

CROSSVIEW CLARION

February 2026



"Let us make a joyful noise and praise our Lord and Savior through singing, shouting, music, and dance." –Tania Rivera



Building Communities Strengthening Futures

by Tania Rivera, Early Childhood Center Director

At our Early Childhood Center, we are deeply committed to intentionally building and strengthening meaningful community connections rooted in shared purpose, joyful celebration, and authentic relationship-building. Each day, we strive to create an environment where faith, learning, and love come together, forming a strong foundation for our students and families.

National Lutheran Schools Week, observed January 25–31, provides a beautiful and meaningful opportunity to celebrate the Christ-centered

work we do each day, which is firmly grounded in God's Word and guided by a commitment to academic excellence. Throughout this special week, we will intentionally foster daily connections with our school community, our Lord, and one another, reflecting the values that define who we are.

This year's theme, "Let Us Make a Joyful Noise" (Psalm 98:4), invites us to rejoice, give thanks, and praise the Lord together. Through a variety of engaging and purposeful activities, our students and staff will joyfully express their

◀ faith while strengthening bonds within our school and beyond.

The week began on Monday with a school-wide banner project, allowing students and staff to collaboratively showcase our school’s identity and express our love for our Heavenly Father. On Tuesday, we focused on spreading kindness through card writing, offering words of encouragement, hope, and love to individuals in need of uplifting messages. Wednesday brought us together after chapel for a school rally, where we will lift our voices in song as we walked through Cross View, sharing joy and praise throughout the church.

On Thursday, members of the church and ECC office staff participated in special book read-alouds, reinforcing the importance of storytelling, literacy, and faith-filled learning. We concluded

the week on Friday with activities designed to strengthen home-to-school connections, encouraging families to engage in meaningful ways that reflect our shared commitment to nurturing faith and learning.

National Lutheran Schools Week is more than a celebration; it is a joyful reflection of our mission and a meaningful reminder of the many blessings that come from learning, worshiping, and growing together in Christ. As we celebrate within our school community, we also invite families to carry this spirit into their homes. Together, let us make a joyful noise and praise our Lord and Savior through singing, shouting, music, and dance. With our eyes and hearts fixed on Him, may we give thanks for all that He so generously provides, above all, for His unfailing love and grace.

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- 2025 Total Income was favorable to budget by \$3,276 due to higher than budgeted interest income.
- 2025 Total Expenses were favorable to budget, primarily due to lower wage and salary expense.
- ECC Income was unfavorable to budget primarily due to enrollment vacancies. Average enrollment of 81% was well below plan.
- ECC Expenses are favorable to budget primarily due to lower than planned wage and benefit expenses and payoff of 4.0 loan obligation.
- ECC Net Deficit is unfavorable to budget by \$154,117.
- The church carries an approximate \$135,000 account receivable from the ECC to support ECC the operating deficit.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
12/31/25	2025 Actual Year to Date	2025 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$1,691,945	\$1,688,669	\$3,276
Total Expenses	(\$1,635,124)	(\$1,688,669)	\$53,545
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$56,821	\$0	\$56,821
Designated Fund Transfer	(\$175,000)		

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).



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 18

12:00 PM
with Holy Communion

6:30 PM
with Holy Communion

Chili dinner served 5:15–6:15 PM

7th Grade Confirmation Projects
following 6:30 PM service

No Adult Bible study
or Confirmation



MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays,
February 25–March 25
6:30–7:15 PM

Lenten Dinners Served
5:15–6:15 PM

Dinners are hosted by Cross View
youth with proceeds from these
meals befitting the youth attending
the mission trip to South Dakota.

Christian Education

LEARNING TO LOVE LAMENTATIONS

Sundays, January 4–February 15

9:30–10:30 AM in the sanctuary

Based upon Pastor Reed's new Concordia Publishing House commentary on Lamentations, this study will examine the book from a number of practical standpoints. Does God welcome our protests and laments? How important is it to find our voice and tell our story of suffering? Is there a better way to deal with trauma than numbing the pain with fantasies, escapes, and denials? And what do we learn from Jesus and Paul about laments?

THE RESURRECTION: TRUE OR FALSE

Midweek Lenten Series

The resurrection of Jesus Christ, as attested to by Scripture, is a foundational principle of Christian faith and doctrine. Christ's identity and mission, as the Son of God and Savior of mankind rests with the historical accuracy of His resurrection. Numerous theories attempt to provide rationalistic explanations of the resurrection. We will look at these theories in light of the Gospel accounts.

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP (CLSD)

Registration for the spring 2026 CLSD is now open [in CV Connect](#). The speaker will be Dr. Dean Nadasdy and the topic will be "Answer Me This: Tough Questions for Christian Apologists" (an apologetics class). The session will start on April 8 and run for seven weeks to May 20.



Early Childhood Center

ECC OPENINGS

Child Openings: The ECC currently has openings in the toddler and preschool classrooms. If you know of anyone looking for childcare, please refer them to Cross View's Early Childhood Center via email at tania@crossview.net or phone (952)941-0009.

ECC SPIRIT WEEK

From February 9–13, the ECC will celebrate Spirit Week with themed dress-up days to promote school spirit and community. Students, families, and staff are encouraged to participate throughout the week. The themes include Sporty Day (Monday), Animal Day (Tuesday), Mismatch Day (Wednesday), Wacky Hair Day (Thursday), and Pajama Day (Friday). We look forward to a fun week of connection and school pride.

VALENTINE'S PARTIES

Classrooms will host their own unique and fun Valentine's Day parties

on Friday, February 13th, focused on promoting love, kindness, and friendship. Each classroom will prepare special treats and crafts, giving students a joyful day of learning and celebrating love, including the greatest love of all, from our Father and Savior.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT-GUEST PRESENTER DR. SUE STARKS

On February 16, our ECC staff will participate in a special Staff Development Day with guest presenter Dr. Sue Starks from Concordia State University, Director of the Lutheran Classroom Teacher Program. Dr. Starks will lead training on the developmental faith progression of young children, exploring how significant adults can nurture this growth through relationships and by integrating faith naturally throughout the day. We are truly blessed and honored to have her share her expertise.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

Throughout the week of January 26, the ECC celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week. The theme was "Let's Make a Joyful Noise," and our students certainly did that. The photos on this page show a little bit of fun.

ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For the excellent team of ECC teachers that is helping to foster a great work and learning experience.
- For the ability to learn and receive direction from our

Father. Even through challenging times, he is always paving the way towards the right path.

Prayer Requests:

- For one more well-qualified teacher— with great love for the Lord and for children— to join our team
- 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 health and safety of everyone in the ECC— children and staff



ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

SCRIPTURE SHARE NIGHT

All ages are welcome to participate in our Scripture Share Night on Wednesday, February 4th at 6:30–7:30 PM. It's so important to put God's Word in our hearts and on this night, we recite it for all to hear! Please email barb@crossview.net your Bible verse that you plan to recite by Sunday, February 1.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE FOR 5TH GRADE FAMILIES

Attention families with a 5th grader; we are having our Welcome to the Lord's Table Stepping Stone series that teaches the children along with their parent about the theology and significance of the Lord's Supper. The classes are February 15–March 29 at 9:30–10:30 AM. Please email barb@crossview.net if you haven't already received the email invite with details about this special Stepping Stone.

MISSION AND SERVICE STEPPING STONE FOR 3RD GRADE FAMILIES

Attention families with a 3rd grader; we are having our Mission and Service Stepping Stone class on Sunday, February 8, at 9:30–10:30 AM. This class teaches our third graders with their parent the importance of mission, service and being grateful. Please email barb@crossview.net if you haven't already received the email invite with details about this special Stepping Stone.

TOGETHER WE WORSHIP STEPPING STONE FOR FAMILIES WITH A THREE-YEAR-OLD

Attention families of a three-year-old; we are having our Together We Worship Stepping Stone class on February 15 at 9:30–10:30 AM. This class teaches the parent and child the theology of worship and gives the kids a tour of our worship centers to help make our children more comfortable with worship. Please email barb@crossview.net if you haven't already received the email invite with details about this special Stepping Stone.

EASTERFEST IS COMING UP!

Save the date for our annual Easter celebration of EasterFest. The date is March 28th 10:00 AM to noon. Please check out [CV Connect to sign up to volunteer](#).



PARENT CORNER



The challenge for February is for married couples to engage in creative and cheap ways of dating without a babysitter. Let's make space for and prioritize conversation that isn't just about logistics of running a household together or about the kids. Let's creatively connect!

1. Communication

- Have a daily check in (spend 10–15 min asking, "what was the best and hardest part of your day?")
- Go for a short walk and talk (not logistics)
- Write a note and put it in their lunchbox or bag (or text)
- Create a conversation jar: Write some questions and pull one out a few times a week. For example, "what do you remember from our first date?"
- Have a quiz of favorites-ice cream, season, candy bar, home cooked meal, hobby, two closest friends, way to relax, book, family tradition. Try to answer for your spouse and then see how many you get "correct."
- Share what you admire about your spouse.

2. Connection

- Do an at home date: Cook together, have a theme night (dinner + music)
- Engage in shared hobbies: Puzzles, gardening, YouTube dance
- Reminisce together: After the kids are in bed look through photobooks or watch a family home "movie"
- Screen-free hour: Once/week, turn off devices and hang out. Play cards, talk, cuddle
- Take the love language quiz to discover what your spouse's love language is
- Picnic at a park while kids play or have a warm beverage packed for the sledding hill/skating rink in winter

3. Serving each other

- Surprise help: Do one of your spouse's least favorite chores without saying anything
- Gratitude challenge: Each day, name one thing you're thankful they do for you
- "Acts of service" date: Ask "what would make your week easier" and help make it happen— organize a space, cook favorite meal, run an errand
- Serve one another by taking care of something they may not expect
- Do dishes together and use the time to ask questions about the other's day
- Clean out your spouse's car

Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- February 11: Feed My Starving Children, 6:30–9:00 PM
- February 18: 7th Grade Confirmation Projects Displayed
- February 21: Movie Night at CV, 6:00–8:00 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- February 1: No Youth
- February 8: No Youth; Superbowl Sunday
- February 15: Youth at CV
- February 20–21: Buck Hill Tubing into Lock-In at CV
- February 22: No Youth

SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP YOUTH HOSTING CAFÉ CROSS VIEW

The youth attending the summer mission trip to South Dakota will also be hosting Café Cross View every third Sunday of the month, running from January to June. There will be a free will donation to help support these youths as they prepare for this service event in July!

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH AND MENTOR BOWLING

The Junior High youth group and their confirmation mentors went to Bowlero on Saturday, January 10 for an afternoon of bowling and bonding. Both youth and adults had fun bowling, eating tasty food, and playing arcade games.



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



SENIOR HIGH ESCAPE ROOM

The Senior High youth went to Breakout Games for some escape room fun on Sunday, January 11! The 20 youth and adults were split into three teams, and all three of the teams were able to escape!



SENIOR HIGH TUBING AND LOCK-IN

Senior High youth are invited to a night out February 20–21. They'll start out by tubing at Buck Hill from 7:30–9:00 PM before returning to Cross View for a lock-in into Saturday morning. It'll be a great event of fellowship and fun!

Adult help will be needed for the tubing portion of the evening.

Please sign up for the event [via CV Connect](#).

JUNIOR HIGH MOVIE NIGHT

The Junior High youth will have a movie night on Saturday, February 21, from 6:00–8:00 PM at Cross View in the Fellowship Hall. There will be snacks provided but no meal. No sign up is necessary!

LENTEN MEALS AND EASTER BREAKFAST

Lenten meals hosted by Cross View's youth are starting on Ash Wednesday, February 18. Menus will be available to view at the Welcome Center, and registration will be available on CV Connect. Sign up for Ash Wednesday meal [here on CV Connect](#).

Easter Breakfast will be hosted on Sunday, April 5. No sign up necessary for the breakfast.

Proceeds from these meals will benefit the youth attending the mission trip to South Dakota.

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT REGISTRATION

It's that time! The youth are invited to attend the Rochester Servant Event again this summer, June 7–10. This event is open to current 6th graders to graduating 12th graders. Cost for the event is \$125. For more details, contact Hannah Zahrte.

Sign up closes February 22. Participants can [sign up on CV Connect](#).



Outreach & Missions

EASTERFEST SAVE THE DATE

We look forward to inviting the community to celebrate the story of Easter here at Cross View on Saturday, March 28, from 10:00 AM–Noon! EasterFest is a family-friendly event

with lots of fun activities. [Sign up on CV Connect](#) to volunteer for one of the many volunteer shifts available. Because Easter falls early this year, we want volunteers to sign up sooner than normal.



Adult Ministry

PASTOR REED AND STACEY'S RECEPTION

Cross View Women's Ministry would like to thank all who stopped by to greet and congratulate Pastor Reed and Stacey at the reception in honor of their recent marriage. Congratulations Pastor Reed and Stacey! Wishing you many happy years together.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, February 16, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



SENIOR ADULT: SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, April 16, 11:30 AM–1:30 PM. "Spring Fling Luncheon" featuring musician and humorist, Steve Solkela, and a lovely catered lunch!

FROSTY FEBRUARY FUN FEST FOR SENIOR ADULTS

All Cross View senior adults are invited to join at Cross View for the "Frosty February Fun Fest" on February 5, 1:00–3:00 PM. They will be playing a card game, "Swoop," as they enjoy snacks and frosty root beer floats! The senior adult ministry team will help everyone learn this new

game. Everyone will "win" as they take part in a delightful afternoon of fellowship.

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! Bible studies and outings are held every second and fourth Thursdays of the month; running from 6:00–7:30pm. Contact Nicole at nclvvo@gmail.com or Hannah at hannah@crossview.net with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

Winter Sessions:

- February 5: Bible Study (Cross View)
- February 19: My Burger (Minnetonka)
- March 12: Winter Service ProjectCare Portal (Pam Olsen)

EARLY TASTE OF SPRING

Women's Ministry invites the women of Cross View and their friends to join us on February 21st at the Annual Minnesota Arboretum Flower Show. This year's show explores the theme of "water", drawing inspiration from Minnesota's lakes, rivers, wetlands and the life they support.



This event is a casual gathering to stroll with friends taking in the visual splendor and comforting aromas. You can finish your morning with a tasty lunch at the Minnesota Arboretum Cafe.

You will be greeted at the Arboretum Visitors Center by members of the Women's Ministry team. You can then browse at your own pace through the many wonderful displays. The group will gather in the cafe around noon to have lunch in groups of 5–6 people. (Larger tables are not available.)

Location: Minnesota Arboretum (Oswald Visitors Center and Snyder Building), 3675 Arboretum Drive, Chaska, MN

Date: Saturday, February 21, 10:00 AM–1:00 PM

Cost: Entry tickets to the Arboretum are free to members. Some memberships provide opportunity to bring a guest for free. Entry tickets for non-members are \$20 in advance or \$25 at the gate. Everyone pays for their own lunch. You can get your entry tickets online at the Arboretum website: arb.umn.edu.

Registration: In addition to getting your entry ticket, we ask participants to [register on CV Connect](#) so we will know how many happy faces to look for.



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

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Ben Mangum, Multimedia Storyteller and Producer
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Brian De Young, Organist
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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

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

CALENDAR

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

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