

# 19-year-old sees a future of helping others

By **MARJORIE STROMBERG**  
*Sentinel reporter*

A Christmas tree adorned with lights twirls slowly in the corner. Katherine Kratzer sits at the kitchen table, her face friendly and inviting. The house is peaceful, cozy.

"I'm a cat fanatic," she says smiling, as two furry members of the family roam the kitchen.

Katherine is only 19, but her plans and goals are crystal clear. She desires to improve lives in her community.

But more specifically, Katherine wants to practice psychotherapy through becoming ordained in the Lutheran ministry.

Katherine, of Mifflintown, is working her way through college while holding down two jobs, in order to support herself later on. And a third job, she says, is on the horizon.

Katherine began attending

Harrisburg Area Community College in fall of 2010. She has two semesters left, and then plans to earn a bachelor's degree in psychotherapy from Shippensburg University. That will take about two years, she says.

Then, her plans include three years at a seminary, plus an internship in a church or church setting with a pastor.

When she graduates and becomes ordained, she says, she can start looking for a congregation in which to preach.

Katherine says she wants to be ordained in Lutheran ministry mainly because it will enable her to help the community, and will make her a well-rounded individual.

"It's a great communication skill," she says.

Katherine says after her studies are over, she has the option to practice anywhere, but she'd prefer, at least for a while, to stay close to the area.

"I grew up here," she says.



*Sentinel photo by BRADLEY KREITZER*

Katherine Kratzer, center, listens as Amber Erdly, 8, right, and Johnny Welsh Jr., 4, show her the cards they made during a recent Kids Night at McDonald's in Mifflintown.

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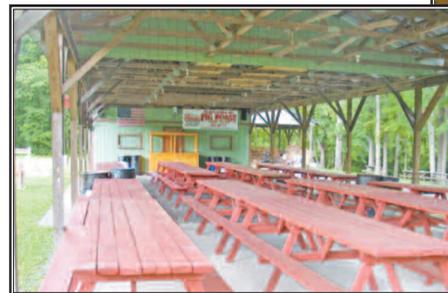
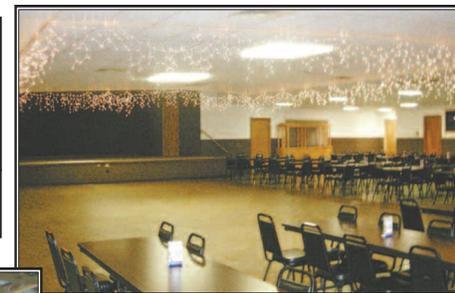


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