

CROSSVIEW CLARION

April 2026

“Expect that God is at work not only in the ways that we recognize, but especially in the ways that we don’t.” –Steve Wheeler



Expect the Unexpected

by Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor

There is something deeply human about wanting to know what comes next. We read ahead, we check the ending, we brace ourselves for what we think is coming. The past five weeks of Lent we have made our way through a series entitled “Expect the Unexpected – A Lenten Journey with John.” As we journeyed through portions of John’s passion

narrative, we came to expect the unexpected. With humility and awe, we witnessed the unexpected lengths that Jesus went to make us ONE with His Father and ONE with each other.

That said, when it comes to the Holy Week and the true story of Easter, it’s easy to feel a sense of familiarity—we know the sequence: the triumphal entry, the last supper, the betrayal, the cross, and then, at last, the empty tomb. We’ve heard it before. We expect it!

But what if we’ve grown so used to the story that we’ve stopped being surprised by it? The passion narrative that we examined is not a calm, predictable unfolding of events. It is a story filled with reversals, misunderstandings, and moments that defy every expectation. A King arrives, but not with power. ►



◀ A victory is won, but with surrender. Faithful followers flee. A cross becomes a throne. And in the darkest moment—when all hope seems sealed away in a sepulcher of stone—something entirely unexpected begins... resurrection life!

This Easter, and in the season that follows, let's not just remember what happened, but let's encounter it again with fresh eyes. Let's be unsettled by Christ's victory for us over sin's power, death's

sentence, and hell's claim. Let's continue to be surprised and to expect that God is at work not only in the ways that we recognize, but especially in the ways that we don't.

After all, if the passion story teaches us anything, it is this: God's greatest work for lost sinners like us often comes in forms we would never predict—and arrives at moments we least expect. Christ is risen! He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

=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)



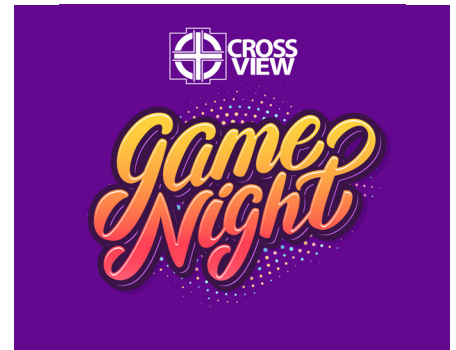
Game Night

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).

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- Total Income is favorable with contributions 6.85% higher than budget.
- Total Expenses were favorable with budget timing being the key driver.
- A net surplus of income over expenses of \$65,757 is favorable to YTD budget.
- ECC Total Income was unfavorable to plan with some room capacity below plan.
- Favorable ECC expenses to budget of \$39,169 results in a favorable net deficit to YTD budget.
- The church carries an approximate \$165,000 account receivable from the ECC to support ECC the operating deficit.



Thank You!

Dear Cross View Family:

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Your love, support, and prayers have been absolutely amazing! "Blest be the ties that bind our hearts in Christian love!"

—Stacey and Reed Lessing

Cross View Lutheran Church			
2/28/26	2026 Actual Year to Date	2026 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$358,234	\$335,253	\$22,981
Total Expenses	(\$292,477)	(\$286,570)	(\$5,907)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$65,757	\$48,683	\$17,074

Christian Education

A DEEPER WALK

**Sunday Mornings (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.

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

SPRING CLEANING

We recently took spring cleaning to a whole new level by organizing a large-scale effort to declutter and refresh our spaces. To support this, we arranged for a junk container so we could properly dispose of furniture, equipment, and toys that were broken, rusted, or no longer in good condition. As we await the upcoming ECC refresh, we wanted to take a proactive approach by starting with the tasks we can manage on our own rather than waiting for the process to begin. This initiative allows us to begin preparing our environment in advance while focusing on creating cleaner, more organized spaces. Our goal is to remove outdated or damaged items that no longer align with the visual and functional standards we are working toward, helping ensure that our spaces better reflect the welcoming, safe, and refreshed environment we want to provide.



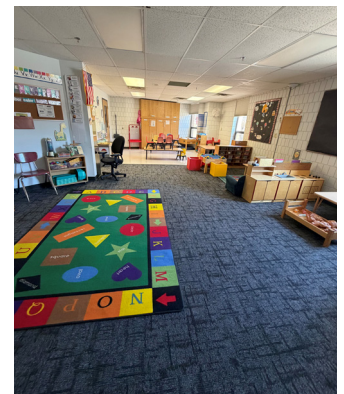
together to support every child in reaching their full potential while at Cross View, nurturing their faith, social-emotional development, and academic growth.

FAMILY EASTER CELEBRATION

Our upcoming ECC Easter Chapel celebration is a meaningful opportunity in which gather in hope and love as we observe the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Our ECC families join us in hearing the message of His resurrection and the promise it brings to our lives. This year, we are especially grateful to gift Bibles to all students so that The Beginner’s Bible can become a meaningful part of each child’s home and faith journey. Through it, families can share in the beautiful Bible stories that help children grow in their understanding of God’s love. As we come together for this special chapel, we pray for unity, spiritual growth, reflection, and a strong sense of community as we share in this powerful and uplifting message together.

DUCKLING CLASSROOM

After three long months of our duckling classroom being out of commission, we are finally seeing the light at the end of the tunnel. The hole in the wall has been repaired, a new panel installed, and the room has been completely recarpeted. Jose graciously went above and beyond with deep cleaning, leaving the classroom looking as good as new. We are now carefully sorting through all the items and furniture that were removed, discarding anything damaged, deep cleaning furniture, and sanitizing toys. This experience has been truly eye-opening, as we witnessed God’s hand guiding us every step of the way. Many unexpected blessings and opportunities arose following the flood—so many, in fact, that you really had to see it to understand. (Ask Vicki.)



CONFERENCE DAY

On March 16th we held our first Spring Parent-Teacher Conferences of the year. During this important time of connection and communication, we prayed for wisdom, discernment, and compassion as conversations took place. Our hope was that every discussion was guided by sensitivity and a shared focus on each child’s growth and well-being. These conferences were an opportunity to strengthen the partnership between families and staff, build trust, and work

HOPPER-LED CHAPEL

We are excited to begin involving our ECC staff in leading chapel on Wednesdays, providing them with the tools, resources, structure, and guidance to confidently share God's Word. By allowing staff to take the lead, we are fostering a sense of ownership and responsibility while supporting them at every stage of their faith journey. Hopper's classroom, led by Ms. Dawn and Ms. Mary, was the first to guide chapel, and they absolutely rocked it! Their energy and leadership set a high standard, and the feedback from the children was overwhelmingly positive, many even said they wished chapel could last all day!



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For the privilege of partnering with parents to care for their children
- For teamwork efforts in organizing and decluttering
- For the amazing environment we are fostering in the ECC
- For parent-teacher conferences on March 16

Prayer Requests:

- For the financial resources needed to complete the ECC refresh and improvements
- For a smooth transition as we reopen the duckling classroom

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Children's Ministry

SCIENCE EXPERIMENTS

Recently our Sunday School children got to experience learning about God by doing fun science experiments. Megan Rooney led two different classes where the younger kids got to remember God's promise by creating rainbows and the older kids created lava lamps to talk about Christ being light.



FAMILY MINISTRY PARENTING WORKSHOP



Parents, plan to attend a special Family Ministry parenting workshop! 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 Kidstitude party during this time.

UPCOMING CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATES

- Thursday, April 2: Celebrate Welcome to the Lord's Table Stepping Stone (fifth grade)
- Sunday, April 5: No Sunday School due to Easter
- Wednesday, April 22: Last day of Kidstitude classroom party 6:30–7:30 PM

PARENT CORNER



Let's play watch for God Bingo! What is a God Sighting? A God Sighting is an everyday clue that God is present, passionate and powerful. When kids and families watch for God Sightings, they simply notice the great things God does and give him credit. It's a little moment in everyday life that helps your child notice God— his goodness, creativity, love, care, and faithfulness.

WATCH FOR GOD BINGO CARD 1

HEARD BIRDS SING	SAW A COOL CLOUD	FELT SUNSHINE	ATE A YUMMY MEAL	LAUGHED REALLY HARD
SAW A TREE OR PLANT	SMELLED SOMETHING GOOD	HEARD A SONG I LIKED	FOUND A PRETTY COLOR	SAW AN ANIMAL
SAW RAIN OR WATER	GOT A HUG	FREE: WATCHED FOR GOD	FELT SAFE	SOMEONE HELPED ME
SAW SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL	FOUND A PATTERN	HEARD KIND WORDS	SAW SOMETHING TINY	DRANK WATER WHEN I WAS THIRSTY
HAD FUN WITH A FRIEND	HAD FUN WITH FAMILY	FELT CALM	LEARNED SOMETHING NEW	SAID "THANK YOU, GOD"

Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 5: Easter Breakfast Fundraiser
- April 11: Mentor Bonding at Grand Slam, 2:00–4:00 PM
- April 22: Confirmation Party; last day for 7th Graders
- April 29: Confirmation Rehearsal for 8th graders at 5:30 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH APRIL SCHEDULE

- April 5: Easter Breakfast Fundraiser; no youth
- April 12: Whirlyball (rescheduled from March snowstorm)
- April 19: Youth at Cross View
- April 26: Youth at Cross View

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!

JUNIOR HIGH/MENTOR FELLOWSHIP AT GRAND SLAM

The Junior High youth group and their confirmation mentors are invited to an afternoon out at Grand Slam in Burnsville on Saturday, April 11. This is a great way for youths and their mentors to bond and get to know each other more. Meet at Grand Slam at 1:45 PM for some awesome fun from 2:00–4:00 PM! If a youth's mentor isn't able to join, they are still welcome to attend! Cost for the event is \$25. Please [sign up via CV Connect](#) by April 8.

SENIOR HIGH WHIRLYBALL AND LASER TAG

Due to the March snowstorm, the Senior High youth outing to Whirlyball was rescheduled to Sunday, April 12. The youth will participate in rounds of laser tag and whirlyball that evening from 6:00–8:00 PM. Cost is \$25 per person. Please [sign up via CV Connect](#) by April 8.

LENTEN MEALS AND EASTER BREAKFAST

Cross View's youth thank everyone who participated in the Lenten Meals! They are also hosting an Easter Breakfast on Sunday, April 5, from 9:15–10:45 AM (no sign up necessary for breakfast).

Proceeds from these meals benefit the youth attending the mission trip to South Dakota as well as other youth events.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 3 10:45 AM Worship Service

Both services that Sunday will be in the Sanctuary

Adult Ministry

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.

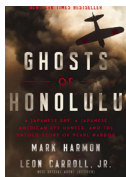
ARISE WITH THE GUYS

Join other men of faith at Grace Church in Eden Prairie on Saturday, April 18, from 9:00–11:00 AM. Tony Dungy is again hosting an all-star group including Paul Allen and Seattle Seahawks wide receiver, Cooper Kupp.

Please [sign up on CV Connect](#) but go direct to [Arise with the Guys](#) to purchase tickets. Balcony seats are \$12. If you wish to carpool to the event, meet at Cross View at 8:00 AM, or meet inside their east door at 8:30 AM if you wish to sit together as a group. Questions can be directed to Dan Battcher at dtbattcher@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be reading *Ghosts of Honolulu* by Mark Harmon for their April meeting. They will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, April 20, at 1:00 PM to discuss the book. Please feel free to join us as new members are always welcome.



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.

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 Sessions:

- 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



LET'S CELEBRATE CROSS VIEW'S MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS!

For our annual Spring gathering, the Women's Ministry team is hosting a Mother-Daughter Tea. If you don't have a daughter, bring a granddaughter, a niece, a friend, or just come by yourself to join the fun. We'll have teatime goodies and beverages, fun table games for all ages, a photo booth, and a short devotional on the book of Ruth.



Saturday April 25, 9:00–11:00 AM

Cross View's Great Commission Room

Register on [CV Connect](#) here

If you have any questions please contact Marcia Johnson at marcia.sarahandemilysmom@gmail.com or Glenda Kibat at kibatgg@gmail.com.

NEEDED: Photos of you with your daughter(s). Please send to Marcia at email address above.

This occasion will be used to sponsor a charitable ingathering of supplies for Corrie's House (corriehouse.org) a residential program for girls who have been victims of sexual exploitation. The Giving Trees in Cross View's upper lobby will have tags with donation suggestions starting Sunday, April 5.



CORRIE'S HOUSE

Employment Opportunity

CUSTODIAN (PART-TIME, WEEKENDS)

Cross View has an immediate opening for a part-time weekend custodian. As custodian, you will provide support in all areas of maintenance and care, ensuring our facility remains clean, safe, and welcoming for staff, guests, and events. This position requires flexibility to work weekend hours, primarily Fridays and Saturday.

The Custodian will be responsible for the following:

- Maintain the cleanliness of a large facility, including general and detailed cleaning.
- Support church and external events, including set-ups and teardowns.
- Maintain flooring and carpeting throughout the facilities by vacuuming and using an extractor.
- Assist with exterior grounds care, including winter snow removal, in designated areas.
- Attend to the stocking of paper products and supplies in restroom areas.

Professional and Spiritual Expectations:

- Educational requirements: high school diploma/GED
- Experience required: 6 months of custodial experience preferred.
- Working knowledge of general custodial care.
- Demonstrated interpersonal skills and the ability to work well with others.
- Flexibility for weekend work.

Complete job description available at www.crossview.net/employment.

Questions? Contact Renee Kirchner (952) 941-1094 Ext. 204 or renee@crossview.net.

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



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.

CALLING ALL KNITTERS AND CROCHETERS

Do you like to knit or crochet? The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for you!

Caring for others and the love

of knitting/crocheting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace.

The knitter or crocheter begins each shawl with prayers for the recipient and these prayers continue through the creation of the shawl. A final blessing is offered before the shawl is sent on its way. Shawls may be given to someone undergoing medical procedures, as a comfort after a loss or in times of stress, during bereavement, during an illness or recovery or in times of celebration, such as a new baby.

Yarn and pattern will be provided, and you can complete the project in your own time. The finished shawls will be returned to church and stored until needed. The Prayer Shawl Ministry will keep a record of shawls created and a confidential list of recipients in order to avoid duplication. We will also provide gift bags and cards to be

given with the shawls.

To get started, pick up a kit in the church office. Kits will be available beginning April 1.

Did you know? Cross View's prayer shawl ministry was started in early 2000 by Sherry Greenhagen, Bev Sather and Mel Davis.

THANK YOU, EASTERFEST VOLUNTEERS!

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our EasterFest outreach event a success! As the photos below will show you, we had a beautiful morning celebrating the hope we have in Jesus.







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

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