

CROSS VIEW CLARION

August 2026



"Let's all be in prayer for strengthening our congregational bond and therefore, in turn, strengthening our families." –Barb Coffin



Foster Relationship-Building within Our Congregation

by Deaconess Barb Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry

Greetings Cross View family! Can you believe that the summer is more than halfway over? I hope everyone has had plenty of opportunity to get outside, play with your children or grandchildren and enjoy the Sonshine! September is fast approaching and that means school is starting back up soon which means more demand on our schedules. The Family Ministry MAT has been busy creating the 2026-27 focus of building connections within our Cross View families. You will get to hear more

details about this at Kick Off, but I thought I might share a little about it now.

Cross View's Family Ministry MAT values the importance of families in different stages of life spending time together. There is so much a young family with a newborn can gain from a family with elementary school children. Likewise, there is so much a family with high school students can learn from a family of empty nesters. Each stage of a person's development presents new challenges and

questions for parents, and this is the significance of having a relationship with a family who are one or more stages ahead of your own family. Statistics show children need five additional godly faith influencers besides their parents in their lives. Can you imagine being a godly influencer on one of our Cross View youths? You can!

The Family Ministry MAT has come up with three ideas of how to foster relationship-building within our congregation. Our first idea is to have nametags for everyone starting at Kickoff on Sunday, September 13. Nametags help us to learn each other's names, and this fosters a more welcoming and friendly atmosphere within our congregation.

Secondly, Meggin Carlson will be leading an adult Sunday school class called Faith and Fellowship. The structure of this class will be more flexible and different from our usual adult education style on Sunday mornings. The purpose of this class is to give parents a chance to connect freely and honestly at church while their kids are in Sunday school.

Our final idea to help encourage building relationships within the congregation of Cross View is to have families connecting with other families one stage ahead. As mentioned previously in this article a family with a newborn child might want to connect to a family with children in either elementary or middle school. These connections can really help in sharing the common struggles that come along with being parents. There are many ways families can connect together, and it is entirely up to each family what they choose to do. Families can share meals, go to sporting events, share prayer requests or even just a simple phone call to check in with each other. At the Kickoff picnic after worship on September 13, come find the Family Ministry booth and sign up to be connected to another family.

As a congregation let's all be in prayer for strengthening our congregational bond and therefore, in turn, strengthening our families!

Blessings on your August!

2026-2027 Ministry Year: Every Part Matters

Every Part Matters is more than this year's theme. It's also a reminder of who God has made us to be together.

In 1 Corinthians 12:18, Paul writes, "But in fact God has placed the parts in the body, every one of them, just as he wanted them to be." God has uniquely gifted each of us and brought us together as the body of Christ. No one is insignificant. No one stands alone. Every person, every gift, and every act of service have an important place in God's work.

Throughout this ministry year, we'll discover what it means to live as Christ's body. With **Christ as our Head**, we follow His wisdom and direction. With a **heart of compassion**, we learn to know, encourage, and care for one another. With **hands equipped for service**, we put our faith into action. And with **feet sent into the world**, we carry the hope of Jesus wherever He leads us.

As we grow together, we also want to grow *closer* together. Whether it's meeting someone new, strengthening friendships across generations, welcoming a new family, or finding new ways to serve alongside one another, God is continually weaving us together into one body. Every connection strengthens our shared life in Christ and reminds us that we truly belong to one another. Our ministry year is uniquely designed to expand and embrace these connections.

Together, we can accomplish far more than any one of us could alone. As God joins us together in worship, fellowship, service, and mission, He uses every member of His body to share His love and make Christ known.

This year, as we grow together in faith, deepen our relationships, and serve together in His name, we'll celebrate this simple but powerful truth:

Every Part Matters.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Fall Kickoff Worship and Activities

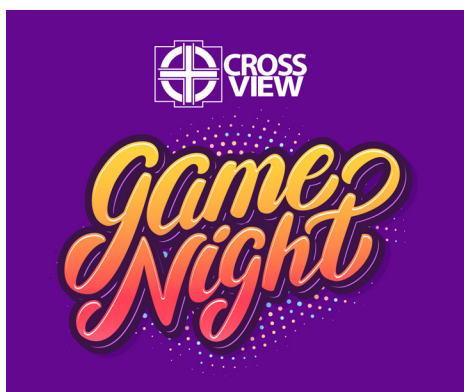
September 13 at 9:30 AM

Join us as our entire Cross View family comes together as one for a special time of worship, fellowship, and fun as we kick off another year of mission and ministry on September 13th! We'll gather in the sanctuary for worship at 9:30 AM, followed with a ministry spotlight, share a delicious meal, enjoy activities that bring us closer together, and celebrate all that God has in store for the year ahead.

Wednesday night Recharge, including Community Light School of Discipleship and Kidstitute, will resume September 16.

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 (johndaenzer@gmail.com) or Michael Kibat (mgkibat@centurylink.net).



Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- Total Income was unfavorable to budget by \$82,791, or approximately 9% lower than budget.
- Total Expenses were favorable to budget by \$90,782 largely due to open positions remaining unfilled.
- As a result, Cross View is just ahead of budget by \$7,992 through mid-year (June 30th).
- The ECC Total Income was \$71,321 unfavorable to budget. Fewer students compared to budget expectations is the primary driver.
- The ECC Total Expenses were \$107,878 favorable to budget. With fewer students, fewer teacher positions have been filled.
- The church carries an approximate \$221,000 receivable from the ECC to support cumulative operating deficits.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
6/30/26	2026 Actual Year to Date	2026 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$813,850	\$896,641	(\$82,791)
Total Expenses	(\$831,294)	(\$922,077)	\$90,782
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$17,444)	(\$25,436)	\$7,992

Looking for Hosts and Welcome Desk Attendants

The Welcome MAT is eagerly seeking new recruits for a couple of easiest ways to serve if you are looking for a place to plug in. Cross View needs Hosts (greeters) and Welcome Desk Attendants for both services. The Host positions simply require that you be at the entry door 15 minutes prior to the service. If you can smile and say welcome, that's a fit! The Welcome Desk Attendant is also asked to be present at the desk 15 minutes before the service, but also about 10 minutes after the service if visitors are missed prior. This ministry desperately needs more members, so prayerfully consider if this might be something you could easily do. Please contact Sue Harrison at kharrison1111@gmail.com with any questions or to volunteer.

Let's Update Our Online Church Directory

Church directories are a great tool in getting to know all our church members by name. On the following Sundays, Kelly Daenzer and Barb Coffin will be in the narthex willing to take your picture and upload it for you into our church directory: August 2, 9, 16, and 23.

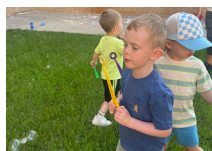
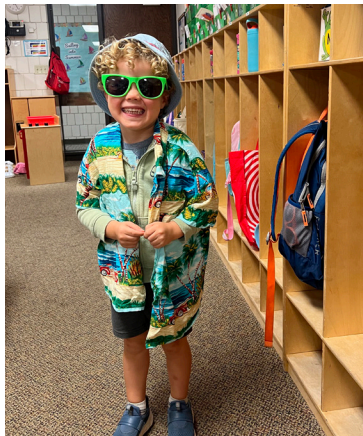
Join Cross View's Gardening MAT

If you're interested in helping to keep the landscape around our church neat and tidy, please call Sue Hanson at 952-826-9401. They would love to have additional help on their team. Many hands make light work for all.

Early Childhood Center

SUMMER FUN

Students of all ages have been enjoying the hot days of summer at the Early Childhood Center (ECC). Most classes are enjoying water days outside, and the babies are having fun with water play inside. School age students have been leading chapel on their own, helping other classes lead chapel by doing Bible readings, and leading music for everyone—VBS songs are always the favorite!



EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER YARD SIGNS

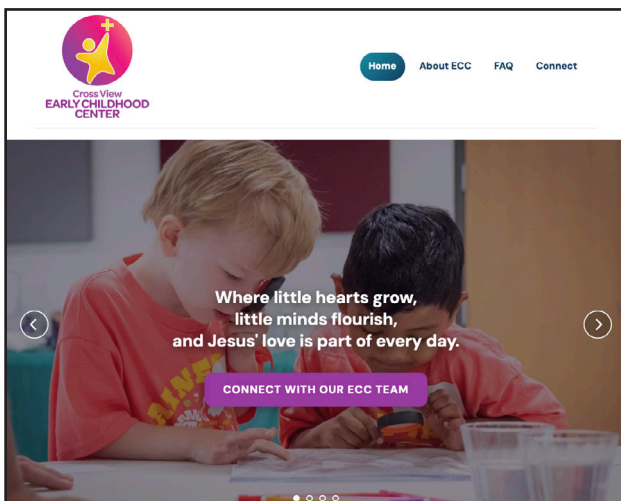
Cross View's Marketing MAT helped us design and order yard signs to promote the ECC. Many families have taken them home and put them in their yards. The kids are so proud to display their love for the ECC!

Signs have been ordered for Cross View church members to display as well. If you are willing to help with ECC advertising and live in a location that would be good for promoting the ECC, please ask anyone in the church or ECC offices and we will gladly provide you with a sign.



NEW ECC WEBSITE

Cross View's amazing Marketing MAT (special shoutout to Chris Roth) helped with another major ECC marketing goal— creating an ECC website that is modern, professional, shares accurate, relevant information, and is easy to navigate. Check it out for yourself at www.crossview.net/ecc.



BIKE PARADE

On Thursday, July 2nd, parents, kids and teachers enjoyed what has become an annual tradition – the Cross View ECC Bike Parade. Kids decorated their bikes with teachers during the day and ended the day by parading around with many adoring parents capturing the moment in pictures. Popsicles were a refreshing treat after the parade on that hot afternoon!



ECC CHILD AND STAFF OPENINGS

Child Openings: The ECC currently has openings in infant, toddler and preschool classrooms. If you know of anyone looking for childcare, please refer them to Cross View's Early Childhood Center.

Staff Openings: The ECC is looking for dedicated individuals to fill the following openings— teachers, Assistant Director, in-house Cook. If you know of anyone qualified for any of these positions with great love for the Lord and for children, please refer them to the ECC office.

ECC contact information: Email tania@crossview.net or call the office at 952-941-0009.

ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For two new babies that have joined the Bunnies classroom
- For a fun bike parade and celebration with families
- For school age kids that love to lead chapel

Prayer Requests:

- For a family going through a challenging time
- For more families to hear about openings at the ECC and for open spots to be filled with more of God's precious children
- For qualified staff—with great love for the Lord and for children—to join our team

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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



Christian Education

**WRESTLING WITH GOD:
INTERPRETING DIFFICULT OLD
TESTAMENT PASSAGES**
Sundays, June 21–September 6
9:30–10:30 AM in the Sanctuary
Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

The Old Testament is difficult to understand. How can the vengeful, angry God of the Old Testament be the same as the comforting, loving God of the New Testament?

How can these old narratives of death, revenge, and morally wrong choices guide you as a Christian? This study will guide you through the Old Testament to understand difficult and overlooked idea like violence in the book of Joshua, Israelite Sexual Laws, God's Change of Mind as well as His Suffering. These and many more topics will be discussed and taught.

**COMMUNITY LIGHT
SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP**
Wednesday Evenings, 6:30–8:00 PM
September 16–November 18
(No Class October 14)
Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

This fall we begin our sixth year of Community Light School of Discipleship with a study of Genesis 12–50: From Abraham to Joseph. These are the foundational stories in the Bible: Abraham and Sarah, Isaac and Rebekah, and Jacob and his Twelve Sons. Then there's Joseph who is sold by his brothers into slavery in Egypt. This class will not only explore how the rest of the Bible builds on these narratives. It will also apply them to our lives—especially our lives as they are lived out in our families. Taught by Pastor Reed Lessing.

Children's Ministry

**SAVE THE DATES FOR FUN FALL
FAMILY EVENTS AT CV!**

Fall Kick Off is Sunday, September 13. We will have one service at 9:30 AM with a congregational lunch at Cross View to follow. There will be fun activities, inflatables, food, etc.

Oktoberfest is Saturday, October 10, from 3:00–6:00 PM. There will be family activities, German food, beverages, and music.

PARENT CORNER



Sharing Scripture

With school starting back up shortly, let's all be in prayer over our children

and how to encourage them to have a great start! What a better way than to share Scripture with them in their lunchbox, on their bathroom mirror, or in their backpack. You can pick your own verses to share or use some of the ones listed below. Blessings as you prepare for another great school year!

- 2 Tim. 1:7
- Ps. 119:105
- Col. 3:23
- Prov. 1:7
- Jer. 29:11
- Prov. 3:5–6
- Phil. 4:13
- Is. 40:29–31

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



Adult Ministry

LADIES' BUNCO NIGHT

Thanks to all who came out for Ladies' Bunco Night! We had good food, good fun, and good fellowship. We'll be hosting another Bunco Night in early 2027 so be on the lookout for that. Here are some pictures from the festivities.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY FALL LUNCHEON

Please mark your calendars for the Women's Ministry annual Fall Luncheon on Saturday November 7 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM in Cross View's Great Commission Room. This year's theme will be "More than Conquerors" and our guest speaker is Jean Abbott whose presentation will be "When Life Rewrites Your Story: Choosing Faith Over Fear." Registration on CV Connect will open September 15. Our charitable ingathering for the luncheon this year will be providing new chairs for Cross View's Early Childhood Center kids' rooms. During the month of October, The Giving Trees will have tags with all the details of our "Chairs for Kids" campaign. Families or individuals can purchase one chair. 44 are needed. We hope you'll plan to attend this special event and bring a friend.



MEN'S FRIDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Beginning September 11th, the Friday Morning Men's Bible study group will begin a new eight-to-ten-week study and discussion of Apologetics (the defense of the Christian Faith). They will be using Lee Strobel's book "A Case for Faith" as the foundation for their study. Join them as together they strive to grow in their faith and strengthen their ability to defend and share their faith. They meet at Chick-Fil-A in Eden Prairie from 7:00–8:00 AM each Friday morning. Please contact Brad Ost or Dan Battcher with any questions.

QUILTS DONATED

The Cross View Women's quilting ministry was very busy this year. We sewed and distributed 137 quilts. Some went to our newly baptized babies, our high school graduating seniors, and Gordon's House and Healing Flats. Some were also delivered to Friendship Village, Augustana Care Centers, Frauenshuh Cancer Center, Southwest Options for Women, and the Ronald McDonald House. We pray that all who receive the quilts feel God's love wrapped around them.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be reading *The Wartime Book Club* by Kate Thompson for their August meeting. They will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, August 17, at 1:00 PM to discuss the book. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



TNT – TWENTIES AND THIRTIES YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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 held from 6:00–7:30 PM. Contact Hannah at hannah@crossview.net with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

Summer Schedule:

- Thursday, August 20: End of Summer BBQ/Potluck at Cross View



FMSC PACKATHON

On Saturday, August 22, the Chanhassen FMSC site is hosting their 2nd annual 15 hour Packathon. Last year they packed over 600,000 meals, enough to feed 1700+ kids. This year let's help them beat that record!

The first session begins at 9:00 am and the last one begins at 10:30 pm. Each session is just 90 minutes long. This is a great opportunity for families, neighborhood friends, and our small groups to unite and serve. Organize

your group and sign up at the [FMSC website](#).

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 Barb Coffin at barb@crossview.net.

Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH AUGUST SCHEDULE

- August 19: Fellowship Night at CV (6:00–8:00 PM)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH AUGUST SCHEDULE

- August 2: Youth at CV
- August 9: Mini Golf and Ice Cream Outing
- August 16: No Youth
- August 23: Youth at CV
- August 30: Youth at CV

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 9. 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 via CV Connect](#).

SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP

The group that attended the South Dakota Mission Trip is back! The seven youth and two adults returned from their trip on July 25 and had an amazing time! They were able to serve the community of Rapid City, while growing in their faith as they learned more about being created in God's image and being "Made for This." They also were able to meet other youth and adults from churches in Minnesota and California and explore and experience the beauty of God's creation on free days as they went to the Badlands, Black Hills, and Custer State Park. Thank you to all who prayed for the group while they were away. We truly appreciate it! If you'd like to hear more about the trip, find Hannah or a youth and they'll tell you all about it!







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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
952-941-1094, steve@crossview.net

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor
952-941-1094, reed@crossview.net

Deaconess Barbara Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry
952-243-2062, barb@crossview.net

Hannah Zahrt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
952-243-2047, hannah@crossview.net

Ben Mangum, Multimedia Storyteller and Producer
952-243-2044, ben@crossview.net

Tania Rivera Perez, Director of Early Childhood Center
952-941-5215, tania@crossview.net

Dr. David Mennicke, Director of Music and Choir Ministries
952-243-2048, david@crossview.net

Brian De Young, Organist
952-243-2047, brian@crossview.net

Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist
952-243-2046, alyssa@crossview.net

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

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Thurs., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Fri., 9:00 AM – Noon

CALENDAR

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

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