

CROSS VIEW CLARION

May 2026

"During the changes and unknowns of life, the Bible provides answers for us." –Hannah Zahrte



Abide.

by Hannah Zahrte, Director of Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

There are a lot of changes that happen in life, especially in the month of May. Spring is here, which means flowers are in bloom and trees are starting to bud. It's becoming green outside! It's also getting to be the end of another school year with a lot of changes coming for our students. Eighth graders are getting ready to transition into high school, high school seniors are gearing up for college, college students are about to start a new chapter in their young adult lives. A lot of change is happening!

During these changes, we know that there will always be a constant: God. But sometimes in life, during these transitions, it can be hard for us to stay constant in our faith walk. Changes and unknowns might shake us or cause doubts and anxieties.

I have the privilege of teaching Cross View's high school seniors as they prepare for what comes next after school. One lesson is about abiding

in God's Word.

The world can be a scary place. As Christians, we are blessed to be surrounded by fellow believers. However, as soon as we leave the church pews, the outside world can creep in and attack us with temptations, different perspectives, lies, fears, unknowns, and opinions that don't always align with what we believe. This is why we abide and remain steadfast in God's Word. We know that God's Word is true. During the changes and unknowns of life, the Bible provides answers for us.

The word "abide" is found ten times in John 15:1-11; and that's just one small passage of the Bible! There are countless other examples. It is so important to be with Christ. God's Word gives us encouragement. Whenever we feel alone, shaken, worried, or anxious, God's Word is there. It reminds us that God is always with us, it reminds us of His

forgiveness, and it reminds us to praise God for everything we have. Things in life never stay the same. Changes occur. What better way to combat fears about the unknown than with praise and thanks of what we do know and have from God?

The Bible also encourages us to stay connected to a community of believers. We need other believers in our lives to hold us accountable and to keep us firm in our faith. In times of transition and change, we need other believers to rely on. Proverbs 27:17 says, "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." We need a Christian community to help refine our lives; people to hold us accountable or tell us the truth of God's Word. When those fears creep in about what will happen, or the lies start to override the truths, it's a blessing when we can go to a trusted Christian friend who will speak the truth of God's Word and share His promises.

Again, there will be hard times. We live in a sinful world where everything can feel wrong. You might question God as to why things are happen-

ing, which makes it all the more important to abide in God's Word. The devil is strong. There will be temptations and moments of weakness. There will be struggles and anxieties and pain.

But the good news is that **God is stronger.** During those struggles, God will give you guidance. Ask God for discernment and peace. John 16:33 says, "I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world."

God sent His Son to earth for us. Jesus defeated sin, death, and the devil through His death and resurrection. We will fall short, we will fall into temptation, but God has overcome. He will forgive you and He will always love you.

During the different changes and unknowns that we are sure to encounter in life, we can thank God. We can thank God for the opportunities to grow closer to Him and abide. We can thank God for the community of believers that we surround ourselves with. We can thank God for giving us His Word, His truth.

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- Total Income is unfavorable with contributions \$72,417 or 14% lower than budget.
- Total Expenses were favorable with budget timing being the key driver.
- A net surplus of income over expenses of \$9,507 is unfavorable to YTD budget.
- ECC Total Income was unfavorable with less student population than expected being the driver.
- ECC expenses are \$48,126 favorable to budget; with less students, less than planned teacher positions have been filled.
- The church carries an approximate \$193,000 account receivable from the ECC to support cumulative operating deficits.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
3/31/26	2026 Actual Year to Date	2026 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$444,766	\$517,183	(\$72,417)
Total Expenses	(\$435,259)	(\$451,046)	\$15,787
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$9,507	\$66,136	(\$56,629)
Designated Fund Transfer			
General Fund Ending Balance	\$348,726	\$405,355	

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).

4% Interest Rates on LCEF investments!

Currently, for new investments, you can earn 4.00% on a 1-year or an 18-month term note. To learn more, go to lcef.org or call 1-800-843-5233.



Early Childhood Center

EARLY CHILDHOOD CENTER FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION

Our Early Childhood Center (ECC) Family Easter Celebration was a truly joyful and meaningful event, bringing together families, students, and teachers in a shared expression of faith and community. Through chapel, prayer, songs, and worship, we celebrated the true message of Easter—Jesus Christ and His resurrection—as our foundation of hope and Christian love. It was wonderful to see so many families join us in this special time of unity and reflection. Our students were especially excited to receive thoughtfully prepared goodie bags filled with healthy snacks, Easter eggs containing Jesus-themed stickers and figures, cross necklaces, and other items that help commemorate and glorify Christ. The joy and enthusiasm of our ECC children were evident, and we were equally grateful for our dedicated teachers, whose collaboration, spirit, and pride helped make this celebration so memorable.

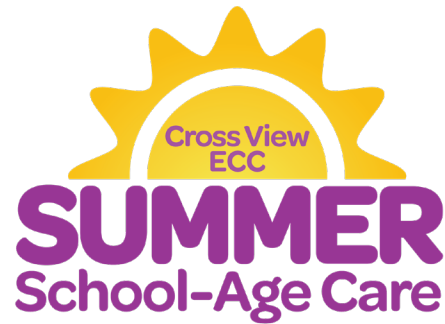


EDEN PRAIRIE LIONS CLUB SCREENING

We are excited to share with our congregation that the Eden Prairie Lions Club recently partnered with Cross View ECC to provide free vision screenings for the children in our program. Experts estimate that nearly 80% of learning is visual—and that several children in a typical classroom may have undetected vision issues—so this opportunity was especially meaningful. We are deeply grateful to Dan Battcher for helping make this partnership possible and for supporting early detection through this important effort. Using a quick, safe, and non-invasive screening device, certified Lions Club members checked for common concerns such as nearsightedness, farsightedness, astigmatism, and signs of “lazy eye.” While these screenings are not a full diagnosis, they serve as a valuable first step in identifying children who may need further care. We are thankful for the opportunity to serve families in this way and to make a positive impact on children’s learning and well-being.

ECC GIFTING OF BIBLES

As part of a newly established practice in our Early Childhood Center program, we are excited to begin gifting children’s Bibles to all students who have not previously received one. Our goal is to ensure that every child receives a Bible either in infancy or upon enrollment, allowing families to incorporate God’s Word into their daily routines from the very beginning of a child’s life. For those who join our program at a later age, a children’s Bible will also be provided right away so they can immediately begin engaging with Scripture at home. This spring, we were blessed to gift 55 children with their own Bibles, and we are prepared to continue this tradition for all new students as they register. Through this meaningful initiative, we hope to nurture faith formation at an earlier age and support families in building strong, Christ-centered foundations.



SCHOOL AGE CARE REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cross View Early Childhood Center is excited to share that we have openings in our School Age Care (SAC) program for summer 2026! Our licensed program will run from June 8 through August 27 and is available for children entering Kindergarten through 4th grade, with flexible 3-, 4-, or 5-day care options and a minimum enrollment of four weeks. Throughout the summer, SAC students will enjoy plenty of outdoor time, engaging activities, and fun field trips that make for a memorable and enriching experience. If you are interested in enrolling your child, please email tania@crossview.net to receive a registration packet and additional program details. We also encourage you to share this opportunity with others in the community who may be looking for Christ centered quality summer care. We look forward to a fun-filled summer with our school-age students!

ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- Ducklings classroom opened
- Easter celebration and Bibles gifted
- New enrollments

Prayer Requests:

- Additional enrollment for all ages
- SAC planning, prep, and enrollment

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Christian Education

UNWAVERING, NO COMPROMISE: THE BOOK OF DANIEL

Sunday mornings, April 12-May 17

9:30–10:30 AM in the Sanctuary

Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

When temptation hits us—envy, greed, pride, and pretense—we have a choice to make. Will we choose to roll over and give in, or will we choose to take a stand? In this seven-week Bible study, which complements our Easter season series on Daniel, we will learn to be courageous, no matter what tempts us! Studies will cover everything from Daniel’s capture and exile to Babylon as a teenager, to his

unforgettable night in the lion’s den, to one of his prayers that literally changed the course of world history!

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP (CLSD)

The spring 2026 session of CLSD is now happening. The speaker is Dr. Dean Nadasdy and the topic is “Answer Me This: Tough Questions for Christian Apologists” (an apologetics class). The session started on April 8 and runs for seven weeks to May 20.



Children's Ministry



RAINFORREST FALLS VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

Rainforest Falls is an onsite VBS experience for children age 3 (potty trained) thru 5th grade, the week of June 15-19 from 9:00 AM-12:00 PM. Join the experience through stations as we discover the nature of God and what it means to be rooted in relationship with God.

With your registration of \$20, each child will receive a t-shirt, snacks and supplies for the week. Note: If registering after May 24th, a t-shirt cannot be guaranteed.

Pay online or send a check, made out to Cross View Lutheran Church with VBS in the memo line, to Cross View Lutheran Church, attn: VBS.

[Register today on CV Connect](#) or scan this QR code.



SUNDAY SCHOOL ICE CREAM PARTY!

Come celebrate all the fun we had learning about the Bible and God with our end of the year ice cream party in Sunday School on Sunday, May 18, at 9:30-10:30 AM. This is also our last day of Sunday school for this school year.

Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MAY SCHEDULE

- May 3: Confirmation Sunday
- May 17: Youth Sunday; 8th Graders Join Senior High Youth (6:30-8:00pm)
- May 27: Junior High Fellowship at CV; Welcome 6th Graders (6:30-8:00pm)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MAY SCHEDULE

- May 3: Youth at CV
- May 10: No Youth; Mother's Day
- May 17: Youth Sunday; Senior Recognition; Youth at CV – Welcome Confirmands
- May 24: No Youth; Memorial Day Weekend
- May 31: Youth at CV



Palm Sunday processional was so much fun for the kids!

PARENT CORNER



The Family Ministry Challenge for May

May 3: Identity

Verse: *Isaiah 43:19*

- What new stage are you about to start?
- How can you seek the Lord in this time?

May 10: Evaluating Our Concerns

Verse: *Ecclesiastes 3:1*

- What is the best and worst part of this transition time?
- How can we pray together through this transition?

May 17: Trust in God

Verse: *Joshua 1:9*

- How do you see God working in this transition?
- Praise the Lord as a family about what God has done and will do.

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 through June. There will be a free will donation to help support these youths as they prepare for this service event in July!

WELCOMING 6TH AND 8TH GRADERS

As the school year comes to a close, our Junior and Senior High youth groups will gain new members! Starting Sunday, May 17, the 8th grade youth will be invited to start attending Senior High Youth Group. Then on Wednesday, May 27, the 6th graders will be welcomed to our Junior High ministry during a Fellowship Night here at Cross View. We look forward to seeing new faces and creating new relationships!

JUNIOR HIGH/MENTOR FELLOWSHIP AT GRAND SLAM

The Junior High youth and their mentors went to Grand Slam in Burnsville on Saturday, April 11. The 19 youth and mentors had a blast doing mini golf, bumper cars, laser tag, and other bonding activities while there!



JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL:

Sunday, May 17 will be the last day of Sunday School for the school year. There will be no youth Sunday School classes during the summer. Youth are invited to attend the adult class during the education hour this summer.

Also on this Sunday, youth will help during the services, and the high school seniors will be recognized at both services. Congratulations to our seniors!

A BIG THANK YOU!

Cross View's youth thank everyone who participated in the Lenten Meals and the Easter Breakfast. Proceeds support their upcoming mission trip to South Dakota this July as well as other youth events.



SENIOR HIGH WHIRLYBALL

Senior High youth were invited to a night out at Whirlyball in Bloomington on Sunday, April 12. The youth and adults participated in a couple rounds of laser tag before playing rounds of whirlyball to end the night!



CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 3, our 8th graders will confirm their faith in front of the congregation! The service will be at 10:45 AM. Both services this Sunday will be held in the sanctuary.

THE GOD WE SERVE IS ABLE TO SAVE US

Carmen Erickson • Lucas Johnson • Karl Knudson • Noah Meger • Leo Miller • Emmitt Willberg

Daniel 3:17b

Confirmation
May 3, 2026

Adult Ministry

SENIOR ADULT SPRING FLING

Cross View's seniors enjoyed having lunch together and being entertained by Steve Solkela's amazing instrumental and vocal talent. He made everyone laugh while singing in many languages. God has gifted him with many abilities! His farewell consisted of riding his unicycle in our parking lot while playing his accordion.



SAVE THE DATE: WOMEN'S MINISTRY BUNCO EVENT

Join us for an evening of fun, food and BUNCO! No experience necessary! This is an easy dice game that's sure to bring lots of laughs. Prizes for winners.

Date: Thursday June 25

Time: 5:30-8:00 pm

Place: Cross View Fellowship Hall

Questions? Contact Barb Schaus (bschaus46@gmail.com)



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be reading *The Stolen Queen* by Fiona Davis for their May meeting. They will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, May 18, at 1:00 PM to discuss the book. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS TEA

Thanks to all who attended the Women's Ministry Mother-Daughter Tea on April 25th. We had a lovely time celebrating God's gifts of family, food, fun, and truth from the book of Ruth. Here are some photos from our special day.

A big thank you to all who contributed to our ingathering of gifts for Corrie's House, a residential home for girls victimized by sexual exploitation.



MEN'S RETREAT AND WORK DAY AT CAMP OMEGA

Cross View's men of all ages are invited to a retreat and work day at Camp Omega from May 15-16. They'll meet at Cross View on Friday, May 15, at 5:00 PM and carpool to Camp Omega, eating along the way. That evening there will be fellowship and devotions. On Saturday, they'll join other volunteers to help the camp prepare for their upcoming summer program. They'll wrap up the work day around 4:00 PM and hope to be back by 6:00 PM that evening.

There is no cost to participate, and no specific skills are needed.

Please [sign up on CV Connect](#) by Monday, May 11.

SENIOR ADULT: SAVE THE DATE!

Cross View Senior Adults are invited to a "Swoop and Sandwich" gathering on Thursday, June 11 from 12:00-2:30 PM. We will gather for lunch and conversation

followed by a fun afternoon playing the "Swoop" card game. (We will refresh you on directions for playing the game.) Please bring your own lunch. Beverages will be provided.

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](#).

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.

Spring Session:

- May 7: Bible Study at Cross View



Outreach & Missions

SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Help serve at Sleep In Heavenly Peace on Saturday, May 9, from 8:30–10:45 AM. This is the second year we are supporting this effort to provide beds for kids, so no child in our community sleeps on the floor. There are jobs for ages 12 and older, and there is no cost to participate. Donations are accepted at their website or write a check to Cross View and add SHP in the memo section. You can also purchase bed sets, sheets etc. that will be delivered on May 9. Questions can be directed to Dan Battcher at dtbattcher@gmail.com. Please [sign up on CV Connect](#) to join.



CARE PORTAL UPDATE

The CarePortal ministry at Cross View is going strong. Here are the stats from its inception in Oct. 2023: 269 requests filled, 551 children served, with an economic impact of \$336,655.

First, a BIG thank you to all Cross View parishioners who have participated in this ministry. And a special thank you to our delivery and shopping teams. You are the heart and hands for the families served.

Effective May 1st, Pam Olsen will be "retiring" from the ministry. We have two strong co-leaders who are continuing their journey with CarePortal and will be leading the way into the future. Nicole Krueger and Tracy Alba have been on board for a while and are excited and ready to lead the team. Please welcome them and give them your support as we continue our pledge to support and strengthen families in our neighborhood.

We are the hands and feet of Jesus here in this place. God bless you and your families.



Pam Olsen

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

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)



www.crossview.net



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



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