

# CROSSVIEW CLARION

February 2021



**"As we stand at the foot of the cross this Lenten season, may we reflect on the unwavering love God shows us continually." -Sue Quist**



## Agape Love

by Sue Quist, Director of Music & Fine Arts

John 4:19 NIV reads, "We love because He first loved us."

Recently I asked a question to some friends and family: What do you love? The answers ranged from coffee, my dog, being outside, chocolate, my children, and watching Netflix. Interesting answers to a wide open question — what if I would have asked "What do you love in an agape way?"

Agape love is a selfless, unconditional love, including:

- loving kindness for all people
- empathy
- a deliberate striving for another's highest good
- an active love demonstrated through actions

What a timely thought as we near the beginning of Lent. Agape love — perfectly described in the love Jesus has all people.

Agape love does not come naturally to us. Because of our fallen nature, we are not able to have such a love without God first loving us. If we ►

are to love as God loves, that love — that agape — can only come from its Source. This is the love that “has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us” when we became His children.

“This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters.” (1 John 3:16) Because of God’s love toward us, we are able to love one another.

So, I am giving us a call to action this February — as we stand at the foot of the cross this Lenten season, may we reflect on the unwavering love God shows us continually. And may we in turn be bold in showing agape love and kindness to all.

I love visual reminders. On Sunday, February 14th, Cross View’s lobby will have heart balloons throughout — a visual reminder of AGAPE love. If you are with us in person that day, I hope you will pause and reflect.

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*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”*

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1 Corinthians 13:4-7

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## Personnel Committee Update

Cross View’s Personnel Committee and Church Council are working to fill three part-time vacancies.

- Praise Band Coordinator
- Children’s Ministry
- Technology Coordinator

The Praise Band Coordinator position is a 10-hour per week position. A job description and the application process are posted on our website. This link will provide additional information: <https://www.crossview.net/contact-us/employment-opportunities.cfm>. Please contact Renee Kirchner, Church Administrator, at 952-243-2045 or [renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net) if you or someone you know are interested in this part-time position.

After feedback from the January voter’s meeting, we will be moving forward with forming a search/call committee to interview candidates for a full-time children’s ministry position. The scope of the technology coordinator position will be determined after the children’s ministry position is filled and we know what funds still remain for the 2021 budget. Thanks to an abundance of volunteers who have stepped forward to help during the interim, the winter and spring sessions of Sunday school will be covered. A potential launch date for onsite Sunday school in early March is being planned. Vacation Bible School plans for this summer are already under way.

In addition to covering Sunday school and Vacation Bible School with a combination of staff and volunteers, other responsibilities covered in the former children’s ministry position have been reassigned to other staff for coverage.

Oversight and coverage of these responsibilities are as follows:

- Pastor Toby - Women’s Ministry (to be led by one of the current participants)
- Sue Quist, Music and Fine Arts Ministries - Summer Music Camp
- Jonathan Zellar, Youth and Young Adult Ministries - Children’s Ministry

Children’s ministry is a core part of our mission as we seek to develop fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ along life’s journey. Please know that we are doing everything we can to keep children’s ministry strong in the coming months as we work to find a full-time children’s minister. Thank you in advance for your volunteer service that has made it strong in the past and will make it strong in the coming months. If you are asked to help during the interim, please prayerfully consider helping as you are able.

Please contact a staff member, council member, or Scott Douglas at [sldouglas1@icloud.com](mailto:sldouglas1@icloud.com) if you have any questions.

# Financial Update – Year-to-Date Results

## RECAP OF VOTERS' ASSEMBLY MEETING

### JANUARY 17

Give thanks to the Lord for he is good, his love endures forever. (Psalm 107:1)

2020 was a challenging year in so many ways, and through it all God kept us strong. The Cross View staff did an amazing job transitioning to virtual services and classes and back to in person with modifications. As you can see below, the staff did a great job being mindful of spending (not an easy feat) and keeping everything going with a smaller budget. I cannot thank our staff enough!

In addition, the congregation also stepped up and continued their pledges. God is so good! We have been truly blessed!

## FINANCIAL RECAP FOR 2020

	2020 Actual*	2020 Budget	Difference
Total Receipts Without PPP	\$1,257,075	\$1,352,349	\$95,274
Total Expenses	\$1,220,146	\$1,352,349	\$132,203
Receipts over (under) Expenses	\$36,929	\$0	\$36,929
+ PPP Loan	\$167,134	\$0	\$167,134
General Fund Change for 2020	\$204,063	\$0	\$204,063
General Fund Balance – 12/31/2019	\$167,318	\$167,318	
General Fund Balance – 12/31/2020	\$371,381	\$167,318	\$204,063

\*Subject to final review

- Receipts (excluding PPP) increased 8% over 2019 and were 7% (\$95,274) unfavorable to 2020 budget
- Operating surplus of \$36,930 (without PPP) and \$204,063 with PPP
- Expenses were \$132,203 or 10% favorable to budget
  - Expenses below budget Favorability
  - Administration \$28,750
  - Facility and Grounds \$23,074
  - Wages and Benefits \$50,155

## 2020 FULL YEAR FINANCIAL RESULTS REVIEWED

- Administration expenses were below budget due to lower than budgeted balances on our bridge and construction loan over the year.
- Facility and Grounds expenses were below budget because of COVID. We added 43% more square footage to our building, but because we were not using the space, we did not have to heat/cool or clean as frequently.
- Wages and benefit expenses were below budget because we did not hire the music ministry position until September.
- The General Fund Balance remains strong and ended the year at 371K.

## 2020 ECC FULL YEAR FINANCIAL RESULTS REVIEWED

- Receipts (without PPP) were below budget by \$188,243 or 14%
- Expenses were favorable to budget \$38,985 or 3%

- PPP Loan of \$206,066 supported operating deficit
- Received \$80,000 in grants from State of Minnesota and Child Care Aware

## 2021 CROSS VIEW BUDGET APPROVED

	2020 Actual*	2021 Budget	Difference
Total Receipts	\$1,257,075	\$1,337,889	\$80,814
Total Expenses	\$1,220,146	\$1,377,889	\$157,743
Receipts over (under) Expenses	\$36,929	\$(40,000)	\$(76,929)
+ PPP Loan	\$167,134	\$0	
General Fund Change for the Year	\$204,063	\$(40,000)	
General Fund Balance – Beg. of Year	\$167,318	\$371,381	
General Fund Balance – End of Year	\$371,381	\$331,381	

\* Subject to final review

- Total Receipts - projected for 2021 up 6% from 2020 actual amounts but budgeted at the same level as the 2020 budget.
- 2021 Expenses are enough to allow our ministry to grow and reflect:
  - Wages and Benefits of \$827k
    - 2% pay increases from 2020 and
    - 3% benefit cost increase
    - Full staff for entire year – see the Personnel Committee Update article
- Debt service costs of \$103k with a full year of payments on the loans.
- The budgets for other expense areas like Missions, Education programs, Youth and Music/Fine Arts increased in 2021 roughly 3% from what was budgeted in 2020 as the actual spending in 2020 was lower due to COVID.
- As shown, to balance the budget, \$40k from the General Fund surplus will be used.
- The General Fund will continue to have a surplus for unexpected/unbudgeted expenses.

## 2021 ECC BUDGET APPROVED

- A balanced budget was presented and approved
- A 3% average tuition rate increase will be assessed in 2021

## 4.0 BUILDING FOR GENERATIONS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

- \$3,800,000 total pledges

### Pledge Receipt Update

- 92% of pledges totaling \$3,503,961 have been collected
- Thank you for the pledges! We still have until the end of 2021 for those that need an extra year or pledged for the additional year.

**\$3,503,961  
Collected  
(92%)**

**\$296,039  
Outstanding**



### ◀ Remaining items that need to be completed:

- One-year construction warranty inspection
- Spring water pond certification and escrow return
- February – March: returning Sanctuary theatre lighting to pre-construction levels or better

### UPDATE ON CHILDREN'S MINISTRY POSITION

See the Personnel Committee Update article

### ELECTRONIC MEETINGS

- A MAT will be created to work on this process.
- The biggest challenge is voting.
- There is software available that this team will be researching.
- They will also be reaching out to other churches to see what they are doing.

### MISC. ITEMS

- 35 members were in the physical attendance at the Voters Meeting and approximately 30–40 people watched it on-line.
- Several members requested additional financial information (major line items for 2021 budgets, recap of current fund balances).
- Motion to recognize staff and volunteers for their significant efforts on behalf of the Church and ECC during the past year, keeping the ministry moving forward despite of the COVID pandemic.
- A presentation was made to the staff from the congregation to show our appreciation for their amazing work.

Voters' Assembly meetings and Church Council meetings minutes are available for reading online at [www.crossview.net/minutes](http://www.crossview.net/minutes).

## Early Childhood Center

### ECC TAKES EXTRA SAFETY MEASURES

Cross View Early Childhood Center is staying healthy and thriving amidst the pandemic. Their enrollment is up since March 2020 and are full for 2021. They take extra safety measures daily. Some of those safety measures include wearing masks, taking daily temperatures of all who enter the building, daily cleaning and sanitizing and following MDH/CDC protocols for COVID-19. Prayers from the congregation are appreciated as they continue to navigate the ever-changing protocol for the pandemic.



## 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 the Pastors.

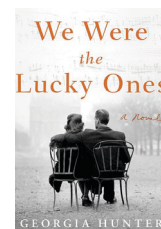
*"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."*

—Galatians 6:2

## Women's Ministries

### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Book club in February will be on Monday, February 15th at 1:00 PM via Zoom. We will be discussing the book *We Were the Lucky Ones* by Georgia Hunter. Contact Marcy at [mpnordhus@gmail.com](mailto:mpnordhus@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to join.



## Lenten Dinners Canceled

There will be no pre-service Lenten Dinners this year. Stay tuned for a replacement fundraiser!

## EasterFest is Happening in 2021!

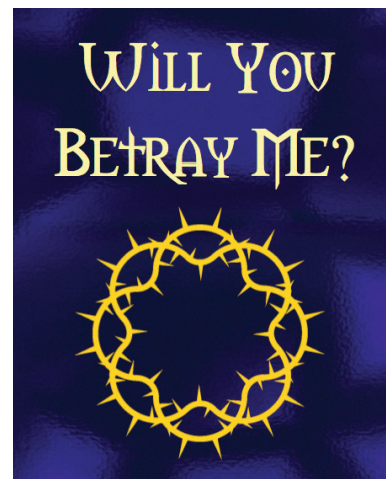
We are fervently looking into our options, given the current situation. We are prayerful it can be a type of "Easter on Your Computer" for Holy Week, possibly before.

Please watch for further details in the weekly updates and we look forward to sharing the Easter Story with you all! Questions? Please email Rachael Johnson at [rae\\_1478@yahoo.com](mailto:rae_1478@yahoo.com).

# Lenten Services

**"Will You Betray Me?" (Luke 22:48)**

Join us for this Lenten drama series each Wednesday in Lent from 6:30–7:15 PM. Jesus asked this question to Judas in the Garden of Gethsemane on the night He was arrested. But as Jesus' disciples, it's a question that could be asked of each of us as well. Each week we'll learn from various biblical characters how they (knowingly or unknowingly) contributed to the betrayal and death of Jesus. Join us each Wednesday in Lent as we contemplate how we may (knowingly or unknowingly) betray Jesus, too. Register for onsite worship at CV Connect.



## ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



**Wednesday, February 17th**

**2:00 PM with Holy Communion**

**7:00 PM with Holy Communion**

*No Adult Bible study or Confirmation*

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

Starting February 17, 7th grade students will share their service projects with the congregation via video presentations. Go to [www.crossview.net](http://www.crossview.net) to see the many ways that they are being the hands and feet of Jesus!

# LENTEN SERVICES

Each Wednesday evening

**February 24 - March 24**  
**6:30–7:15 PM.**

## HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday: March 28**

8:15 AM Traditional Worship

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

**Maundy Thursday, April 1**

7:00 PM Traditional Worship

**Good Friday, April 2**

4:00 PM Family Friendly Worship

7:00 PM Traditional Worship

**Easter Sunday, April 4**

8:15 AM Traditional Worship

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship

No Sunday Morning Bible Study





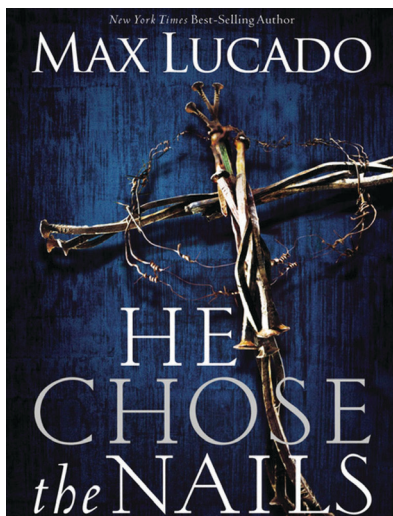
## WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

On Sunday, February 14, Cross View will be offering "Welcome to the Lord's Table" during the education hour. This 7-week class will introduce those attending to the Lord's Supper and prepare them for their first communion on Maundy Thursday, April 1. Detailed information has been sent to all 5th grade families. If you haven't received this letter or are not in 5th grade and want a refresher on the Lord's Supper, or have any other questions, please contact Jonathan Zellar or Pastor Steve.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Church staff and leadership are evaluating and assessing the online and onsite Sunday school offerings. Look for more information coming from Jonathan in the next couple weeks.

## SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY!



### He Chose the Nails!

On February 21 (the Sunday after Ash Wednesday) join us as Pastor Max Lucado takes us through the last moments leading up to Jesus' death. Together we'll learn about how God chose to: be one of us, forgive us, invite us into His presence, love us forever, and give us the victory. Join us for this hybrid class (onsite and online) led

remotely by John Daenzer. Register on CV Connect.

Have questions or need information? Email Pastor Toby at [toby@crossview.net](mailto:toby@crossview.net).

## WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY!

**Hebrews!** Beginning on Wednesday, February 24 (a week after Ash Wednesday), we'll be studying the book of Hebrews. Join us as we learn how Jesus is more and greater than all the types and shadows that were in the Old Testament. Join us as learn together that the New Testament is built on better promises than those of the Old Testament and are forever written on our hearts. This hybrid class (onsite and online) will be led by Phil Johnson. The class runs 2/24–3/24 from 7:15–8:00 PM and 4/7–4/28 from 6:30–8:00 PM. Register on CV Connect.

If you have questions or need information email Pastor Toby at [toby@crossview.net](mailto:toby@crossview.net).

## MEMBERSHIP CLASSES – STARTING SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, AT 9:30 AM

Want to know more about our Cross View (CV) family or been here for a while and want a refresher? Or do you want to join the CV family and how God's growing His kingdom in and through us? If you're interested, register for any of the following classes on CV Connect. If you have questions or would like more information, email Ann Ryan at [annryan@hotmail.com](mailto:annryan@hotmail.com).

### • Sunday, February 28, Get to Know Cross View.

Get bird's-eye-view and let us tell you a little more about ourselves (our history, our core beliefs, how we work together and in God's kingdom) and how you can become a member of the CV family.

### • Sundays, March 7-28, Join the CV Family.

In these four sessions you'll learn about the core of our faith family. Get to know the heart of Cross View as you join our CV family.

### • Sundays, April 11-May 4, Go All In.

In these four sessions you'll learn how to get involved, get connected, grow, and serve with other Cross View members using your gifts and talents to serve Christ and His Kingdom.

### • Sunday, May 16, New Member Sunday.

You can formally become a member of the CV family.



## SAVE THE DATE FOR VBS!

Vacation Bible School is scheduled for June 21–25.

Registrations and more information will be coming in the next two months



## JOIN US FOR MUSIC CAMP THIS SUMMER!

July 19–23

Monday–Friday, 9:00 AM–12:00 PM

More information to come

## Youth Ministries

### YOUTH GROUP

Youth group for grades 7–12 will continue in the hybrid format until Easter at the earliest. Youth group starts at 6:30 PM on Sunday nights. Reference the calendar below for locations.

- February 7th – At Cross View
- February 14th – On Zoom
- February 21st – At Cross View
- February 28th – On Zoom

### CONFIRMATION PROJECTS

This year adjustments are being made to the regularly scheduled Ash Wednesday Confirmation Project presentations. This year's 7th graders are putting together video presentations about their service projects. They'll tell you who they are, what they did, and how they have been impacted by their project. On February 17th, these videos will be found on the Cross View website where you would normally find the link to previous worship services. The students have put in many hours and worked hard to accomplish these, and Cross View members can show their support by going to the website and watching them all.

### (TC)<sup>2</sup>

Save the Date! (TC)<sup>2</sup> is back, July 25–29 at Cross View. It was a tremendously successful event last year and we look forward to seeing how God will use it to further His kingdom this year. Watch for registration, work project, and support team information coming later this month!



## Outreach & Missions

### POBLO – WINTER UPDATE

Thank you, Cross View. We would like you to know that we are here because of you, your church, and your outreach. We want to see the God's kingdom grow. We want to see the Church prosper. Our model revolves around creating an international friendship center (IFC) within the church. The IFC serves as a safe and welcoming environment for those in need, be it free classes (in English, citizenship, sewing, and others), personal support, or Bible Study — and ultimately salvation. POBLO missionaries like us serve as liaisons to bridge the cultural and religious gaps in order to minister properly.

The worsening coronavirus pandemic brings challenges, especially with lower attendance inside the three Twin Cities IFCs: Mt. Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington; Ascension Lutheran Church, Burnsville; and Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Prior Lake. With many unknowns, we trust God for giving us quality time to have straight talk and Bible study with immigrants, especially Muslims.

It is extraordinarily vital for missionaries to be around, fishing for souls. Our family would have never imagined meeting with so many families and getting to have real heart-to-heart conversations right now. This is an ironic blessing outcome of COVID-19. Other immigrants also tell us, "You are our only family here." But Cross View, this ministry is yours.

Right now, we need your prayers and we need volunteers to be involved. Moreover, we need your financial support. All of your support encourages us and, more importantly, makes us available (when you cannot be) in the lives of believers and nonbelievers alike which leads to experiencing the love of Christ and the salvation of souls.

Please consider us with your time, talents, and treasures and support this outreach that God has called us to partner in together. Kindly, contact me at [nader@poblo.org](mailto:nader@poblo.org) or call 402-968-6486.

For more frequent updates, connect with us on Facebook by requesting to be added to the Facebook group (as it is private) called "International Friendship Centers Twin Cities."

— Your Missionaries, Nader & Georgette Alaraj



# CROSS VIEW

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

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Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor  
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Jonathan Zellar, Children's Ministry (Interim) & Youth Ministry  
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José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Organist  
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Paula Wilson, Interim Lead Vocalist - Contemporary

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](mailto:clarion@crossview.net).

## GROW WITH CROSS VIEW

### SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship  
in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary  
Worship in the Great  
Commission Room

**Both services are also  
available via [live stream](#).**

### SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

### OFFICE HOURS

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

### CALENDAR

Cross View's most current  
calendar is always available  
on our website at  
[www.crossview.net/calendar](http://www.crossview.net/calendar)

## CONNECT WITH CROSS VIEW

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