

Our Mission

To provide unique settings and experiences in which youth, adults and families are strengthened in their relationships with Christ, each other, the church and community.



Cross Trails Ministry

Summer Camp * Retreats * Expeditions

Dear Nice person who let me go to camp

Because of you...

... Places were improved!



- Upper Turtle Creek was dredged and the wooden dam replaced at Chrysalis.
- The road to the Hilltop cabin at Chrysalis was graded and improved.
- The main-site at Ebert Ranch Camp was improved with new paint and fencing around service areas.
- New shade structures were added at the pool, archery and ropes courses at Ebert Ranch Camp.

... Programs were increased!

- Off-site day retreat events are now provided in areas that are further away from our sites.
- Bilingual staff serve on our summer Day Camp teams.
- The evangelism focused Beach Camp is seeing a surge in numbers in 2013.
- Short-term mission trips are being provided year round through Expeditions.
- Texas Trek is now taking place and we are in partnership with the Texas State parks to make it happen!



... People were touched!

- Over 2,000 youth experience summer camp each year.
- Well over 3,000 adults and youth retreat with us each year.
- Congregations and small groups participated in short term mission trips through the Expeditions program. They touched countless lives in the work they provided and relationships that were built.
- Camperships paved the way for many children, youth, and families to attend summer camp and retreats who couldn't otherwise have afforded it.



Cross Trails Ministry Offers Unique Settings!

LUTHERAN CAMP CHRYSALIS



In the heart of the Texas Hill Country, near Kerrville, Camp Chrysalis has 91 acres highlighted by a beautiful bluff overlooking Turtle Creek. From the lush creek side, to the open field, to the rugged bluff with the large cross on top, the diverse

beauty of the sites provides something for everyone.

Campers and retreaters of all ages enjoy a setting at Camp

Chrysalis that offers natural places for conversation and enjoying the community. Guests can choose to relax in the comfortable buildings, or they can discover new skills like the way climb, canoeing, pottery, woodcarving and much more.



OFF-SITE SETTINGS IN TEXAS ...



Cross Trails Ministry offers programs all over Texas. These include off-site summer Day Camps in congregations, Beach Camp in Port Aransas, day retreat events around the state, and programs through Texas Trek that explore different natural areas.



EBERT RANCH CAMP



Ebert Ranch camp has 465 acres with rolling hills, picturesque oaks, wide skies and a cool breeze. Just west of Fredericksburg, near Harper, the Texas ranch setting is an experience in Hill Country beauty.

Ranch horses, longhorns and even goats roam the site that is their home.

Campers and retreaters appreciate the Ranch activities and hospitality that truly make the setting unique. While this site is designed for smaller, intimate groups, there is no shortage of activities and options. Guests can enjoy riding horses, walking the prayer labyrinth, experiencing the low or high challenge courses, learning outdoor living skills, gardening, or just relaxing in porch rocking chairs.



... AND AROUND THE WORLD!



Take a journey with a purpose and join an Expedition! These short term mission trips provide the opportunity to serve and minister in a variety of ways and locations around the world.



Cross Trails Ministry Offers Unique Experiences!

Summer Camps

All Cross Trails Ministry summer camps immerse youth in Christian community with strong role models, and build faith through worship, study, new skills and play.

Lutheran Camp Chrysalis

Summer camps for youth and families that include traditional Bible camp activities as well as new ones like our challenge course, kayaking, swimming, pottery, woodcarving and more!

Ebert Ranch Camp

Summer camps for upper elementary to high school youth that include a mix of Bible camp activities as well as ranch activities like horseback riding, gardening, care for the ranch animals, ropes course and much more!

Day Camps

Week long summer day camp for elementary age children in their home congregation. We provide the director, staff, programming, and materials. Congregations provide the space and the kids! This is a wonderful event for community outreach!

Beach Camp

Summer camps for middle and high school youth that take place in Port Aransas and focus on living your faith in public!

Texas Trek

Summer camp for middle school youth that teach rustic camping skills and give campers the chance to explore several Hill Country area state parks!

Retreats

All Cross Trails Ministry retreaters experience heartfelt Christian hospitality as well as enjoy programs and settings that inspire and renew.

Programmed Retreats and Day Events

Adults, families and youth can attend programmed retreats and day events that are held throughout the year. These are great opportunities to relax and renew through our educational programs, provide a chance to form faith-filled memories as families and as a Christian community, and they expand the vision and ministry of the church.

Church Leadership Retreats

Time away together helps church leaders to bond, have meaningful discussions and inspires vision for your church's future. We offer special discounts to church councils along with our wonderful hospitality and any programming help that is needed.

Hosted Retreat Rentals

Cross Trails Ministry provides Christian hospitality to a variety of groups each year. They can be church groups, family reunions, businesses, school groups, clubs and more! Programming help is offered as needed. It is our goal to make your group have a wonderful experience!

Volunteer Retreats

Many improvements that take place at camp happen because of volunteers. We have projects for all skill levels. When groups work together, they develop stronger bonds! We provide free housing and meals for work groups who work 4 hours each day.

Then Jesus told his disciples, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me."

- *Matthew 16:24*

Expeditions

Take a Journey with a Purpose that ignites faith and changes lives through one of our short-term International Mission trips organized by an experienced mission leader.

For all Expeditions, our leaders will:

- Make contacts with missionaries
- Organize logistics
- Handle communication
- Provide tools to raise financial support
- Lead essential training and debriefing
- Personally lead your Trip!

Trip possibilities include Honduras, Costa Rica, Rwanda, Guatemala, the U.S./Mexico Border and more.

Programmed Expeditions

Short-term international mission trips for congregations and groups of individuals are set through the year to various locations. These pre-set trips are open to individuals and groups to join. All planning is taken care of and we provide the leaders!

Custom Designed Expeditions

If your congregation or group has a special relationship or connection with a country, let our experienced leaders plan a trip especially for you. It takes six months or more to plan a trip so contact our staff as soon as possible to begin the process.

Youth Summer Expeditions

This summer we are taking a group of high school youth to Costa Rica for a mission and accompaniment trip with Costa Rican youth. Future youth trips will be planned soon.



Cross Trails Ministry Financial Leadership



Many of the programs and opportunities that Cross Trails Ministry offers would not be possible without the generous gifts of individuals and congregations. Gifts from individuals, families, congregations, organizations, alumni, and friends enhance the quality and build on the strong standard that Cross Trails Ministry is so proud of. These gifts help us reach our goals of providing unique settings and experiences to participants year round.

Fees charged to youth and adults for summer camping and year round retreating do not cover all the costs to attend camp. Cross Trails Ministry intentionally keeps the fees low to accommodate all participants, regardless of economic circumstances. Program fees for summer camp and retreats fund approximately 70% of the ministry. The remaining money for operating costs is raised by Cross Trails each year through financial gifts.

Buy A Brick– You can now honor a special person or event by purchasing a brick to be added to the new, rustic brick pathways at Camp Chrysalis. For \$100 you can purchase a rectangular brick with up to four lines of text with up to fourteen characters per line, including spaces. For \$75 you can purchase a square brick with up to three lines of text and ten characters per line, including spaces.

Employer Matching Funds– Does your employer provide matching fund for donations you make? Employee matching gifts are grants an employer makes to match its employees' charitable contributions. Matching gifts are often dollar-for-dollar, but some companies will give double or even triple the original donation. Some companies may also give matching gifts for employees' volunteer efforts. Procedures vary with each company, so ask about matching gifts from your human resource department.

Endowment Fund- As we look to the future, we are excited about all that is ahead as God continues to lead us in new directions. So excited, we've also learned that it is our responsibility to be careful stewards of our gifts and resources. To help ensure growth and sustainability for this ministry, the *Cross Trails Ministry Endowment Fund* has been established. The Fund provides monetary support for unbudgeted expenses in two primary areas: camperships and specialized or new program funding. Endowment funds grow more quickly with additional gifts than by investment return. When you send your gift marked "Endowment Fund," it will join the funds of others to build the endowment for Cross Trails Ministry. These contributions to the Endowment Fund allow Cross Trails Ministry to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest– Cross Trails Ministry is a founding member of the Lutheran Foundation of the Southwest (LFSW) and has benefited greatly from the endowments and estate planning that is offered. LFSW provides comprehensive estate planning and management services for Lutherans residing in Texas. Through careful gift and estate planning, you can make a long-term impact on the current operations of Cross Trails Ministry and for the future of the ministry. Contact LFSW at (512) 272-8538 for more information.

Thrivent Choice Dollars– If you have a qualified investment or insurance with Thrivent Financial, you earn Choice Dollars. These Choice Dollars do not come out of your investment, but are from Thrivent. Choice Dollars can be contributed to the national Lutheran organization of your choice, including Cross Trails Ministry. To designate where you would like your Choice Dollars to be dedicated to, please contact your local Thrivent representative, or go online to www.Thrivent.com.



Financial Giving Clubs

Leadership donors set the pace and lead the way for others to share in this vital ministry. These gifts enable us to offer outstanding programs, maintain the day to day operations of all sites, supplement the fees paid by all campers and retreaters, provide camperships, and continually update our facilities. All of donors, regardless of giving level, have their name printed in our annual report and newsletter, and receive our very sincere appreciation for their support. For more details about these giving clubs, please go to our web site at www.CrossTrails.org and choose the "Support" tab.

Trail Blazer Giving Club– Individuals and families who give above \$300 annually become a "Trail Blazer!" Trail Blazers really set the pace for financial leadership and provide much needed annual support. Trail Blazer giving levels are honored with special recognition and benefits at the following levels:

- **Bluebonnet** (\$300 - \$499)
- **Purple Sage** (\$500 - \$999)
- **Mesquite** (\$1,000 - \$4,999)
- **Live Oak** (\$5,000 and above)

Congregational Giving Club– Congregations who give above \$1000 annually show strong leadership within Cross Trails Ministry. We rely heavily on the giving levels of our congregations and their financial leadership. Congregational Giving levels are honored with special recognition and benefits at the following levels:

- **Contributing** (\$1,000 - \$2,999)
- **Supporting** (\$3,000 - \$4,999)
- **Advocate** (\$5,000 - \$9,999)
- **Partners in Ministry** (\$10,000 and above)

Wish List

The following items are needed in the coming year. If you can donate these items, you will save Cross Trails Ministry the funds needed to pay for them.

Portable speaker system
 Electric washer (need 3)
 Electric dryer (need 3)
 Digital kiln
 Notebook PC (need 3)
 Western Tack
 Backhoe

Airport style bus
 (25 to 40 passengers)
 Minivan (need 2)
 Compact car (need 1)
 Golf cart: 4-6 Seats (need 1)
 Luggage carrier for minivan
 (need 2)

Cowboy boots (large sizes)
 Aluminum Ladder (8 foot a-frame)
 Aluminum ladder (12 foot a-frame)
 Aluminum ladder (16 ft. extension)
 Commercial vacuum (need 4)
 Office chairs

Thank You!

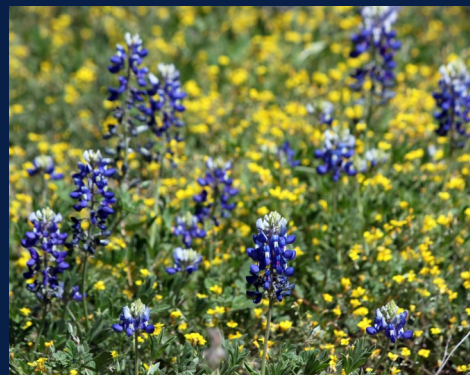
for sharing your voice, passion and gifts
with Cross Trails Ministry!

Trail Guides!

Cross Trails Ministry is looking
for Trail Guides
from Your Congregation!!

Trail Guides are volunteers from your congregation who serve as liaisons between Cross Trails Ministry and your church! They share the many opportunities offered through Summer Camps, Retreats, and Expeditions with your congregation and let Cross Trails know how we can be a resource in your congregation's mission plan! Our goal is to have at least one Trail Guide in each congregation. We provide Trail Guides an informational workshop and lots of wonderful goodies.

For more information about the Trail Guide Program, please contact Pastor Jennifer Gold at (210) 363-6598 or Jennifer@CrossTrails.org.



Year Round Staff

Erick & Deanna Christensen

Co-Executive Directors

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David Blank

Operations Director

*

Rev. Jennifer Gold

Director of Mission & Outreach

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Darcey Hill

Office Manager & Registrar

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Dianna Hopkins

Director of Development

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Jay Miller

Lutheran Camp Chrysalis Director

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Jessica Pina

Education Director

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Hannah Schawe

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