

CROSS TRAILS MINISTRY



Trail *post*



Summer Camp 2022 “Ready, Set, Go!”

Our theme for Summer 2022 was “Ready, Set, Go!” Our campers explored faith practices that help to connect us to God and get us ready to go into the world to follow God’s call. They explored how God gathers us all in worship and community, how we should pray and listen for God’s guidance, how we should explore God’s word, even when it is difficult, how we should speak of what God is doing in our lives, and how we should match our words with actions and serve God in the world. Thanks be to God, and we will!

This year, for the first time, we did have to send a few campers home with COVID. Thankfully, we had a system in place to notify parents of exposure and adapt programming to minimize further cases. A bigger impact was that several staff tested positive or were confirmed exposed. As a result, we had to make the heartbreaking decision to cut a week of camp at Camp

Chrysalis and two day camps in congregations. Some campers were able to attend alternate weeks, but not all.

Thankfully, we were able to start up again and operate all of our remaining programs as scheduled. This summer, 1,354 campers enjoyed faith-filled fun at camp, and encountered God in new and meaningful ways. Thanks be to God!

Summer 2023 plans are underway! Look inside for more information.



A Challenge Gift for a Swimming Pond! Help us Raise \$50,000 by the end of 2022!

Cross Trails has an amazing opportunity and challenge that must be completed by the end of this year! An anonymous donor has seen the need for a new water play and swimming option at Ebert Ranch Camp. They have offered to match any funds we raise before the end of the year up to \$50,000!

Our master plans include adding a natural looking swimming, fishing and nature play pond to the Ranch. Currently the only water we have is a four foot deep swimming tank. While campers love splashing around, a pond will be used for a variety of play and retreaters can also enjoy it year-round!

Funds raised will help us to construct a 1-2 acre pond which would open up new possibilities for campers to swim, fish, and discover the wildlife that visit. It will be set up so that it fits naturally in the landscape, stays aerated, and can be fed through natural rainwater catchment supplemented by a well. These matched funds won’t cover all of the cost, but they will cover a major portion to get us started. Our hope is that many will see the need and we will be able to add it to the Ranch as soon as possible!

What an opportunity to add to the experience of our campers and retreaters! Help us meet this challenge! Just designate your gift “Ebert Pond Challenge” when you give online or send your funds by check.

CAMP CHRYSALIS & EBERT RANCH

Retreating for Youth, Adults & Families

Fall 2022 Cross Trails Retreats

Cross Trails Retreats are planned and led by Cross Trails staff. Full descriptions and fees can be found on our webpage. They are open to anyone in the target group and financial aid “camperships” are available for all. **Early registration closes two weeks before the start date and all registration closes one week before.** Sign up at CrossTrails.org and come!



What Does This Mean?! Confirmation Retreat on the Sacraments Camp Chrysalis—September 23-25

Youth in Grades 5-8 and an Adult from their Church

What do the Sacraments mean?! Interactive camp experiences will enhance your congregational confirmation instruction as your youth explore the Sacraments. Everyone will gain a bigger view of the church as they play, study, and grow in faith with other confirmands.

SWTS Middle School Gathering “The Reformation Continues” Camp Chrysalis—November 11-13

Synod Youth in Grades 6-8 and an Adult from their Church

The Lutheran Church experienced a reformation more than 500 years ago. Learn how the church is still reforming and how we are re-formed because of church history and vision. Camp fun and interactive, faith-filled learning with other synod youth are all a part of The Gathering experience.



Family Advent Festival Retreats “Greatest Gifts”

Camp Chrysalis—Choose Your Family’s Best Weekend—December 2-4, 9-11 or 16-18

In a season that seems devoted to receiving and giving gifts, spend time learning about your family’s God-given gifts and you prepare to celebrate the greatest gift, Jesus. Have meaningful and fun family time as you prepare for the Christmas season with Bible study, worship, crafts, and camp activities including decorating your own family gingerbread house.

Upper Elementary Advent Retreat “Twas the Season Before Christmas”

Ebert Ranch—December 9-11

Youth in Grades 3-5 and an Adult from their Church

Jesus and his family had to travel to be counted in the census. Join us as we explore what it means to be counted in God’s family and learn about the hope that comes with being a child of God. Participate in small group Bible studies, worships, crafts, and other camp activities to prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Hosted Rental Group & Family Retreats

Plan your own retreat or event! Both Camp Chrysalis and Ebert Ranch Camp have lodging, meeting and play space available for youth, adults and families.

Just gather at least 8 people and let us know which site and dates you want. You can come for the day, for the weekend or during the week. With just 16 people, you can get a whole quad cabin at either site, just for your family or group! Then we can help you to plan your own retreat!



Visit our webpage, call 830-257-6340 or contact info@crosstrails.org for more information. Pick your date and we’ll help you plan activities from there!

We Need Your Ideas Now!

A New Strategic Plan is in Development



Every few years, the Cross Trails Board of Directors works with input from supporters of Cross Trails to vision what is next for Cross Trails Ministry. A task force goes through evaluations and surveys to develop a plan to help us move into ministry for the next few years.

We look at summer and retreat programs, facilities, marketing, funding, leadership and outreach and then set goals and plans for the next few years. With all of the changes in

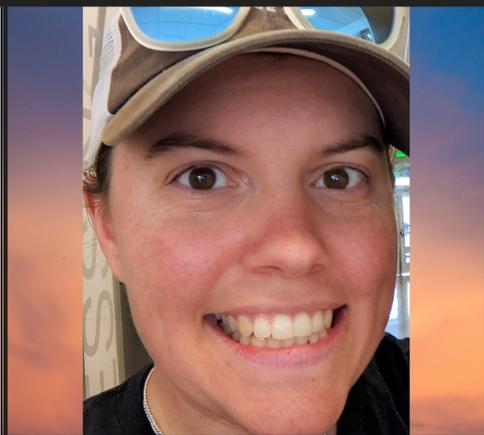
churches and communities over the last few years, we know that life and ministry needs have changed some. Now is the time to share your input!

We want to know what you love about Cross Trails, what can be improved and your ideas for growing the ministry in all of these areas.



Please visit CrossTrails.org/news or scan the QR code here and share your ideas!

Welcome Our New Program Staff!



Cross Trails Ministry is excited to be able to live into a new staffing plan that includes three Program Directors and one Assistant Program Director. All will be focused on providing high quality programs for all ages, year round!

Cross Trails Ministry is excited to welcome Pastor Katie Wegner as our new Cross Trails Ministry Program Director! Pastor Katie will take the lead on the Cross Trails off-site summer programs and work with the Program Team to develop, lead and host retreat opportunities.

Katie grew up attending Cross Trails programs and served on summer staff in 2006. She graduated from Concordia University with a degree in Biology and Christian Education and served in Youth and Family

Ministry at Immanuel Pflugerville for 7 years. She began studies at Luther Seminary in 2014. She was ordained in 2019 and has since served as Pastor at Hutto Lutheran Church. Katie will start at Cross Trails on September 1st.

We are also happy and excited to welcome Mike Stricker as our Assistant Program Director! Mike will spend the next year learning about year round camp and retreat ministry while being an integral part of it.

Mike has served on our summer staff for 4 summers, most recently as the Summer Assistant Program Director at Ebert Ranch. He graduated from the University of North Texas in May with a degree in Psychology. Mike will also start on September 1st.



Fundraising to Keep the Ministry Going

You are invited to the **Cross Trails Ministry
Fall Festival in Fredericksburg**
on September 17th from 9am – 3pm!

The funds raised at the Fall Festival help keep camp affordable by being used toward capital improvements to Chrysalis and Ebert.

Come to picturesque Fredericksburg to...

- Admire and bid on quilts at our **Quilt Auction!**
- Sign up for our second annual **Cornhole Tournament!**
- Visit the **Craft Booths** and choose your favorite items!
- Spin the wheel at the **Gift Card Pull** for your chance to win!
- Eat something tasty from one of our **Food Trucks!**
- Enjoy **Kids Carnival Games** for the whole family!
- Take part in **Photo Opportunities** that you can have for yourself or to share with family and friends!
- And enjoy **Music** as you visit the food booths and trucks!

Or Participate Virtually by...

- Participating in the **Virtual Fall Festival 5K!** Run individually or get a team together to run or walk this event and register on the Fall Festival page of our website!
- Donating a quilt for our **Online Quilt Auction** and then bidding when our auction site goes live!

Contact Jessica Pina at
Jessica @crosstrails.org
for more information.

**We look forward to seeing you
in September!**

FALL 
Festival



**JOIN US IN
FREDERICKSBURG!**

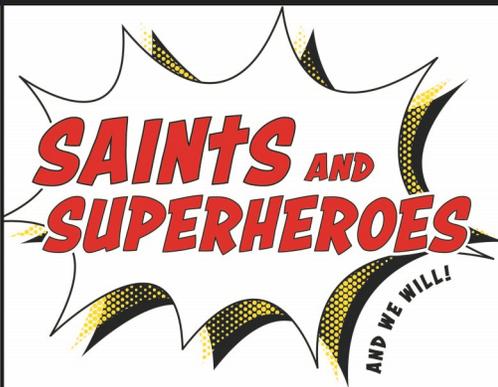


**SEPT 17TH
ONLINE &
IN PERSON**



Thank You Summer 2022 Staff!

Get Ready for Summer 2023!



Our theme for next summer is “Saints and Superheroes”. We will be exploring what it means to be a part of the sainthood of all believers using superhero imagery. In the end, campers will know that they are not meant to be superheroes, but everyday saints, called by God to live their faith in the world.

Planning for next summer is underway! New programs and activities are coming! A preliminary schedule will be posted September 21st.

Group reservation materials will go out mid-October and group reservations will open December 1st. Individual campers and family campers will be able to register starting in January.

We anticipate a busy summer, so get ready now to join us as we learn to be everyday saints in God’s world!