

CROSSVIEW CLARION

January 2026

"I invite your family to set goals that align with God's plan and deepen your faith journey together." – Barb Coffin



Look Forward with Intentionality

by Dcs. Barb Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry

As I write this article, I can't believe Christmas is next week. I think about how thankful I am for so many ministry opportunities in this past year with children and families. The Family Ministry MAT started with monthly challenges, and I feel like now is a good time to reflect on how we did.

September's focus was on having regular family meals. Family meals provide many benefits like building strong family bonds, improving kids' mental and physical health, booting academic performance, and provide structure and security just to name a few benefits.

In October we focused on praying together as a family. Our team shared the tool of ACTS which

stands for Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication as a structure of family prayer time.

Having regular family devotion time was the challenge for November. Several age-appropriate questions to discuss were shared on a bulletin insert. By the way, both October and November's bulletin inserts are at the Family Ministry display in the narthex for you to pick up a copy to take home.

In December we encouraged families to slow down with some weekly questions to strive to keep Christ in the center of our lives during the busy holiday season. How did you and your family do with these monthly challenges? No guilt, just honestly reflect. Now we can look forward to growing

together spiritually using these new tools in 2026!

As we step into 2026, it is the perfect time to look forward with intentionality. Rather than just making temporary resolutions, I invite your family to set goals that align with God’s plan and deepen your faith journey together. It is a natural time to set family resolutions. Have you considered creating Spiritual focused ones for your family? Proverbs 16:3 says, “Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and he will establish your plans.” Seek the Lord in prayer and ask what He wants of your family. You can define your family values and what truly matters to your household. What is your family mission statement? Create SMART goals which are Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant,

and Time-bound for your family. SMART goals start with incorporating spiritual daily disciplines like reading the Bible and praying together.

Have you ever tried a digital Sabbath? Well, 2026 is the year to try it! It is a “no electronics” rule during dinner or a regular set time in your week or day to focus more on one-on-one connections.

This is a lot of think about. But remember, no guilt! Remember also we are not alone! Christ is right there with us carrying us along as we seek Him. His Holy Spirit can even create the words of our prayers. Finally, remember I am a resource for you and in being your family’s key faith shaper. May God truly bless you and your family richly as you start this New Year!

Voters’ Assembly Meeting: Jan. 25

Please join us for our Voters’ assembly meeting on January 25 at noon in the Fellowship Hall.

WEATHER-RELATED CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSINGS

All unscheduled closings and late starts will be posted to CV Connect and our [website](#). Cancellations of evening activities will be posted no later than 3:00 PM.

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- Year to date income is \$14,923 unfavorable to budget, primarily due to lower member contributions.
- Year to date expenses are favorable to budget, primarily due to lower wages. Missions payments are lower as they are a percentage of contributions.
- ECC Income was unfavorable to budget primarily due to enrollment vacancies. Average enrollment YTD at 83% is 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 \$154,293.

Personnel Committee Need

Cross View is in significant need of an experienced church member to take over as head of the Personnel Committee. The committee is looking for someone who will fully commit to the role and has leadership, HR and/or administrative experience. If you know of anyone who might fit these criteria, please contact Jill Harrison at jillharrison1@gmail.com.

What Goes Up Must Come Down

The “Undecorating” takes place on Sunday, January 4, Noon–2:00 PM. Lunch provided. Help take down and put away the decorations placed throughout the church.

Cross View Lutheran Church

11/30/25	2025 Actual Year to Date	2025 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$1,479,466	\$1,494,390	(\$14,923)
Total Expenses	(\$1,483,278)	(\$1,524,854)	\$41,576
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$3,812)	(\$30,464)	\$26,653
Designated Fund Transfer	(\$175,000)		

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?

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will be starting a new study, *Be Still and Know*, a Study of Rest and Refuge, by Deb Burma, in January 2026. The group meets on the first Monday of the month at 9:30–11:30 AM in room 218 at Cross View. This study will run from January through May and then start again from September through December. If you would like to join our study or if you have questions, please contact Marcy at mrepsec@hotmail.com.



MEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT AMBROSIA

Join us for a continued study on the book of Hebrews starting on September 13th from 9:30–11:00 AM. We meet every other Saturday at Ambrosia Coffee Shop, 7373 France Ave. S., Edina.

THURSDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITY

Have you ever wanted to learn from the Bible and others in a discussion-oriented format? Fellow Christians have been meeting every other Thursday at 9:30–11:00 AM in the fireside room at church to study and discuss how the Old Testament Tabernacle and God's message to Moses guided the Israelites through the wilderness to the chosen land. They are looking at how God's guidelines and covenants made between Him and His people have impacted the New Covenant and true Temple, Jesus Christ. Come join us September 4th and every two weeks thereafter. Contact Steve Koepcke if you have any questions.

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

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER CHILD AND TEACHER OPENINGS

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

Teacher Opening: The ECC also has one opening for a float teacher. If you know of anyone qualified with great love for the Lord and for children, please refer them to the ECC office.

For either child or teacher inquiries, families or teachers should contact the ECC Director, Tania Rivera, by emailing tania@crossview.net or calling the office at 952-941-0009.

NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

From the LCMS website, "Congregations and Christian day schools of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod operate more than 1,600 early childhood centers and preschools, and they serve more than 100,000 children

ranging from infants and toddlers to 5-year-olds.

LCMS congregations operate more than 800 elementary schools with approximately 78,000 students. More than 650 early childhood centers and elementary schools are accredited under the National Lutheran School Accreditation program."

The week of January 24–30 is National Lutheran Schools Week. Along with other Lutheran schools around the world, Cross View Early Childhood Center will celebrate "the joy and purpose found in Lutheran education". The theme this year is from Psalm 98:4 "Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth; break forth into joyous song and sing praises!"

CHRISTMAS PARTIES

Children and teachers enjoyed celebrating the birth of Jesus with fun parties in their classrooms on December 18th. The joy of the Lord was evident in the smiles and laughter seen and heard throughout the building.

ECC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The annual ECC Christmas Program was held on Thursday, December 11th. All children participated, with the babies and youngest toddlers leading the processional in their cribs and strollers that were specially decorated for the occasion. Pastor Steve shared about the greatest gift that God gave us that first Christmas day– baby Jesus. It was then the children's turn to share the Good News. Beginning with the older toddlers through all three preschool classrooms, each class sang songs, recited verses, and joined together as one large group to end the program with a chorus of "Joy to the World". After the program, families enjoyed treats and fellowship with each other well into the evening hours.



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For a beautiful Christmas program that glorified God and shared the Good News of Jesus with families
- For the joy of the Lord felt throughout the ECC, especially as children and teachers celebrated the birth of Jesus

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.

Thank You, Holiday Decorators!

It is a joy to see our faith community come together to create such a beautiful and inviting atmosphere for worship. A special thank you goes out to every volunteer who contributed:

- Thanksgiving Decorators: For capturing the spirit of gratitude and harvest
- Christmas Tree Assembly Workers: For handling the heavy lifting and setting the foundation for our holiday display
- Advent and Christmas Decorators: For beautifully preparing us for the season of anticipation
- Poinsettia Donors and Decorators: For adding the final, vibrant touches of life and color to our sanctuary and GCR.

Your hard work and creativity truly set the stage, allowing our congregation to focus on the beauty of the seasons. We couldn't have done it without this incredible team effort!



Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

It was so much fun to watch this year's children's program that focused on the Bible story of Luke 2. The 3rd to 6th grade students made such an awesome set and all the kids did a great job with their Bible verses and songs. There was a cookie reception to celebrate the children after the program.



UPCOMING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATES

January 2026

- Sunday, January 4–11: Journey Stepping Stone classes (sixth grade)
- Friday, January 16: Family Movie Night with Pizza, Popcorn, and PJs at 5:00 PM
- Sunday, January 18: Celebration of Journey Stepping Stone (sixth grade)

February 2026

- Sunday, February 1: Mission Festival
- Wednesday, February 4: Scripture Share Night 6:30–7:30 PM
- Sunday, February 8: Mission and Service Stepping Stone (third grade)
- Wednesday, February 11: Kidstute service night 6:30–7:30 PM (sixth grade at FMSC)
- Sunday, February 15: Mission and Service Stepping Stone Celebration (3rd grade)
- Sunday, February 15: Class for Together We Worship Stepping Stone (three-year-olds)
- Sunday, February 15–March 29: Welcome to the Lord's Table Stepping Stone (5th grade)
- Wednesday, February 25–April 1: No Kidstute due to Lent and Holy Week

FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

On Friday, January 16, starting at 5:00 PM, come to the Fellowship Hall in your PJs and we will watch the movie *The Star*. A light dinner of pizza, drinks, and popcorn as a snack will be served. Please RSVP by January 14 via email to Barb Coffin at barb@crossview.net if you plan on attending so we have a head count for the pizza. Since this is a family event, a parent is asked to stay with their child.



ATTENTION PARENTS OF 6TH GRADERS AT CROSS VIEW

The Journey Stepping Stone occurs as the child enters 6th grade. The purpose of this course is to help the growing child begin to accept responsibility for their own faith development. The child examines the Scriptures, their identity in Christ and the church's approach to current middle school challenges such as sexual identity and honoring God with one's own body. We will be starting this series of Stepping Stone classes on Sunday, January 4.



PARENT CORNER

Time for family New Year's Resolutions. Here are some possible ideas to prayerfully consider.

1. Establish a family devotional time
2. Memorize scripture together
3. Start a family prayer journal
4. Attend church consistently
5. Do a monthly service project

THANK YOU!

The staff of Cross View extends our sincere thanks to the members and friends of Cross View for your Christmas gifts. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout this last year. We are grateful for your partnership in the ministry and look forward to an exciting 2026! Blessings on your New Year.

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



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.



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 10: Junior High Mentor Bowling at Bowlero, 2:00–4:00 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH JANUARY SCHEDULE

- January 4: Youth at CV
- January 11: Escape Room
- January 18: Youth at CV
- January 25: Youth at CV

YOUTH CHRISTMAS PARTIES

On Sunday, December 7, both Junior and Senior High groups met for their own, separate Christmas parties. Both groups participated in a white elephant gift exchange and played different games. The Senior High participated in their second annual Christmas competition for the “Christmas Cup.” It was a great evening of fellowship, laughter, and fun!



December 14. It was a wonderful success! Thank you to all who supported the youth and bought goodies for the Christmas season!

The youth attending the mission trip 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 are invited to an afternoon out at Bowlero in Eden Prairie on Saturday, January 10. This is a great way for youths and their mentors to bond and get to know each other more. Meet at Bowlero at 1:45, for bowling from 2:00–4:00 PM.



If a youth’s mentor isn’t able to join, they are still welcome to attend!

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

SENIOR HIGH ESCAPE ROOM

The Senior High are heading to an escape room on Sunday, January 11! More details to come about time and place!

Numbers are important to have in order to book a location. Please sign up [via CV Connect](#).

SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP BAKE SALE AND HOSTING CAFÉ CROSS VIEW

The youth who are attending the South Dakota Mission Trip hosted a bake sale before and after services on Sunday,

Adult Ministry

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will read *Secrets of a Charmed Life* by Susan Meissner for their January discussion. The book club will hold their meeting at church in room 120 on Monday, January 19, at 1:00 PM. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



- February 5: Bible Study (Cross View)
- February 19: My Burger (Minnetonka)
- March 12: Winter Service Project

HAPPY NEW YEAR CROSS VIEW LADIES!

The Women's Ministry has several wonderful events planned for you in the year ahead and we hope you'll plan to attend all of them. Please mark your calendars for the following dates. Details and registration for each event will be advertised at the time. And keep your eye out for events that may arise spontaneously! If you haven't joined our [Women's Ministry Facebook group page](#), please do. You can scan the QR code below to join. We often send information to the group on that platform.



SENIOR ADULT APPETIZERS AND ADVENT ALLELUIAS

Cross View senior adults enjoyed a wonderful evening of appetizers and Advent alleluias on December 5th. The appetizers were delicious. They also enjoyed singing Advent and Christmas hymns accompanied by Judy Campen. Judy presented some history and beautiful introductory music for each hymn. We thank Judy for sharing her gifts with us to make the evening very memorable.



Annual Flower Show at the Minnesota Arboretum

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

Enjoy the beautiful floral displays throughout the Visitor's Center and lunch with friends at the Arboretum Cafe.



Renew, Refresh, Rejoice! Mother-Daughter Tea

Saturday, April 25, 9:00–11:00 AM

At Cross View/GCR

Welcome Spring at a Mother-Daughter Tea. If you don't have a daughter, bring a friend. We'll have a variety of teas and goodies, plus activities that all ages will enjoy.



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, 2026, 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.



Ladies' Bunco Night!

Thursday, June 25, 5:00–8:00 PM

Come out to Cross View for a fun evening of laughs, goodies and BUNCO. Don't worry...no experience needed.



Fall Luncheon and Charitable Ingathering

Saturday, November 7, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Join us at Cross View's GCR for a lovely luncheon, an inspirational speaker and an opportunity to gather needed supplies for a worthy cause.

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:

- January 8: Bible Study (Cross View)
- January 22: Famous Dave's (Hwy 7)

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SERVICE AND EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Don't forget that there are also multiple service and educational opportunities for women at Cross View:

- Monthly Daytime Bible Study (Marcy Nordhus)
- Quilter's Group (Barb Schaus or Pam Olsen)
- Book Club (Marcy Nordhus)
- Meal Train (Alyssa Meger/office)

- Funeral Ministry (Linda Nelson)
- Altar Guild (Marcia Johnson)
- Care Portal (Pam Olsen)

NEWEST WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM MEMBER

Lastly, the Women's Ministry would like to introduce our newest team member, Pam Kullmann. Pam and Pat have been members at Cross View for several years and ordinarily attend the early service. Pam is a grandmother most recently welcoming a new granddaughter just this month. She also served in the United States military. Thank you for your service, Pam. So glad to have you as part of the Women's Ministry M.A.T.



Thank You

To the Staff and Members at Cross View,

I would like to thank you for your many prayers, cards, and kindnesses you have shown our family during Bert's illness. Our family and I can't thank you enough for allowing our son and your pastor to be with our family. I know a lot of the staff and members had to step up and do extra work to cover his absence.

I will continue to lift you and the congregation up in prayer. Praying God's continued blessing on you and your ministry.

In Christian love,
Dee Wheeler & Family



Outreach & Missions

UNWAVERING...FEEDING STARVING CHILDREN

As Christ's church, we are equipped as the "Unwavering Light in the Darkness." In January, we have an opportunity to be that light by feeding God's starving children.



Cross View is hosting our 3rd Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event on January 30th and 31st with the goal of packing 124,000+ meals to feed 341 children for one year!

We need about 624 volunteers to meet our goal, so we are starting recruitment early. We are inviting Cross View members ages 5 and older, friends, family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and members from other churches in our circuit to join the event.

Everyone is encouraged to volunteer, to witness how God empowers ordinary people to serve and change the world, regardless of donation. However, to cover the cost of the ingredients for these meals, a donation of \$50 per volunteer is suggested. If you are able to donate more than \$50, we encourage you to do so to help cover the cost for those unable to make a donation at this amount. Donations in excess of the cost of the event will go to FMSC to help feed more children.

What: Feed My Starving Children MobilePack™

Where: Cross View

When: January 30 and 31

Who: Cross View members over age 5 (childcare will be provided at Cross View for children under 5), friends, family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and members from other churches in our area

Sign-up and donate: Sign-up online give.fmsc.org/crossview for one or more of the eight 2-hour shifts, including set-up and clean-up. Or scan the QR code. Sign-up soon to get the time that works best for you!

Donations can also be made online using the link or QR Code, or by writing a check to Cross View Lutheran Church with Feed My Starving Children or FMSC in the memo line.



If you have any questions, feel free to connect with someone on the event team.

- Event Host: Lynn Pahl, 952-334-2930, lynnmpahl@gmail.com
- Volunteer Coordinator: Dan Battcher, 952-999-1676, dtbattcher@gmail.com
- Fundraising Coordinator: Don Nelson, 952-826-9095, don9290@yahoo.com

Let's shine our Unwavering light through the darkness, feeding God's children.

CAREPORTAL UPDATE

CarePortal training offered via Zoom for those interested in becoming a member of our CarePortal Response Team will be on Monday, January 12th, and Monday, February 9th, from 6:30–8:00 PM, and Friday, February 13th, 8:30–10:00 AM. CarePortal will also be offering an event called COPE, The Cost of Poverty Experience on Saturday, January 24th, from 9:00–11:30 AM at Vision of Glory Lutheran Church in Plymouth. The Cost of Poverty Experience is a simulation designed to deepen our understanding of the lived realities and human impact of poverty in America. This event is open to everyone, seasoned responders, new responders, church leaders, and friends.

The CarePortal team is always looking for more volunteers for our shopping and delivery teams. We will also be looking for a new leader come May 2026. If you'd like to get involved in helping families in crisis, please contact Pam Olsen at careportal@crossview.net or Nicole Krueger at careportal2@crossview.net.

CarePortal



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

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration
952-243-2045, renee@crossview.net

Hannah Zahrte, 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
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

6645 McCauley Trail West
Edina, MN 55439-1076

952-941-1094 (Office)
952-941-0009 (ECC)



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