

CROSSVIEW CLARION

December 2022

"Now is the best time to thank God for his greatest gift to us, His Son, at Christmas." - Stacey LaMere



Special Gifts!

by Stacey LaMere, ECC Director

Over this last year in the Early Childhood Center, we have been blessed with many gifts from the Lord. One of our biggest gifts is all the prayers from Cross View's congregational members. During our most difficult times and pleading to find staff the congregation has stepped up and helped the center. I wanted to share with you all the gifts that the ECC was blessed with this year:

1. We were able to find amazing new staff to help fill in our gaps (we hired 5 new teachers in a year where most centers struggled to find one new staff)
2. Donations from Thrivent Choice, memorial gifts, and donations from church members have helped us to fund repairs and buy needed items
3. New families that have started to fill our program to capacity: referred by many of our current families, but also past families
4. An amazing school age program that brings back past families and kids to continue their friendships and hearing about Jesus
5. Books, toys, diapering paper, and other items donated to help stock our classrooms with all the necessary supplies
6. Congregational members who help repair worn out and broken items (we are so grateful; you truly are a gift from God)
7. A healthy center: very few COVID cases this year ☺.



However, with all the gifts we are blessed with, the best gift of all is Jesus, “Baby Jesus” as the ECC kids would say. We get to worship Him in chapel, say prayers before meals, read about him daily, and sing to Him. Now is the best time to thank God for his greatest gift to us, His Son at Christmas. Baby Jesus is the true Gift of Christmas. Jesus came to earth to give us life – eternal life! That is the most amazing gift we

could ever receive.

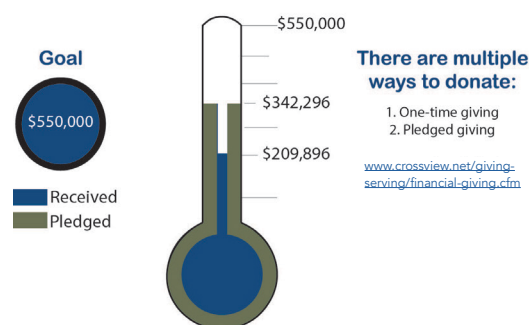
So, during this last month of the year, as you look back at all the amazing gifts you or your family have received, remember that every good gift comes from God and that the greatest gift is eternal life.

Thanks be to God for his indescribable Gift!
(2 Corinthians 9:15)

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- October 2022 member contributions were 64% of budget or \$58,102 less than budgeted. October expenses were \$27,572 less than budgeted.
- Year to Date income is 8.81% below budget or \$96,606 less than budgeted.
- Year to Date expenditures are \$66,399 less than budgeted primarily in lower wage expense due to open positions.
- Year-to-date General Fund Deficit of \$91,662 is \$30,207 worse than planned through October. We pray for contributions in the final two months to make up this deficit by year end.
- ECC income is at just \$1,229 shy of plan and expenses unfavorable to budget, resulting in a net surplus less than budgeted by \$25,848.
- Each contribution reduces the loan balance and Cross View's interest cost — enabling those funds to support ministry programs.

RESTORED!
Please prayerfully consider donating!



Cross View Lutheran Church

10/31/22	2022 Actual Year to Date	2022 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$999,324	\$1,095,930	(\$96,606)
Total Expenses	(\$1,090,986)	(\$1,157,385)	\$66,399
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$91,662)	(\$61,455)	(\$30,207)

Cross View 4.0 Building Campaign

Contributions Received in October:	\$14,954
Total Pledges Made to Restored!	\$342,296
Total Contributions Collected:	\$209,896
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$13,510
Loan Balance Outstanding:	\$354,000
Additional Pledges Needed to Repay Loan:	\$150,000

2022 Year-End Offerings Deadline

IRS regulations make it very clear that for a contribution to be credited to the 2022 tax year, it must be received on Cross View's premises by December 30th or postmarked no later than midnight on December 31, 2022. Dropping it

off in January with a December date on the check does not qualify. Please note that the church office will be open Friday, December 30, from 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM. Thank you for your attention to this important detail.

CROSS VIEW Christmas Season Schedule

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 4

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Children's Christmas Celebration

CHRISTMAS EVE, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24

1:00 PM Traditional Service
3:00 PM Contemporary Service
5:00 PM Traditional Service

CHRISTMAS DAY, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

9:30 AM Traditional Service (with communion)
(No Bible classes)

NEW YEAR'S DAY, SUNDAY, JANUARY 1

9:30 AM Traditional Service
(No Bible classes)

SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 (REGULAR SCHEDULE RESUMES)

8:15 AM Traditional Service (with communion)
9:30 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Service (with communion)

Services available both onsite and via live stream.

Born to Change the World MobilePack™

We did it! The 500 volunteer shifts required to pack 101,088 meals were filled with people putting faith into action. Praise God! About 60% of the shifts were filled with Cross View members and we welcomed people from our community for the remaining shifts.

While we are gaining momentum going into the packing event on December 2–3, we have not yet raised the \$25,000 required to pay for the ingredients used to pack the meals. Donations will be accepted until December 31 and can be made online using Cross View's specific Born to Change the World MobilePack™ site give.fmssc.org/crossview or by writing a check to Cross View Lutheran Church with Feed My Starving Children or FMSC in the memo line. Thank you, Cross View, for welcoming the community into our church and for making a meaningful love gift to feed God's children.



Early Childhood Center

A FUN, FAITH, AND FELLOWSHIP NIGHT

On October 28th we had an amazing evening at Cross View with the School Age kids from the summer and last year's Hopper class. It was fun to see the kids see each other for the first time since the end of August. We had a snowball fight in the Activity room, a scavenger hunt that went all over the building, we played a bingo game, had a fun snack, and time to color and play games with each other.



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

Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 4, Cross View children will have the Children's Christmas Celebration during the 10:45 AM service. Sunday School children ages 2 years to 6th grade will share the story of Jesus' birth by focusing on all the different names for Jesus. They created fun ornaments to decorate their very own Christmas tree. The children have worked hard, and it will be a wonderful worship service.

PARENT CORNER



Cross View families, here are two fun games to help kids learn the true meaning of Christmas in a creative way! And no supplies needed. ☺

Christmas Game #1: Christmas Carol Freeze

In this fun Christmas game, kids will run around the room. But they'll have to listen carefully! When you shout out the name of a Christmas carol, kids must freeze in place in a pose that represents that song. There's no right or wrong pose, so let kids have fun and express their creativity! Here's a list of songs you can name:

- Hark! The Herald Angels Sing
- Little Town of Bethlehem
- Joy to the World
- Away in a Manger
- What Child Is This?
- We Three Kings
- Go Tell It on the Mountain
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- Silent Night
- It Came Upon a Midnight Clear

After the game, lead kids in this discussion. Ask:

1. Why did you decide on the poses you did?
2. Which Christmas carol is your favorite, and why?

Say: Christmas songs are a fun way to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas. Jesus came to earth as a baby, born to be our Savior.

Christmas Game #2: Shepherd's Telephone

Your kids will love this fun game of Telephone! Kids will sit in a circle or a side-by-side and whisper a message down the line. The messages will be things the shepherds might have told people.

First, read Luke 2:17. Then whisper the following messages to the first child in line, one message at a time. Let kids whisper the message all the way down the line or around the circle and have the last child announce aloud what they heard. Have kids whisper these messages:

- We saw a whole bunch of angels.
- The angels told us they had good news of great joy.
- The Savior was born today in Bethlehem.
 - We got to see baby Jesus wrapped snugly in strips of cloth.
 - Jesus was lying in a manger.
 - Jesus is God's Son — the Savior of the world!
 - You have to go see him for yourself!

If time allows, kids can also make up things they think the shepherds might have told people.

After the game, lead kids in this discussion. Ask:

1. What happened when you shared your messages?
2. What do you think happened when the shepherds shared their messages?
3. What's one thing you can tell someone about Jesus this Christmas?

Say: The shepherds were so excited because they knew Jesus wasn't an ordinary baby. He was God's Son, the one they had been waiting for to save them! Like the shepherds, we can tell everyone the exciting news about Jesus!

SAVE THE DATES!

Sunday, January 22, during the Sunday School hour 9:30-10:30 AM the Children's Ministry MAT will be putting on the first ever **Mission Sunday for the Sunday School kids**. Mission Sunday is a festival where Sunday School children appreciate and deepen their understanding of the mission focus of Cross View through education, games, donations, relationship building, and, of course, treats. We hope this carnival-like atmosphere will help the children grow in their faith and learn about service, thankfulness, and world mission.

Friday, January 27, starting at 5:30 PM the Children's Ministry MAT will be putting on another new event for families called **Popcorn, PJs, and a Movie**. We will supply fun treats while families can gather for some fellowship time watching a movie together.

KIDSTITUTE NEWS

The 5th and 6th grade class of Kidstitute children have started a new series from Right Now Media called "Torch Lighters". This series follows the adventures of heroes of the faith and shows how God works through those who dedicate their lives to serving him. Some examples of the heroes they share about are Martin Luther, Harriet Tubman, and Corrie ten Boom. These 30-minute stories are written at an age-appropriate level and the class debriefs what is learned afterwards.

Youth Ministry

YOUTH GROUP

Youth group on Sunday nights starts at 6:30 PM unless otherwise noted!

- Dec 4: Christmas Party at St. Michael's, 3:00–6:00 PM (Jr and Sr High)
- Dec 11: Youth at CV
- Dec 18: Youth at CV
- Dec 25: No Youth

YOUTH SUNDAY SCHOOL

- Dec 4: Leadership Types 2
- Dec 11: Leadership Context 1
- Dec 18: Leadership Context 2
- Dec 25: No Sunday School

RAKE AND RUN FUNDRAISER

The junior and senior high youth were blessed with an unseasonably warm October day for the annual Rake and Run fundraiser this year. More than 500 bags of leaves were raked by 34 youth and adults at 17 different homes. Thank you to everyone who supported the youth in raising money for their summer mission trips!



YOUTH FAREWELL TO JONATHAN ZELLAR

Although the congregation said farewell to Jon on October 23, many of the youth were out of town for MEA break, so they hosted their own farewell party the following week. It was a fun night of celebration, sharing memories, food, fellowship, and final games with Jon. Jonathan always said, "Words are hard," and the youth added, "but goodbyes are harder." Jon will be missed, but the relationships of the youth that he fostered will continue to grow in his absence.



REALITY APOLOGETICS CONFERENCE

On November 11 and 12, a group of junior and senior high youth and adults attended the Reality Apologetics Conference at Grace Church. The theme this year was "Seek and You Will Find." As in past years, a variety of topics were covered, especially during breakout sessions. The main sessions addressed seeking answers to suffering, Scripture, and doubt. It was a great time of learning, worship, fellowship, and fun. The conference will return next year on November 10 and 11, 2023.



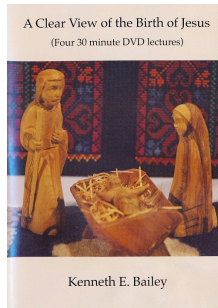
Christian Education

A CLEAR VIEW OF THE BIRTH OF JESUS SUNDAYS MORNINGS, NOV 27-DEC 18 9:30-10:30 AM (ROOMS 209/210/211)

Perhaps no story in all of scripture is more familiar than the Christmas story of Luke 2. With such familiarity, it's easy for even the most seasoned of Biblical students to make assumptions of the text based on what they think they know. It's easy for one to "read-into" the text, rather than to read the text.

In the class "A Clear View of the Birth of Jesus" we will join Middle Eastern scholar Kenneth Bailey for four video lectures followed by Bible study and discussion. We will take a fresh look at the text, attempting to strip away "additions" that have crept in over the centuries, recapturing the beauty and simplicity of the birth of Christ

Join us on Sunday mornings November 27 through December 18 onsite (Rooms 209/210/211) or online as Pastor Wheeler and Phil Johnson lead the discussion. Register for this class [here on CV Connect](#). Questions? Contact Phil Johnson, at philj23@gmail.com.



COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

We're excited to report that 90 Cross View members are attending Community Light School of Discipleship (CLSD) on Wednesday and Thursday nights in-person and online. Each week, 20 people are downloading the archived videos and materials to lead studies in their churches around the country, as well.

We are eager to join Dr. Dean Nadasdy as the winter session begins December 1! "Stories for Witness" will help participants discover the witness value of stories. They will review the great sacred story arcing over every disciple's life and find themselves in the stories Jesus tells in the gospels. They will also consider their own stories for witness. The point of witness is just where the Christ story, the story of another, and my own story intersect. To emphasize the visual nature of Jesus' stories, art will be used extensively.

Presenter: Dr. Dean Nadasdy, President Emeritus, MN South District, LCMS

Winter session: December 1-February 9 (No classes on December 22 & 29)



BIBLE STUDY FELLOWSHIP (BSF) FOR WOMEN & PRESCHOOL CHILDREN TUESDAYS, 12:30-2:00 PM

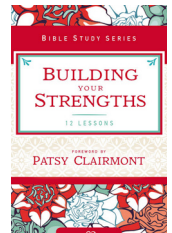
Cross View is delighted to host a Tuesday afternoon Bible Study Fellowship (BSF) class for women and preschool-children. This year, BSF will be studying "People of the Promise: Kingdom Divided." This study will unpack a fascinating period in Israel's history across 15 books, from its split into two nations, through dozens of kings and prophets and ultimately to the heartbreaking exile into Babylon.

Interested in joining this BSF class? Please email the Class Administrator, Ros Wright, at bsf.edina@gmail.com and she'll be happy to get you and your preschool children registered for this class.



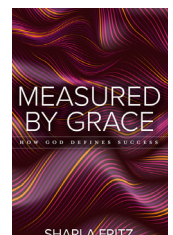
BUILDING YOUR STRENGTHS: WHO AM I IN GOD'S EYES? LAST CLASS IS MONDAY, DECEMBER 5 9:30 AM (ROOM 218)

In this women's Bible study, we are reading and discussing chapters from *Building Your Strengths: Who Am I in God's Eyes?* book and study guide. Questions? Contact Marcy Nordhus at mpnordhus@gmail.com. Register for this onsite class at [CV Connect](#).



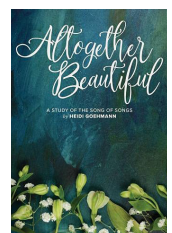
MEASURED BY GRACE 1ST MONDAY OF THE MONTH 9:30 AM (ROOM 218)

The new study book is entitled "Measured by Grace" by Sharla Fritz. The focus of this study is how God measures our worth: by His Grace and not as the world does. Questions? Contact Marcy Nordhus at mpnordhus@gmail.com. Register for this onsite class [here on CV Connect](#).



ALTOGETHER BEAUTIFUL: A STUDY OF SONG OF SONGS TUESDAY NIGHTS 7:00-8:30 PM (ONLINE)

We are all beautiful because of who we are in Christ! In this 8-week study, we will dig into Song of Songs with Heidi Goehmann following her study book and videos. The study book can be found online at [Amazon](#) or [Concordia Publishing House](#). Register [here](#) on CV Connect. Questions? Contact Emily Hawkins (612-618-3903 or ehawk4@gmail.com).



Women's Ministry

COMFORT & JOY WOMEN'S FALL LUNCHEON

On November 5th, 85 women attended a fall luncheon sponsored by Cross View Women's Ministry team. The lunch was catered by Lunch Thyme and speaker Su Hanson delivered a wonderful message on Comfort & Joy in All Seasons.

In conjunction with this event, they collected items for Joseph's Coat and Oasis for Youth. Many bags of items were collected from Cross View's congregation. Thank you to the congregation for supporting this event and contributing to the clothing drives. They also raised \$1,300 for Chen Mellema's charity, Healing Flats, through the auction of a beautiful Christmas quilt called "Comfort and Joy."



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDIES BEGIN IN JANUARY

The women's Bible study will be completing the study on "Building Your Strengths" in December. They will be starting a new onsite study on Monday, January 9, 2023, at 9:30 AM. (usual meeting dates are the first Monday of the month but move to the second Monday to accommodate holidays.) The new study book is entitled "Measured by Grace" by Sharla Fritz.

Also, beginning on Tuesday, January 10, at 7:00 PM, a new women's virtual Bible study titled "Altogether Beautiful: A Study of Song of Songs" will be led by Emily Hawkins.

Additional details on these new Bible studies can be found in the Christian Education section of this issue of the Clarion.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book club will meet on Monday, December 19th at 1:00 PM at church in room 120. They will be discussing the book *Comfort and Joy* by Kristin Hannah. Contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join.



Cross View
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Cross View 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 his or her own 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). Register for this event on CV Connect or the Event Registration kiosks.



What Goes Up Must Come Down

Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 8th, following services to volunteer your time to take down the beautifully decorated Christmas trees placed throughout our church. Contact Sue Quist to volunteer at sue@crossview.net.



Focus on the Family of Cross View by Paul Emmel

SHINING LIGHTS

In any congregation there are “shining lights”, fellow members who are living examples of what it looks like to be a Christian. These are people in our midst whom the Spirit uses as lights to guide and inspire us.

One of the many people in Cross View that brighten the way for me is Vina Marquardt. I thank God for her and share this interview so others in Cross View might acknowledge those who light up the way for them.



Q. What has been your history with Cross View?

A. I joined Cross View, along with my husband, Karl Nilsson, in 1998, transferring from Bethel Lutheran Church in St. Paul, where I had been a member since the 1970's, after moving to the Twin Cities, following college.

We joined Cross View, partly because of location and partly because of the recommendation of friends, but, more so, because of the preached and taught Word of God, the music and social ministry programs, and the welcoming and engaged congregational members. As an answer to prayer, Karl was baptized, as an adult, by Pastor Nadasdy, when we joined.

Q. How has Cross View nurtured your faith during those years?

A. My faith has been nurtured by many of the same things that brought me to Cross View in the first place, including worshipping with the fellowship of believers; hearing and studying the Word; celebrating and receiving the Sacraments; joining in music that glorifies God; participating in outreach and service ministries; growing deeper faith relationships with others through small groups, ministry involvement and service projects.

Q. How would your life be different if you weren't part of the Cross View family?

A. Because God has planted me here, right now, I “belong” to Cross View's unique Body of believers, made up of ‘real people’, who laugh, cry, struggle, study, and worship together. The joy of recalling many people who have welcomed and loved me as part of this church family over the years, is still vivid. And, yet, every Sunday, is a ‘new day’ to meet and know and love someone new, a fellow believer on earth's journey, heading to heaven, as part of God's family.

Q. How do you see yourself fitting into The Body of Christ at Cross View?

A. I see myself fitting into the Body of Christ at Cross View where and when God calls and leads me to say “yes” to opportunities, ministries, and needs, but that doesn't mean I say “yes” to everything. But I find joy in worship and fellowship, participating with other believers and servants, because we're “just people” doing kingdom work together, stepping in when asked or encouraged, whether we feel “qualified” or not. It's the Holy Spirit using me and working through me for the “right fit” at the right time.

Q. What recent trends in congregational life concern you?

A. I don't really have concerns about our congregational life at Cross View, but I wonder how we might continue to build relationships with those who don't look, sing, talk, dress, worship, and act exactly like we life-long LCMS/Lutheran people do. Although we are blessed to have an East Indian Christian community worshipping in our building every Saturday, and we support the POBLO ministry, most of us, including me, have never worshipped, or participated with those ministries. So, an openness to break out of our comfort zone and be inclusive and encouraging of those diverse “others” who love Jesus, would be a good trend, in my humble opinion.



Paul Emmel is a retired pastor in the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and a member of Cross View Lutheran Church.



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

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Nader & 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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