

CROSSVIEW CLARION

December 2019



"As we make our way through this season of advent, I want to challenge you to feast on the Soul Food of the book of Ruth." -Steve Wheeler

Bethlehem's Gift A Redeemer for All

by Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor

Let's face it; the season of Christmas isn't always easy for everyone. Hurts of the past and wounds of the present often seek to rob us of celebrating God's greatest gift. Christmas can be a difficult time for those who struggle with depression. Christmas can be heart-wrenching experience for those who mourn or struggle with the loss of a loved one. While the season of advent and Christmas is often marketed with joy and cheer, the reality remains...we live in a broken world where love, hope, peace, and joy seem to continually fall under attack.

This Advent, we are going to engage in a sermon series entitled: **"Bethlehem's Gift – A Redeemer for All."** As we journey through

the Old Testament book of Ruth, we are going to see that **love, hope, peace, and joy** can be found by all, even in the messiness of life's many challenges, sorrows, and disappointments. Rather than simply pretending that all is well this advent and Christmas season, we are going to explore how love, hope, peace, and joy can abound even in the midst of brokenness.

The book of Ruth presents us with a beautiful story of redemption in the midst of the many and very real challenges of life. From the opening chapter where Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth all lose their husbands and find themselves alone in a foreign land, to the closing chapter where Boaz (the kinsman redeemer) pays the price of

◀ redemption to ensure that Ruth and Naomi's name and inheritance would never be lost, we see God's hand of grace at work. The book foreshadows with breath-taking parallels another gift that would one day be given in Bethlehem – Jesus a redeemer for all. In fact, Obed, the child eventually born to Boaz and Ruth would be the Father to King David, a direct descendant to Jesus.

As we make our way through this season of advent, I want to challenge you to feast on the Soul Food of the book of Ruth. Each week, I would like you and your loved ones/family to spend some time reflecting on a single chapter of the book of Ruth. Read the chapter and then use the guide below as a discussion starter.

- **Dec. 1-7 – Ruth 1 – LOVE** – Describe where you see love abounding in the midst of broken hearts in this chapter. How might God use you, like Ruth, to share His love with someone whose heart is breaking this advent?
- **Dec. 8-14 – Ruth 2 – HOPE** – Discuss how

hope exists in the midst of hopelessness in this chapter. How has Jesus brought hope to seemingly hopeless situations in your life in the past? How can Jesus use you to bring his hope into the lives of others?

- **Dec. 15-21 – Ruth 3 – PEACE** – Talk about how peace meets unrest in this chapter. Share a time when God brought peace to the unrest of your life.
- **Dec. 22-28 – Ruth 4 – JOY** – Compare and contrast chapter 4 with chapter 1. Discuss what brought unspeakable joy to unimaginable sorrow. What comfort and joy does *Bethlehem's Gift* bring to you, even in the midst of your sorrows?

As you dig into God's Word this advent, exploring the book of Ruth, I pray that our Lord will allow these discussions to be a blessing for you and for those you love. May you find renewed love, hope, peace, and joy through the greatest gift ever given...*Bethlehem's Gift – A Redeemer for All*.

Needed: Christmas Trees for VBS!

If you have an artificial Christmas tree that you are planning to toss this Christmas season, please consider donating it to our Vacation Bible School decoration efforts. However, due to the build, we ask that you please store it for us until next June if you are able. If you need it out of your home sooner, please speak to or contact Rachael Johnson (612-730-8644) about storage alternatives. (Spoiler alert: we'll be asking for trees again in May!)



Did You Know You Can Give to Cross View Via Text?

Have you tried our text giving option? In a matter of seconds, you can make a weekly offering or respond to a special appeal.

- No login or account set-up required
 - Easy debit/credit card registration through your smartphone
 - Fast one-time donations
 - Option to make gifts recurring
- If you would like to give by text, contact the church office.

CROSS VIEW CARDS AND GAMES

Note: No Game Night in December

Next Game Night: Friday January 10, 2020

Cross View Cards and Games meet the 2nd Friday of each month from September through May. New participants are always welcome!



CV 4.0 – Building for Generations Update



Advent is the season Christians prepare for the coming of Christ. We read special devotions and prepare our hearts and minds for the birth of our Lord and Savior. It's a time to reflect, prepare, and get our house in order.

Families work hard to get their home in order. Childhood Christmas memories include special church services, singing carols, and special company coming for Christmas dinner. Children anxiously wait to open gifts. It's hard to wait. It's harder to not peek.

Cross View members continue to wait to worship our Lord in the sanctuary. We wait and wait while workers put up walls, wire lights, and go about expanding the Lord's house. Advent is about preparation. Construction is about building. Christmas presents are exciting. Worshiping in the sanctuary will be uplifting.

Why is it taking so long to get back into the sanctuary? At first, we anticipated a return in early November, then by Thanksgiving, then early December. Now it looks like a sanctuary Christmas celebration is doubtful. Delays provided opportunities for an acoustical study to accentuate our pipe organ. Sub-contract negotiations created additional funds for LED lighting, cedar ceiling, and wire infrastructure for future theater lights, future sound systems, and a future video enhanced system.

Advent, like construction, is a time to prepare. Just like the child wanting to peek downstairs Christmas morning, we want to sneak into the "construction zone" and sneak a peek. Peeking where you shouldn't brings trouble. Construction zone practice is to allow only pre-approved people with a hard hat, vest, closed toe boots, and permission to walk in the construction area. Strict enforcement prevents injuries and lawsuits. Liability rests with the general contractor and Cross View.

Our construction site experienced two forced entries this fall. Fortunately, no damage or thefts occurred. Intruders look for tools, copper, and other items to sell. A video security system that calls the Edina Police was installed to stop unauthorized entry. Anderson Companies activates the security system anytime workers are not onsite.

Cross View's 4.0 Building For Generations continues to move forward. A wet summer, labor shortages, and delays to ensure members receive the maximum value from their donations pushed the project completion date back from the end of January to the end of February.

Advent is a time of joyful celebration as we await Christ's birth. May our hearts be full of love, patience, and appreciation of our opportunity to expand His house and bring more people to know and live the true meaning of Christmas.

If you are not receiving 4.0 Building for Generations construction updates contact the Church office at margaret@crossview.net or notify any staff member.



Financial Update

- October year-to-date income was 4%, or \$36K less than budget. Budget includes a 9% year-over-year increase. The 2020 budget will be proposed to the Voters in January. We continue to expect the need to increase annual income 19% in 2020 to meet expenses related to our expansion.
- The net surplus is \$22K favorable to budget due to lower expenses than planned. On November 19 we had our first draw on the construction loan and will now begin to pay interest monthly on a growing loan balance.
- Your generous contributions to both the operating and capital campaign remain critical in 2019 and as we look ahead to our first year in the expanded space in 2020. Cross View council thanks you for your prayerful giving during this exciting time in our history.

Cross View			
October 31, 2019	2019 Actual YTD	2019 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs. Budget
Total Income	\$906,095	\$942,262	(\$36,167)
Total Expense	\$925,454	\$983,905	\$58,451
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$19,359)	(\$41,643)	\$22,284

Voters' Assembly meetings and Church Council meetings minutes are available for reading online at www.crossview.net/minutes.

Early Childhood Center

ECC HOLDS FUNDRAISERS AND CONFERENCES

November was a very busy month at the Early Childhood Center with fundraisers and conferences. Our fundraisers included the Scholastic Book Fair and Night Owls. We raised over \$500.00 from our Night Owls event. We received over \$700 in Scholastic dollars, in addition to 50 books for our classrooms, from the book fair which will be used to purchase educational items for the classrooms. The monies raised from Night Owls will be used towards purchasing new items for the facility.

Conferences were held throughout the month of November. This is a time that the teachers and parents have a chance to connect and discuss the progress of their child/children. Conferences are held twice a year and are vital for the success of the children.



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY
CORNER**

A quote from Stephen Ministry founder Kenneth Haugk, in his book, *Don't Sing Songs to a Heavy Heart*:

"You share in community when you participate in the sufferings of a brother or sister. But you are also called to participate in the sufferings of Christ... Part of what it means to share in Christ's sufferings is to share in the suffering of those whom Christ loves... You may never be more Christlike than when you participate in the sufferings and sorrows of a hurting world, wrestling with the pain and providing the comfort of community. Christ set the pattern: death, then rebirth; dying, then living again; suffering, then consolation. As you model the life of Christ in ministry to others, you become Christ to hurting people."

Do you need the comfort of Christ as embodied by a member of the Cross View community in a fully confidential manner? Please contact Pastor Steve or Pastor Toby for a referral.

I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings.

-Philippians 3:10

**FOLLOW US ON INSTAGRAM:
@CROSSVIEWLUTHERAN**



View & Print the Cross View Monthly
CALENDAR ON THE
WEB!

Our web calendar is updated throughout the month and always contains the most current information. Go to www.crossview.net/calendar. (Or just click here!)

Christian Education

CHRISTMAS IS COMING! THE CHILDREN ARE PREPARING!

Sunday School children are excited to share the Christmas Gospel with family and friends on Sunday, December 15! Please join us for these special performances!

- **"A Night Like No Other"** – Preschool–1st Grade Program at 9:30 AM during the education hour.
- **"Good News!"** – 2nd–6th Grade Program, during the 10:45 AM worship service

Please contact Christine Eid at christine@crossview.net if you have any questions.

Please note – there will be no education classes on Sunday, December 29. Regular classes will resume on Sunday, January 5.



KIDSTITUTE UPDATE

This fall, we have had a great experience studying the 10 Commandments and starting to look at different Bible stories that are a little less known. Looking ahead we will continue with Kidstitude and stories that might have a little "yucky" twist to them. Come check us out!

Dates to know for December & January:

Wednesdays, December 4, 11 & 18: Regular Kidstitude programming

Wednesdays, December 25 and January 1: No Kidstitude for holiday celebrations

January 8, 15 and 22: Kidstitude resumes after the holidays

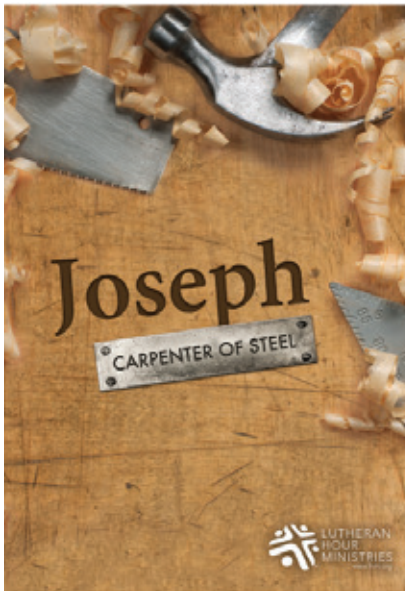
January 29: Special Kidstitude/Confirmation service trip to Feed My Starving Children

WEDNESDAY ADULT BIBLE STUDY: MIRACLES

Join us December through February, as we explore the miracles Jesus performed during His ministry on earth and study His miraculous power over sickness, Satan, creation, and more. We are also covering miracles from the Old Testament and questions about miracles today. Join us in room 218 at 7:00 PM. Contact Pastor Toby for questions (toby@crossview.net).

JOSEPH – CARPENTER OF STEEL

Join us on Sundays during December (12/1, 12/8, 12/22) from 9:30–10:15 AM on the west side of the fellowship hall. We'll study about Joseph. Can you imagine, abruptly discovering the woman you're betrothed to is pregnant. Or searching for a suitable place for Jesus' birth. Or trying to quickly move his family away a crazed king who wants to kill his stepson? We'll study this ordinary carpenter was a part of God's extraordinary plan. Contact Pastor Toby for questions (toby@crossview.net).



Youth Ministry

SEVERS CORN MAZE

On October 13th our Junior and Senior high youth enjoyed time at Severs Corn Maze. It was a beautiful day to be outside and grow as a youth group.



RAKE AND RUN THANK YOU!

The junior and senior high youth held our annual rake and run fundraiser on October 26th. We raised over \$2,700 to go towards our 2020 summer trips. We can't thank you all enough for your support.



reTHINK CONFERENCE

November 8th and 9th the youth had an opportunity to attend a conference at Grace Church titled reTHINK: Your False Ideas About God. This conference was packed full of information on things like the reliability of the bible, how to engage non-believers in a conversation about faith, the existence of God, and so much more! Be sure to talk to the youth who went to hear more about it! If you are interested in attending the next one, it will be November 13 & 14, 2020.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Jr High Christmas Party is December 8th from 12:30-3:30 PM.
- Sr High Christmas Party is December 8th from 5:30-8:30 PM.

Outreach and Missions

LOOKING AHEAD – SAVE THE DATE!

FEBRUARY 16: SERVICE SUNDAY

Do you have ideas for projects we can do? Contact [Pastor Toby](#) or [Christine Eid](#).

CHILDREN'S NATIVITY

This year we're doing Children's Nativity differently. We're sending Children's Nativity packages out to the families who came here without a church home, to our ECC families, and through Nader & Georgette Aleraj to families who come to POBLO.



We're excited that families are going to get to hear and experience the Nativity story in their homes gathered around fun faith activities for the whole family. We're asking families to tag us in their pictures on Instagram, [@crossviewlutheran](#). We look forward to seeing how families celebrate this season together!

CHRISTMAS SOUL FOOD

On Sunday December 8, we'll be handing out Christmas Cookie kits. Inside you'll find an easy plan to make the most out of Christmas cookies!

God calls us to feed ourselves and help feed others. Making cookies naturally builds relationships and bridges. It's fun and something you can do with family, friends, and neighbors.

So why not wrap that all up together with a beautiful bow? Make Christmas cookies. Enjoy Christmas cookies with friends and family. And when you're done enjoy your cookies, all the while letting Jesus' light shine out into the world.

Pick up your Christmas Soul Food kit. Take it home, follow the plan, pray, invite, take pictures, and let us know how it went. You could even tag us in your pictures on Instagram, [@crossviewlutheran](#).



VETERANS CHRISTMAS

Cross View will adopt approximately 22 American veterans at the Minneapolis Veterans Home. You can help bring joy veterans this Christmas. This is a great opportunity for you and the whole family to make a veteran's Christmas holiday happier and more blessed. So, adopt a veteran and bring gifts or Christmas cards to church by Dec 15. The signup is in the hallway right outside the fellowship hall. (Suggested spending minimum is-\$35.)



MISSION TEAM RETURNS FROM GUATEMALA

The Cross View Guatemala Mission Team returned from Los Vasquez, Guatemala, on November 24th. The team made home visits, researched the community's water system, and held three Vacation Bible School sessions, among other community meals and activities. Look for a full follow-up article in the January *Clarion*.



Outreach and Missions

TRINITY FIRST THANKSGIVING – THANK YOU!

Thank you to all who helped with Trinity First Thanksgiving. Over 130 volunteers helped serve 250+ plates of food! Thank you for being the Hands and Feet of Christ and supporting the ministry of our brothers and sisters at Trinity First Lutheran Church and School! A special thank you goes to Judy Larson, Edie McGurgan, and Sarah Wentzien for their leadership of this successful event.



Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be having a Christmas potluck at our December meeting. Marcia Johnson has selected *The Last Days of Night* by Graham Moore for us to read and discuss following the potluck. We will meet at 12:00 noon at church on Monday, December 16, 2019. New members are always welcome. Feel free to contact Marcy Nordhus at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have any questions.



BOARD & BRUSH

On a snowy Sunday afternoon in November, 15 women gathered at Board and Brush in St. Louis Park for a time of creativity and fellowship. Each person selected a project online ahead of time and then the staff at Board and Brush guided everyone through the steps of sanding, staining, stenciling, and painting the wooden boards. As you can see, the pieces turned out great and it was fun to see the variety of projects. There were multiple conversations about doing this again sometime!



SAVE THE DATE! WOMEN'S DINNER JANUARY 23

Since the Women's dinner was cancelled in November, our next one will be at Campiello in Eden Prairie on January 23rd. Mark your calendar and plan to join.

LOOKING AHEAD – WOMEN'S CRAFTING RETREAT!

April 24-26: Women's Spring Crafting Retreat, "Living a Life of Worship." Registration will open in January.



CROSS VIEW

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

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Lynn Pahl, 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.

GROW WITH CROSS VIEW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional

10:45 AM Contemporary

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM

ROUND TABLE WORSHIP

Wed., 6:00 - 6:50 PM

OFFICE HOURS

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

Closed Monday

CALENDAR

Cross View's most current
calendar is always available
on our website at

www.crossview.net/calendar

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