

CROSSVIEW CLARION

July 2026

"As Lutherans, we have always celebrated the wedding of music and Word." –David Mennicke



Music in Worship: A Way of/for Life

by David Mennicke, Director of Music and Choir Ministries

Greetings in Christ! I hope you and your loved ones are enjoying God's wondrous gift of summer in Minnesota. Thank you for your continuing enthusiastic participation in our worship together as the family of Christ at Cross View. It is a joy to sing, hear, and proclaim God's Word with you.

Two crucial (from the Latin word crucis, or cross) roles of our shared worship music are its power to both teach the faith and form Christian character. As Lutherans, we have always celebrated the wedding of music and Word. Martin Luther recognized these powers by writing hymns based on Catechism texts:

- The Ten Commandments: LSB581 "These are the Holy Ten Commands"
- The Creed: LSB954 "We All Believe in One True God"

- The Lord's Prayer: LSB766 "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above"

Luther also wrote many hymns for the Church year, such as:

- Christmas: LSB358 "From Heaven Above to Earth I Come" (the basis for a children's Christmas pageant!)
- Lent/Easter: LSB458 "Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands" (this hymn grew out of the ancient Latin Easter chant, Victimae Paschali Laudes)
- Pentecost: LSB497 "Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord"

These sung words proved to be a huge new aid for people to learn the faith. Luther's flock (and generations to follow) sang and committed their hymns

to heart, learning the Church's core theology and engaging through song in the Christ-shaped cycle of the Christian calendar. Indeed, with music as the vessel to carry and convey them, these truths are taken beyond mere intellectual assent and entirely permeate believers' bodies, hearts, minds, and souls in a manner fitting for the One "in Whom we live and move and have our being" (Acts 17:11).

The Church has been continually enriched with new music and texts written in each generation. Some of these songs pass away, and others will have "legs" to last beyond their time. Those with musical interest, are singable by an assembly, and hold theological integrity will become the bearers of the faith for now and ages to come. These are the songs—old and new—that plant the faith, proclaim the Word, channel our praise, and provide us comfort in times of sorrow and pain.

Such music of faith has the ability to serve believers throughout their lives. We revel in children singing songs of faith as they eventually mature into more full understanding. Music of faith sung in community bears us up in both the joys and challenges of daily life. Many of us have witnessed the miracle of those with fading memories or limited communication ability reconnecting with loved ones at the sound of a beloved hymn, even at death's door.

God has entrusted us to be stewards of this miraculous gift of music and Word shared in communi-

ty, calling us to unite in our song each time we gather in worship. The Cross View family has another such opportunity this summer. On **Sunday, August 2, we will have another "y'all come" choir.** This year's offering is designed to be multi-generational, with maximum accessibility for **everyone, regardless of age or musical background.** The core music in the service will be familiar hymns (sung in unison with harmony optional) embellished with random handbell ringing and canons (rounds). One of the hymns (LSB540 "Christ the Word of God Incarnate") will provide a summary of our summer worship series on Jesus' "I Am" statements, with individual children reading one of the "I Am" passages before each verse. Musical leaders will be in the midst of the group to support everyone (singing or ringing). The musical plan is such that you CAN'T BE WRONG!

We encourage EVERYONE (children, parents, grandparents, relatives, friends, neighbors) to participate in this communal worship activity to "make a joyful noise unto the LORD!" (Psalm 100:1) We will **rehearse on Wednesday, July 29, 6:30–7:30 PM** in the Cross View sanctuary and **sing for the 8:15 AM service on Sunday, August 2.** Please feel free to contact me (david@crossview.net) if you have any questions. May God the Father bless our singing and growing together in Christ through the Holy Spirit!



ONE SERVICE ON SUNDAY JULY 5

9:30 AM in the Great Commission Room

No education hour

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

Christian Education

WRESTLING WITH GOD: INTERPRETING DIFFICULT OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES

**Sunday mornings, June 21–August 2
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 ideas 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.

- Total Income was unfavorable to budget by \$69,093, or approximately 9% lower than budget.
- Total Expenses were favorable to budget by \$69,509 due to open positions remaining unfilled.
- As a result, Cross View is at a breakeven financial result year-to-date.
- The ECC Total Income was \$37,910 unfavorable to budget. Fewer students compared to expectations is the primary driver.
- The ECC Total Expenses were \$84,892 favorable to budget. With fewer students, fewer teacher positions have been filled.
- The church carries an approximate \$194,000 receivable from the ECC to support cumulative operating deficits, which remains near the recent historical average.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
5/31/26	2026 Actual Year to Date	2026 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$708,683	\$777,776	(\$69,093)
Total Expenses	(\$696,479)	(\$765,987)	\$69,509
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$12,205	\$11,789	\$416

Early Childhood Center

FIELD TRIP TO THE ZOO

On June 24, our School Age children and graduating Hoppers will embark on an exciting field trip to the Como Zoo! The adventure begins with a ride on a school bus, a favorite experience for many of our children, and continues with a day of exploring and admiring God's amazing creation. As we observe animals such as zebras, giraffes, and polar bears, we will have opportunities to reflect on the beauty, diversity, and wonder of the world God has made. Experiences like these help foster curiosity and provide meaningful moments to connect with our children about God's creativity and care for all living things. We are delighted that families and staff members will be joining us as we spend the day together in fellowship and community. We are praying for beautiful weather and look forward to all the memorable experiences and discoveries that await us!



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY



As part of our commitment to excellence in early childhood education, our staff recently participated in professional development training focused on the Desired Results Developmental Profile (DRDP), an assessment tool that supports ongoing learning and helps educators better understand each child's developmental progress. We were honored to learn from Margarita Milenova, a trainer with the University of Minnesota and the Program Quality Manager for the Center for Early Education and Development.

Drawing on her extensive experience and expertise, Margarita provided valuable guidance on intentional observation strategies, assessment practices, and practical approaches for using developmental data effectively in the classroom. Through this training, our teachers gained new tools and insights to help them better identify each child's strengths, interests, and areas of growth. The DRDP framework supports individualized curriculum planning, enabling educators to tailor learning experiences to meet the unique needs of every student using research-based and developmentally appropriate assessment methods.

SCHOOL AGE CAMP

Our School Age Camp kicked off on June 8, and we are excited to welcome our graduating pre-K students as they join the program this summer before heading off to kindergarten. This transition has been a wonderful opportunity for our young learners to build confidence, develop greater independence, and experience the responsibilities that come with being part of the School Age group. The children have embraced this new adventure and are enjoying many exciting opportunities, including field trips, additional outdoor play, and meaningful connections with older students. These experiences help foster growth, friendship, and a sense of belonging within our school community.

We are also grateful for our dedicated School Age staff. Ms. Laura, an elementary school teacher during the academic year, joins us each summer and brings structure, creativity, enthusiasm, and fresh ideas to the program. Her passion for teaching and ability to engage students make her a wonderful addition to our team, and we are thankful for the positive impact she has on our learning community. In addition, Mr. Jared and Ms. Tina have provided exceptional support to our School Age program. Their commitment to our mission, values, and daily routines helps create a consistent and nurturing environment where children can learn, grow, and thrive.



CONGREGATION INVOLVEMENT AT ECC

We were blessed to welcome a very special guest to the ECC, Pastor David Buuck, who shared his musical talents with our preschoolers. During his visit, he played the guitar and banjo while leading the children in a joyful time of singing and worship. For nearly 30 minutes, our students enthusiastically joined in singing Christian songs, creating a wonderful atmosphere of praise and celebration. It was a meaningful opportunity for our children and staff to come together in worship and experience the joy of praising the Lord as a community. Several staff members shared that the gathering felt like sitting around a campfire, singing together, enjoying fellowship, and experiencing God's love in a special way. We are especially grateful to Lorri for helping coordinate this event and for serving as Pastor David's wonderful assistant during the program. Thank you to each of them for making this memorable experience possible.



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- New hire: Clarissa Gill
- New enrollment: baby Charlotte
- Denny: for his ongoing efforts for the ECC refresh
- David Frauenshuh for his contributions towards the refresh

Prayer Requests:

- Additional enrollment for all ages
- For community support to complete priority items for ECC Refresh
- A fun and healthy summer for all!

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Children's Ministry

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL (VBS) WAS JUNE 15-19

This year Cross View's VBS theme was Rainforest Falls where kids explored the nature of God. They had so much fun! They had over one hundred participants and over seventy volunteers! A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to all the wonderful Cross View volunteers who prayed, served, and donated items to make this year's VBS such a great success! Already looking forward to next year!







3 Fun Ways to Help Kids Read the Bible This Summer!

Summer is here. While routines may change, it's actually one of the **BEST** times to help kids grow in their faith. With more flexibility, longer days, and extra family time, summer creates so many opportunities for kids to engage with God's Word in fun and meaningful ways.

If you're looking for simple ways to make Bible reading more exciting this summer, here are 3 ideas to try with your family.

1. Take the Word Outside

- Sometimes a simple change of scenery makes all the difference!
- Read a Bible story at the park.
- Have a Bible picnic. Pack a picnic and head outside! This is great for reading the story of Jesus Feeding the 5,000.
- Go for a long walk. This is a great way to talk about the Israelites wandering in the wilderness for 40 years!
- Kids LOVE being outdoors and taking scripture outside makes Bible time fun!

2. Turn Bible Reading into an Adventure

- Create simple Bible challenges for kids to complete throughout the summer! Some ideas could be:
- Read a verse with a flashlight. Kids LOVE to turn out the lights and read with flashlights!
- Make a Bingo board filled with Bible stories to read
- Read Scripture to a stuffed animal
- Diving board verses. (Have your child shout a Bible verse before or while jumping off the diving board into a pool!)
- Reading the Bible is an adventure and helping kids read the Word of God while doing something fun helps it stick!

3. Make Bible Time Hands-On

- Kids remember experiences! Try adding:
- Bible scavenger hunts. Hide parts of a Bible verse around your house or yard. Kids will go on a hunt for the different pieces to the verse. Then they must put it together!
- Scripture sidewalk chalk. Read a Bible story and then have kids draw it using sidewalk chalk.
- Build Bible scenes with Legos or building blocks. Kids can be super creative when it comes to re-creating a Bible story using Legos or any kind of blocks!

Simple interactive activities can make scripture come alive for kids in powerful ways. Try it! It will be such a fun summer in the Word!



Adult Ministry

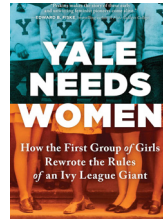
SENIOR ADULT SWOOP AND SANDWICH

Twenty-four Cross View senior adults met on June 11 to enjoy lunch together and playing the card game, "Swoop!". It was an uplifting afternoon of fellowship among friends as they dined and played cards. Please watch for future senior adult activities which will resume this fall. They welcome everyone sixty years of age and older.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club is reading *Yale Needs Women* by Anne Gardiner Perkins for their July gathering. They will hold their meeting at church in room 120 at 1:00 PM on Monday, July 20. 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.

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

Summer Schedule:

- Wednesday, July 22:
Lunch/Dinner and Volunteer (FMSC)
- Thursday, August 20:
End of Summer BBQ/Potluck
(Cross View)



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 or complete the interest form on our website.

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



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH JULY SCHEDULE

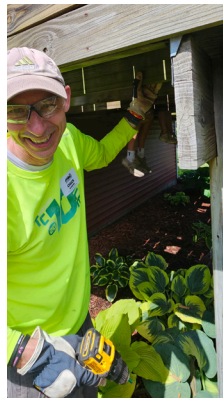
- July 8: Fellowship Night at CV (6:00–8:00 PM)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MAY SCHEDULE

- July 5: No Youth; 4th of July weekend
- July 12: Youth at CV (6:30–8:30 PM)
- July 18–25: Youth Mission Trip to South Dakota
- July 19: No Youth; Mission Trip
- July 26: No Youth; Mission Trip

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT

The Cross View group has safely returned from their time in Rochester, MN, for the Rochester Servant Event. The 13 youth and adults were able to serve those in the community and learn more about the different seasons in their lives by diving into Ecclesiastes 3. Along with serving, the participants also spent time worshiping, eating meals, learning, building relationships, and having fun all together with the other churches that attended. Thank you for the prayers while the group was away! Please ask the youth and adult leaders about their experiences!



SOUTH DAKOTA MISSION TRIP

On July 18, ten youth and adults leave for Rapid City, South Dakota, for their mission trip. They ask that you pray for this group as they go and serve in the Rapid City community!

Carmen Erickson
Austen Harrison
Ethan Koch
Finn Langaard
Chad Meger

Ella Meger
Noah Meger
Xavier Mellema
Henry Swiggum
Hannah Zahrt

ALL YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

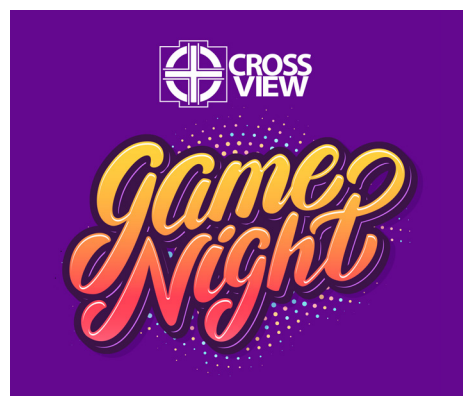
Both the Junior and Senior High Youth groups had the opportunity to gather on Wednesday, June 17. The group had lunch all together following VBS and then enjoyed

playing games! They beat the rain and played a friendly game of kickball before heading inside for some other activities and an ice cream treat!



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).



J.S. Bach's St. Matthew Passion Performance

Cross View Director of Music David Mennicke is performing in J.S. Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* on Wednesday, July 15, at 7:00 PM in Boe Chapel on the St. Olaf College campus in Northfield, MN. The concert is a joint centerpiece of the Lutheran Summer Music Academy and the [Association of Lutheran Church Musicians](#) 40th anniversary conference. It is presented

by the Bach Collegium Valparaiso—an ensemble of leading period instrumentalists and singers—under the direction of Dr. Christopher Cock, offering a powerful and historically informed performance of one of Bach's most profound masterworks.

Tickets are free but need to be reserved at <https://tickets.lsmacademy.org/events/lsmacademy/2188119>.

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.

SUMMER CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday–Thursday, 9:00 AM–4:30 PM

Friday, 9:00 AM–Noon



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 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, rania@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

6645 McCauley Trail West
Edina, MN 55439-1076

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



www.crossview.net



[CrossViewLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/CrossViewLutheran)



[@crossviewlutheran](https://www.instagram.com/crossviewlutheran)