

CROSSVIEW CLARION

February 2020



"He takes our brokenness, loves us unconditionally, forgives us tenfold and renews our strength." -Julie Pos



Undeserving Love

by Julie Pos, ECC Office Assistant

When I hear the words of the article title, I am reminded of the Vacation Bible School song the ECC children learned called, "You Forgive Me" (2017).

*You take all the pieces of my heart
Put them back together make it all alright*

Oh, You forgive me

*Only You can heal my broken heart
Make all things new with a brand-new start
Oh, You forgive me*

*You forgive me
I try so hard to do things right
But I make the wrong choice sometimes
And You forgive me
No one knows me God like You
You see who I am not what I do
And You forgive me*

We all have had moments when we have made a wrong choice and turned away from a friend, ►

◀ a parent or even from God. In the parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15), the son runs away from home, spends his money foolishly and wastes his time on worldly desires. When he hits his lowest point, he decides to return home to ask for a roof over his head and the daily essentials if he can work as a servant for his father. When the father sees his son coming down the road, he could have built up his anger and frustration as his son approached, however, the father's heart is tender and shows his forgiveness as he lovingly embraces his son. He welcomes his son back with a celebration, not with resentment and the desire to teach him a lesson by making him a servant.

This parable is a perfect example of God's love for us. As we are always reminded in John 3:16, God loves everyone so much to give someone so precious to us, His Son Jesus, as a sacrifice for our sins and grants to us an eternal celebration with Him, our Lord and Savior. We are undeserving of His love and forgiveness, but He takes our brokenness, loves us unconditionally, forgives us tenfold and renews our strength.

As humans, it is hard to forgive or ask to be forgiven. Let's learn from Jehovah the Lord, to be better at forgiving, loving and caring (Hebrew 8:12, Colossians 3:13, Proverbs 17:9). If we are the ones that need to be forgiven (1 John 1:9) turn to the Lord to carry you through the trials and turmoil.

Building Dedication Services Set for Sunday, March 22

Join us to dedicate Cross View's building expansion to God on Sunday, March 22. Participate in either of the two blended services and a reception at the new Café Cross View between services.

Early Childhood Center

ECC CELEBRATES NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

At the end of January, we celebrated National Lutheran Schools Week by having events throughout the week. We started the week with crazy hair and hat day. We had chapel in the middle of the week where preschool children received a Bible from Cross View. We also had a birthday cake to

celebrate the Early Childhood Center, sled day, and backwards day. We finished the week with pajama day and a magic show.

February is National Dental Health month and the children will learn the importance of dental hygiene and have an in-house presentation on February 13th.



Twelve21

Twelve21 started a new study in January on RightNow Media. We are studying a book of the Bible. If you are interested in joining the group or need to be added to the Facebook group or email chain, please let Jonathan know. This group meets for Bible/book study every other Tuesday starting on January 28th. Our first meeting this year will be at Unmapped Brewery. We hope to see you all there!

Cross View Cards and Games

Friday, February 14 at 7:00 PM
Cross View, Room 218
RSVP to Barb Reichert 952-941-4223
or Joyce Crosby 952-944-3422.

Cross View Cards and Games meet the 2nd Friday of each month from September through May. Connect with Cross View members and friends (adults of all ages) for several hours of fun and fellowship by participating in cards and games of your choice. New participants are welcome!

CV 4.0 – Building for Generations Update



Completion of the **4.0 Building for Generations** building project is scheduled for February 26th. This is also Ash Wednesday, the beginning of our Lenten journey to Easter Sunday and the celebration of our Risen Savior.

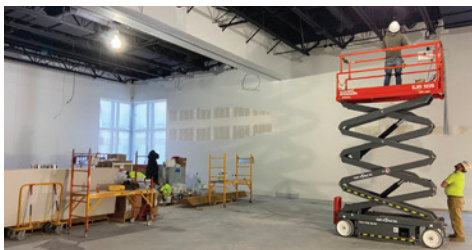
February will bring together numerous construction puzzle pieces. Aligning the project conclusion with Lent symbolizes Cross View's goal to expand God's work through His Great Commission. Future ministry opportunities will bring more people to know Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Many subcontractors will spend February working on their parts of the construction puzzle. A partial list includes:

- Completing the sanctuary ceiling, LED lights, cleaning, organ refurbishing and reinstalling pews.
- New kitchen equipment installation.

- Interior work including painting, suspended ceilings, wall coverings, cabinets, carpet, tile, and signage.
- Multi-purpose room audio-visual equipment installation.
- Youth area furniture and audio-visual equipment installation.
- Voice Over Internet Protocol (VOIP) phone system installation.
- TV installation for announcements and educational programming.
- New furniture throughout the new addition.
- Returning ECC, Sunday school rooms and offices to their appropriate locations.

As the **4.0 Building for Generations** project moves towards completion, let's prepare our hearts and minds to grow the love of Jesus through Bible study, Christian fellowship, and the creation of new opportunities to expand His Kingdom.



Financial Update

RECAP OF VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING JAN 19, 2020

2019 Full Year Financial Results Reviewed

- In 2019 Cross View receipts increased 9% compared to 2018 to \$1.16M and were 1% (\$15K) unfavorable to budget
- Expenses were \$73K favorable to budget, or 6%, resulting in a \$57K surplus. The primary drivers of the expense favorability are noted below:

| <u>Expenses below budget</u> | <u>Favorability</u> |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| - Debt Service | \$25K |
| - Christian Education | \$24K |
| - Wages | \$13K |
| - Marketing | \$9K |
| Total | \$71K |

- Debt service was lower than planned due to 4.0 Building for Generations pledges being fulfilled earlier than expected, resulting in minimal borrowing to date. Saved interest expense means more funding for the project, Praise God! Christian Education and Marketing were favorable due to fewer programs offered due to the lack of space during construction. Wages are favorable due to open positions.
- The general fund remains strong at \$224K (19% of income)
- Early Childhood Center financial results were largely plan with a small deficit of less than \$1,000

| | 2019 Budget | 2019 Actual* | Difference |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|
| Total Receipts | \$ 1,179,264 | \$ 1,163,928 | \$ (15,337) |
| Total Expenses | \$ 1,179,264 | \$ 1,107,143 | \$ 73,488 |
| Receipts Over (under) Expenses | \$ - | \$ 56,784 | \$ 56,784 |
| Ending Fund Balance | \$ 167,318 | \$ 224,102 | |

* Preliminary, subject to financial review.

2020 Cross View Budget Approved

- A receipt increase of 15% (\$169K) is required to cover incremental cost in 2020 and produce a balanced budget
- 2020 requested expenses have been restrained to offset some expansion related increases. The primary 2020 cost increases are noted below:

| Expense drivers | Increase vs. 2019 |
|--|-------------------|
| - Debt Service (interest for new mortgage) | \$116K |
| - Wages (music program and full-time janitor) | \$59K |
| - Utilities and Insurance (50% more square feet) | \$47K |
| Total | \$222K |
- Continued early fulfillment of 4.0 Building for Generations pledges directly reduces the amount of debt service, producing funds for other ministries
- The 2019 \$57K surplus will be reserved for unexpected/unbudgeted required costs in 2020
- A balanced budget including a 2.9% average tuition increase was approved for the Early Childhood Center

| | 2019 Actual | 2020 Budget | Difference vs. 2019 |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|---------------------|
| Total Receipts | \$ 1,163,928 | \$ 1,352,349 | 15% |
| Total Expenses | \$ 1,107,143 | \$ 1,352,349 | |
| Receipts Over (under) Expenses | \$ 56,784 | \$ - | |

4.0 Building for Generations Pledge Receipt Update

- 85% of pledges totaling \$4,053,000 have been collected
- Thank you for the accelerated pledges! Every dollar remains essential to the project and early pledges received reduces loan interest expense!

\$3,442,491
Collected
(85%)

\$610,509
Outstanding

Endowment Fund Update

- Fund was established in 1996 but has not been promoted for several years. A \$38K balance exists in an LCEF account with \$9K interest available to use
- The Endowment Fund bylaws are outdated given Cross View Policy Based Governance structure adopted in 2014 and require amendment to improve control and management oversight of the fund
- LCMS Foundation management is recommended by the Council
 - Foundation is proven, provides improved controls, established in 1958, \$956M assets under management
- LCMS Foundation would own, invest, manage and administer the fund in exchange for a 1% service fee on account assets
- Town Hall meetings will be offered to discuss bylaw changes in detail and gather congregation feedback
- Bylaw amendments related to the revised Endowment Fund will be proposed at the May 2020 Voters' Assembly Meeting

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



This month our extended group of Stephen Ministers (Cross View's team combined with Our Lady of Grace's team) is reading a simple but profound book, "Sleeping With Bread". The main subject centers around gratitude and discerning God's presence in our lives, based on St. Ignatius of Loyola's ancient practice of the Examen. Quoting a recent "Spiritually Speaking" article in the *Eden Prairie News* by our Stephen Ministry leader, Beryl Schewe, reviewing this book:

"Gratitude is a sneaky habit. The more you practice, the more you notice things you are grateful for... Gratitude can flip our thinking upside down...The examen is powerful because of its simplicity and call to action. "Sleeping with Bread" suggests you reflect on two questions each evening, perhaps over dinner if you share a meal with others.

What brought you the greatest joy today?

Noticing a daily greatest joy helps reinforce a practice of gratitude. Even on our toughest days, we reflect on what glimmer of joy entered our lives and give thanks to God.

What brought you the least joy today?

Pondering what brought me the least joy helps me realign my life. What do I need to change? What should I be more specific in praying for? What is really bothering me?

When I make a practice of paying close attention to my day, my "noticing muscle" gets stronger. I find that it's easier for me to notice when God shows up, particularly on days when I'm overwhelmed by the painful parts of my life."

In 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Paul says, "In everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." If you are going through a hard time and having trouble giving thanks, a Stephen Minister can come alongside to listen and pray with you. Please contact a pastor for more information.

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



Wednesday, February 26th, 7:00 PM
Holy Communion

**The following Wednesday evenings,
services will run from 6:30–7:15 PM.**

7th Grade Confirmation Student Project Presentation & Reception

Following the Ash Wednesday worship, 7th grade students will share their service projects with the congregation. Come and see the many ways that they are being the hands and feet of Jesus!

Lenten Suppers

Wednesdays, February 26th – April 1st, 5:15 - 6:30 PM



Are Wednesdays a busy night for your family? Are you running around and trying to get kids from place to place and event to event? Do you usually have time for supper?

This Lenten season the Cross View Youth and the Senior Adults are hosting Lenten Suppers every Wednesday before our Lenten Services to support the upcoming mission trips this summer.

COST?

The cost for every meal is \$5 per person or \$20 for families of 4 or larger. We ask that you pay online, bring cash, or check with you the night of the meals for payment. If you would like, you may pay for all the dinners on Ash Wednesday. There is no charge for children under the age of 2 and we serve coffee, lemonade, and water with each meal.

WHERE DO YOU SIGN UP?

Signups are coming soon! In order to make sure that there is enough food for everyone who is planning on attending our Lenten suppers, we are asking that you **sign up the Sunday before the meal in one of these ways:**

1. Go online in mid-February at www.crossview.net/lent and fill out the registration near the bottom of the page.
2. You can sign up on our **CV Connect Database** under registrations.
3. You can look in your bulletin on Sunday morning for the **lavender insert**, fill it out, and turn it in to the church office.
4. You can stop by the **Connection Center** to find an extra insert to fill out and turn in to the church office.
5. Or you can **print out this sheet** and bring it filled out to church with you on Sunday morning and turn it into the church office.

Name: _____

| Date | Meal | Number of People Attending |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| February 26 th | Chili with Fixings | |
| March 4 th | Brats & Hotdog Dinner | |
| March 11 th | Pizza Night | |
| March 18 th | Walking Tacos (Tacos in a bag) | |
| March 25 th | Lasagna | |
| April 1 st | Sloppy Joes | |

Return this form by Sunday February 23rd for the Wednesday February 26th Chili Dinner.

RED LETTER CHALLENGE

COMING TO CROSS VIEW – LENT 2020

by Pastor Toby Schmidt

What would happen at Cross View if we took the words of Jesus, read them, and actually put them into practice? What kind of response would our non-Christian friends and neighbors have to us? It seems like a simple idea, right? Sometimes it's difficult to begin or to know where to go once we start.

This Lent, beginning on Ash Wednesday, Cross View will kick off this "Red Letter Challenge" (RLC) - a 40-day challenge where we as brothers and sisters in Christ are challenged to read the words of Jesus for 40 days straight. We'll do this by reading daily devotionals, attending Bible studies that go along with what we are learning, listening to sermons Sundays and Wednesdays, and by being challenged in our walk with Jesus each of those 40 days.

We'll learn five principles that were important to Jesus: Being, Forgiving, Serving, Giving, and Going. This church-wide campaign is based on the book *The Red Letter Challenge* by Lutheran pastor, Zach Zehnder. He wrote it with the hopes of equipping Jesus' followers through 40 days' worth of readings and challenges to practically and daily live out our faith. Following Jesus is simply reading His words and then

acting on them.

If you've never heard of Jesus – this challenge is for you. If you've known Him for your whole life – this challenge is for you. If you've been waiting to invite the spiritually curious friend from work or yoga class with thought-provoking questions about faith – this is the study to get them involved with at Cross View.

We're challenging small groups and everybody to meet six times from February 25–April 5. If you're not in a small group, but interested in serving as a host or facilitator for a Challenge Group (Lent only), please contact me at toby@crossview.net.

Here are some important dates:

- Saturday, February 8, Small Group Facilitator Training (9:00-11:00 AM at Cross View)
- Sunday, February 16 and 23, Sign up for Challenge groups and pick up books.

We are excited to begin this adventure of faith together as a Cross View faith family.

Oh, and if you wanna see an awesome teaser click the link: [Red Letter Challenge](#).

WHAT IF WE TAKE
THE WORDS OF
JESUS AND
ACTUALLY PUT
THEM INTO PRACTICE?

#REDLETTERCHALLENGE

RED LETTER

CHALLENGE

A 40 DAY LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE

COMING TO CROSS VIEW THIS LENT

FEBRUARY 24–APRIL 5

- 40 DAYS OF PERSONAL READINGS FROM JESUS' WORDS
- THEMATIC WEEKEND WORSHIP
- SMALL GROUP STUDIES
- DAILY CHALLENGES TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH

Christian Education

ROCKY RAILWAY IS COMING!

As the train travels through the mountains, each day during this summer's VBS, we will be reminded that Jesus' power pulls us through all of life's ups and downs. Join us June 22–26, 9:00–11:30 AM for a great week. VBS is open to students age 3 (potty trained) through entering 4th grade. Cost is just \$12 for the week! (Students entering 5th grade and older are invited to volunteer throughout the week.) To guarantee a t-shirt, please register by Monday, May 20. Registration for both participants and volunteers will open mid-February at www.crossview.net. Watch the Weekly Connections bulletin insert for details!

SUMMER MUSIC CAMP!

Music camp is a great opportunity for kids entering grades 1–5 to learn and perform a musical. We hope you will join us July 20–24, 9:00 AM to 12:00 noon, for a wonderful week. Under the direction of Mrs. Sarah Fincham, students learn music, create costumes and sets, and learn choreography to present their show on Friday morning at 11:15 AM. The cost is \$45 for the week. Registration for Summer Music Camp will open mid-February online at www.crossview.net. Watch the Weekly Connections bulletin insert for details. Space is limited to 50 students and fills up fast!

5TH GRADE – WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

5th graders and a parent/adult, will begin a special class, "Welcome to the Lord's Table" on Sunday, February 23, during the education hour. This 7-week class will introduce students to the Lord's Supper and prepare them for their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 9. Detailed information will be sent to families. If you do not receive this letter the first week of February, or have questions, please contact Christine Eid or Pastor Steve.

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY FUN!

There have been so many fun activities and lessons talked about on Sundays and Wednesdays for children's ministry. From Samson and showing his strength to God, to building a temple and a scavenger hunt around the church for items that we can use to grow in our faith, kids are having fun and learning about God's love to us in our lives. Join us on Sundays at 9:30 AM and/or Wednesdays at 6:30 PM to learn how God is active in our lives. Questions? Contact Christine Eid at christine@crossview.net.



Senior Ministry

CROSS VIEW SENIORS, MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR UPCOMING EVENTS!

FEBRUARY

Senior Lunch Bunch

Monday, February 17, 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

Menu: Chicken salad sandwiches and dessert

Please join us for a SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH event with a presentation by Pastor Toby about his service as a missionary in Taiwan. This was originally scheduled for last November, but Pastor Toby was unable to join us due to illness. NOTE: Cross View Women's Book Club...Come early for lunch and presentation. We'll be finished in time for Book Club starting at 1:00 PM.

MARCH

Lenten Supper hosted by Cross View Seniors

Wednesday, March 4th @ 5:15 PM

Menu: Brats and sides.

Volunteers are needed to help set up, serve food and clean up.

APRIL

Senior Theater Outing

Please join us for 9 to 5: *The Musical* at Normandale Community College. Exact date and time TBD, but the show runs from April 24–May 2.

Confirmants' Ice Cream Social

Wednesday, April 22, following final Confirmation Class

Volunteers are needed to donate ice cream, help with set up/serving/clean up.

Questions? Contact Chuck Daenzer at cdaenzer1@comcast.net or (952)200-0802.

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club in February will be hosted by Loy Jaeger and we have chosen *Main Street* by Sinclair Lewis to read and discuss. We will meet at church on Monday, February 17th at 1:00 PM in room 218. If you are interested in joining book club or have any questions, please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com.

WOMEN'S SPRING RETREAT: "LIVING A LIFE OF WORSHIP"

Did you know that even the most routine part of your day can be a spiritual act of worship when you are living close to God and approaching life with a grateful heart? As the basis for this year's annual women's spring crafting retreat, our Bible study and devotions will take us into God's Word and how through it we can have a perspective to truly be able to "give thanks in all

circumstances." (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

Join us for our annual women's spring crafting retreat at Good Earth Village Retreat Center (south of Rochester), April 24-26, 2020, with Bible study and devotions focused on this theme. The cost for Friday and Saturday overnight is \$160 (includes sleeping rooms, crafting space, program fees, and dinner on Friday and Saturday nights). Participants sign up to help with brunch on Saturday and Sunday, and with snacks. The cost for those coming on Thursday is an extra \$50 (a total of \$210). Watch for sign-up sheet coming in mid-February. Questions? Contact Linda Baule or Christine Eid.

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH WOMEN'S DINNER

The March Women's Dinner will be at 6:45 PM on Thursday, March 26th, at JJ's Scoreboard in Minnetonka. More details to come in the next Clarion.

Outreach & Missions

SERVICE SUNDAY IS FEBRUARY 16TH

We are so excited that February 16th will be our first Service Sunday of 2020! We have seven service projects lined up this time around, supporting our church, our community, and reaching out around the world. Here are our service projects in which you will be able to be involved!

- EasterFest egg stuffing
- EasterFest bag stuffing
- Writing letters to Active Military
- Partnering with Lutheran Braille Workers to make Bible studies for the visually impaired
- Making Tie Blankets
- Putting together gift bags for English Rose residents
- Partnering with Andrew's Bravery Box to prepare tubs of toys for children in hospitals long term

If you are interested in being involved in any leadership roles, please contact Beth White at jobste@csp.edu.

POBLO VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES INTERNATIONAL MINISTRY AT HOME

Cross View POBLO volunteers commit themselves as Jesus commanded, to help overcome cultural barriers of prejudice or fear of another culture or race. We work to bridge the cultural gap with the genuine love of Christ at International Friendship Centers (IFC). By developing personal relationships with international students, we open doors to better understanding and, in time, the opportunity to talk about Christ's work in our lives.

This ministry needs your help at this time in specific, easy ways:

1. English teacher: 1st Thursday each month; 5:30-6:30 PM; Burnsville IFC

2. Childcare: Wednesday mornings; 10:00-11:00 AM; Bloomington IFC
3. Volunteer Coordinator, as needed: Bloomington IFC
4. English substitute teachers (on call, as needed): Various IFCs

If you have questions about POBLO or the specific ministry needs, talk to Cross View members Loren Rehmer (lorehm@aol.com) or Rebecca Waller (rebwaller323@gmail.com). This is a joyful outreach ministry for volunteers and students alike!

EASTERFEST IS COMING!

EasterFest is a community outreach event for everyone. On Saturday, April 4, from 10:00 AM – 12:00 Noon, we will welcome Cross View and community families to enjoy an Easter Journey through significant scenes from Holy Week, an egg hunt, a petting zoo, crafts, refreshments, and more. Invite your friends, neighbors and co-workers!

We're requesting your help to have a successful event. There are many ways to SERVE! We'll need help with parking, greeting, wrangling the petting zoo, helping with crafts and snacks, giving tours of the Holy Week scenes, and more. All of these simple ways to serve help make the event go smoothly. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements and updates and thanks in advance for your willingness to make this event an exciting way to spread the Good News of Easter! Any questions can be answered by Tonya Bushey, our Ministry Action Team leader, at tonya@witthus.com or 612-716-5583.





CROSS VIEW

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

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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

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

CONNECT WITH CROSS VIEW

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