

# CROSSVIEW CLARION

April 2021

**"His cross and His empty tomb declare that our God is stronger than anything that His people will ever face." -Steve Wheeler**



## Stronger

by Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor

What image immediately comes to your mind when you are told to picture someone who is a strong person? Does a "ripped" weight lifter come to mind? Do you picture a brilliant philosopher? Maybe a black and white photo of a survivor from the holocaust in World War II fills your thoughts. What makes a person strong? Is it physical strength, mental stamina, emotional stability, or something else? One will probably receive varying answers to this question, depending on who they ask.

Throughout the season of Lent, we have engaged in a series entitled "Stronger in the Storm than..." During our series, we focused on how our God is stronger in the storm than things like temptation, failure, addiction, fear, and even our past. The series culminated with Holy Week and a powerful reminder that our God is stronger in the storm than our sin or even death itself.

In 1 Corinthians 1:25, St. Paul reminds us, "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger



than human strength.” It should blow our minds to consider that our God would experience any kind of weakness, let alone a form of weakness that is stronger than the greatest forms of human strength. And yet, that is precisely what our God did for us in Christ Jesus. He did what we were powerless to do. Jesus took on human flesh and became weak, bearing our sin and enduring our curse, so that we could become strong. His cross and His empty tomb that we celebrate this Easter declare to heaven, to earth, and to hell below that our God is stronger than anything that His people will ever face, experience, or go through.

In the past twelve months, we have seen this truth play itself out. God’s love and grace in Christ has been stronger than our struggles, stronger than the pandemic, stronger than the civil unrest, and stronger than death itself for those who buried their loved ones. The power of the cross and the power of Jesus’ resurrection have been stronger than any trials we have faced. Understanding this paradoxical truth led St. Paul, in light of

all his own personal hardships and struggles, to declare what God had revealed to him. “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness” (2 Cor. 12:9). May we declare the same!

While the past year has been a uniquely personal journey for each individual and each family, we can probably all agree that it has been a challenging year. Who knows what the year ahead will bring? And yet, of this much we can be sure... our God is stronger than anything we will face. To look forward with faith, we only need look backwards to God’s provision for us throughout the storms of this past year.

The next time you are asked to picture someone who is a *strong person*, I hope that you see Jesus suffering on the cross and Jesus raised from the dead for you. His love, grace and forgiveness for you, for me, and for the world is stronger than anything we will ever face. Take heart and know that Jesus will carry you through life’s storms because He is stronger. Continue keeping your eyes on the “Strong One.”

## Financial Update – Year-to-Date Results

- Member contributions exceeded budget and the prior year, getting Cross View off to a nice start in 2021.
- Expenses were below budget primarily due to lower wage expense with the open positions.
- ECC tuition was below budget with openings in some rooms. All but one room are now full.

| Cross View Lutheran Church         |                             |                             |                                     |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 2/28/21                            | 2021 Actual<br>Year to Date | 2021 Budget<br>Year to Date | Actual vs. Budget<br>Greater (Less) |
| Total Income                       | \$215,950                   | \$193,278                   | \$22,672                            |
| Total Expenses                     | \$194,080                   | \$218,622                   | (\$24,542)                          |
| General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit) | \$21,870                    | (\$25,344)                  | \$47,214                            |

## CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, MAY 2  
3:00 PM

The onsite service is for family  
and friends of  
the confirmands.

Live streaming will allow  
everyone to celebrate our  
8th graders who are  
completing their  
confirmation experience.



# EasterFest 2021 Goes Virtual

EasterFest is going virtual this year! This virtual family Easter event walks you through the story of Jesus' death, burial, and resurrection as it happened during the week. You will begin with Palm Sunday (the Sunday before Easter). You'll learn about the Lord's Supper on Thursday, then the crucifixion on Good Friday, and Jesus' resurrection on Easter.



Each day, on our Cross View website, you'll find:

- An Opening Video for the day
- A "Station" Video (e.g. Palm Sunday or Easter)
- Craft and/or snack videos
- A PDF with a prayer, "Digging Deeper Questions" for the day, and a supply list for any activities, snacks, or crafts

Easter Fest will go live on Palm Sunday, with a new "station" appearing on the website on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We pray that this "Easter in Your House" will be a blessing to your family.

To participate in EasterFest, [register on CVConnect](#) or contact Rachael Johnson at [rae.1478@yahoo.com](mailto:rae.1478@yahoo.com). After registering, you'll receive the link to the daily EasterFest items.



# HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

## Maundy Thursday, April 1

- 2:00 PM Traditional Worship
- 3:30–4:15 PM Drive-Through Communion
- 7:00 PM Traditional Worship

## Good Friday, April 2

- 2:00 PM Traditional Worship
- 4:30 PM Family Friendly Worship
- 7:00 PM Traditional Worship

## Easter Sunday, April 4

- 8:15 AM Traditional Worship
- 9:30 AM Traditional Worship
- 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship
- 12:15–1:00 PM Drive-Through Communion
- No Sunday morning Bible study*

## Youth Ministries

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth group for grades 7–12 will continue in the hybrid format. Youth group starts at 6:30 PM on Sundays. Reference the schedule below for locations.

- April 4 – No Youth Group (Easter)
- April 11 – In Person Youth Group
- April 18 – Zoom Youth Group
- April 25 – In Person Youth Group

### (TC)<sup>2</sup> RETURNS!

### TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES JULY 25-29, 2021

Last year's (TC)<sup>2</sup> was a huge success and plans are already in progress for Cross View's 2nd annual (TC)<sup>2</sup> youth and family service project.

**Need a reminder of what this is about?** (TC)<sup>2</sup> is serving our church family and greater community by doing outdoor projects to help and support them. Projects such as painting a garage, washing windows, cleaning up a yard and cleaning up city parks were all ways the youth and families served last year. While still focusing on our Jr and Sr high youth, all CV families are invited to

participate this year. (TC)<sup>2</sup> is also looking for senior saints to work alongside our youth. If you have a skill or experience to share, we need you! Come join with our youth and be a part of the Body of Christ at work.

**What's (TC)<sup>2</sup> look like again?** The mornings will start at Cross View with devotion and music before heading out in small teams/family groups into the community to serve. Bring your own bagged lunch (and stay socially distanced), but work side by side to grow, connect, and help one another. At the end of each afternoon, everyone will meet back at the church to share a meal and close the day with devotions, music, and fellowship.

Contact Jon Zellar with project ideas and look for registration to open soon!

*"For in Him we live and move and exist" (Acts 17:28).*





## SUNDAY SCHOOL IS BACK

Sunday school classes are back in person and it is so wonderful to have so many children and youth back in the building! As more and more people return, we want to remind you of our safety protocols:

Cross View's mask practice has been anyone age 5 or older must wear a mask at all times when inside the building. In order to allow for the safest classroom experience, please note the updated Sunday school mask policy

- Masks must be worn by Sunday school teachers at all times.
- Masks must be worn by any children/youth age 3 or older while in the classrooms.
- Children in the Little Lambs class are not required to wear masks.
- Drop off and pick up will happen at the classrooms.
- Children are not allowed to leave until a parent comes to pick them up.
- Junior & senior high youth can leave once they are dismissed.
- All Sunday school participants will use hand sanitizer on the way into and out of class.
- All supplies necessary for class will be in each classroom & ready for use.
- Disinfecting wipes will be supplied in each classroom to be used on any nonperishable craft supplies after their use.

We are doing our best to keep all of Cross View's membership safe and healthy. Please adhere to the guidelines above as you make your return to Sunday school.

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, APRIL 11 RACE & ETHNICITY PRESENTATION WITH DR. DERESSA

Why is it important for us as a church to talk about race and racial relationships in the United States? Join us Sunday, April 11, from 9:30–10:30 AM as we work through answering this question and talking about the sin of racism and ethnocentrism in our world is one that must be named as part of the brokenness of our humanity. Dr. Samuel Deressa (from Concordia University, St. Paul) will lead us as we discuss how, as a church, we are called to confess the sin of racism, and strive for racial justice and peace. The purpose of this presentation is to initiate a conversation about Lutheran approach to racism. The most helpful conversations about race cultivate concern, commitment, and compassion. Based on Luther's theology of "Faith Alone" and Love Alone," this presentation aims to help the church move towards such helpful conversation.

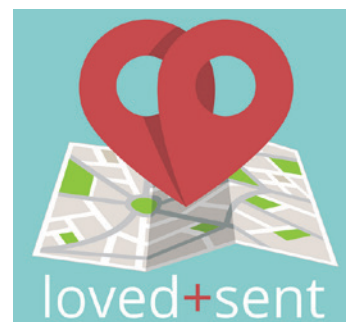
Register on [here on CV Connect](#). If you have questions or need information, email Pastor Toby at [toby@crossview.net](mailto:toby@crossview.net).



## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, APRIL 18–JUNE 6 LOVED + SENT

You are loved more than you can imagine and sent with more purpose than you ever thought. No matter what stage of life, we are always living with basic questions of identity and purpose. In a complex world, we are given countless answers to "Who am I?" and "Why am I?" In this Sunday morning Bible study, and in our new sermon series, we'll learn more about our God-given identity and purpose: people who are loved by God in Jesus Christ and sent by Him into the world. Join us for this hybrid class (onsite and online) led remotely by Pastor Steve and Pastor Toby. Register [here on CV Connect](#).

If you have questions or need information, email Pastor Toby at [toby@crossview.net](mailto:toby@crossview.net).





## Christian Education

### GO ALL IN WITH CROSS VIEW – SUNDAYS, APRIL 11–MAY 4

Do you want to learn more about our Cross View family, and how to “go all in” with us? Join us on Sundays from 9:30–10:30 AM in Room 218. In this class of four sessions you’ll learn how to get more involved, get more connected, grow more, and serve more with other Cross View members using your gifts and talents to serve Christ and His Kingdom.

If you’re interested in this class, [register on CV Connect](#) or contact Ann Ryan at [annryan@hotmail.com](mailto:annryan@hotmail.com).

### WEDNESDAY NIGHT HEBREWS BIBLE STUDY

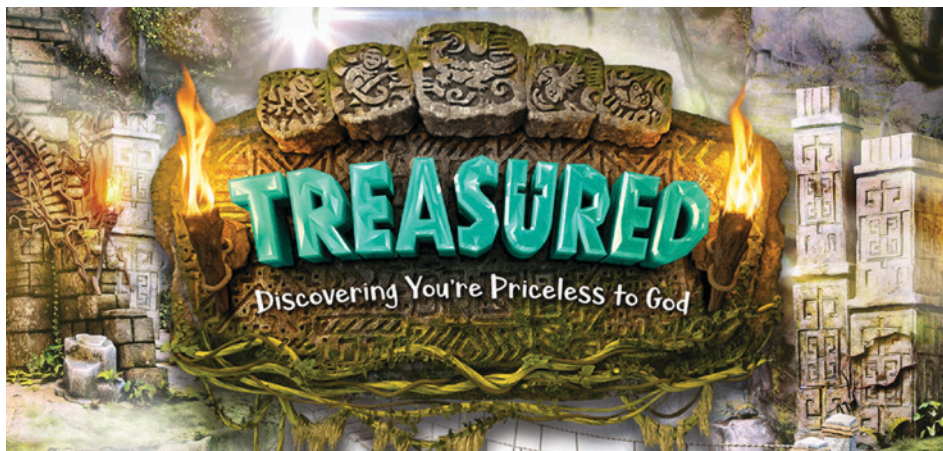
On Wednesdays through April 28, we are studying the book of Hebrews. Join us as we learn how Jesus is more and greater than all the types and shadows that were in the Old Testament. Join us as learn together that the New Testament is built on better promises than those of the Old Testament and are forever written on our hearts. This hybrid class (onsite and online) will be led by Phil Johnson. Register [here on CV Connect](#).

If you have questions or need more information, email Pastor Toby at [toby@crossview.net](mailto:toby@crossview.net).

### VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL IS BACK SAVE THE DATE: JUNE 21–25.

Registrations for Vacation Bible School and Volunteer Help are live. Please go to [Cross View’s website to register](#).

Onsite VBS is fully dependent upon the volunteer base that is necessary to pull off such an event. So, you are needed! The sooner that volunteers register to help with the onsite VBS, the sooner an official decision can be made whether we are able to offer our onsite option. A definite decision will be made by April at the latest to allow for everyone to get it on their calendars.



## MUSIC CAMP DATES HAVE CHANGED!

**JULY 26-30**

Show: A re-imagined Interplanetary Jammin'  
Director: Sarah Fincham  
More information to come



## 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 one of Cross View's pastors.

*"Bear one another's burdens,  
and in this way you will  
fulfill the law of Christ."*

–Galatians 6:2

# Women's Ministries

## WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The women's book club will be reading and discussing the book "Little Fires Everywhere" by Celeste Ng at our meeting in April. We will continue to meet via Zoom at 1:00 PM on Monday, April 19th. Please contact Marcy at [mpnordhus@gmail.com](mailto:mpnordhus@gmail.com) if you are interested in joining.



of registrations. The cost for those coming on Thursday is an extra \$50. [Registration](#) is now open for the retreat [here on CV Connect](#). HURRY! The registration deadline for this retreat is April 8. Questions? Contact Jana Poppe at [churchforjana@teampoppe.com](mailto:churchforjana@teampoppe.com).



## WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT: "LIVING A LIFE OF WORSHIP"

As the basis for this year's annual women's spring crafting retreat, our Bible study and devotions will take us into God's Word and how in all aspects of our lives, we can worship God. Join us for our annual women's spring crafting retreat at Good Earth Village Retreat Center (south of Rochester), April 23-25, with Bible study and devotions focused on this theme. The cost for Friday and Saturday overnight is \$145 (includes sleeping rooms, crafting space, program fees, and dinner on Friday and Saturday nights). Due to COVID-19, participants are asked to provide their own breakfast, lunch, and snacks. Unlike years past, private rooms are dependent on the number

# Early Childhood Center

## ECC STUDENTS LEARN THE MESSAGE OF EASTER

The Early Childhood Center spent the end of March, and will continue into the first week of April, teaching and learning the lessons of Holy Week with the children in preparation for the Easter celebration. The children have made Easter projects, reenacted the Easter story with props or flannel boards, and even made dramatic play areas in the classrooms into Bible times. All of the children will learn the message of Easter: that God loves each of us and sent His Son to be the Savior of us all.

Later this month, they will be celebrating the Week of the Young Child. The celebration includes fun activities throughout the week. They will have dress up days and a special children's magician.



## Traveling Student Art Exhibit Coming in May

During May, Cross View looks forward to hosting a traveling student art exhibit titled: "God Our Refuge, a Safe Place in Time of Trouble." The exhibit scripture is Psalm 46:1 and Romans 8:28.

The exhibit includes 13 works of art from students at area Christian high schools, each with an artist statement. The exhibit also includes a video of the students' artwork and interviews with the students and teachers, serving as a virtual experience for those unable to view the exhibit in person.

This exhibit is sponsored by Great Commission Artists, a non-denominational Christian network of artists who honor Christ together through art and community service.



# Outreach & Missions

## CAUGHT OFF GUARD: FUNG LO MINISTRY UPDATE

There is much to update about what the Lord has done through the Hmong pastors, evangelists and our family during the month of February. Our Hmong pastors and evangelists continue



to travel and witness the Gospel to different villages in the mountains of Southeast Asia. Also, Fung had the privilege of assisting the installation and ordination of two LCMS pastors to serve at two different churches in the Minnesota.

Fung also had the opportunity to witness the love of Christ to the people he met in the community. For example, during his visit to his brother-in-law's liquor store in north St. Paul, Minnesota, a customer came to buy some alcoholic beverages. Fung noticed the man was wearing a t-shirt with a picture of praying hands. Fung approached the man and said, "Hi, are you blessed by God?" The man was caught by Fung's surprised greetings. He looked confused and responded, "Ah... I think so." Fung then asked, "Are a Christian?". "Yes", answered the man. Fung asks, "Where do you go to church?" The man replied, "Oh, I don't go to church. I haven't gone to church since my mother died many years ago." Fung asks, "Why not?" With disappointment and shame in his eyes, the man looked down and replied, "I don't know." Fung says to him, "Brother, God misses you. You need to go to church." In respond, the man said, "I think I should. I used to go to a Baptist church in Minneapolis." Fung interjects, "You are now in this area (north St. Paul), so find a church in the area and attend it. God loves you and He misses you." The man replied, "Maybe I should." After Fung prayed for the customer, the man said, "I am going to cry." The man was touched by God at that moment in a liquor store. He did not expect to hear God say, "I love you and I miss you", but through Fung, that special day and at



that special moment in a liquor store, the man heard the voice of God calling him to return home to the Father. This witnessing is to remind us that Christians are missionaries every day in our lives. "So, wherever you go, make disciples of all nations..." (Matthew 28:19, GWT).

### Baptisms

Working with our Hmong pastors and with your prayers and financial support, in February alone, 196 individuals received Biblical trainings, 47 individuals confessed Christ as their Savior, and 44 baptisms.

### Matching Grant

A special supporter of the Lord's work has offered a dollar-for-dollar matching fund up to a total of \$36,000 to the Hmong International Mission until June 30th. We invite you to participate in this matching fund to see the Lord's miracle of multiplication happens.

### Furlough Visitation to Cross View

Mark your calendars now! On Sunday, June 20, Pastor Dr. Fung Lo will be preaching at Cross View. In addition, between services Pastor Dr. Fung Lo will be sharing God's ministry in Thailand. Be sure to hear about what your support has done to accomplish the Lord's mission of seeking and saving the lost among the Hmong people in Southeast Asia.

Feel free to reach out to the Lo family at 763-327-4041 or email [lolegacy@gmail.com](mailto:lolegacy@gmail.com).

### Pray For:

- 500 prayer partners to pray for the Fung Lo family daily
- 200 individuals and/or congregations to provide monthly financial support for the Lord's ministry through the Fung Lo family
- Five missionary couples to partner with the Fung Lo family by being their ambassadors to connect with churches and individual supporters
- Four short-term teams to come over annually to assist the Fung Lo family do service projects in Thailand
- Three new ministries start per year
- The annual mission budget





# CROSS VIEW

*Developing fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ along life's journey*

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Jonathan Zellar, Children's Ministry (Interim) & Youth Ministry  
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Harrison Lawrence, Organist  
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Paula Wilson, Interim Lead Vocalist - Contemporary

Julie Sherman, President

Nadar & Georgette Alaraj, POBLO

The *Clarion* is published monthly by Cross View Lutheran Church.  
Items for inclusion should be sent via email to [clarion@crossview.net](mailto:clarion@crossview.net).

## GROW WITH CROSS VIEW

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship  
in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary  
Worship in the Great  
Commission Room

**Both services are also  
available via [live stream](#).**

### SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

### OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

### CALENDAR

Cross View's most current  
calendar is always available  
on our website at  
[www.crossview.net/calendar](http://www.crossview.net/calendar)

## CONNECT WITH CROSS VIEW

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