bring some new and exciting change and uncertainty especially with Pastor Adam and Vicar Adam leaving. I ask you pray with us during this time of transition for guidance and leadership for Crossroads, our partnership with St. Paul's and the community around us. We are on this journey together. As always and as we move forward, if you have any suggestions, new ideas, concerns or comments, please contact any member of the church council.

Your feedback and support is vital to our future and we thank you!

May God bless you!

Arlene Eberhard - Council secretary

Call Committee Update

Crossroads Call committee's work has begun towards calling the pastor who will next lead Crossroads as an early, very tangible part of our partnership with St. Paul's. Please keep the members of the committee in your prayers, both individually and as a group. The names of those the committee considers will remain confidential within the committee until it is time for a candidate to be presented to the congregation. The committee will do its best to keep the congregation updated on the process. This call process is a collaborative one with Lutheran Campus Ministry of Western New York and St. Paul's, thus Pastor Steve and Cate Strebing, a student leader of LuMin, are working with the committee as well.

Lois Snyder (chair)
Arlene Eberhard
Karen Barone
Kate Svec
Ed Weiss
Kelley Omel

2019 Crossroads Church Council

President: Mary Mindel
Vice President: Ed Weiss
Secretary: Arlene Eberhard
Treasurer: Dawn Goran
Kelley Omel
Martin Troutman
Financial Secretary: Neal Nesselbeck

Youth Group



APRIL YOUTH NEWS - "I don't understand this game, but I've eaten three rabbits."

That's a direct quote from a student at one of our youth nights this year. It makes me laugh every time I think of it. I think just showing up any youth night is kind of like this. We have a rough idea of what's going to happen but nothing is guaranteed. We may not know when the food will arrive, which friends be there, if any new people will come, or if the games we plan will actually work out. But we show up anyways. The kids, the leaders, the food... We all show up and are ready for whatever the night. And isn't that what God requires of us as well? Just to show up in faith and be ready for what God has in store for us. Here are the upcoming events to show up for this month!

ORGANIC YOUTH VOLLEYBALL MARATHON – April 5-6. \$25.00 - Organic Youth invites us to their Annual Volleyball Marathon! We begin by gathering at 8pm at St. John's West Seneca and then go over to Buffalo Niagara Court Center for the tourney! Eat dinner before you come and register at organic-youth.org.

YOUTH NIGHT: Saturday, April 13th - 6th-12th graders are invited for these fun, impactful nights together at Crossroads Lutheran Church. Families and youth are invited to worship at 5pm. Then youth stay to eat dinner together before our games and activities begin at 6pm and go until 9pm. Remember to Save the dates for May 11th & June 7th!

NEW NEWS! The sad news is that my family and I have found out that we will be moving to Wisconsin over the summer. The good news is this means Adam will have a call as an ordained pastor this summer! The best news is that a new youth director to serve St. Paul's & Crossroads has already been hired! I am excited to be able to announce that ADAM WEBER has joined our youth ministry team! He is probably already familiar to some of you and to your kids as well. He has over 5 years youth ministry experience, he and I have partnered together to lead events in the past and Adam also attends Senior High Week as one of the faculty members at LCLC. Adam and I will be working together for the next few months to train and transition this ministry. He'll also be leading the remodel of youth room at Crossroads. He's a great fit for the ministry here and I'm excited for everyone to get to know him! Blessings and peace throughout this transition. God is already working through it on our behalf. =) Peace,

~Kristen Arends (KK) 716-481-8728

A Message from your new Youth Director



If you would have asked me 10 years ago if I'd be a youth director or even working for a church, I would have said you were crazy. My faith journey has been a whirlwind of a ride, but it has led me to where I am today, and for that I am eternally grateful. I grew up in Clarence Center, and was a member at Zion Lutheran Church. My family and I attended church regularly, but I was not very involved in the youth group. Instead, I was a swimmer and spent most of my time in the pool. While all of my friends were spending their summers at LCLC having the time of their lives, I was working on my family's farm or training. After high school, I left Buffalo for a few years to concentrate on my education. I graduated from SUNY Oswego in 2013 with a Bachelor in Business Administration and Economics. Soon after graduation I got involved with Campus Ministry and moved into the Olin house. This was a huge stepping stone in my faith journey. This is where I first truly felt God's calling and I knew I belonged in ministry. In September 2014 I began a yearlong project connect pastoral internship at St. John Lutheran Church in Williamsville. For the past few years I have been the director of youth ministry at St. John. I am also lucky to spend a week every summer at camp leading a workshop at senior high week. Camp is where I have found my love and passion for youth ministry. I am excited to begin the next chapter here at Crossroads and St. Paul's and continue to guide the youth in their faith journey.

Adam Weber

Fri. April 5-6th – Organic Youth Volleyball
Sat. April 13th - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm
Sat. May 11th - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm
Sat. June 1st - Youth Night at Crossroads 6-9pm

2019 Youth Volleyball Marathon

April 5-6

8:00pm to 7:00am

First we will gather at St. John's in West Seneca to pack meals for the hungry in WNY. Then we will all head to the Buffalo Niagara Court Center to have an all night volleyball tournament, and see which youth group ends up the winner!

We will have pizza and snacks at 2:00am. Please eat dinner before you come! There are additional snacks available for purchase at the Buffalo Niagara Court Center if needed.

The address of St. John's Lutheran Church in West Seneca is:

3512 Clinton St, West Seneca, NY 14224

The address of the Buffalo Niagara Court Center is:

425 Meyer Rd, West Seneca, NY 14224

Cost: \$25

A Message from Vicar Adam

"Beautiful Things"

When I was in High School I acted in plays. I was in One-Act plays, and I was in musicals during the summer. Each time we started rehearsal, we would get a script. Then we would rehearse for weeks knowing when our performance would happen in a few months. If you've ever been in a play or played in a sport that has a definite end to the season, you know that when you are rehearsing and practicing, naturally friendships form. There is also a wonderful spirit of working together toward a common goal. The momentum and excitement and the fear build toward the performance or toward the end of the season. And then, for me, after the final performance, and maybe after a cast party, there is a sense of letdown. There is a sense of loss. There is a feeling that all we had worked on together is now gone and that it may never be again. There is fear of what comes next.

This month we walk with Jesus to Good Friday. I often wonder what this was like for his disciples. We get a glimpse of their reactions in the gospels from time to time. They often voice disbelief that Jesus will go to die. They voice misunderstanding for what Jesus has come to do. They are afraid. Peter denies Jesus at the end. Judas betrays him. After Good Friday, the sense of being lost and without direction must have been overwhelming.

As we are building up to Jesus' crucifixion, we also know that this is not the end of the story.

A little like moving on in life after a season of working together for a common purpose, after Good Friday we, like the disciples, move on with a new understanding of working together. We take what we have learned and we trust that God brings new life. Easter follows Good Friday again, and we remember that we have a God who brings new life out of death. God brings faith out of fear, and makes us new again and again.

As this community is again looking at changes after three years of praising God and living out our faith with Pastor Adam and me, know that even though it may look a little different from what we've done together during this time, working together for a common purpose, the mission of God, will always bring new life. The band Gungor's song "Beautiful Things" comes to mind. Read the lyrics to this song as a prayer for renewal in your own life, and know that God is always making you, and your community, new.

All this pain / I wonder if I'll ever find my way / I wonder if my life could really change, at all

All this earth / Could all that is lost ever be found? /

Could a garden come out from this ground, at all?

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of the dust

You make beautiful things

You make beautiful things out of us

All around,

Hope is springing up from this old ground

Out of chaos life is being found, in you

You make beautiful things!

Vicar Adam Arends

Tiger's Den Food Pantry

THANK YOU for helping to supply the Tiger's Den Food Pantry. For the month of April, we are asking for donations of crackers and canned ravioli. You may continue to place your food donations in the food barrel.

-Carolyn Catalano

March Birthday Lunch

The April Birthday Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, April 16th at Sorrentino's at 5640 Main Street in Williamsville at 12:00pm. Everyone is welcome whether it's your birthday or not. Call the church office for reservations.

****If you are not able to make it to church on a weekend or just want to listen to the sermon again, go to CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org and click on the "Sermon Library" link.***

**** Looking for people to bring any extra Manufacturer's Coupons you don't use to church. This will be a give and take program. You give what you don't want and take what you need.***

April Birthdays

2	Kandy Svec
4	Barbara Rupiec
7	Steve Klose
11	Madison Eberhard
15	Sharon Wall
19	Ralph Rietz Loris Willert
22	Eileen Knauth
23	Robert Cutting
26	Arlene Haug
28	Abigail Eberhard

Announcements

~ St. Paul's will be hosting Lunch and Litany during each Wednesday in Lent starting March 13th from 12:00pm -12:30pm. We ask you to bring a bagged lunch to enjoy and prayers start at 12:20pm.

~ This year, Book Club will be reading "City of God" by Sara Miles. The club will be discussing the book on April 10th at 7pm and April 11th at 12:30 pm at Crossroads. Please join us!

Lawyers for the Arts Classical Edition

Featuring all Attorney Musicians *Art Auction * Light Reception
Saturday, April 27th at 7:30pm
Crossroads Lutheran Church
\$20/Ticket purchased at WWW.ASIWNY.ORG
Proceeds benefit
Arts Services Initiative and Give for Greatness.



We are starting a fellowship ministry in conjunction with Saturday Service. Saturday April 13th, we will be providing a simple soup and crackers meal after 5pm Worship Service. It will continue every 2nd Saturday of each month. Plan on finishing those conversations that you couldn't get in before service started!

Who is invited?

EVERYONE is invited! Just make sure to sign up at the back of the Sanctuary so we know how many to plan for. Soup preparation will be provided. Volunteers will be asked to help clean and lock up.

Where is it held?

In Church lounge

What will be served?

We will be offering a different soup each month starting with vegetable soup and then we will decide where to go from there based upon popular opinion. A gluten free soup will be offered. Coffee and tea will also be provided.

Holy Week Worship Schedule

April 18th – Maundy Thursday
Crossroads at 6:30pm with Potluck -
Sign up is on back table of the Sanctuary

April 19th – Good Friday
Crossroads Community Service at 2pm
St. Paul’s Worship at 7pm

April 20th – Easter Vigil – Crossroads at 5pm

April 21st – Easter
Crossroads – 10:15am
St. Paul’s – 6am Easter Sunrise Worship
8:30am and 10am – Traditional Worship

Thank you’s to Crossroads Members...

“The auditions for the Friends of the Amherst Symphony/Williamsville Rotary Club Scholarship were held in your Church’s Sanctuary. The winner is a wonderful young violinist, Matthew Cone, from Williamsville East High School. Everything worked out very well. We are pleased and want to thank you very much for allowing us to use your church and facilities as we know there are many demands from different groups to use the church. We hope you will express to all your members our thanks for their community spirit in sharing their church with FASO”.

Very Truly Yours,
Sharron Jo Rick, Scholarship Chairperson

“Dear Friends,
On behalf of the Friends of the Night People, I would like to thank you for your donation, support and trust. Our success is due to the generosity of our donors. We appreciate your donation”.
President FONP

“I’d like to thank everyone at Crossroads that made the donation possible. We are a ministry that is run solely on small grants and private donations. Your donation helps us continue providing care for the youth in WNY and brings the loving message of Jesus into the lives of hundreds of young people”.

Organic Youth: Nick Stroczkowski, Director



Easter Plants

Help us make Crossroads bright and beautiful to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus!

Orders need to be received by April 7th.
Please pay when submitting
order.

Lilies - \$10 each
Daffodils - \$10 each
Tulips - \$10 each
Hyacinths - \$10 each

Please fill out a form for each order

- Please deliver my plant to a shut-in member
Check one:
- Lily (white)
 Daffodil (yellow)
 Tulip (pink)
 Hyacinth (blue)

in memory of _____

by _____

OR

in honor of _____

by _____

OR

in celebration of _____

by _____

APRIL 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	1 10 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Alumni Rehearsal	2 6 pm AA	3 12 pm Lunch and Litany at St. Paul's	4 Sandwich Team 6 pm AA The Northside Writers	5	6 10 am Alanon 5 pm Worship
7 10:15 am Worship 11:15 am Church Council Meeting	8 10 am Bible Study	9 6 pm AA	10 12 pm Lunch and Litany at St. Paul's 7 pm Book Club	11 Sandwich Team Baby Blessings 12:30 pm Book Club 2 pm St John BM 6 pm AA	12	13 10 am Alanon 5 pm Worship (Soup On Saturday after Worship)
14 10:15 am Palm Sunday Worship	15 10 am Bible Study 7:30 pm Alumni Rehearsal	16 12 pm Birthday Luncheon at Sorrentinos 6 pm AA	17	18 Sandwich Team Maundy Thursday 6:30 pm Worship and Potluck	19 Good Friday 2 pm Worship at Crossroads 7 pm Worship at St. Paul's	20 10 am Alanon 5 pm Easter Vigil Worship
21 10:15 am Easter Worship	22 10 am Bible Study	23 6 pm AA	24	25 Sandwich Team 2 pm St John BM 6 pm AA	26	27 10am Alanon 5pm Worship 7:30 pm Classical Recital
28 10:15 am Worship	29 10 am Bible Study 7:30pm Amherst Alumni Choir Rehearsal	30 6 pm AA				

Crossroads Lutheran Church
4640 Main St
Amherst, NY 14226

Address Correction Requested



**CARING FOR OTHERS, NEAR AND FAR,
BECAUSE CHRIST CARES FOR US.**

April 2019

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www.CrossroadsLutheranChurch.org
Email: CLC@crossroadslutheranchurch.org
(716) 839-1314
(716) 839-1691 fax

Our Pastor: Rev. Adam Miller-Stubbendick
PastorAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org
Our Vicar: Adam Arends
VicarAdam@crossroadslutheranchurch.org

Won't You Join Us?

Saturday worship	5 pm (Informal)
Sunday worship	10:15 am
Sunday School	9:15 am