CROSS ROADS
CAMP AND RETREAT CENTER

VOL. 14 ISSUE II FALL 2026

CAMP CONNECTION

WILDY TOGETHER

A summer shaped by faith, friendship, and joy.



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Cross Roads Camp and Retreat Center is a welcoming and inclusive community providing life changing and sacred adventures for renewal, growth, and joy.

ANTHONY'S CORNER



DEAR FRIENDS,

Every summer, when the cabins get quiet again and the last campers head down the road, I find myself thinking about what they are carrying home with them.

Some of it is easy to imagine: friendship bracelets, damp towels, camp songs, funny stories, a few extra mosquito bites, and maybe a sweatshirt that does not belong to them. But every once in a while, a camper or parent says something that reminds me of the deeper things being carried home from Cross Roads.

This summer, one of our campers, Aaron, reflected on what it meant to live in community at camp. He wrote,

"Living with people that are different from you but being able to connect with their perspectives of life and their experiences is amazing."

That sentence has stayed with me.

At Cross Roads, we do a lot in a week of camp. We swim, hike, sing, worship, play games, make crafts, share meals, laugh loudly, and sometimes get very serious about who won Gaga Ball. But underneath all of that, something much deeper is happening.

Campers are practicing community.

They are learning what it means to share space with people they may not have met anywhere else. They are learning to listen, to laugh together, to notice one another, to be patient, to be brave, and to be themselves. They are discovering that faith is not only something we talk about during Bible study or worship. Faith is lived around the table, in the cabin, on the trail, at the pool, and in the small moments when someone realizes they belong.

Another parent wrote about sending her son to camp for the first time without parents or siblings. She said their family believes God is everywhere, "but camp really solidifies that concept."

I love that. I think that is part of what makes this place so meaningful. Camp gives young people room to notice what God is already doing in their lives. They have time to breathe a little more deeply, to ask questions, to laugh and sing and pray, to see God in creation, in friendship, in scripture, in silence, and in one another.

This year's summer theme was *Wear Love*, drawn from Colossians 3. Campers spent the summer reflecting on compassion, generosity, humility, quiet strength, and forgiveness. Those are big words, but at camp they become real in very ordinary ways. They show up when a counselor helps a nervous camper feel at home. They show up when a cabin figures out how to live together. They show up when someone tries something new, when someone is included, when someone is forgiven, when someone discovers that they are loved by God exactly as they are. *That is what campers carry home.*

And for all of you who helped make this summer possible, I do not have adequate words to thank you. Whether you prayed, gave, volunteered, sent a camper, served on staff, led worship, washed dishes, encouraged a family, shared a post, or simply believed in this ministry, you helped create the space where these moments could happen.

You helped make possible a place where young people can grow in faith, practice love, build friendships, and discover the joy of living in community.

For that, and for so much more, I am deeply grateful.

Peace,

Anthony Briggs
Executive Director

FAITHSOURCE

Ready for You, Your Family, & Your Church

Whether you want to grow in faith at home or equip your entire ministry, FaithSource offers resources that connect home, church, and everyday life while keeping Christ at the center.

For families, the FaithSource On the Go plan includes camp song music videos, weekly podcasts, family newsletters, and ministry resources, all in one place. FaithSource for Leaders includes everything families receive, plus a weekly small group curriculum based on the lectionary.

FaithSource for Leaders comes with a free 30 day trial and pricing offered as a suggested contribution. The FaithSource team never wants cost to stand between you and these resources, so they are happy to work with you if finances are a concern.

Visit FaithSource.org to explore pricing plans and learn more.

WHAT CROSS ROADS HAS MEANT FOR OUR DAUGHTER

By Danielle Wall

The initial decision to send my daughter to Cross Roads Camp during the summer she entered third grade was a very difficult one. Honestly, I was terrified. But it ended up being one of the best decisions my husband and I have ever made. Each year, my daughter looks forward to her time at camp, and this year she will be attending for two weeks.

As parents, we are constantly searching for experiences that will help our daughter grow not only in independence and socially, but spiritually and emotionally as well. In today's fast-paced world, where children are surrounded by constant distractions, pressures, and influences, finding an environment that reinforces faith, kindness, compassion, and community is truly invaluable. Cross Roads has become exactly that place for our daughter.

From the moment she became involved in camp, I noticed that it was much more than just a week away during the summer. It became a safe, nurturing, and faith-filled environment where she was encouraged to be herself, while deeply strengthening her relationship with God and expanding her understanding of our religious values and traditions. At the same time, it was also a traditional camp setting, filled with camp activities, bonfires, and camp songs.

One of the greatest benefits of Cross Roads is the spiritual growth that occurs through the camp experience. Through prayer, worship, reflection, religious teaching, and daily faith-based activities, my daughter has developed a stronger understanding of her faith and a deeper appreciation for nature, the world, and the people within it.

Another tremendous benefit is the emotional support and encouragement children receive from the camp staff and counselors. Cross Roads helps children understand and accept the uncomfortable feeling of being homesick, while also surrounding them with adults who genuinely care about their well-being. The staff create an atmosphere where children feel valued, heard, comforted, and inspired.

Knowing I was a first-time, nervous parent, Anthony went out of his way to email me that first night and let me know that my daughter was okay. That two-sentence email was everything to me.

Perhaps most importantly, Cross Roads allows children to disconnect from many of the negative influences and stressors they encounter daily and reconnect with what truly matters. It gives them the opportunity to slow down, be device-free, and reflect.

When I asked my daughter what is so impactful for her at Cross Roads, she said she looks forward to the weeks away, surrounded by friends and truly in God's presence. She also added that the food is homemade and delicious.

I am truly grateful for the impact Cross Roads has had on my daughter's life. The experiences, spiritual growth, independence, and confidence she has gained are gifts that will stay with her long after camp ends.



A CROSS ROADS TRADITION

RALLY FOR CROSS ROADS

Moving together for a mission

MORE THAN A RACE

Each year, the Rally for Cross Roads brings together campers, alumni, families, congregations, staff, and friends in support of the ministry they love. Some participants run, others walk, and many join virtually, but everyone moves with the same purpose.
Funds raised through the Rally help provide camperships, keep programs accessible, and support meaningful camp and retreat experiences throughout the year. Every participant, sponsor, and donor helps make it possible for more people to experience belonging, growth, faith, and joy at Cross Roads.



WHY IT MATTERS

- Camperships for families
- Accessible summer programs
- Year-round retreat ministry
- Leadership development

WILDLY TOGETHER IN MOTION

When we move together, we make space for more campers to experience the joy, growth, and belonging that happen here.

Join us next year! Save the Date: October 2

CROSS ROADS GOES TO THE

2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2027

Cross Roads is heading to Minneapolis for the 2027 ELCA Youth Gathering,Youth from across New Jersey are invited to join us for an unforgettable week of worship, service, faith, and community.

Whether your congregation is bringing a group or you need one to travel with, there is a place for you in the Cross Roads community.

2027 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING
IMAGINE more
MYLE, THE TABLE, & YOUNG ADULTS

SCAN TO LEARN MORE AND COMPLETE THE INTEREST SURVEY BY OCTOBER 15.

SCAN ME!

ONE COMMUNITY, ONE JOURNEY

Together, we will travel, worship, serve, learn, and "Imagine More" of what God can do through us.

A PARTNERSHIP IN MINISTRY

BISHOPS' CUP

More than a tournament





JOIN US NEXT YEAR ON

MONDAY

JUNE 14, 2027

GOLF, GENEROSITY & COMMUNITY

The Bishops' Cup brings golfers, sponsors, and friends together to support the ministry of Cross Roads. Thank you to everyone who made the 2026 event a joyful success. Opportunities to support the event range from sponsoring a tee sign to becoming a Gold Sponsor.

Your generosity makes a lasting difference!

2026 WINNERS

WINNING TEAM FROM

ST. STEPHEN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, MILLBURN

APPLICATIONS ARE OPEN

JOIN OUR SUMMER 2027 STAFF



MAKE YOUR SUMMER MATTER

Be the heart of Cross Roads. Serve as a mentor and guide for campers while growing in leadership, faith, confidence, and friendship.

OPPORTUNITIES INCLUDE:

Counselors | Support Staff

Kitchen Staff | Program Specialists

EXPLORE SUMMER STAFF OPPORTUNITIES AND APPLY TODAY

SCAN ME!

VOICES FROM SUMMER 2026

CAMPER STORIES

Growth, belonging & faith at Cross Roads



"Cross Roads leaves me thinking about what I want to do in my life and where I'm going."

LILY CARTER | AGE 17

FINDING HER PLACE AT CROSS ROADS

Lily Carter first came to Cross Roads after her family moved from Chicago to Montclair, N.J. During her early summers, her family sent letters for her to open each day at camp store. Nine years later, at 17, Lily no longer needs the letters. Camp is simply where she belongs.

That sense of belonging began when older campers invited her into a football game and made her feel like "one of the big kids." Since then, Lily has found her place through Arts & Crafts, Senior High Week, and Leadership Lab, where she learned what it means to be a role model.

"Cross Roads opened my eyes to see things differently," Lily said. "Thanks to camp, I feel more full of life and closer to God."

JACKSON SLATER | AGE 16

"EVERY TIME I COME TO CAMP, I GROW UP."

Jackson Slater, 16, is a fifth-generation camper who has attended Cross Roads since he was 8. This summer, he spent four weeks across High School Week, Leadership Lab, and S.E.E.K., reflecting on how camp continues to shape him.

Leadership Lab helped Jackson define a leader as someone who goes out of their way to help those in need. Through S.E.E.K., friendships and service at a Hoboken soup kitchen showed him that even a small gesture can make a difference in someone else's life.

As he prepares for Leaders in Training next summer, Jackson carries home greater confidence, purpose, and a lasting sense of belonging.



"The bonds you make at camp are unbreakable."

START PLANNING

SUMMER CAMP 2027

PROGRAM	DATES	GRADES	PRICING	IMPORTANT INFO
YOUTH CAMP 1	JULY 4-10	2-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	Campers registering for **SENIOR HIGH WEEK** can add **LEADERSHIP LAB** for an additional $340
CONGREGATIONAL CAMP WEEK	JULY 4-10	2-12	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
HIGH SCHOOL WEEK	JULY 4-10	9-12	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
*HOLDOVER WEEKEND A	JULY 10-11		$85	***HOLDOVER WEEKEND** is for campers who attend camp during the weeks on either side of the weekend. Staff and activities will be available.
YOUTH CAMP 2	JULY 11-17	2-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
LEADERSHIP LAB	JULY 11-17	9-12	$615 / $755 / $895 $1035	
ADVENTURE CAMP	JULY 11-17	6-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	Come to an **OPEN HOUSE** to see what Cross Roads has to offer! A pre-summer-camp visit can really help with a new camper's (and parents') anxiety. **OCTOBER 24 | MAY 1, 2027 | JUNE 5, 2027**
YOUTH CAMP 3	JULY 18-24	2-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
LIT *(3 WEEKS)*	JULY 18-AUGUST 7	11	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
SEEK *(2 WEEKS)*	JULY 18-31	8-10	$895 / $1035 / $1175 / $1315	**GET PROGRAM DESCRIPTIONS AND MORE INFO!** **SCAN ME!**
*HOLDOVER WEEKEND B	JULY 24-25		$85	
YOUTH CAMP 4	JULY 25-31	2-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	
YOUTH CAMP 5 CURTAINS UP	AUGUST 1-7	2-8	$585 / $725 / $865 / $1005	

FAMILY CAMP WEEK | AUGUST 9-13			FAMILY CAMP WEEKEND | AUGUST 13-15		
LODGING	Room in the Christ Center Cabin for the week	$265 $185	LODGING	Room in the Christ Center Cabin for the week	$110 $78
MEALS	Adults Youth ages 6-12	$185 $92.50	MEALS	Adults Youth ages 6-12	$67 $33.50





UPCOMING EVENTS

Find your next event at CrossRoadsRetreat.com, where you can register or learn more! Please note that these events are subject to change.

BACK TO CAMP ALUMNI WEEKEND	OCTOBER 2-4, 2026
ANNUAL RALLY FOR CROSS ROADS	OCTOBER 3, 2026
WEDNESDAYS AWAY	OCTOBER-JUNE
SHEPHERDS' GATHERING	DECEMBER 3-6, 2026
YOUNG ADULT RETREAT	JANUARY 2-4, 2027
FRIENDS & FAMILY RETREAT	JANUARY 22-24, 2027
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RETREAT	FEBRUARY 5-7, 2027
MIDDLE/HIGH SCHOOL RETREAT	MARCH 5-7, 2027
CLERGY CRASH	MARCH 28-31, 2027
BISHOPS' CUP GOLF OUTING	JUNE 14, 2027
GIANT CHURCH PICNIC	AUGUST 15, 2027
BACK TO CAMP ALUMNI WEEKEND	OCTOBER 1-3, 2027
ANNUAL RALLY FOR CROSS ROADS	OCTOBER 2, 2027

EXPLORE MORE!

SCAN ME!



Find us on

WWW.CROSSROADSRETREAT.COM
908.832.7264

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PORT MURRAY, NJ 07865

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