

CROSSVIEW CLARION

December 2021



"Right in the middle of all that chaos, Jesus was born." -Jonathan Zellar



hope CHAOS

by Jonathan Zellar, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."
– Romans 15:13

How have the last couple of weeks gone for you? The last couple of months? How about the last year and a half? Maybe you've felt grounded the whole time, but if you are anything like me, I imagine there have been moments or seasons of chaos. Weeks will go by where all our routines

feel mostly normal. Off to work and daycare, back home. Grab a bite to eat somewhere. Visits to and from family. The standard. Then there are weeks where everything is out of whack. Meetings everywhere, being in quarantine until you get a COVID test result, a car in the shop, and yard work to do before it snows. Not to mention everything going on in our country and in our world. Chaos. It often leaves us feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. Feeling disjointed and scatterbrained like we aren't sure which way is up. ►

Let's rewind about 2000 years and assess what was happening in the days, weeks, and months before and after Jesus' birth. Mary (at full term) and Joseph went on a roughly 90-mile journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Before that there was some chaos with the census being called. Before that there was definitely some family, and probably city wide, drama with Mary being pregnant and unmarried and who knows what Joseph was dealing with. Then after Jesus was born there were visitors, a call for all little boys to be killed, a multi-year move to Egypt, and finally a return home. Seems a little chaotic, doesn't it? And yet...right in the middle of all that chaos Jesus was born. Hope made it to Earth that day.

With the season of Advent upon us, we prepare for Jesus' arrival in that stable. We prepare with anticipation for the Hope that was brought into the world in the form of a little baby. A little baby who would bring the ultimate calm to the chaos of the world — proof that hope prevails.

The messiness and chaos of our lives can be distracting. It can cause us to lose focus, get frustrated and forget that there is hope. Yet, all we need to do is look. Paul's reminder to the Romans in chapter 15 is the same for us today. God is a God of hope and by the Holy Spirit we can be overflowing with hope, too. This advent and Christmas season look for that hope and remember: There is hope in the midst of our chaos.

Cross View Holiday Schedule

Sunday, December 12

8:15 AM Traditional Worship (with communion)
10:45 AM Children's Christmas Program (no communion)

Christmas Eve, December 24

3:00 PM Family Service
5:00 PM Lessons & Carols
7:00 PM Lessons & Carols

Christmas Day, December 25

No Worship Services

Sunday, December 26

9:30 AM Traditional Christmas Worship
Single service (with communion, no Bible classes)

Sunday, January 2

9:30 AM Worship
Single service (no Bible classes)

Sunday, January 9, regular worship schedule and Bible classes resume



Services available both onsite and via live stream.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- October member contributions were 91% of budget or under budget by \$13,432.
- Year to Date income is \$105,612 behind budget and \$18,659 less than last year.
- The largest positive expense variance is due to lower than budgeted wage and benefit expenses with open positions over the year.
- Year to date General Fund Net Surplus is deficit but \$4,792 better than planned as expenditures are also lower.
- ECC tuition is favorable, and expenses are unfavorable to budget, resulting in a lower than budgeted net surplus YTD.
- Collection of the remaining 4.0 pledges will enable Cross View to finish the campaign with all bills and bridge loan paid.

Cross View Lutheran Church

10/31/21	2021 Actual Year to Date	2021 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Greater (Less)
Total Income	\$937,568	\$1,043,180	(\$105,612)
Total Expenses	\$998,578	\$1,108,982	(\$110,404)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$61,010)	(\$65,802)	\$4,792

Cross View 4.0 Building Campaign

10/31/21	
Balance in Campaign Savings Account:	\$166,202
Plus: Pledges Committed by 12/31/2021:	\$136,746
Less: Remaining Costs to Complete:	(\$3,504)
Less: Bridge (Short Term) Loan to be Repaid:	(\$241,587)
Projected 4.0 Balance at Completion:	\$57,856

2021 Year-End Offerings Deadline

IRS regulations make it very clear that for a contribution to be credited to the 2021 tax year, it must be received on Cross View's premises by December 30th or postmarked no later than midnight on December 31, 2021. Dropping it off in January with a December date on the check does not qualify. Please note that the office will be closed Friday, December 31. The church office will be open Thursday, December 30, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Thank you for your attention to this important detail.

Church Office Holiday Hours

Christmas Eve: Open 9:00 AM–Noon.
New Year's Eve: Closed



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

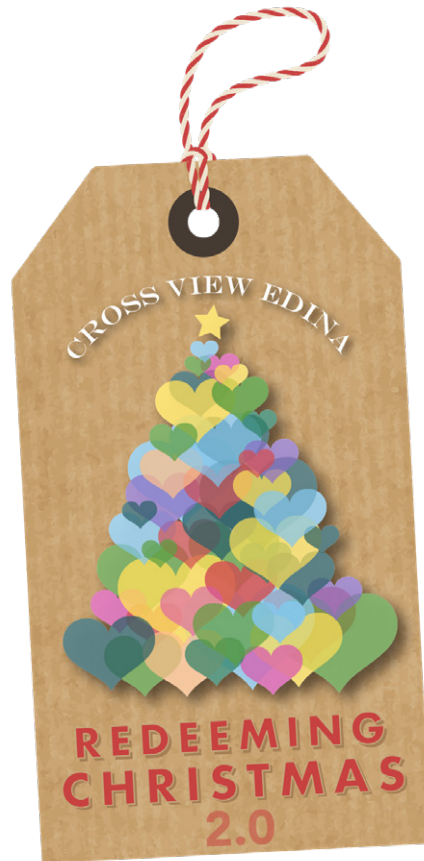
Redeeming Christmas 2.0

By Pastor Steve Wheeler

Can Christmas still change the world? The story of Christmas is a story of love, hope, redemption, and relationships. So, what happened? How did it turn into stuff, stress, and debt? Somehow, we've traded the best story in the world for the story of what's on sale. This Advent, once again, we join a global movement of people and churches resisting the cultural Christmas narrative of consumption by choosing a revolutionary Christmas through *Worshipping Fully, Spending Less, Giving More, and Loving All*. We seek to Redeem Christmas!

There are many in our congregation who will remember the first Redeeming Christmas in 2015. As a congregation, we agreed to scale back some of our Christmas purchases and activities to recapture the true meaning of Christmas — ***THE GIFT of God's love to the world in Christ***. We all made some simple sacrifices during the season of Advent to make an enduring difference in the lives of our neighbors in Kenya who were in very real need. We engaged in multiple activities that empowered the furnishing of a dental clinic at Tenwek Hospital in Kenya. To this day...people served by that clinic continue to receive life-saving dental work empowered by our partnership and our enduring love gift.

Redeeming Christmas 2.0 builds on what we learned, experienced, and accomplished together by God's grace in 2015. In April of 2019, Cross View sent a team to Guatemala on an exploratory mission trip to see if we could partner with brothers and sisters in that country who were in real need of friendship and love. By the Spirit's power, we ultimately visited a small mountain village called Los Vasquez. After



much prayer by our team, we moved forward in a partnership with the people and leaders of that community. Since then, Cross View has sent two more mission teams to visit and to assess how we can partner with these brothers and sisters in Christ. Over the last several years, we have worked diligently to build relationships and trust with this community. Some of the ways that we have gone about this include, but aren't limited to, leading a Vacation Bible School, serving a community love meal, providing middle school scholarships for children, providing a scholarship for a nursing student, providing Bibles for both children and adults, sponsoring an eye-glass clinic, training Bible study leaders, and contributing toward a harvest meal.

After three visits, countless conversations, much research, and fervent prayer, ***the greatest single need identified by the people of this community is clean and abundant water!*** Professional testing has revealed fecal matter in their water that causes the young and the old to continually be sick. In addition, there is very little water for the people during the dry season. Our teams have been working with our missionary in Guatemala, community leaders of Los Vasquez, water experts, contractors, and others for over a year to develop a plan to best address the water needs of Los Vasquez.

The love gift offering for Redeeming Christmas 2.0 would fund the materials and contractors

needed to make this clean and abundant water project a reality. The people of Los Vasquez would provide the labor needed, under the guidance of contractors, to install it. The current estimate to complete the first three phases of



this project is \$55,000. If, by God's grace, our congregation surpasses this goal, the remaining funds will be used to address other needs that have been identified in Los Vasquez. While you can donate to this project at any time, a special offering will be taken during worship on December 19th. Please use the designated envelopes or write on the memo line "Redeeming Christmas." Our gift will be a life-changing gift to the people of that community.

How can you participate? Below are some examples of ways to scale back regular Christmas activities and purchases that would allow you to save and empower our love gift to Los Vasquez:

- Buy fewer and less expensive gifts
- Scale down an upcoming vacation
- Visit Caribou and Starbucks less in the coming month (a real sacrifice...☺)

- Utilize last year's Christmas decorations
- Use the Honor Cards that we have printed to tell others that you have given a gift in their honor towards this love gift
- Remind family and friends that if they want to participate, they can give on our website
- Spread the word to others that they can participate

Together, we can make this Christmas one to remember for years to come. In John 7:37 Jesus said, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink." As we seek to Redeem Christmas this year, may God use us to "love all" through the gift of clean and abundant water! May the love that we share and the love that we receive from our brothers and sisters in Guatemala enable us together to drink deeply from the Father's greatest gift of Jesus who is the water of life!



Early Childhood Center

ECC UPDATE

In October the ECC kids had a Trick or Treat parade with the church staff. It was fun to see the church staff dressed up as shown in these pictures!

During the month of November, the Hopper Classroom collected 9 bags of canned goods and dried pasta. The food went to Second Harvest. They estimate they brought in around \$300 worth of food.

The preschool kids are getting ready for their Christmas Program. They are working really hard on their songs and parts. We are excited to share the birth of Jesus with so many families.

Have a Merry Christmas from everyone in the ECC!



Women's Ministries



GREAT TURNOUT FOR WOMEN'S FALL LUNCHEON!

Over 60 Cross View women and guests attended the Women's Fall Luncheon on Saturday November 6 held in the Great Commission Room. The theme was "If the Shoe Fits: Using our Gifts to Serve Others" based on 1 Peter 4:10. A delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. Barb Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry, provided a devotion, and Abby Thalacker, Executive Director of Corrie's House, and Chen Mellema, founder of Healing Flats, spoke about their calling to volunteer. Barb Schaus gifted quilts made by the quilting group at Cross View to Abby and Chen. Music was provided by Sarah Fincham, Wendy Cavalieri, and Sue Quist. Hundreds of shoes were donated to Good in the Hood: Shoe Away Hunger.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

In December, we will be reading and discussing "Miss Benson's Beetle" by Rachel Joyce. We will meet at church on Monday, December 20, at 1:00 PM in room 120. Please contact Marcy (mpnordhus@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining.



WOMEN'S BRUNCH ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

The Women's Ministry Action Team is switching things up a bit for our next dinner out. We are going to meet for **brunch** on **Saturday, January 15 at 10:00 AM at The Ambrosia Coffee & Cafe, 7373 France Ave. S., Edina.** The Ambrosia

Coffee shop is owned by Dave and Deb Wagner who are Cross View members. They look forward to sharing their wonderful coffee shop with you for a morning of conversation, coffee, and breakfast treats. Please sign up via [CV Connect](#) or at the Event Registration kiosk. Let Jana Poppe (jana@teampoppe.com or 612-386-7266) know if you have any questions.

AMBROSIA COFFEE & CAFE

~ Local & Fresh, Every Day ~

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

What's new with the Tuesday Women's Bible Study group? Well, this fall 15 women just finished Priscilla Shirer's in-depth study of the "Armor of God" and was it ever a fantastic, challenging study! We're currently taking a break for the Thanksgiving and Advent season. Our next Bible study will begin in early January and run through March. Take note of two temporary adjustments: due to a scheduling conflict we'll be meeting this winter on Monday nights instead of our usual Tuesday nights; AND we're planning to do our winter study over Zoom to avoid being out during the cold, dark winter evenings. Ladies of CV, we'd love to have you join our Bible study group for study, friendship and encouragement in our faith walk. Watch for more details to come in December. Questions? Call Vicki Weber at 952-838-5500.

Outreach & Missions

LINC UPDATE

Dear Cross View,

Because of God's work through your faithful support, more and more ministry leaders are being equipped to saturate the Twin Cities with the Gospel!

There is still so much more work that God has laid before us!

Through your amazing support, we have been able to do even more than we could have imagined in 2021! Thank you for being part of the LINC Family!

—Ben Griffin, LINC Twin Cities

With your help, this year LINC:

Engaged, Equipped, & Empowered
 **142** Ministry Leaders

Connected with
 **19** Distinct People Groups

Supported theological education for
 **48** Students

Helped prepare launches of
 **22** New Ministries

All right here in the Twin Cities!

SERVICE SUNDAY

A big thank you to everyone who helped serve and make Service Sunday a success! You helped us organize and get meals to over 82 families at Trinity First Lutheran School. You helped create and write cards to our children's school administrators and deployed military vets. You prepared care packages for our recent grads in college. You helped create hospitality kits for guests at Healing Flats in Rochester, along with blankets for

loved ones and lap fidgets for dementia patients.

You have heard and heeded Jesus' call to us as His disciples in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Thank you for letting your light shine! May it shine throughout Advent, Christmas, and on into the new year!

THANKSGIVING FOR CHRISTMAS

On Saturday morning, November 20th, families from the community, POBLO, the Early Childhood Center, and Cross View families celebrated at Cross View's Thanksgiving for Christmas event. Attendees joined in crafts, activities, devotions, and an outreach box to take home to do with the family each week through this holiday season.



Christian Education

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM "ONE CAN'T HAVE TOO MANY GIFTS"

All are invited to our annual children's Christmas program called "One Can't Have Too Many Gifts" on Sunday, December 12, at 10:45 AM where we will celebrate our children in this very family friendly service. The program will be a mix of live and recorded scenes as well as children taking many of the worship roles usually filled by adults. Please contact Barb Coffin by December 5th if your child wants to greet, read, help collect offering, acolyte, or pray. All children are invited to sing during the performance, but they would need to come to the one practice on Saturday, December 11 at 10:00 AM–12:00 PM. This will be a fun celebration of the birth of our Lord.

KIDSTITUTE

Starting in September, our K thru 6th grade kids, on Wednesday nights, have been learning about the PARTS of prayer. PARTS is defined as:

Praise
Ask
Repent
Thanks
Share

These are PARTS of the prayers they are to offer to God. All kids in kindergarten to 6th grade are invited to attend. They have so much fun learning the Bible, watching puppets, doing art, and much more.



CROSS VIEW'S STEPPING STONES

What is a Stepping Stone you might ask? As parents are the key faith shapers of their children, Cross View comes alongside the parent to assist in their developing of their children's faith journey. Stepping Stones is a way to do this by celebrating and educating certain faith milestones in families' lives. The Stepping Stones celebrate Baptism, Confirmation, and High School graduation just to name three of the seven main Stepping Stone celebrations. At these milestone times in the family's life, they gather with other families to learn how to develop faith in the home and celebrate by blessing their children during a worship service. On Sunday, December 5, at both services we will get to experience the first Stepping Stone celebration at Cross View which is the presentation of the Bible to 2nd and 3rd graders. Come join us celebrate!

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP THURSDAY EVENINGS, 6:30–8:30 PM (ONSITE, LIVE VIDEO STREAM, OR ARCHIVES)

The focus for the next 9 weeks of this Bible study is The Good Life in Christ – Ethics for the Christian Disciple. This portion of the series runs from December 2 to February 10.



Participants will look at ethical issues from God's perspective. How do divine commands shape our ethical decision-making? What divine virtues are we designed to reflect? How does God motivate our morality as Christian disciples? The class will look at the crucial functions of justice, love, humility, vocation, and freedom in the life and witness of the Christian.

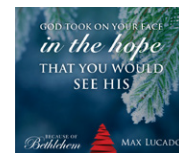


The presenter is Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President Emeritus, MN South District, LCMS.

Get more information and register at www.crossview.net/communitylight (onsite space is limited) or via email at CLSD@crossview.net.

BECAUSE OF BETHLEHEM SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM NOVEMBER 28–DECEMBER 19 (ONSITE IN ROOM 209)

CHRISTMAS...it brings sleigh bells ringing and carolers singing. And sometimes it brings heartache and hurt feelings. If you could use some true Christmas this Christmas, join us as pastor Max Lucado leads us in a study that unpacks the enduring promises of Christmas and discovers a lifetime of hope because of one baby born in Bethlehem. Questions? Contact Pastor Toby at toby@crossview.net. Register for this onsite class at CV Connect.



WALK WITH JESUS — JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPELS SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM (ONSITE IN THE SANCTUARY AND ONLINE)

Join us as we take time to just read through scripture together and follow Jesus through the Gospels. Let's share what the Holy Spirit is showing and teaching us and then look for ways that we can put it into practice. Pastor Steve will be leading this class. If you have questions email him at steve@crossview.net. Sign up for this class at CV Connect.

EPIPHANY SUNDAY MORNING, 9:30–10:30 AM JANUARY 9, (ROOMS 209-211)



Epiphany, also known as Theophany in the east, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In the West, we also call this "Three Kings' Day" and celebrate the first of many non-Jews (the Magi) visiting and worshipping the Christ Child. Join us January 9th, as we explore and learn more about this holiday and what it means for us as Gentiles today. Questions? Contact Pastor Toby (toby@crossview.net). Register for this onsite class at CV Connect.

Youth Ministries

YOUTH GROUP

Sunday night senior high youth group meets from 6:30-8:00pm in the senior high room. Because of the weather we have moved to an inside rotation of games and activities.

Our December Schedule is:

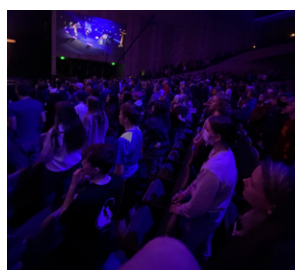
- December 5 – Onsite Youth Group
- December 12 – Christmas Party at St. Michael's
- December 19 – Onsite Youth Group
- December 26 – No Youth Group
- January 2 – No Youth Group

REALITY APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

On November 12 & 13, a group from Cross View attended the Reality Apologetics Conference at Grace Church. It was an amazing conference where they dug into how to be Christians in a world that feels chaotic. They covered all sorts of different topics and brought Jesus into them all. We hope you'll join us for the conference next November!

RAKE & RUN SUCCESS

In October the youth did their annual Rake and Run fundraiser! We want to say THANK YOU to everyone who supported us. The youth were able to raise over \$2,000 towards their National Youth Gathering trip next summer.



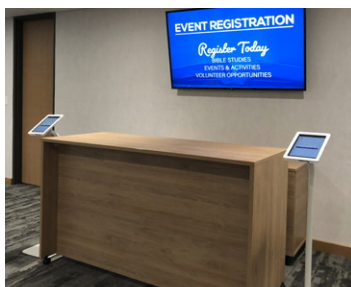
Details on Updates to Our Facilities

By now you have seen that we've got many new desks (Welcome Center and Event Registration), television monitors, kiosks, and brochures at Cross View – all as additions to our new building. You may also be wondering why we added these, what purpose they serve and how can I best use and learn from them? Glad you asked! The Welcome Center was designed to be a place for Visitors to learn about Cross View (including a new set of Ministry brochures). The Event Registration is the place to sign up for Cross View activities using the new iPad kiosks (and a place to get other materials like Portals of Prayers). We've created these two areas to make it as inviting as possible for visitors and as simple as possible to register for events.

The iPad kiosks are simple to use. Click on the screen to select your event (see the triangular shaped arrow to right and touch), hit next and then fill in your name, hit next again and fill in your email and address and then hit next a final time to fill in the number of registrants. You'll be sent a confirming email. That's it! (As a reminder, you can also register for Events on the Cross View website – pull down to Events from the Ministries tab at the top of the home page – and select your event which will take you to Cross View Connect to complete your registration. And if you need a refresher on using Cross View Connect, view this useful training video at <https://www.crossview.net/resources/cv-connect.cfm>.)

You've probably seen the many new television monitors throughout the building as well. What's exciting about them is that we can now have unique messages going to most of them. That's why you'll see the monitor at the Event Registration listing all the current activities you can participate in. The monitor by the Welcome Center covers points specifically for guests. Other monitors talk about Cross View ministries and the like. We're even using the monitor at the lower-level entrance on weekdays to let ECC parents know about Cross View events when they are dropping off and picking up their children. And soon we'll have specific information for Junior and Senior High Youth posted in the hallway monitor outside of the new youth rooms on the lower level. You'll also now see that monitors are turned on pretty much all the time given the increasing traffic and use of our updated facilities.

All in all, we're doing what we can to make the time we all spend at Cross View as friendly and informative as possible.



Looking for a Sign?

New outdoor signage has been installed to direct members and visitors alike as they enter and exit our new facility. The theme for the 2021-2022 year in ministry is "Equipped to Go." Each time you exit Cross View, our new signage will remind you that you are entering the mission field and that Christ is with you. You are *Equipped to Go!*

Special thanks to Barb Hammer and Phil Johnson of Cross View's marketing team who worked diligently with contractors to design and install our new signage. We are sincerely thankful for their generous donations of time and talent that made this project a reality.





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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
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Jonathan Zellar, Youth Ministry
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Stacey LaMere, Early Childhood Center
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Barbara Coffin, Children's Ministry
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José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Organist
harrison@crossview.net

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.



GROW

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 2nd & 4th
Sundays*

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

OFFICE HOURS

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

CALENDAR

Our most current calendar
is always available at
www.crossview.net/calendar

CONNECT

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