

CROSS VIEW CLARION

August 2025



"In between. It's a seminal idea in Numbers, describing Israel's journey to a tee." – Pastor Reed Lessing



Hope in the Wilderness

Practical Insights from the Book of Numbers

by Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor

Who likes numbers? Mathematicians, accountants, statisticians, and investments bankers. The rest of us? Not so much. That's why we prefer biblical books like Jeremiah, Jonah, John, and James. The book of Numbers? Are we really edified by knowing that the tribe of Reuben has 46,500 soldiers? How does that inspire our life of faith?

Origen (c. 185 – c. 253 AD), an early church leader, compared Numbers to food. Did he use adjectives like delicious, delightful, and delectable? Not quite. Instead, Origen described Numbers as food that's "tasteless." He's not alone. Be

honest. Your heart probably didn't leap for joy when you found out that Pastor Steve and I were going to preach and teach on Numbers from July 6–September 7.

Numbers may begin and end with eye-glazing lists—much like telephone books of yesteryear. But Moses, the book's author, also traces Israel's journey from Mount Sinai to the cusp of the promised land—describing the nation's highs and lows with dramatic flair. To spice things up, he even throws in a talking donkey! And Numbers has tons of variety: stories, instructions for

◀ worship, legal disputes, census lists, a travel itinerary, and military battles.

There’s more. The book paints a beautiful and captivating portrait of Jesus. The background for Christ’s Bread of Life discourse in John 6 is Numbers 11—where Israelites complain about manna. And events in Numbers 21 foreshadow Christ’s death on the cross (John 3:14–15), providing the backdrop for the Bible’s most famous verse, John 3:16. Then there’s Balaam. His oracles in chapters 22–24 contain remarkable references to Jesus. Moses also composed Numbers to show us how to survive during life’s in between times.

In between. It’s a seminal idea in Numbers, describing Israel’s journey to a tee. Moses and crew are bounded by Egypt to the south and Canaan to the north. They’re straddling salvation accomplished (at the Red Sea) and salvation to come (crossing the Jordan River into the promised land).

Does this sound familiar? You and I also live between our past and our glorious future. In Holy

Baptism God began a good work in us. He will complete it on the day Christ returns (cf. Philippians 1:6).

Moses teaches us what to avoid, what to do, and how to thrive during life’s in between times. He also points us to the mercy and might of Jesus who empowers us to stay faithful when we feel like we’re circling and stuck in the wilderness. Here’s our lineup of remaining sermons:

- August 3: Defeating Envy (Numbers 12:1–16)
- August 10: God’s Plan is to Take us to God’s Land (Numbers 13:17–33)
- August 17: The Main Ingredient! (Numbers 14:1–11)
- August 24: Up or Down? (Numbers 16:1–13)
- August 31: In the Waiting Room (Numbers 21:4–10)
- September 7: Safe and Secure from All Alarms! (Numbers 22:1–12)

Numbers isn’t a quick jog around the block or a short trip to the store. It’s a long journey—but a journey worth taking. And you’re invited!

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- Year to date income is \$95,400 unfavorable to budget and \$11,640 less than YTD 2024.
- Member contributions are less than pledged and less than 2024.
- Year to date expenses are favorable to budget, primarily due to lower wages. Missions expenses are lower as they are a percentage of contributions.
- ECC Income was unfavorable to budget primarily due to openings in several rooms.
- ECC Expenses are favorable to budget, which has helped ease the tuition shortfall.
- ECC Net Deficit is unfavorable to budget by \$35,630

| Cross View Lutheran Church | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| 6/30/25 | 2025 Actual Year to Date | 2025 Budget Year to Date | Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable) |
| Total Income | \$787,302 | \$882,702 | (\$95,400) |
| Total Expenses | (\$827,870) | (\$845,429) | \$17,559 |
| General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit) | (\$40,568) | \$37,273 | (\$77,841) |
| Designated Fund Transfer | (\$175,000) | | |
| General Fund Ending Balance | \$241,831 | \$494,671 | |

Worship Time Note!

There will be one service on August 24 at 9:30 AM in the Great Commission Room followed by (TC)² = Taking Care of the Twin

Cities. Everyone is encouraged to do service projects as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Twin Cities.

Mark Your Calendars!

Kick Off Sunday September 8

The entire congregation is invited for Kick Off Sunday, September 8th, during the education hour 9:30–10:30 AM in the sanctuary to learn about all the education opportunities for all ages at Cross View.



Churchwide Picnic Sunday, September 8

The entire church is invited to a family picnic from 4:00–6:00 PM at Lake Riley Park. Bring your own picnic dinner and be ready to play outdoor games.



Christian Education

HOPE IN THE WILDERNESS: PRACTICAL INSIGHTS FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

Dates: Sunday mornings, through 8/17

In between. It's a seminal idea in Numbers, describing Israel's journey to a tee. Moses and crew are bounded by Egypt to the south and Canaan to the north. They're straddling salvation accomplished (at the Red Sea) and salvation to come (crossing the Jordan River into the promised land).

Does this sound familiar? You and I also live between our past and our glorious future. In Holy Baptism God began a good work in us. He will complete it on the day Christ returns. In the meantime? Moses teaches us what to avoid, what to do, and how to thrive during life's in between times.

Numbers isn't a quick jog around the block or a short trip to the store. It's a long journey—but a journey worth taking. And you're invited!

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP GENESIS 1–11: FROM CREATION TO CONFUSION

Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

Dates: Wednesdays, September 10–November 19

Creation. The Fall. Cain and Abel. Noah and the ark. The Tower of Babel. The first eleven chapters of the Bible lay the foundation for the rest of Holy Scripture. Plan to be fascinated and filled with faith as you learn how they relate to everything that follows—especially the gospel according to John. *Note: The class will not meet on October 15.*



Early Childhood Center

BIKE PARADE

The annual ECC bike parade on the afternoon before the 4th of July holiday was a huge hit! Children decorated their bikes with the help of their families or teachers and paraded around the parking lot to the adoration of their camera-carrying parents. Many smiles were shared as everyone delighted in the fun of the red, white and blue parade, as well as the refreshing popsicles served at the end of the event.



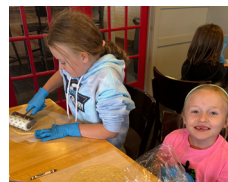
WATER DAYS

The high temperatures throughout most of July provided several opportunities for all age groups to enjoy water days. The cool sprinkler and water tables provided much relief during those hot days! Even the babies enjoyed water days in their room thanks to the generous donation of a water table for the Bunnies classroom.



SCHOOL AGE CAMP

The school age students are having so much fun together this summer! Each week, they explore a different theme, and the food unit during the week of July 14th was a definite favorite! Students enjoyed making and trying different types of cereal bars, banana breads, smoothies, and more. Their field trip to Davanni's provided an opportunity to make their own pizzas and tour the kitchen. Everyone agreed the pizzas were delicious!



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For smiles, laughter and memory-making fun as the children and staff enjoy the summer months in the ECC together
- For adequate coverage allowing staff time to recharge and refresh
- For the many family inquiries, tours, and new enrollments for the fall



Prayer Requests:

- For the continued search for an ECC Assistant Director
- For wisdom in hiring new teachers
- For everyone in the ECC to know God's love for them
- For families traveling during the summer

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

Growing loving followers of Jesus Christ through early care and education.

Children's Ministry

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED!

The Cross View church nursery will open again in September every Sunday from 8:00 AM until Noon. We need to hire two additional attendants so there can be a rotation of each attendant serving only one week a month. This is a paid position. Please see Barb Coffin if you are interested.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

There are no Sunday School classes during the summer. Youth are invited to attend the adult class during the education hour.

PARENT CORNER



Time for a VBS review...ask your kids if they remember these Bible points and stories.

Day 1: When we wonder, we can trust Jesus. We learned how John prepared the way and baptized Jesus in Matthew 3; 11:1-6

Day 2: When we feel alone, we can trust Jesus. We learned about Jesus' teaching of God's love for us in Matthew 6:25-33; 18:12-14

Day 3: When we feel powerless, we can trust Jesus! We learned about a Roman officer showing trust in Jesus in Matthew 8:5-13

Day 4: When we need hope, we can trust Jesus! We learned about Jesus dying and coming back to life in Matthew 26:47-28:8

Day 5: When we need help, we can trust Jesus! We learned how Jesus gives the Great Commission and the Holy Spirit came in Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:1-12.

Make it an August family challenge to read the book of Matthew together!



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH AUGUST SCHEDULE

- August 13: Fellowship Night at CV (6:00–8:00 PM)
- August 24: (TC)² (Taking Care of the Twin Cities)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH AUGUST SCHEDULE

- August 3: Mini Golf and Ice Cream Outing (6:00–9:00 PM)
- August 10: Youth at CV (6:30–8:30 PM)
- August 17: Youth at CV (6:30–8:30 PM)
- August 24: (TC)² (Taking Care of the Twin Cities)
- August 31: No Youth; Labor Day weekend

SENIOR HIGH MINI GOLF OUTING

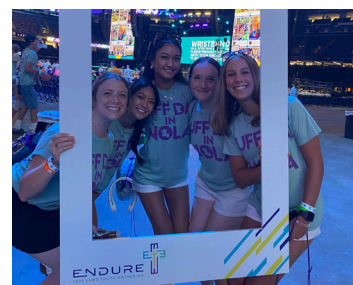
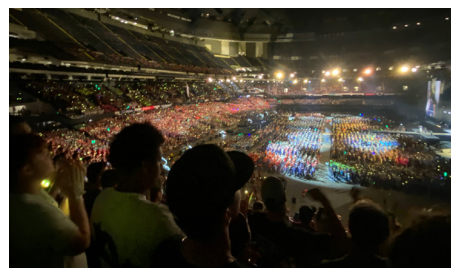
It's that time of year when the Senior High youth head to a mini golf course for an evening of fun and ice cream! The event takes place on Sunday, August 3. We'll meet at Cross View at 6:00 PM and should be getting back to church around 8:30 or 9:00 PM. The location is a surprise! We also need adult help with driving and chaperoning the event.

If any senior high youth or adults are interested in participating, please register [here via CV Connect](#).

LCMS YOUTH GATHERING

The group that attended the LCMS Youth Gathering in July is back! The 23 youth and 6 adults returned from their trip on July 23 and had an amazing time! They grew in their faith as they learned about how Christ endured and how we, as Christians, can also endure in our faith. There was time for worship, learning, fellowship, and fun! And they survived the New Orleans heat! Thank you to all who prayed for the group while they were away. We truly appreciate it!

The group plans to share about their experience on Sunday, August 3. Ask a youth about their time in New Orleans!



Adult Ministry

FUNERAL PLANNING SEMINAR

The Funeral Planning Seminar hosted by the Senior Adult Ministry with Pastor Wheeler has been rescheduled for September 4 from 1:30–3:00 PM. [Sign up on CV Connect](#) or at the Registration Desk so we can plan for snacks and supplies. Contact Amy Gundermann with questions at Amy@crossview.net.

LEADERSHIP TRAINING: COMMUNITY LIGHT AND SMALL GROUPS

August 20th from 6:30–8:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall

Cross View is holding a combined training for Small Group Leaders and Community Light Discussion Group Leaders as they launch into our fall activities. This training is critical for the strength of our programs and offers an opportunity for leaders to connect with one another. If you are interested in becoming a leader or have questions, contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net or 952-243-2053.

SAVE THE DATE!

MEN'S MINISTRY FALL BREAKFAST

Date: October 4

Guest Speaker: Jerrod Sebesta

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's book club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, August 18, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing *The First Ladies* by Marie Benedict. New members are always welcome.



A LIFETIME GIFT WORKSHOP

We all plan for weddings, college, vacation, and retirement. Why is it so hard to plan for death or the unexpected? Join us on Monday, September 15, at 6:00 PM at Cross View for a one-hour workshop to get tools and a binder to help you talk to your loved ones and prepare A Lifetime Gift, providing your family with the resources they need to celebrate your life without the stress of hunting for information. This workshop and dinner are free thanks to the generosity of Julie Sherman's Thrivent office. Registration links and information will be provided soon.

SAVE THE DATE!

WOMEN'S MINISTRY BUNCO NIGHT

Date: Thursday, September 25

Time: 6:30–9:00 PM

Location: Cross View Fellowship Room

Wonderful time of fellowship for Cross View's women. Loads of laughs and fun...prizes...and yummy desserts!

Save the Date! Women's Ministry Fall Luncheon



Theme:
"Shine like Stars"

Date:
Saturday, November 1

Time:
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Guest Speaker:
Gaye Lindfors



Please come and enjoy a luncheon with friends and fellow sisters in Christ.

COOK FOR KIDS

Your Women's Ministry Team participated in the Cook for Kids program sponsored by The Greater Minneapolis Crisis Nursery. This is a wonderful way to serve families in crisis. This would be a great service project for a small group or family with older kids. Sign up to serve a breakfast, lunch, or dinner at the following link: <https://www.crisisnursery.org/volunteer/cook-for-kids/>



Let's be the hands and feet of Jesus to a hurting world.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

At Cross View, we know being a member of a small group can be transformational. Groups spend time together in God's Word, share life's joys and challenges, pray for one another, and serve others like Jesus did. If you'd like to join a group or become a small group leader, please contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net or complete the [interest form on our website](#).

TNT – COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!

Come and get to know others in the same stage of life at TNT (Twenties & Thirties Young Adult Ministry) through Bible study and time hanging out together! Locations vary, but during the summers, events will be on Thursdays from 6:00–7:30 PM. Contact Nicole at nclvvo@gmail.com or Hannah hannah@crossview.net with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

They would especially like to invite Cross View's college students as they return home from their time away. They would love to have you join them!

Summer Schedule:

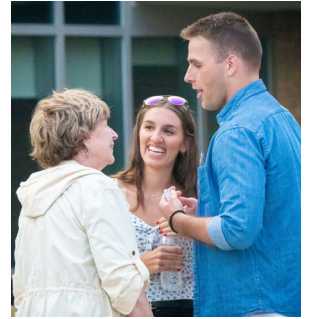
- August 14: End of Summer BBQ/Potluck (location TBD)



Outreach & Missions

BLOCK PARTY AT CROSS VIEW – THANK YOU!

Thank you to EVERYONE who helped at our Block Party yesterday! It took a large team of servants to create a special summer celebration in collaboration with POBLO. You have blessed our community with the love of God's open arms!



(TC)² = TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES **SUNDAY, AUGUST 24TH**

All ages are invited to help make a difference in our community on August 24th! We will have one service at 9:30 AM and then deploy to do service projects as the hands and feet of Jesus in the Twin Cities. After naptime, there will be a park/school clean-up and prayer walk option to fit young families. Indoor service project options are available for those of all abilities. We are partnering with other churches in our District this year and we will convene at Redemption Lutheran in Bloomington for dinner and closing devotions. The participation fee is just \$5 per person! [Sign up on CV Connect to register](#) and contact Amy Gundermann with questions.

Who: ALL ages of Cross View congregation members and friends

Fee: \$5 (includes lunch and dinner, plus a t-shirt!)

Registration Deadline:

July 20: last day to register to guarantee t-shirt

August 17: last day to register (no t-shirt)

Schedule:

9:30 AM: Worship Service at Cross View

10:30 AM: Event Check-in (option 1) at Cross View

11:00 AM: Welcome, work group assignments, announcements

11:30 AM: Lunch (Offered at both Cross View and Redemption)

12:00 PM: Depart for work sites from Cross View

12:00 PM: Event Check-in (option 2) at Redemption

12:30–5:00 PM: Serve at work sites

3:30 PM: Young families start at work site

5:00 PM: All participants gather at Redemption

5:30 PM: Dinner

6:00 PM: Closing worship, devotion and debrief

6:30 PM: Event ends



GIVING TREES

During August, check out the items needed on the Giving Trees for (TC)². Please return donations by August 17th and place them under the trees. Thank you for your generous response to these opportunities to give! Every

item makes a difference! Please contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

CLEAN PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS NEEDED

One of the indoor (TC)² projects will be to make sleeping mats for Orphan Grain Train. Each mat is crocheted from 500-700 plastic store bags and are 28"–36" wide and 6 feet long. During our time at Cross View, we will be folding the bags and cutting them into 2.5" strips, connecting the strips and using them to crochet the mats. We will use rulers and rotary cutters for this task. We are currently asking the congregation to save their plastic store bags to donate to this cause. Please look for a collection spot near the Giving Trees to drop your donated bags. If congregation members have sewing rulers, cutting mats (12" x 18" or larger), rotary cutters, and crochet hooks (8mm/size L or larger) for us to borrow, please email Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com.



TIGER TREK FUNDRAISER FOR TRINITY FIRST

September 6th at 9:00 AM

Lake Phalen, St. Paul

Join the Cross View team at the Tiger Trek 5k, 1-mile Run/Walk to support the ministry at Trinity First! You'll receive event swag, treats, and there are awards for the top times. We will have team shirts for our "Cross View Comets" and enjoy a beautiful run/walk around the lake. This is a fun way for friends and family of any age to do something impactful together. When you register at <https://raceroster.com/events/2025/101790/trinity-first-tiger-trek>, be sure to join our Cross View Comets team. You'll also determine whether you want to participate in the 5k or the 1-mile distance. Contact Elaine Rider at Crossviewcomets@yahoo.com or Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.



CAREPORTAL UPDATES

Our CarePortal team serves families in our county who are at risk with the goal of preventing children from entering the foster care system. As of July, our Hennepin County team has served 1,211 children since October 2023 when we launched. Think of the life-changing impact this ministry has on families in our community!

The agency workers that interact with our team are consistently impressed with our volunteers and their compassionate response. Here is a quote from a Hennepin County Social Worker,

"Pre-CarePortal it was hard to find resources for certain tangible items that my clients needed. I often had to show up empty handed to meetings because I couldn't find resources for the things they so desperately needed. With CarePortal, I have been able to provide my clients with a range of items that never would have been possible before. I never in a million years would have thought I could help clients so easily get things like specific school uniforms, new tires, Christmas presents, groceries, and so much more."

The next trainings offered via Zoom for those interested in becoming

a member of our CarePortal Response Team will be on Friday, September 12, from 8:30–10:00 AM or Tuesday, September 16, from 6:30–8:00 PM. If you'd like to get involved in helping families in crisis, please contact Pam Olsen at careportal@crossview.net. We are looking for a co-leader to work with Pam. If you are interested in learning more, please reach out to her or Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net.

CarePortal

POBLO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have a heart for ministering to those who have recently immigrated to the United States, consider volunteering with POBLO! They are currently in need of help on Monday and Wednesday nights with ESL classes and are also looking for a volunteer with soccer experience to help on Monday nights with their soccer program. Contact their volunteer coordinator Shari Schulze at shari@poblo.org.

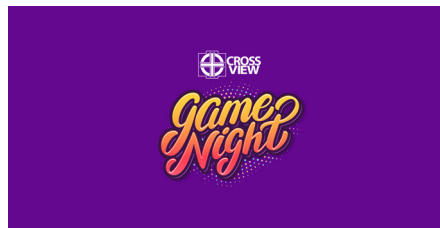
POBLO

International

Cross View Game Night

Do you love games? Join us for fun and fellowship every second Sunday of the month from 6:30–8:30 PM in Rooms 209/210. Cross View Game Night is open to all teens and adults, including church members and their guests. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her own board or card games. If you bring a game, be prepared to show others how to play.

Questions? Contact John Daenzer at johndaenzer@gmail.com or Michael Kibat at mgkibat@centurylink.net.



STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A Stephen Minister is...

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there's a need.

If you need a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact Pastor Steve.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

-Galatians 6:2





Developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ along life's journey

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor
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José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Matthew Salzwedel, President

The *Clarion* is published monthly by Cross View Lutheran Church.
Items for inclusion should be sent via email to clarion@crossview.net.



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship in
the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship in
the Great Commission Room

Sunday services are also [live streamed](#).

Communion is on 2nd & 4th Sundays.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

RECHARGE

Wednesdays, Sept. – May

5:00 PM Programming Begins

www.crossview.net/recharge

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM – Noon

CALENDAR

Our most current calendar is always
available at www.crossview.net/calendar

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www.crossview.net



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