

"In the last seven years as [ECC] director, I have learned God puts you in the right place at just the right time." – Stacey LaMere

God's Timing is Perfect: Never Early, Never Late

by Stacey LaMere, ECC Director

As I sit in Lake Forest Park, Washington, (I am visiting my family) and look around me, I am reminded of the very beginning of my journey into teaching. It all started in Portland, Oregon, at Concordia University. I knew I wanted to teach in a Lutheran School but did not know what grade or subject the best fit would be. So, I spent my four years in Portland trying different things...student teaching third grade, sixth grade, and taking a lot of classes to get a minor in math to be a middle or high school math teacher. When I graduated, I got a job in Atchison, Kansas, teaching sixth grade. I then moved to Stuart, Florida, and was an eighth-grade teacher. After doing this for four years, I realized middle school was not for me. God had other plans. God knew where I needed to be, and that was here at Cross View for the last 17 years and counting. I have found my passion and calling from the Lord.

09

Sometimes it takes a while to see where God is leading you, but in the last seven years as director, I have learned God puts you in the right

place at just the right time. I have cherished and loved my last seven years as director of the Early Childhood Center. It has been a privilege to lead one of the biggest missions of Cross View. The Early Childhood Center needs the prayers and support of the congregation. As each year has passed since I became director, I realized how important prayers and support are. Cross View went through a building project, COVID, and now inflation (effects of a worldwide pandemic). So, thank you for your prayers and all the donations and/or contributions to help the Early Childhood Center be the best place that can reach and spread the love of Jesus to so many families.

I want to share with the congregation one of the greatest ways you have made an impact on lives you might not even realize. When I started my career here about 17 years ago, the church was helping the ECC build a new playground. Church members could purchase Bear Shares to help fund the playground. That playground is seen from the freeway, and we get at least a dozen phone calls a year asking if we have a childcare center because they see the playground when they are driving by. Families have started at Cross View because they see the playground, they learn about God and his love for them, and their lives change.

The Early Childhood Center has changed and impacted hundreds, if not thousands, of families and lives over the last 35 plus years. To many families, the Cross View ECC has a special place in their hearts. I know that with the support of the congregation, and what the Lord has planned, the ECC will keep thriving as a place that makes a difference in many lives – more than we probably know.

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- 2023 Income was 103% above budget and 7% higher than 2022.
- 2023 Expenses were \$111,536 favorable to budget primarily due to open staff positions during the year.
- 2023 ECC Income was \$77,357 favorable to budget. ECC expenses are \$83,848 unfavorable to budget, primarily due to higher wage expenses.
- 2023 ECC Net Deficit of \$1,366 was unfavorable to budget.
- The Restored! campaign has achieved its pledge goal! We now have sufficient pledges when fully paid, to allow for the outstanding loan to be paid off.

Cross View Lutheran Church				
12/31/23	2023 Actual Year to Date	2023 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	\$1,420,754	\$1,375,310	\$45,444	
Total Expenses	(\$1,263,774)	(\$1,375,310)	\$111,536	
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$156,980	\$0	\$156,980	
General Fund Ending Balance	\$325,697	\$168,717		



Cross View Restored! Building Campaign

Contributions Received in December:	\$57,090
Remaining Pledges to Be Received:	\$56,505
Total Contributions Collected:	\$525,490
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$24,947
Loan Balance Outstanding:	\$51,000
Restored Surplus:	\$30,452

Christian Education

THE SERMON ON THE MOUNT BIBLE CLASS

Dates: Sundays, January 14–February 11 Location: Sanctuary

Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed

The Sermon on the Mount is Christ's most famous discourse. In it he teaches us about happiness, the Lord's Prayer, forgiveness, and the importance priorities. This fiveweek class — taught by Pastor Reed — takes a deep dive into some the most important words ever uttered. What a great way to begin 2024...at the feet of Jesus! Register on CV Connect.

LOVE & LOGIC[®] EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTING MADE FUN!

Dates: Sundays, January 14–February 25 (dates extended) Location: Fellowship Hall (rooms 210-211)

Teaching Leaders: Pastor Steve and Dawn Wheeler

Cross View's family-focused ministry is excited to

present a Love and Logic[®] training class for parents of children birth to six. With forty years of research and a proven track-record of success, this parent-training seminar will equip parents of teeny, tiny kids. We will be flexible, anticipating that we may need an additional two Sundays to get through the



course materials and discussions. Register on CV Connect.

ZECHARIAH: YOUR KINGDOM COME!

Dates: Sundays, February 18–March 24 Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and so does our emphasis on the book of Zechariah. The prophet's chief concern is God's kingdom. Throughout all fourteen chapters, Zechariah fervently announces that God's kingdom is coming through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The book of Zechariah abounds with stunning portraits of our Savior. Based upon his 2021 Concordia Publishing House commentary, this Bible Study, led by Pastor Reed, will build upon our mid-week Lenten and Holy Week services. Great joy and delight await all participants!

GENESIS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Dates: Sundays, February 18–March 24

Teaching Leader: Jeff Coffin

When carefully reading the Gospel of John, many themes from early Genesis (Genesis 1-3 mainly) come flying off the page. John has intended us to read his Gospel as the fruition of the work God started at creation and will finish in the new creation. Early Genesis, correctly understood, sets the table for how to understand the remainder of Scripture. During Lent we will delve deep into this book to see how Jesus fulfills what God always intended. If you have never known why John 20 is considered to be one of the most treasured chapters of the Bible, you'll not want to miss this study.

WELCOME TO CROSS VIEW - NEW MEMBER CLASS

Join us at 9:30-10:30 AM on Sundays this spring for our Welcome to Cross View series. This is a class for anyone interested in becoming a member and for those who have been members and want a refresher. You'll get an overview of the Cross View family, our beliefs, and how to get more involved.

- February 18–March 3: Joining the CV Family Go a little deeper and learn the heart of the Cross View family. In this class, you'll learn about our Lutheran faith and beliefs.
- March 10–March 24: Going All In With the CV Family - Go all in and learn how to get involved with your gifts, talents, and how God created us to Connect, Grow, and Serve.
- March 24: New Member Sunday Formally become a member of the CV faith family during the 10:45 AM worship service.

Sign up on CV Connect or use this QR code to register. If you have questions or need more information, contact Ann Ryan (annryan@hotmail.com) or the church office at 952-941-1094.



LEANING ON JESUS, A STUDY OF GOD'S STRENGTH WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Dates: First Monday of the month Location: Room 218

Women's Bible study book is entitled Leaning on Jesus, a Study of God's Strength by Deb Burma. They meet at 9:30 AM in room 218 at church. Please feel free to join as new members are always welcome. For newcomers, the book is available from Amazon or <u>www.CPH.org</u>. If you have any questions, please contact Marcy at <u>mpnordhus@gmail.com</u>.

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP

Dates: Wednesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM Location: Great Commission Room

We're excited to report that 90 Cross View members are attending Community Light School of Discipleship on Wednesday nights in-person and online. This year, we have made the materials accessible to churches throughout our Synod!



Community Light

Dr. Dean Nadasdy is presenting "Hope Revealed - Revelation Part 2 (Chapters 11-22)"

during this winter session of Community Light. Lectures are followed by Q & A and then discussion in small groups. Sessions are available live online and on-demand at www. communitylight.net. Please contact Amy Gundermann (amy@ crossview.net) with questions or register on CV Connect.

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

Winter session: Final class is February 7.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY (YOUTH AND ADULTS)

Dates: Wednesdays from 6:30–8:00 PM **Location:** Sr. High Youth Room

Using the video series "The Chosen", we will explore what it means to be chosen by God while revisiting the Biblical stories of Jesus' life on earth. Each week, we will watch an episode together and then discuss the themes. Amy Gundermann will lead this class for senior high youth and adults. Bring your Bible! <u>Register on CV Connect</u>. Final class is February 7.

Early Childhood Center

ACTIVITIES DURING NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK

The Early Childhood Center enjoyed many fun activities during National Lutheran Schools Week. They celebrated with crazy hair and hat day, fancy dress up day, show and tell day, and more. How lucky we are that we can share the love of Jesus everyday through songs, prayers, and stories with all the families and kids that walk through our doors.

I LOVE TO READ

February is – I Love to Read month. In January, the ECC teachers went through their books and cleaned out all the books they don't read or that are chewed or ripped. We are looking to help make our reading centers and teacher books full again. We removed all the items on the Amazon wish lists and replaced them with books. Every class has 10–15 books on their Amazon list. If you would like to help, make our library of new books complete, please consider purchasing a book or two from a list. If you have the book at home and it is in good condition and would like to donate the book, that is fine too.

Bunnies: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/99TEUVWK8DL5 Cubs: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/K4XY2O9IEF4F Toddlers/Teddies: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2Q2YIKCUULVXN Ducklings: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2JFB7S1CWHX55 Penguins: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/3VNI24J1TPX7I Hoppers: https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/NIIA442UDQWM

PRAISES AND PRAYERS

In each *Clarion*, we share with you Praises from the ECC and Prayer Requests from the ECC.

Praises:

- For the gifts purchased off the Amazon wish lists by small groups members at Cross View.
- Cross View celebrating 37 years serving the Lord.
- For all the Penguins and Hoppers who received their first Bible.
- Our center being filled...lots of families in the community looking for childcare.

Prayer Requests:

- Ada Ritz continue healing from cancer: a trip to Mayo Clinic for more treatments.
- For all the sick healing.
- Pray for all the Penguins kids who received their first Bible that it will be read in their home and the love of Jesus will spread in their family.

BIBLE STUDY OF ROMANS

What can we learn from the sixteen chapters of Romans, Paul's complete explanation of the Gospel? Join a study from 9:30–11:00 AM on Thursday mornings in the Fireside Room on February 1, 15, and 22. Contact Chuck Daenzer at cdaenzer1@comcast.net or 952-200-0802 for more information.



















Children's Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY SCHEDULE

- February 4: Together We Worship Stepping Stone class for three-year-olds and families 9:30–10:30 AM in the sanctuary.
- Feb 11–March 24: Welcome to the Lord's Table Stepping Stone class series for fifth-graders and families 9:30-10:30 AM in room 223.
- Feb 9: Family Movie Night starting at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The movie is Monster's Inc., and we will have popcorn and pizza.
- March 9: EasterFest

PARENT CORNER



Creative ways to show your love to your children for Valentine's Day!

- 1. Have a heart-to-heart conversation.
- 2. Spend time having fun together.

- 3. Read a book together.
- 4. Hug them.
- 5. Offer words of encouragement or affirmation.
- 6. Pray together.
- 7.Forgive them.
- 8. Make them a favorite meal or treat.
- 9. Tell them you love them no matter what.
- 10. Put a special treat or note in their lunch box or book bag.

MISSION FESTIVAL A SUCCESS

On Sunday, January 7, Cross View's Sunday School children and families had a great time at the second annual Mission Festival at Cross View. There were five booths that represented five of the many missions in which Cross View participates. The five were Arrive Ministries, Poblo Twin Cities, CV Youth, Care Portal, and Guatemala. The photos below show some of the fun and learning that happened.



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? Questions? Contact John Daenzer (johndaenzer@gmail.com) or Michael Kibat (mgkibat@centurylink. net). Register for this event on CV Connect or Event Registration kiosks.



WEATHER-RELATED CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSINGS

All unscheduled closings and late starts will be posted to CV Connect and our <u>website</u>. Cancellations of evening activities will be posted no later than 3:00 PM.

Altar Flowers

Help beautify our worship spaces while commemorating an event or loved one, by donating altar flowers for one or more Sundays during 2024. The church office will contact you approximately one week before your Sunday to find out what commemoration you would like in the bulletin. The office will order the flowers and they will be delivered to the church. The cost is \$65. You may take home the arrangement following the 10:45 AM service if you wish. Signup for a Sunday on the "Flowers" chart which will be in the lobby on Sunday, Feb 4th, and Sunday, Feb 11th. After the 11th, the chart will be posted on the inside of the office door. Alternatively, you may sign up at <u>www.crossview.</u> <u>net/resources/flowers.cfm</u>. Questions? Contact Marian (<u>marian@crossview.net</u>) in the church office.

Focus on the Family of Cross View Update Paul Emmel is taking a well-deserved break for 2 months while traveling. Look for his next interview with a Cross View member(s) in the March issue of the *Clarion*.



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- Feb 10 Mentor Bowling Night at Bowlero (2:00– 4:00 PM)
- Feb 14 7th Grade Confirmation Service Projects Displayed

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

- Feb 4 Tubing at Buck Hill (6:00–8:00 PM)
- Feb 11 No Youth; Super Bowl Sunday
- Feb 18 Youth at CV
- Feb 25 Youth at CV; Bring a Friend Night

RSE REGISTRATION DEADLINE

It's that time! The <u>Rochester Service Event</u> is happening this summer, June 9–12. This event is open to current 6th-graders to graduating 12th-graders. Sign up closes February 14. You can sign up on <u>CV Connect</u> by <u>clicking here</u>.



SENIOR HIGH LOCK-IN

The senior high youth had their lock-in January 6–7 at Cross View. The 14 youth had fun playing games, watching a movie, and then attending church all together at the 8:15 AM service!







ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, Feb. 14 2:00 PM with Holy Communion 7:00 PM with Holy Communion

Chili dinner served 5:15–6:30 PM 7th Grade Confirmation Projects following 7:00 PM service No Adult Bible study or Confirmation

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, February 21–March 20 6:30–7:15 PM

Lenten Dinners Served 5:15-6:30 PM

Lenten Devotionals

Take the time to connect with God as we walk through the season of Lent. Devotion books are available at the Registration Desk (one per family).

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

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday: March 24 8:15 AM (Traditional) 10:45 AM (Contemporary)

Maundy Thursday, March 28 7:00 PM (Traditional)

> Good Friday, March 29 2:00 PM (Traditional) 7:00 PM (Traditional)

Easter Sunday, March 31 8:15 AM (Traditional) 9:15–11:15 AM Easter Breakfast 10:45 AM (Contemporary)

Lenten Meals

Lenten meals hosted by Cross View's youth are starting on Ash Wednesday, February 14. Menus will be available to view at the Welcome Center, and registration will be available on CV Connect. Sign up here by Feb 11th for the meal on Ash Wednesday.

Easter Breakfast will be hosted on Sunday, March 31.

EasterFest March 9 10:00 AM-12:00 Noon

Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an Easter celebration! This event is geared toward children ages 2 through second grade with an egg hunt, bounce house, face painting, interactive learning stations, and a petting area with chicks and bunnies. Note the earlier date for this year. Sign up to volunteer on CV <u>Connect</u> and help make this event a "hopping" success! Contact Amy Gundermann at <u>amy@crossview.net</u> or Barb Coffin at <u>barb@crossview.net</u> with questions.



Adult Ministry

WOMEN'S MINISTRY: SPRING FLOWER SHOW

Cross View women! It's midwinter in Minnesota and the time of year that we begin to long for signs of Spring. If this sounds like you, please join us for a trip to the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum Annual Flower Show on Saturday, February 24th, starting at 10:00 AM. We'll enjoy the gorgeous flowers that will be placed throughout the Visitor Center. You can wander at our own pace and then have lunch at the Arboretum Café. Everyone attending must have an entry ticket into the Arboretum. Tickets for Arb members are free AND you can get extra free tickets for quests depending on your membership level. Tickets for non-members are \$15.00. Everyone buys their own lunch.

Sign up on <u>CV Connect</u> to let us know you are coming and get your ticket(s) by going to https://arb.umn.edu/.







Cross View WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Cross View's Women's Book Club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, February 19, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing the book House of Lincoln by Nancy Horan. Please feel free to join them as new members are always welcome.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY ON FACEBOOK

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to join the Cross View Women's Ministry Facebook page.

TNT WINTER SCHEDULE

Come and get to know others in the same stage of life at TNT (Twenties & Thirties



Young Adult Ministry) through Bible study TWENTIES and time hanging out together! Locations vary, but events will be on Tuesdays from 6:30-8:00 PM. Contact Nicole (nclvvo@ gmail.com), Michael (micaelmunl2018@gmail.com) or Hannah (hannah@crossview.net) with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

The TNT group is back for their winter sessions:

- February 6 at Cross View
- February 20 Taco Tuesday at Teresa's in Golden Valley
- March 5 at Cross View

NEW WOMEN'S SMALL GROUP PLANNING MEETING Saturday, February 10 from 1:00-2:30 PM at church

All women who would like to join a small group and find that evenings or weekends work better with their schedules are invited to join in planning a new group! Contact Amy Gundermann at Amy@CrossView.net or Deb Wagner at thewagners@comcast.net with questions or to attend.

Outreach & Missions

CELEBRATING THE SANCTITY OF LIFE

In celebration of Life Week, we launched a collection for Amnion Pregnancy Center on January 21st. Amnion Pregnancy Center exists to offer the hope of Jesus Christ to those impacted by an unplanned pregnancy. Over the years, Amnion has provided hope and help to over 18,000 women, partners, and parents. We will be collecting items that are currently most needed, which are listed below. Please bring your donations to church by February 11th and look for the display in the lobby to learn more about their services. For more information about Amnion's ministry or how to get involved, visit their website www.helpofferhope.org. Remember to pray for families facing unplanned pregnancies who are in need of support and compassion.

Collecting through February 11:

Diapers size 5 and 6 **Baby Wipes** SMALL Toys such as rattles

GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

Our congregation is hosting a specialized training session on April 6th for those interested in helping with disaster relief. Cross View is partnering with the Minnesota South District to offer the training necessary to join a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Once we have a team of people trained, we can be ready to deploy when a community is hit with a disaster such as a

hurricane, flood, or forest fires. Contact Phil Johnson at phili23@ gmail.com or Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions. Watch for more details to come!

BLESSING OUR ECC

As we celebrate Lutheran Schools CONNECTED Week, we praise God for the ministry (NATIONAL LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK)



of the Early Childhood Center (ECC) here at Cross View! Please consider supporting the ECC with a financial gift as they share the love of Jesus with families in our community each day. One of our small groups is inviting the congregation to help provide funds for some specific needs including furniture, P.E. equipment, and other items on classroom wish lists. You can give a general gift by indicating "ECC" in the memo anytime or give toward the ECC Wish List from now through February 11th by indicating "ECC Wish List" in the memo. Let's be generous as we celebrate the Christian education provided through the ECC!

CAREPORTAL TRAINING

If you are still interested in joining the CarePortal team at Cross View,



sign up for one of the virtual Response Team Trainings in February. Zoom trainings will be offered on Tuesday, February 6th, from 6:00-7:30 PM and Friday, February 23rd, from 9:00-10:30 AM. If you are interested, email Pam at <u>careportal@crossview.net</u> and Kristin at Kristin.broten@careportal.org.





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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor 952-941-1094, <u>steve@crossview.net</u>

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor 952-941-1094, <u>reed@crossview.net</u>

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

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

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, <u>amy@crossview.net</u>

Hannah Zahrte, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry 952-243-2047, <u>hannah@crossview.net</u>

> Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist 952-243-2046, <u>alyssa@crossview.net</u>

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Julie Marquardt, President

The *Clarion* is published monthly by Cross View Lutheran Church. Items for inclusion should be sent via email to <u>clarion@crossview.net</u>.



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 5:15 PM Meal 6:30 PM Programming www.crossview.net/recharge

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 ам – 4:30 рм

CALENDAR

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

6645 McCauley Trail West Edina, MN 55439-1076

952-941-1094 (Office) 952-941-0009 (ECC)



www.crossview.net



<u>CrossViewLutheran</u>



<u>@crossviewlutheran</u>