

CROSSVIEW CLARION

August 2020



"Look around you and at your life and see how God has worked in so many ways and share that with others." -Christine Eid

God Provides

by Christine Eid, Director of Children's Ministry

During a recent devotional time, two scriptures came up for me to read, from different studies, but along the same vein. Matthew 14:14-21 is the account of the feeding of the 5000 men (plus women and children) with five loaves and two fish. I can just imagine what the disciples thought when Jesus told the disciples, "You give them something to eat." What??? They replied that they only had five loaves and two fish, and with that God provided, with leftovers. What would that have been like to see? Did the disciples keep it to themselves or did they go home telling family and friends, "You're not going to believe this..."?

The other reading was from Luke 9:1-6,10 and is the account of sending out the disciples to "proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." But, as they were to go, they were not to take anything extra with them—just what they were wearing. Again, I can only imagine the disciples saying to themselves, What??? Were they anxious as they took off under the Lord's direction, or were they confident that God would provide? We don't know that part of the story. We do know they came back sharing to Jesus what they had done. I imagine that it was with excitement that they were sharing, not in a matter of fact tone report.

Provision. Sometimes it seems like things are hard, and we wonder what's next and if we will have enough of what we need. Some days it's so easy to get stressed in the not knowing and wondering what God's plan is with it all. At those times, I believe that there are takeaways from the two scripture that I noted above.

First, Jesus spent time in prayer. He prayed to His heavenly Father with the gift of the five loaves and two fish before distributing them to the people. He went off alone and prayed before selecting the 12 disciples, and while it's not stated, I imagine He was praying for His disciples as they were out proclaiming the kingdom of God. And so, we too should start everything with prayer. Taking time to really pray and talk to our Lord and God with the needs in our hearts—and He will answer. But also, be prepared that God's answer is even bigger than we ever could anticipate. Are you ready for that?

Second, the disciples shared what happened. Scripture tells us they shared their experiences with Jesus. I anticipate that they shared them with others as well. Do we share our experiences? Are we open in telling the amazing ways that God has worked in our lives? This year we have heard in the Red Letter Challenge, and Joining Jesus on His Mission, that a big part is telling the story. It doesn't have to be hard. Tell your story. Look around you and at your life and see how God has worked in so many ways and share that with others. When it becomes personal, it is heard.

God provides. He will take care of our needs. As we come to the end of summer, and there are more questions on the what next during these times, know that God will be there, and will provide. We can come to Him in prayer. He will answer. And then we have opportunities to share our story with others.

Christian Education

SUMMER TIME & SMALL GROUPS!

It's a different kind of summer. Lots of things have been downsized, postponed, or cancelled. COVID-19 and social unrest and tension have taken their toll on everyone's plans. *How have you adapted?*

B.A.S.I.C. groups (Brothers And Sisters In Christ) what have you done over the summer? Many groups take a break in the summer. I think that can be good. *And I'd like to challenge you to get together.* One of the most



common statements from church members is we miss everyone.

So, my challenge to you is to schedule time to meet with your group (Bible study group or church social group). Meet on someone's

deck. Meet on someone's driveway and garage. Meet in someone's backyard. But meet. Everyone is craving that physical connection. Stay united at the body of Christ. Keep the relationships you've developed going and supported here in August (where there's so many wonderful things to do with our friends and faith family).

A great idea is to go to a group member's family on National Night Out (Tuesday, August 4). While National

Night out is "official" postponed to Tuesday, October 6, schedule both. Potluck together, BBQ, and help your group member meet their neighbors in a fun creative way. Invite a neighbor who's asking spiritual questions or a looking for connection. Have fun and build relationships. Who knows, you may meet some neighbors who are looking for spiritual answers and a small group like yours.

JOINING JESUS ON HIS (OUR) MISSION

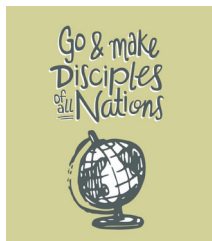
It's been a few months since we finished our series, *Joining Jesus—Show Me How* (based on the book written by Pastor Greg Finke). How's it been going? I know I've had to adapt my plans for anything of the sort, especially around our community. I'd like to encourage you to stay the course!

Joining Jesus is not meant to be something overwhelming. It is our calling however (*Mark 1:17 & Matthew 28:16-20*). Here are just a few ways to be a little more intentional with a friend (family member, neighbor, or coworker) who's asking spiritual questions. Pray each day for the Spirit's leading in your heart and the heart of those around, and for the interactions and conversations He's guiding you into.



◀ **Here's a simple to-do.** With a small group of people (1-8), check in with each other with a few GOOD Questions to see how you're all doing at living in the mission God has brought us into. Intentionally take the time to remind, challenge, and encouraging each other. Are you ready? Here they are:

- How did you see Jesus at work this week?
- What has God been teaching you in His Word?
- What kind of conversations are you have with people who are "pre-Christians?"
- What good were we able to do (or could we do) around here?
- How can I/we help you in prayer?



The next time you have dinner table or a cup of coffee, the next time you gather for devotions or a Bible study, add these few simple questions to your conversation. Join each other on the adventure that God has for one another. It's exciting to see what's happens over time, as we keep asking these questions. It's exciting to hear the stories and see what Jesus is up to into our lives. It's exciting to join Jesus and join the rest of His disciples in God's mission for the world, and us!

FALL CHILDREN'S MINISTRY INFORMATION COMING SOON

We are in the process of looking at options for fall children's ministry classes. In addition to comfort level of families, we are taking into account CDC guidelines, and

how we can share our facility with the ECC in a safe way. Information for education opportunities will be coming out in late August. Watch for emails and communications!

In the meantime, if parents haven't already done so, please share with Christine Eid at christine@crossview.net on your thoughts of having your children gather together. We would like your input in our decisions. Thanks!

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Women's Bible Study will begin meeting again this fall in September. We meet the first Monday of the month at 9:30 AM (except for September when we meet the second Monday because of the Labor Day holiday). We usually meet from September through May. Meetings this fall will be on-line via Zoom because of COVID-19.

Our new study, "A Time for Everything" is from the Women of Faith series and the study is based on themes from Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. We would like to extend an invitation to anyone interested in joining this study. Please contact Marcy Nordhus at mpnordhus@gmail.com by August 15th if you are interested in joining. We will be ordering the new study books in the middle of August (cost is usually around \$10.00), so we have them ready for our September meeting.



Early Childhood Center

A TIME OF CHANGES FOR ECC

August is a time of many changes at the ECC. Children move into a new classroom or graduate and move on to Kindergarten. We will miss our Hopper graduates, but we can rejoice over the developmental growth they have made at Cross View. We take assurance in the fact that not only are they ready for Kindergarten, but that they have also begun a new phase of their life journey and faith walk. We pray that they may continue to grow in God's love.

We would like to say thank you to all our summer workers who enthusiastically helped us this summer. We thank Jessi, Hailey, and Rachel for all their help this summer!

In July we had the following special events:

- Fishing Day
- Rainbow Day
- Hero Day
- Outer Space Day
- Dress Up Day

In August, we are anticipating the following special events:

- Zoo Day
- Beach Day
- Olympic Day
- Tie Dye Day



Senior Ministries

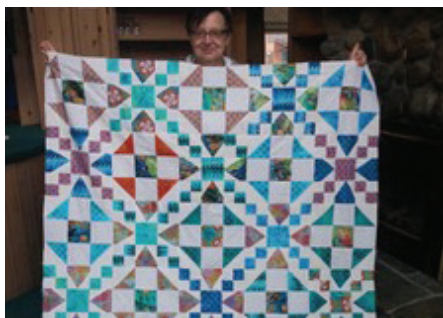
S.A.G.E.S. 2020 CANCELLED DUE TO COVID-19

GATHERING XXXII The cancellation of the S.A.G.E.S. Gathering for 2020 is unprecedented as is most everything this year. However, our Courage Today, Hope Tomorrow theme is more relevant than ever. So, mark your calendars for next year's dates: May 3-4, 2021 at Country

Inn and Suites, Mankato. The featured Presenter will be Rev. Mark Jeske.

MAKING THE MOST OF GOD'S GIFTS

Cross View Seniors have kept busy and engaged over the past months, as the photos below show.



Linda Baule is creating beautiful quilts



Mary Daenzer is growing vegetables



Sue Harrison and granddaughter enjoy a day at Lake Waconia



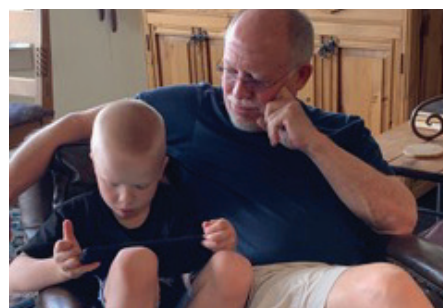
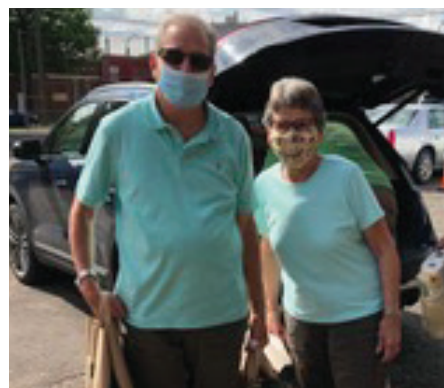
Greg Lenz, Paul Emmel, Mel Davis and Barb Reichert enjoying "socially distanced" fellowship at Garden Park in Edina



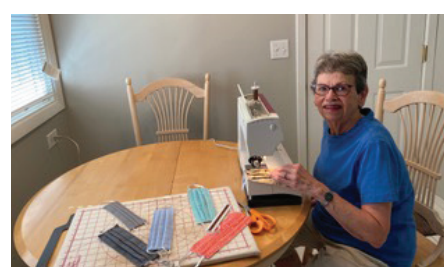
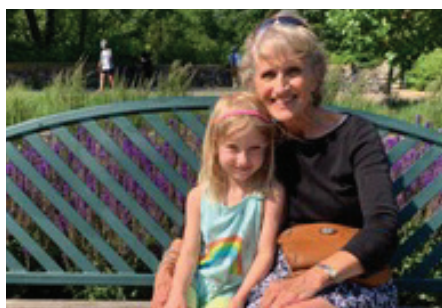
Jan and Steve Schrader brought Matthew 7:24-27 to life in their back yard with this "House Upon A Rock"



Kathy and Dave Fulkerson take frequent walks at The Minnesota Landscape Arboretum



Marc and Marcia Johnson spend time with their grandchildren



Jim Dibble and Sherri Gahring kept busy participating in Trinity First Service Project and making masks

Financial Update

YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS

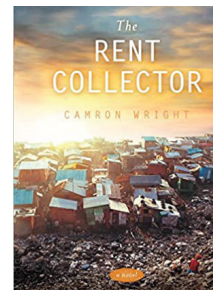
- As of June 30, year-to-date income was 18%, or \$123,543 less than budgeted year-to-date.
- Expenses continue to be managed tightly, especially at this time when fewer people are attending "in person" church service. Year-to-date expenses are \$97,262 less than budgeted.
- The expenses do not include expected CARES Act Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan forgiveness of \$169,412 for Cross View as of June 30.
- The ECC is operating with reduced students and associated tuition, resulting in a deficit of \$89,000 year-to-date on income. Year-to-date expenses were \$20,000 less than budgeted. Expected PPP loan forgiveness is \$204,091 for the ECC.

Cross View			
June 30, 2020	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs. Budget
Total Income	\$579,133	\$702,676	(\$123,543)
Total Expense	\$571,721	\$668,983	\$97,262
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$7,412	\$33,693	(\$26,281)

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will meet on Monday, August 17th at 1:00 PM online using Zoom. We have chosen *The Rent Collector* by Camron Wright for our selection, and Marcia Johnson will lead the book discussion. Please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join in on the book discussion.



Outreach & Missions

GUATEMALA MISSION TEAMS MEETS IN JULY

On Friday, July 10th, our Guatemala mission team had an outdoor meeting to hear Dan Hobbs, of World Vision, tell us about the work they do in Guatemala. World Vision bring help to many people in many different countries.



Pictured are: Tom Koch, Pastor Toby, RoseAnn Meier and Dan Hobbs of World Vision. Not pictured: Vicki Barton and photographer Laurie Koch.

Our Guatemala mission team continues to look for solutions to Los Vasquez's water and food issues. We look forward to the day we can travel to Los Vasquez and bring donated Bibles, hold the dental clinic, and further investigate how to serve our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Please keep the people of Los Vasquez, in your prayers, that they may be spared from the pandemic. The need for food and clean water will remain in the coming months, if not years in Los Vasquez. If you are willing to help, any donation for the people of Los Vasquez would be deeply appreciated. Please contact Tom Koch, tjkoch47@gmail.com or at 612-386-3901, or Pastor Steve or Pastor Toby, for more details.

CHRISTIAN PERSECUTION IN ASIA

Our mission partner, Dr. Fung Lo, writes the following:

Yesterday, I received words from one of our Hmong pastors in the northeast area of Vietnam, that two young Hmong families are currently being persecuted for their faith by their own families and relatives. They need our prayers and financial support to help them while they are suffering from persecution. Please see their story below and share it with your members at Cross View. I pray and hope that some of them will keep these families in their prayers and financial blessings.

-Your partner in His mission, Fung (in Thailand)

Here is their story of faith and persecution:

Leng and his wife went to work in China because they lived at the borders of Vietnam and China. While in China, someone shared the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Leng and his wife became believers before they returned to Vietnam.

After returning home, they shared with their family that they are now Christians and no longer want to worship the devil and his spirits. Leng's parents became very angry and asked them to denounce their faith. Leng and his wife refused. His parents kicked them out of the family home.

With no place to live, Leng and his wife moved in with Leng's half-brother, Nou, and his family. While living with Nou's family, Leng and his wife shared the Good News and Nou and his wife became believers. When Leng's parents heard that their elder son Nou and his family were believers of Jesus Christ, they got asked Nou and his family to denounce his faith in Christ, but they refused. His parents and their relatives tore down the house that Leng and his wife lived in with Nou. Currently, the two brothers and their families are homeless and without food because their parents refused to allow them to join them at the field. We are praying for \$5,000 to help them with food, shelter, and clothes. Please pray for them and consider how the Lord is leading you to respond to help these families.

If God is moving you to help, you can send financial support to: Mission of Christ Network, P.O. Box 533, Concordia, MO, 64020. Earmark: Lo Family—persecution victims fund.



The families standing on the foundation of their torn down house.



The place where their house used to stand.



CROSS VIEW

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

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

GROW WITH CROSS VIEW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM Blended (On-Site)
Pre-recorded services are
available online all weekend.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

10:30 AM (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

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