

CROSS VIEW CLARION

December 2024

"Keeping ourselves too busy only keeps us from the real reason we celebrate this time of year..." –Barb Coffin



The Reason for the Season

by Dcs. Barb Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry

Can you believe we are already in the holiday season? There are so many things that need to get done before Christmas! We need to plan the big family Christmas meal complete with homemade pies. We need to shop and beautifully wrap all the presents for the entire family and friends. We need to write and mail out 150 Christmas cards. We are so busy. But wait! If you are anything like me, we don't want to forget about the real reason for the season. How do we do that with a "to do" list a mile long?

We need to plan our holidays intentionally by setting aside thirty minutes this weekend to determine what our holiday priorities are. Pick three to five of your most important relational and spiritual activities and say no to the rest. Be willing to let go of some things and give yourself permission to do less. Saying yes to everything will only leave you exhausted and unhappy. Give yourself a break and know sometimes "good enough" is enough. Keeping ourselves too busy only keeps us from the real reason we celebrate this time of year and takes away our grateful spirit.

I can share a few ideas of how to keep our hearts on Christ this holiday season and avoid burnout. First, make time for God. Be sure to continue reading your daily devotion and your Bible, even if it is only for five minutes (Psalm 1, Psalm 19:10-11). Be creative in how you get your Bible time done in your day. You can listen to audio Scriptures, and you can challenge yourself to not even look at your phone until you have read your Bible. Take time to pause and pray (1 Peter 5:7). Be still before the Lord and reflect on the beauty of this time of year. Make time to serve (Galatians 5:13) and feel the joy of giving to others. Be sure to leave space for quiet reflection and praise as you seek the closeness of the Savior, which is our greatest gift of all. Praise the Lord for the birth of the one true King and may He bless your Christmas celebrations.



Stewardship of Skills and Interests

How is the Lord calling you to use your gifts at church? As we focus on stewardship this month, take the time to pray about this and update your Skills and Interests listed on your profile on [CV Connect](#) under "Serving". On a computer, click the three dots and select "edit." On mobile device, tap the forward arrow. Check all that apply.

If you would like help accessing your profile, contact our office. May Jesus be glorified in all that we do!

Christian Education

THE PURPOSE OF CHRISTMAS

Teaching Leader: Pastors Steve Wheeler & Reed Lessing

Date: Sunday mornings, 12/1–12/15

This three-week video-based study looks at Christmas from three angles: A Time for Celebration, A Time for Salvation, A Time for Reconciliation. Inspiring and practical, this class is a wonderful way to experience the true reason for the season.

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP (CLSD)

The next session will begin on December 4th with Rev. Dr. Dean Nadasdy's "Threads: Celebrating the Biblical Tapestry". If you did not attend the first session and would like to join, [sign up on CV Connect](#). The lecture will be followed by discussion in small groups.



Community Light
School of Discipleship

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- Year to date income is 1.63% favorable to budget.
- Year to date expenses are favorable to budget and higher than 2023.
- The primary expense variances were lower utility costs, lower wage expenses, and underbilling of medical insurance, which will correct by year end.
- ECC Income was unfavorable to budget due to a lag in state of MN payments. Tuition is favorable at 101% of plan.
- ECC Expenses are favorable primarily due to medical insurance underbilling mentioned above.
- ECC Net Surplus is unfavorable to budget by \$16,584.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
10/31/24	2024 Actual Year to Date	2024 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$1,235,964	\$1,216,177	\$19,787
Total Expenses	(\$1,161,881)	(\$1,305,291)	\$143,410
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$74,083	(\$89,114)	\$163,197
General Fund Ending Balance	\$346,580	\$183,383	

Christmas Season Schedule

Sunday, December 15

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

Christmas Eve, December 24

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

Christmas Day, December 25

9:30 AM Worship Service

Sunday, December 29

9:30 AM Traditional Service
No Education Hour

Sunday, January 5 (regular schedule resumes)

8:15 AM Traditional Service
9:30 AM Education Hour
10:45 AM Contemporary Service

Wednesday, January 8

Recharge resumes

Services available both onsite and via live stream.

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.

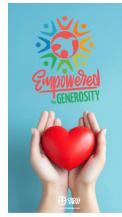
Cross View Game Night is open to all teens and adults, including church members and their guests.

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 at johndaenzer@gmail.com or Michael Kibat at mngkibat@centurylink.net.

Stewardship Reminder

Did you receive your Cross View Empowered for Generosity stewardship brochure mailed to your home? If not, contact the church office at (952) 941-1094 or frontdesk@crossview.net. And, if you have not completed your financial commitment card, it's not too late! Simply mail or bring your commitment card to the church office.



2024 Year-End Offering Deadline

IRS regulations make it very clear that for a contribution to be credited to the 2024 tax year, it must be received on Cross View's premises by Tuesday, December 31st, or postmarked no later than midnight on December 31, 2024. Dropping it off in January with a December date on the check does not qualify.

Concordia University Christmas Concert

The Concordia University Christmas Concert will be held at St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Bloomington on December 7th at 3:30 PM. Free tickets are available at csp.edu/tickets.

Early Childhood Center

NOW HIRING!

The Early Childhood Center is looking to hire a few new teachers. If you know of anyone who loves kids and wants to be able to work in a place where you can share the love of Jesus every day, please have them reach out to the ECC office at Stacey@crossview.net or call 952-941-0009.

ANNUAL GET-TOGETHER

In November the Early Childhood Center had their annual get-together of past children who attend our School Age program. They played outside, did a Thanksgiving BINGO game, and played in the gym. It was a fun day for all. Again, you can see a few pictures of the day.



ECC CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The ECC staff and children are working diligently on their Christmas Program. They are excited to share the birth of Jesus through song and finger plays. This year they will be focusing on sharing the story using Christmas lights. They will use the cross and plug in lights to share the story of Jesus' birth.

DAVANNI'S FUNDRAISER

Thank you to everyone who went to Davanni's to support the ECC. The ECC raised over \$225 that evening.

ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- Ada – our school age friend who had cancer last year had another clear scan in October
- All the hard work that is being done for NLSA
- That our classrooms are full
- Health – the kids and staff have been pretty healthy

Prayer Requests:

- That we can find teachers to join our team
- That we can find a new director and assistant director
- That our parents hear the Christmas story this holiday season

ECC MISSION STATEMENT

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

Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATES: DECEMBER

- Saturday, December 7: NativityFest
- Sunday, December 15: 10:45 AM Children's Christmas Celebration
- Sunday, December 22: No Sunday School due to Christmas break
- Wednesday, December 25: Christmas Break – No Kidstute
- Sunday, December 29: No Sunday School due to Christmas break

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY DATES: JANUARY

- Wednesday, January 1: Christmas Break – No Kidstute
- Friday, January 17: 5:00 PM Family Movie Night
- Friday and Saturday, January 24 & 25: Feed My Starving Children service event at Cross View

ATTENTION ARTIFICIAL CHRISTMAS TREE OWNERS!

If you are upgrading your artificial Christmas tree this year, please consider donating your old artificial tree to next year's Vacation Bible School program, True North. If you need it out of your home before June, Rachael Johnson can store it until it is needed. Any and all sizes in green would be appreciated. Questions can be directed to Rachael Johnson at rachaeljohnson1478@gmail.com

KIDSTITUTE HALLOWEEN PARTY

Kidstute had a great Halloween party on Wednesday, Oct 30, when the kids got to dress up in costumes, play games, make a spider or bat craft, eat a fun dirt cup and hear the story of the Pumpkin Patch Parable. They are already looking forward to next year!



CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Everyone please come and see our wonderful children ages 2 to 6th grade share the Christmas story from Luke 2 on Sunday, Dec 15, at 10:45 AM. Our children have been working hard studying the Bible story and creating props that teach the story so they can share it with you during worship. All children are welcome to participate, and the practices will occur during the Sunday School hour at 9:30–10:30 AM in the classroom.

PARENT CORNER



Parents have some fun finding Christ in this special holiday cartoon.

Watch Frosty the Snowman together and talk about the below thoughts.

Tuning in to Christ

- It wasn't a magic hat that brought Jesus to life. It was the Holy Spirit through Mary (Luke 1:35).
- Echoing Frosty's first words, we say "Happy Birthday" to Jesus on Christmas (Luke 2:7).
- It is only through Jesus' sacrifice that we are gifted with forgiveness and new life: a rebirth-day! (Eph. 5:1-2)
- Frosty says, "I'll be back again someday." Isn't it nice to know that Jesus will be back again someday to take us to heaven to live with him? (John 14:3)

Talk about...

- A sacrifice you can make to help someone this Christmas.
- A time when someone else put your needs before their own.
- A friend you have who is special to you.
- A way you can have a birthday party for Jesus.



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- December 8: Junior High Christmas Party at CV, 3:30–5:30 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH DECEMBER SCHEDULE

- December 1: No Youth; Thanksgiving weekend
- December 8: Senior high Christmas party at CV, 6:00–8:00 PM
- December 15: Youth at CV; college freshman invited
- December 22: No Youth; Christmas weekend
- December 29: No Youth; New Year's weekend

REALITY CONFERENCE: IT IS WRITTEN

Both Junior and Senior High youth spent the weekend of November 8–9 at Grace Church in Eden Prairie attending the Reality Apologetics Conference: "It Is Written." There, both youth and adult volunteers learned about the truth of God's Word, and how we can have confidence in what is written. It was a wonderful, faith-shaping experience for both youth and adults!



RAKE AND RUN

On Saturday, October 26, 37 youth and adults went around to different homes, raking leaves as a youth fundraiser. The youth split into four groups, raking a total of 17 yards. Thank you to all who signed up to get their lawns raked and to the youth and adult volunteers who helped rake the lawns! The funds will be used for the National Youth Gathering next summer.



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



Adult Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY FALL LUNCHEON

A big THANK YOU to all who attended the Women's Ministry Fall Luncheon in November. We had a lovely time together and were treated to a wonderful presentation by Traci Kohls, D.C.E. Laurie Koch received the sewing supplies that were donated by Cross View members and she and Tom have delivered them on their current mission trip to Guatemala. Here are a few photos from the event and the donations.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's book club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, December 16, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing the book *Doorman Wanted* by Glenn R. Miller. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



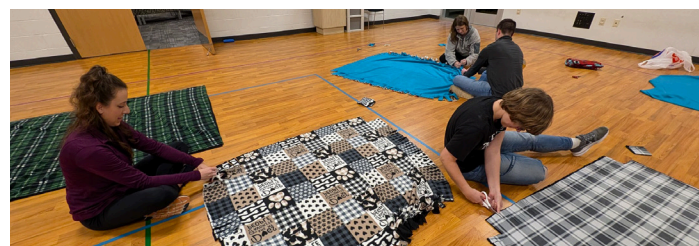
TNT – TWENTIES & THIRTIES YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY

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! Locations vary and there has been a change in time and days. Bible studies will be held on Mondays and outings on Thursdays; both 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.

The past few weeks, the TNT group has been busy serving at Feed My Starving Children, as well as making tie blankets for patients at M Health Fairview. The group was able to pack 16 meal boxes on their own and tied and donated 17 blankets for those in need.

Winter Sessions:

- December 13: White Elephant at Cross View
- January 6: Bible study at Cross View
- January 23: Davanni's in Richfield
- February 3: Bible Study at Cross View
- February 20: Good Day Café in Golden Valley
- March 3: Winter serving project



MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE CROSS VIEW QUILTERS!

The Cross View Quilters have made 20 lovely Christmas quilts for the congregation. If you are interested in receiving one of the quilts to keep or give away as a gift, please email Barb Schaus at bschaus46@gmail.com. If more than 20 requests are received, we will draw names from a hat to determine who gets the quilts. If you are chosen to receive a quilt, you may view the quilts and select one in Room 223 (Chapel Room) on the upper level between services on Sunday December 8.



CHRISTMAS CONCERT OUTING FOR SENIORS

Cross View Seniors, come and enjoy an evening of nurturing fellowship and instrumental music on Friday,

December 6, 7:30 PM. We will be attending the Lake Wobegon Brass Band concert at Meetinghouse Church (Colonial Church of Edina) located at 6200 Colonial Way, Edina. Prior to the concert we will gather at 5:00 PM at Cross View to share a potluck of appetizers and then carpool to the concert together. Beverages will be provided. The freewill offering for the concert will be taken to support a choral program for adults with memory issues. Please register by December 4, [online at CV Connect](#) or at the registration desk. Contact Kathy Fulkerson or Sue Harrison with questions.

JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

At Cross View, we know being a member of a small group can be transformational. Groups spend time together in God's Word, share life's joys and challenges, pray for one another, and serve others like Jesus did. Several new groups are starting to form over the summer. If you'd like to join a group or become a small group leader, please contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net or complete the [interest form on our website](#).

Outreach & Missions

NATIVITYFEST — A FAMILY-FRIENDLY CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!

Saturday, December 7, from 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

Our Christmas outreach event is a great way to kick off the Advent season! The activities will point to Jesus as the reason for the season with something for everyone to enjoy. We will have a live nativity, crafts, treats, story time, and more. We will need lots of helpers, so check out CV Connect for ways to volunteer! Also, visit the Giving Trees in the lobby to donate cookies to be served as treats during the event. Contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net or Barb Coffin at barb@crossview.net with questions.



NATIVITY EXHIBIT

If you have a nativity scene that you would like to display during our NativityFest on December 7th, please [sign up on CV Connect](#) or contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net. You would need to come by 9:15 AM to set it up and then take it down again at noon. The exhibit room will be staffed with volunteers and stanchions will be in place to prevent touching the items but take into consideration the risk of damage as you determine your participation.

WINTER WARMTH DRIVE

During the Advent and Christmas seasons, we will be collecting hats, mittens, and scarves for the "Hats & Mittens" organization. Items can be new, used, or home-crafted and can be for all ages of children and adults. The

biggest need is for waterproof mittens for children ages 5–8. Grateful for our Savior's birth and His love for the world, let's be generous as we join "Hats & Mittens" in their mission to warm the bodies and hearts of kids and adults everywhere.

EMPOWERED TO SERVE

We are empowered! At Cross View we are plugged in for Growth, Witness, Service and Praise. We have an opportunity in January to put our service power to work by feeding God's starving children.



Cross View is hosting a Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) MobilePack™ event on January 24th and 25th with the goal of packing 101,088 meals to feed 277 Children for one year. We need about 500 volunteers to meet our goal, so we are starting recruitment early. We are inviting Cross View members ages 5 and older, friends, family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and members from other churches in our circuit to join the event.

Everyone is encouraged to volunteer, to witness how God empowers ordinary people to serve and change the world, regardless of donation. However, to cover the cost of the ingredients for these meals, a donation of \$50 per volunteer is suggested. If you are able to donate more than \$50, we encourage you to do so to help cover the cost for those unable to make a donation at this amount. Donations in excess of the cost of the event will go to FMSC to help feed more children.

What: Empowered to Serve MobilePack™

Where: Cross View Lutheran Church, 6645 McCauley Trail W., Edina, MN

When: January 24 and 25, 2025

Who: Cross View members over age 5 (childcare will be provided at Cross View for children under 5), friends, family, neighbors, classmates, coworkers, and members from other churches in our circuit

Sign-up and donate: Sign-up online at give.fmssc.org/crossview for one or more of the seven 2-hour shifts. Sign-up early! We are promoting exclusively within Cross View from December 1 – 14 to allow you to secure your desired time slot and pack meals with family and friends. Donations can also be made online using Cross View's specific 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.

If you have any questions, feel free to connect with someone on the event team.

Event Hosts:

Don Nelson, 952-826-9095, don9290@yahoo.com

Pat Kullmann, 763-516-1029, pckullmann@gmail.com

Volunteer Coordinator:

Dan Battcher, 952-999-1676, dtbattcher@gmail.com

Fundraising Coordinator:

Lynn Pahl, 952-334-2930, lynnmpahl@gmail.com

Let's put our service power to work, feeding God's children.

Music Ministry

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS "SING FOR MESSIAH!" CHOIR INVITATION

The Cross View Choir is presenting parts of Handel's Messiah in the Advent/Christmas worship services. Singers high school age and up who would like to sing this much-loved music are welcome to join the choir on these dates:

- Sunday, December 8 ("And the Glory of the Lord"), 8:15 AM service
- Sunday, December 22 ("Oh, Thou That Tellest Good Tidings to Zion"), 8:15 AM service
- Tuesday, December 24 ("Glory to God in the Highest")
Christmas Eve 1:00 & 5:00 PM services.

Those interested in singing for any or all of these services would attend the previous Wednesday 6:45 PM rehearsal on December 4, 11 and/or 18. For more information please contact David Mennicke at david@crossview.net.



Holiday Decorating Opportunities

There are many opportunities for all ages to make our building beautiful for the holiday season.

• Poinsettia Decorating: Sunday, December 22, Noon–2:00 PM

Join us after the second service to decorate our worship spaces. Lunch will be provided.

• What Goes Up Must Come Down: The "Undecorating." Sunday, January 5, Noon– 2:00 PM, lunch provided

Help take down and put away the decorations placed throughout the church. Also on tap: taking down the nativity stable.

Questions? Call the office at 952-941-1094 or email FrontDesk@crossview.net.



LCEF All Access Account

Imagine investing in a way that benefits the LCMS, earns a competitive interest rate and gives you the access you need to your funds. That's what the [All Access Account](#)—an investment for LCMS individuals, congregations and organizations—is about. The All Access Account is an easy-access investment

that builds over time with interest earned. With your All Access Account, you'll maintain full control over your balances and enjoy convenient online access. Interest rates start at 2.50% and go as high as 4.50%, depending on the balance in the account. To learn more, go to www.lcef.org/allaccess

Trunk Or Treat

What do you get when you combine lots of trunks, tons of treats, hundreds of delightfully costumed children (and their parents), and beautiful weather? You get Cross View's Trunk Or Treat, and it was an absolute blast! Whether admiring each other's costumes, gathering candy, enjoying snacks, making crafts, or soaking up the sun, October 27 was a delightful autumn playland. Thank you to everyone who attended or volunteered.





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

Stacey LaMere, Director of Early Childhood Center
952-941-5215, stacey@crossview.net

Barbara Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry
952-243-2062, barb@crossview.net

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration
952-243-2045, renee@crossview.net

Amy Gundermann, Director of Outreach and Adult Ministries
Contemporary Worship Team Leader
952-243-2053, amy@crossview.net

Hannah Zahrt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
952-243-2047, hannah@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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