

CROSS VIEW CLARION

March 2026

"We will be completely made new in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come." –Reed Lessing



John's Gospel: A Renewed Creation

by Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor

Beginning in September, Cross View launched the year of John, Christ's beloved disciple. During the fall Pastor Steve and I preached through 1 John, a five-chapter letter that introduces the major themes and ideas of John's Gospel.

With 1 John as our foundation, in Advent Pastor Steve and I covered John 1:1–18 (the gospel's introduction) and then in Epiphany we used John's Seven Signs/Miracles to form the basis of our sermons. During Lent Pastor Steve is preaching through selected passages from John 13–20 and this summer we will preach about Christ's "I Am" statements in John (e.g., "I am the Bread of Life").

This is a lot of John!

But there's more. You're invited to watch a three-hour seminar on John's gospel any time after March 21st. Register for free at the Concordia University, St. Paul, Center for Biblical Center website.

What's John finally up to in his gospel? A renewed creation!

You probably recall that Matthew's gospel begins with Abraham (Matthew 1:1). Mark commences his narrative with the ministry of John the Baptist (Mark 1:2). Luke traces Christ's genealogy back to Adam (Luke 3:38). John, on the other hand, begins at the beginning of time (John 1:1). ►

◀ His gospel, then, announces God’s action of recreating all things through Jesus.

Note these creational motifs:

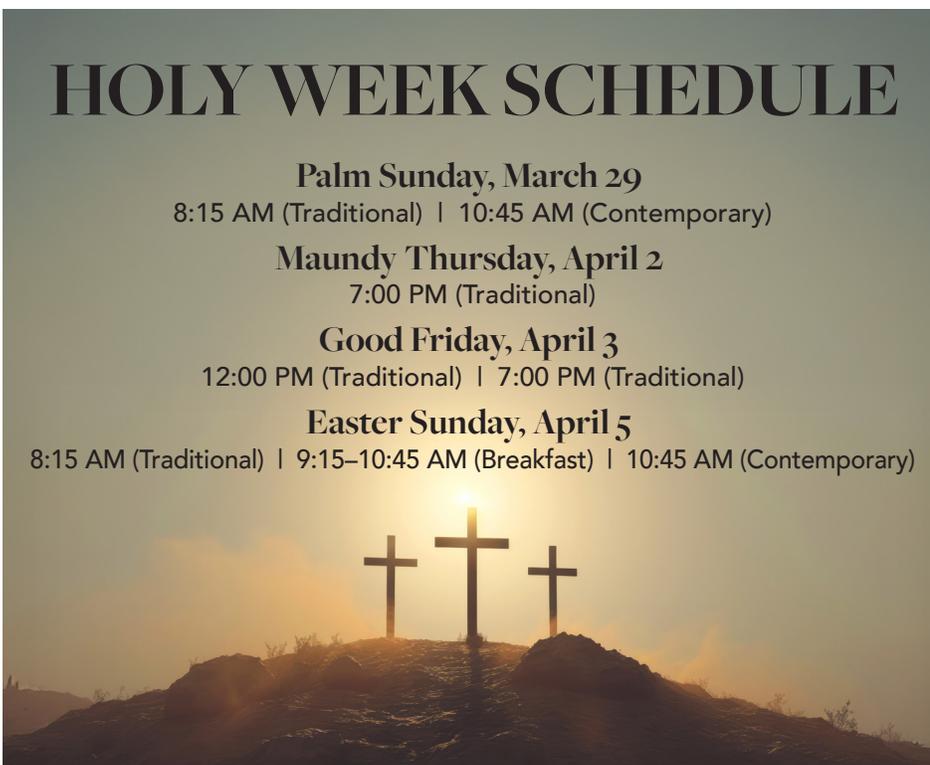
1. John 1:1–18 uses the terms “in the beginning,” “light,” “life,” “darkness” and “Word.” These words appear frequently in Genesis 1.
2. The garden motif appears in John 18:1; 19:41; 20:15. This theme takes us to Genesis 2 and the Garden of Eden.
3. Genesis 2:7 is connected to John 20:22. In both verses God/Jesus breathes new life into people.
4. New birth appears in John 3:1–7, through the Spirit and the water—which first come together in Genesis 1:2.
5. Jesus is “the man” (Second Adam) in John 19:5. Christ, then, undoes the sin of the First Adam and ushers in a renewed creation.

The creation story in Genesis ends in triumph when God finishes on the sixth day (Genesis 2:2). The last word of Jesus on the cross is just that. “When he had received the drink, Jesus said, ‘It is

finished!’” (John 19:30) What does this mean?

The new creation commences with Christ’s death. That sounds strange, doesn’t it? We would expect all things to be made new at our Savior’s resurrection. What is John doing? He’s telling us that when Jesus died, he took upon himself every sin and every form of evil committed since the Fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. This is why John the Baptist announces, “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.” (John 1:29) By taking away all transgressions and sin, Christ paved the way for a renewed creation. “It is finished!” Easter morning, then, is the first day of God’s new creation—and that includes us. We are new in Christ, but more is on the way. Fittingly, John records these words of Jesus at the Second Coming, “I am making all things new.” (Revelation 21:5) We will be completely made new in the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

What a gospel! What a plan! What a mighty and merciful Savior!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, March 29
8:15 AM (Traditional) | 10:45 AM (Contemporary)

Maundy Thursday, April 2
7:00 PM (Traditional)

Good Friday, April 3
12:00 PM (Traditional) | 7:00 PM (Traditional)

Easter Sunday, April 5
8:15 AM (Traditional) | 9:15–10:45 AM (Breakfast) | 10:45 AM (Contemporary)



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.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- Total Income is favorable to budget with some pledged contributions being paid earlier this year.
- Total Expenses were favorable with budget timing being the key driver.
- A net surplus of income over expenses of \$74,195 was recognized for January.
- ECC Total Income was unfavorable to plan with some room capacity below plan.
- Favorable ECC expenses to budget of \$15,676 results in a favorable January deficit to plan.
- The church carries an approximate \$145,000 account receivable from the ECC to support ECC the operating deficit.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
1/1/26	2026 Actual Year to Date	2026 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$216,510	\$185,581	\$30,929
Total Expenses	(\$142,315)	(\$146,923)	\$4,608
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$74,195	\$38,658	\$35,537

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 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.)

Lutheran Federal Credit Union

In addition to offering investment products, LCEF has a source for mortgage lending. [Lutheran Federal Credit Union](#) offers conventional mortgages and home equity loans for all LCMS members. [Learn more.](#)



Christian Education

A DEEPER WALK

Sundays, March 8–April 19 (no class April 5 Easter)
9:30–10:30 AM in the sanctuary

As Christians, we long to grow deeper in our walk as disciples of Jesus. Join us for a Deeper Walk, starting March 8. In this Bible study, we will explore several strategies for moving from “half-brained discipleship” to “whole-brained, heart-focused discipleship.” We will examine a Biblically balanced approach to dealing with the wounds, lies, and strongholds of our lives.

EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED: A LENTEN JOURNEY WITH JOHN

Sunday Morning Sermon Series

Each Sunday in Lent we will make our way through portions of the passion narrative in John’s Gospel. As we set out on our Lenten journey through John, we will come to expect the unexpected.



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 CHILD OPENINGS

The ECC 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 at tania@crossview.net or 952-941-0009.

SPIRIT WEEK

We had a wonderful Spirit Week celebration that truly brought us together as a community, creating special moments each day. We kicked things off with Sporty Day, where staff and students proudly wore their favorite team jerseys and bonded over shared enthusiasm for sports. The friendly rivalry between the Green Bay Packers and the Minnesota Vikings stayed lighthearted and fun throughout! From hand-me-downs to hometown favorites, it was a joy to see such a wide variety of team spirit on display. As the week continued, each new theme kept everyone engaged and excited for the next dress-up day. Crazy Hair Day was a highlight, featuring sparkly rainbow styles, creative decorations, and plenty of colorful gel. Overall, Spirit Week was a fun and meaningful community-building event, centered on the Bible truth from Psalm 133:1: "How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity!"



STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

We recently hosted one of the most impactful staff development days in ECC history. We were honored to welcome a guest speaker from Concordia University, St. Paul, where Dr. Sue Starks led an inspiring session on faith formation. Her workshop offered both a meaningful refresher for experienced Lutheran teachers and valuable guidance for those new to the field, highlighting practical ways to weave faith into everyday routines and teachable moments.

We also introduced our new iPads with hands-on technology training, equipping staff to confidently use this exciting addition to our classrooms. We are truly grateful for

this gift and the opportunity it provides.

The day concluded with a focused training on assessments, supporting our rollout of a new research-based tool aligned with Minnesota educational standards. It was a day filled with growth, encouragement, and forward momentum for our team.



CLASSROOM PARTIES

On Friday, February 13, our students wrapped up the week with Pajama Day and their Valentine's Day classroom celebrations. The rooms were filled with joy, laughter, and thoughtful touches that reflected the creativity and intentional planning of our teachers. Their dynamic activities made the day both meaningful and memorable for every child.

From angel food cake topped with whipped cream and strawberries to sensory tables brimming with colorful hearts, each classroom offered engaging experiences that delighted our students. While everyone went home with baskets full of valentines and sweet treats, the most important takeaway was the reminder of Jesus' command in John 13:34-35— to love one another as He loves us.



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- We thank God for a successful and productive staff development day.
- We are grateful for the generous donation received mid-February to support improvements at the ECC.

Prayer Requests:

- Please pray for our upcoming parent-teacher conferences on March 16th, that they would be encouraging and fruitful for families and staff.
- Please pray for the swift and smooth repair of the classrooms affected by the recent flood.

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Children's Ministry

FAMILY MINISTRY PARENTING WORKSHOP

Save the date for a special Family Ministry parenting workshop coming Wednesday, April 22!

Pam Thomson from Connected Families will be at Cross View on Wednesday, April 22, at 6:30–8:00 PM to lead the workshop *The Power of Question* for parents to equip them in improving their communication with their children. Good questions help your children develop wisdom and character and create a culture of teamwork in your family while lecturing and arguing often leads to discontent, lack of respect, strained relationships, and more nagging. Children in grades K to 6th are invited to a Kidstute party during this time.

KIDS SHOW SUPPORT FOR PASTOR REED

The Kidstute kids created cards for Pastor Reed to encourage him and show their prayerful support for his upcoming heart surgery. They presented the cards to Pastor on Sunday, Feb 15, after the first service.



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](#).



MISSION FESTIVAL

Mission Festival was held on February 1st. The preschool class played tug of war at the CV Youth Ministry booth. The tug of war teaches the kids the importance of working together as a team. Other booths included the Fellowship booth and the Guatemala booth.



AROUND OUR SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSROOMS

Cross View's DCE field worker Deanna Ringler has been busy in our Sunday School classrooms, including preschool.



5th and 6th grade Sunday School classes are working hard on the Books of the Bible art project.



PARENT CORNER



FAMILY MINISTRY CHALLENGE MARCH BINGO

The Family Ministry challenge for March is for families to serve together. Have fun serving and playing this Bingo game together!

Make a family member a favorite meal/snack	Bake cookies and take to a neighbor	Pray for a friend at school/work or a family member	Make kindness stones and leave them where someone will see them	Write or draw a kind message and leave on community board in library, coffee shop, school
Shovel neighbor's sidewalk/driveway	Make homemade cards and deliver them to a children's hospital or nursing home	Pull your neighbor's trash cans up from the road	Offer to let someone go ahead of you in a line	Smile and say hi to a stranger when out in public
Take treats to a fire station, police station, or ER staff at hospital	Hold the door for someone out in public	 FREE	Do a chore for your sibling (dishes, laundry, etc.)	Assemble homeless kits to hand out from your car
Volunteer at an animal shelter	Pack food at Feed My Staving Children	Donate together - go through clothes, toys, and books as a family	Do a neighborhood cleanup - pick up trash around your block, park, or playground	Offer to go to the grocery store or run an errand for an elderly neighbor
Write a letter of thanks/encouragement to active military personnel	Look for garbage when out in public and throw it away (inside a building or out)	Bring an encouraging note to someone going through a hard time	Host a fundraiser (lemonade stand, bake sale, etc) for your favorite charity	Write encouraging note or color a picture for neighbor



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MARCH SCHEDULE

- March 14: Fellowship Night at CV; 6:30–8:00 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MARCH SCHEDULE

- March 1: Youth at CV
- March 8: Youth at CV
- March 15: Bowling, Laser Tag, Whirlyball
- March 22: Youth at CV
- March 29: Youth at CV

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!

7TH GRADE SERVICE PROJECTS

On February 18, the 7th grade confirmation students presented their service projects in the Fellowship Hall. It was a nice celebration of the many different ways our youth served the community over the past several months!



CONFIRMATION FMSC SERVICE

The 6th, 7th, and 8th graders went to Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen on Wednesday, February 11th.

They had 24 volunteers (both youth and adults) and packed 79 boxes for those in need! What a wonderful night of service!

JUNIOR HIGH MOVIE NIGHT

The Junior High youth had a movie night on Saturday, March 21, at Cross View. They had a fun time relaxing, eating snacks, and then played some games before calling it a night!

JUNIOR HIGH FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

The Junior High youth are invited to a fun night of fellowship on Saturday, March 14. They'll meet at Cross View from 6:30–8:00 PM. They'll play games, eat some snacks, do a devotion, and have a great night of fun and fellowship! No sign up is required to attend this event!

SENIOR HIGH TUBING AND LOCK-IN

Senior High youth had a fun weekend with tubing and a lock-in February 20–21. They started out tubing at Buck Hill before heading to Cross View for a lock-in into Saturday morning. It was a full night of fun, laughter, and not a lot of sleep!



SENIOR HIGH WHIRLYBALL OUTING

Senior High youth will be heading to Whirlyball in Bloomington for an evening of whirlyball and laser tag on Sunday, March 15 from 6:00–8:00 PM. More details will come as the date gets closer. Cost is \$25 per person. [Sign up on CV Connect!](#)

LENTEN MEALS AND EASTER BREAKFAST

Lenten meals hosted by Cross View's youth have started! Menus will be available at the Welcome Center, and registration is available on CV Connect.

Easter Breakfast will be hosted on Sunday, April 5 (no sign up necessary for breakfast).

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

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT (RSE) 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 Zahrt. Sign up closes March 8. Participants can [sign up on CV Connect](#).



Adult Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY ARBORETUM FLOWER SHOW

Cross View women had a lovely time at the Arboretum's Flower Show in February! The flowers and their wonderful fragrance provided a much-needed mid-winter treat. The lunch in the Arb Café was yummy too. Thanks for coming out to support your Cross View Women's Ministry.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY: SAVE THE DATE

Cross View ladies, please **SAVE THE DATE** for our 2026 Renew, Refresh, Rejoice Spring gathering on Saturday April 25 from 9:00–11:00 AM. This year's event will be a **Mother-Daughter Tea** and they're hoping you can all attend! If you don't have a daughter, bring a friend and enjoy wonderful tea-time treats, table games, a reflection on the Book of Ruth, and a photo booth. The Women's Ministry Team is in the process of collecting photos of Cross View's mother-daughter duos, so if you see them with their cell phones snapping photos, flash a big smile. Registration will open April 1.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, March 16, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing the book *The Unlikely Yarn of the Dragon Lady* by Sharon J. Mondragon. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



FROSTY FEBRUARY FUN FEST FOR SENIOR ADULTS

Cross View senior adults had a great time enjoying a new card game, root beer floats, snacks and fellowship on February 5th. It was a special way to warm our hearts on a wintry afternoon!



MUSIC MINISTRY

EASTER HALLELUJAH CHORUS PRIMER

To close our April 5th 8:15 AM Easter Sunday service, the congregation is invited to join the choir, brass, and organ in singing Handel's "Hallelujah Chorus." If you would like a refresher or introduction to this joyful anthem, please join the Choir to practice the piece in the sanctuary on March 18 and/or March 25 immediately following the Midweek Lenten Service. In the Easter Sunday service, singers will be welcome to join the choir or sing from their places in the pews. Please contact David Mennicke at david@crossview.net for more information.

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY: SAVE THE DATE

Cross View's senior adults are invited to a "Spring Fling" luncheon on Thursday, April 16, from 11:30 AM–1:30 PM. Attendees will enjoy a lovely, catered lunch and be entertained by Steve Solkela, a Finnish composer of humorous MN songs and a musician who plays 23 various instruments. The cost of the event is \$25 per person. Payments can be made when signing up online or with a check made out to Cross View Lutheran Church with "Senior Adult Luncheon" on the memo line.



Please register by Wednesday, April 8, [via CV Connect](#) or at the registration desk.

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



Upcoming Sessions:

- March 12: Winter Service Project
- April 9: Bible Study at Cross View
- April 23: Shake Shack in Edina
- May 7: Bible Study at Cross View
- May 21: Spring Service Project



THANK YOU

To all members of Cross View, in the celebration of my "unexpected" birthday, I give you many thanks for your kindness and caring. Your cards, calls and flowers were much appreciated and so memorable.

I am very blessed to be able to be a member of Cross View – a truly Christian Community. Again thank you thank you

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Outreach & Missions

EASTERFEST—VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

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.



EASTERFEST SERVICE PROJECT

At EasterFest this year, Cross View's service project will be providing for our neighbors at the homeless encampment at Pig's Eye Regional Park in St. Paul. The encampment includes as many as a couple hundred residents during the warm summer months. When Cross View's LERT (Lutheran Early Response Team) was there in January, there were approximately 100 residents. Most of them live in tents or tarp shanties and have small fires built to keep themselves warm and cook their food. In January, we provided firewood for these fires and pray that other groups have done so since.

EasterFest families will make fire starters using cardboard tubes with petroleum jelly-soaked cotton balls inside and wrapped in tissue paper. Each fire starter will include an inspiring Bible verse or loving message from our families. These fire starters will be distributed by our LERT at the encampment early in the Easter season.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact Susan or John Bentley at 952-567-1232.

UNWAVERING... FEEDING STARVING CHILDREN

Congratulations Cross View! Our Lord led us to another successful Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event, meeting all of our goals. We packed 124,416 meals as planned, feeding 340 children for a year! Financial donations of \$53,388 exceed the cost of the ingredients we packed, providing a \$16,388 head start toward funding our next event in 2028. We also had approximately 500 volunteers, about 75% were from Cross View.

The meals will be sent to trusted FMSC partners in Liberia, South Sudan, and Ukraine. Please continue to pray for the meals packed to reach their destination safely and to bring much needed nourishment and the love of our Savior to the recipients.

Our next event will be in 2028. FMSC leadership asked Cross View to sponsor a FMSC MobilePack™ every other year in the future to spread events optimally across the southwest metro. However, if you enjoyed feeding God's children, FMSC loves individual and group volunteers every day at their packing facilities! Please see www.fmsc.org to easily register for packing times.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered, donated, prayed and supported this event.





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

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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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