

CROSSVIEW CLARION

January 2022



"Jesus came that first Christmas so that we could have a 'New Beginning.'"
-Pastor Toby Schmidt



New Beginnings

by Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Most people take time in January to make New Year's resolutions. I believe it's because we hope for, and want to make, "New Beginnings." But as far as this tradition goes, I've never really jumped on the bandwagon. Maybe that's because I've never really been a part of either the 45% of Americans who usually make New Year's resolutions, or maybe it's because I don't want to be a part of the 92% of those who don't succeed at them (statisticbrain.com.) I mean, why go through all that torment and disappointment? (No one wants to feel like Charlie Brown lining up

for a kick only to have the ball pulled away and end up with a bruised tailbone).

However, New Beginnings are important. Starting off fresh is important. Moving from 2020, 2021, remembering; not forgetting, but remembering who we are in Christ. I believe we should start off every day in January remembering God's words to us in 2 Corinthians 5:17, "If anyone is in Christ, He is a new creation, the old has gone, the new has come." Maybe even post this verse somewhere prominent and easily seen.

Jesus came that first Christmas so that we

could have a “New Beginning.” This is what we celebrated during Advent and Christmas; that God’s kingdom broke through, in a real, tangible way, in human flesh. God himself came down to usher in a real “New Beginning,” and we get to “be” a part of it.

In our “Redeeming Christmas” series, we’ve emphasized that we get to be a part of God’s kingdom and His mission to the world. We get to “Worship Fully” our Redeemer and God, as we “Love All” people. My challenge to myself, and you this New Year, is to live in your “newness,” live and be a “new creation.”

Which reminds me of our ministry theme this year, “Equipped to Go.” In addition to posting

2 Corinthians 5:17 somewhere, take the time and make the effort to dig into God’s Word. As you dig into God’s Word, as He “equips you to go,” God ties us to Himself, to Jesus’ sacrifice, His righteousness, His redemption, and His mission. He reminds us of our Baptism (where He not only calls us but equips us to do everything He calls us to do.) He reminds us that we are a new creation and that we have a new beginning.

So, this year, as you start fresh in your daily habits, family habits, work habits, and social habits, let us live renewed, re-centered, re-focused, and redeemed. As we get to “Love All,” may all come to know and “Worship Fully” our God and Redeemer! Oh, and “Happy New Beginnings!”

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- November member contributions were 125% of budget or above budget by \$24,899.
- November expenses were \$4,893 above budget primarily reflecting increased missions disbursements tied to increased contributions.
- Year to Date income is \$79,668 behind budget and \$148,154 less than last year.
- Year to Date expenses are less than budgeted primarily due to lower wage and benefit expenses with open positions over the year.
- Year to date General Fund Net Surplus is deficit but \$25,843 better than planned as expenditures are also lower.
- ECC tuition is unfavorable and expenses are favorable to budget, resulting in a lower than budgeted net surplus YTD.
- Collection of the remaining 4.0 pledges will enable Cross View to finish the campaign with all bills and bridge loan paid.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
11/30/21	2021 Actual Year to Date	2021 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Greater (Less)
Total Income	\$1,065,292	\$1,144,960	(\$79,668)
Total Expenses	\$1,110,585	\$1,216,096	(\$105,511)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$45,293)	(\$71,136)	\$25,843

Cross View 4.0 Building Campaign	
11/30/21	
Balance in Campaign Savings Account:	\$184,600
Plus: Pledges Committed by 12/31/2021:	\$62,032
Less: Remaining Costs to Complete:	(\$4,254)
Less: Bridge (Short Term) Loan to be Repaid:	(\$225,468)
Projected 4.0 Balance at Completion:	\$16,910

Christian Education

EPIPHANY

**SUNDAY, JANUARY 9, 9:30–10:30 AM
(ROOMS 209-211)**

Epiphany, also known as Theophany in the east, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God incarnate as Jesus Christ. In the West, we also call this "Three Kings' Day" and celebrate the first of many non-Jews (the Magi) visiting and worshipping the Christ Child. Join us January 9th, as we explore and learn more about this holiday and what it means for us as Gentiles today. Questions? Contact **Pastor Toby** (toby@crossview.net). [Register for this onsite class](#) at CV Connect.



TRUTHFUL, LOVING WITNESS

**SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM
JANUARY 23 – FEBRUARY 27
(ONSITE IN THE SANCTUARY)**

POBLO's missionary, Nader Alaraj, shared with us about the religion of Islam in 2019. This year, he is ready to complement that series with a new, reviving series coming this spring, titled "Truthful, loving Witness." Nader believes that while COVID required 'essential workers' to remain in labor during a pandemic, so are Christians required to remain essential laborers during the harvest of souls prior to the Second Coming of Christ. He will aid us to know Islam well, spot witnessing opportunities, engage in dialogue, manage conversations, and maintain relationships that lead a person to faith in Christ without the barriers Christians encounter such as being lukewarm, fearful, or prejudiced.

Nader, Georgette, and their four young children have tangible experiences ranging from living half their lives in the Middle East and ongoing mission work here in the Twin Cities since 2016. They are operating three International Friendship Centers within three different LCMS churches in Bloomington, Burnsville, and Prior Lake. Learn how to participate by volunteering, praying, or financially supporting their work, which helps our congregations be a blessing to ourselves and others, including folks becoming baptized and new members.

Questions? Contact **Pastor Toby** (toby@crossview.net). [Register for this onsite and online class](#) at CV Connect.

HOUSEHOLDS OF FAITH

**SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM
JANUARY 23–FEBRUARY 13
(ROOMS 209-210)**



Join us for this wonderful study on Sunday morning as we learn not only about what Households of Faith are, but how we can become them. In this Lutheran Hour Ministries study, we'll use research from the Barna Group to help our

households apply three core habits that foster a spiritually vibrant household. These are: 1) applying spiritual disciplines; 2) extending hospitality; and 3) engaging in spiritual conversations. Join us as read scripture, listen to family testimonies and research to be "equipped to go" and be a household where God's love is shared, and people are encouraged to learn more about Jesus. [Register for this onsite class](#) at CV Connect.

COMMUNITY LIGHT SCHOOL OF DISCIPLESHIP THURSDAY EVENINGS, 6:30–8:30 PM (ONSITE, LIVE VIDEO STREAM, OR ARCHIVES) THROUGH APRIL 28, 2022

Community Light School of Discipleship is an incredible offering for our congregation to grow as disciples who make disciples. Let's all take advantage of it! In addition, let's be a light to our community near and far as each of us pass on the details of this opportunity to our networks of friends and churches. Get more information and register for both onsite and online sessions at www.crossview.net/communitylight (onsite space is limited) or via email at CLSD@crossview.net.



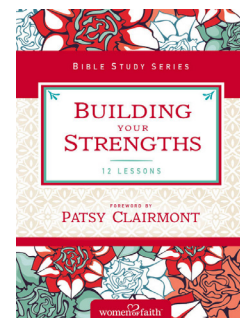
WALK WITH JESUS — JOURNEY THROUGH THE GOSPELS SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM (ONSITE IN THE SANCTUARY AND ONLINE)

Join us this year as we take time to just read through scripture together. Let's read God's Word together and follow Jesus through the Gospels. Let's share what the Holy Spirit is showing and teaching us and then look for ways that we can put it into practice. Pastor Steve will be leading this class. If you have questions email him at steve@crossview.net. [Sign up for this class](#) at CV Connect. This study will break during the six-week Truthful, Loving Witness Bible study.

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

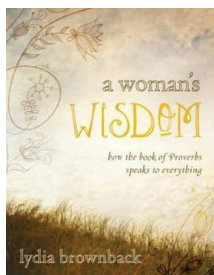
**BUILDING YOUR STRENGTHS: WHO AM I IN GOD'S EYES?
MONDAY, JANUARY 3, 9:30–10:30 AM
HELD MONTHLY (ROOM 218)**

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



NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY
A WOMAN'S WISDOM
MONDAY EVENINGS, 7:30–8:45 PM
JANUARY 3–MARCH 14 (ON ZOOM)

Explore the timeless wisdom in the book of Proverbs! Our new study, *A Woman's Wisdom* by Lydia Brownback, teaches us to know the very Author of wisdom and to apply His relevant, how-to riches to our lives. We'll meet every Monday night via Zoom for this 10-week study. Purchase the study guide on Amazon and look for more info to come! Question? Contact **Vicki Weber** at 952-838-5500. [Register for this online class](#) at CV Connect.



CONFIDENT FAITH CONVERSATIONS
SUNDAY MORNINGS, 9:30–10:30 AM
FEBRUARY 20–MARCH 13 (ROOMS 209-210)

Do you feel confident in your ability to talk to your kids or other new believers when they ask tough faith questions? Are you aware of the specific challenges our youth are faced with in today's culture? If not, you're not alone! Based on the book *Talking with Your Kids about Jesus* by Natasha Crain, this class will give you the confidence you need to effectively talk to your child, grandchild, neighbor, or friend about Jesus and the faith challenges they may face in today's skeptical world. Questions? Contact **Marcia Johnson** (marcia.sarahandemilysmom@gmail.com) or Alex Wheeler (alexandra.koch@gmail.com). [Register for this onsite class](#) at CV Connect.



Youth Ministries

YOUTH GROUP

The Cross View youth group had a wonderful Christmas party on December 12th. It was a joint party with St. Michaels Lutheran Church and Power of the Gospel Ethiopian Church based out of St. Michaels. There were over 60 youth who participated in games and a white elephant gift exchange. A great time was had by all!



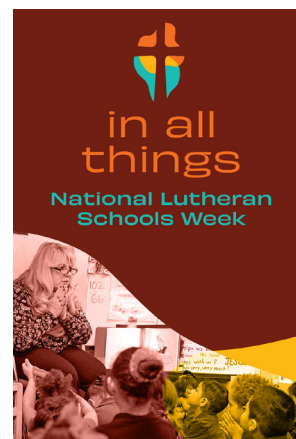
Early Childhood Center

ECC UPDATE

This month the ECC will be celebrating National Lutheran Schools Week January 24th through January 28th. More than 1,800 LCMS preschools, elementary, and high schools will be celebrating that they can share the love of Jesus everyday with amazing kids and their families.

The theme for National Lutheran Schools week is "In All Things." This comes from the scripture reading Colossians 1:15-20, "He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together. And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross." The classrooms will be doing special events each day and next month's *Clarion* will have pictures to show you of the exciting things that they did.

As stated above, we love to share God's love with as many kids and families as we can. At this current time, we have a few openings in our 4-year-old classroom. If you know of a family looking for childcare for their 3-year-old turning 4 or their current 4-year-old we would love to give a tour. Please pass along our phone number 952-941-0009 or email address ecc@crossview.net.



Children's Ministry

SUNDAY SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT

Susan Schultz and Levi Severson, our 5th and 6th grade Sunday School teachers, have been creating this wall of Bible points from each Sunday School lesson since the year started in September. Kids are learning how God is all powerful, our defender, holy, and much more. Susan and Levi lead the kids in creating a new poster each week that really helps them to remember the Bible story. All the teachers of Cross View's Sunday School program are amazing! We are blessed to have some many great caring and creative volunteers for the kids.



NEW PRESCHOOL KIDSTITUTE

Attention preschool families! Starting January 5th, we are beginning a new monthly preschool age Kidstitute class on the first Wednesday of the month 5:30–6:30 PM. A light meal for your family will be provided if you register by the Monday before so we can get an idea of how much food to provide. The time will include such activities as learning Bible stories, music, playing games, and doing a craft. Please RSVP with the number of people who will attend to barb@crossview.net by January 3. Parents are encouraged to stay with their child for this hour. We will meet upstairs in room 216 and 217.

PARENT CORNER



Look here monthly for tips and resources to help you be your child's key faith shaper at home!

Reaching for Hearts: Use this game to teach kids how important it is to support each other as Christians trying to spread the good news about Jesus.

- **Bible Connect:** Mark 16:15; Romans 1:16
- **Stuff:** You'll need candy bars and clear packing tape.
- **Play:** Tape candy bars onto the wall high enough so kids can't reach them without standing on chairs. Tell kids the object of the game is to reach the candy bars without the help of furniture or other people. Let kids try to grab the candy bars. Once they've given up, have them work together to reach the candy bars.
- **Cool Down:** Ask kids to compare their first attempt to reach the candy bars with their second.
- **Ask:** What ways do you tell your friends about your faith? Why is it important to work together and support each other as Christians? How can you support a friend this week?

Snowball Fight: This game reminds kids of the power of God's grace.

- **Bible Connect:** Isaiah 1:18
- **Stuff:** You'll need newspapers, masking tape, a timer, and hand wipes.
- **Play:** Form two groups. Divide your room into two equal-sized areas with a masking tape line. Give each group an equal amount of newspaper. On your signal, let kids make newspaper "snow" balls and quickly throw them back and forth at the opposing team for two minutes. The object is to get more "snow" on the opponent's side when time's up.
- **Cool Down:** Ask kids to collect and count the snowballs.
- **Ask:** How did your hands look after the snowball fight? How is the newspaper like sin? How are the wipes like God's grace?

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM THANK YOU!

We give thanks for the awesome celebration of the birth of our Lord from the children of Cross View. Here are just a few pictures showing their presentation of "One Can't Have Too Many Gifts."



Outreach & Missions

BLOOM FOR JESUS INDIAN FELLOWSHIP CELEBRATION

With the divisions in our land and across the world, a memorable event took place at Cross View that showed the power of Christ to bring us together. In this predominantly white church represented by several members, the Indian congregation met for a special thanksgiving service. Hymns were sung in English, Hindi, Telugu, and Tamil, all Indian languages. Thanksgiving testimonies were given by nearly everyone present. The sermon was preached by a Nigerian pastor. Then in a moving moment the children from India, and Africa brought baskets they made and give them to a Latino pastor for the children of a Hispanic congregation in Shakopee. He thanked the Indian congregation and prayed for the unity of all.

They have planned a similar Christmas celebration on December 18th. They pray that more and more people (especially from other faith) would join us and be touched with the love of Christ.



WELCOME MAT IN PROGRESS

After the soft launch in August and the official launch in September, the Welcome MAT ministry has made great strides in getting up and running. We've had to do a bit of tweaking here and there, but all in all, we've had some successes. We have registered 36 visiting individuals or families at the Welcome Center desk, some of whom became new Cross View members in November. What a JOY!

With this celebration of the welcome ministry comes an existing need that still looms large for the team. We are still looking for volunteers to step up and take a few lead roles — Welcome MAT Lead, Host Lead and Connector Lead (not as much time as it sounds!). In addition, we can always use additional volunteers for Hosts and Welcome Center Attendants to help "spread the wealth" so to speak. This would enable us to schedule volunteers farther apart, so as not to make it inconvenient for anyone. If you have a hospitality gift you would like to share, or if you have any questions regarding any of the roles to be filled, please contact the interim co-leaders, Tonya Bushey (tonyabushey@gmail.com, 612-716-5583) or Sue Harrison (kharrison1111@gmail.com, 713-269-9657). Thanks for considering this vital new ministry!



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 Cross View's pastors.

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

-Galatians 6:2

Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Book club in January will be on Monday, January 17, at 1:00 PM in room 120 at church. We will be discussing the book *Four Winds* by Kristin Hannah. Contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join.



WOMEN'S BRUNCH ON SATURDAY, JANUARY 15

The Women's Ministry Action Team is switching things up a bit for our next dinner out. We are going to meet for **Brunch** on **Saturday, January 15, at 10:00 AM at The Ambrosia Coffee & Cafe**, 7373 France Ave. S., Edina. The Ambrosia Coffee shop is owned by Dave and Deb Wagner who are Cross View members. They look forward to sharing their wonderful coffee

AMBROSIA COFFEE & CAFE

~ Local & Fresh, Every Day ~

Sign Up Now for 2022 Café Cross View and Altar Flower Coverage

You can now sign up to volunteer for Café Cross View and to provide altar flowers on the Cross View website.

There are separate links for Café Cross View and altar flowers. This is the new and only way to sign up for Café Cross View support and donation of altar flowers.

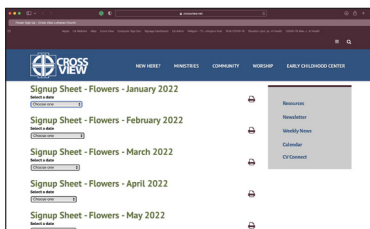
To sign up, simply click the link below and then select the month and the corresponding week you want to volunteer for Café Cross View coffee preparation or food distribution or to provide altar flowers (there are two altar flower slots for each Sunday). Once you pick a week, you'll be asked to provide your name and email address. Then, 5 days before your assignment, you'll receive a reminder email.

The links are as follows:

- Café Cross View: www.crossview.net/cafe
- Altar Flowers: www.crossview.net/flowers

These links will also be available on an on-going basis via the Resources button at the bottom of the Cross View website landing page for registering, reviewing, and updating.

Please note, if a week is taken, you'll see the name of the person/family who has selected that date. Contact Phil Johnson at philj23@gmail.com if you have more questions about how to sign-up.



Quilters Thank José

Cross View quilters said "thank you" to José Portillo for his help in setting up the space at Cross View for them each time they meet.



shop with you for a morning of conversation, coffee, and breakfast treats. [Please sign up via CV Connect](#) or at the Event Registration kiosk. Let Jana Poppe (jana@teampoppe.com or 612-386-7266) know if you have any questions.

WOMEN'S SPRING CRAFTING RETREAT IN MARCH!

The annual women's ministry spring crafting retreat, **Living a Life of Worship**, will be March 24–27, 2022, at Good Earth Village. Mark your calendars to plan to attend this time of fellowship and Bible study, while completing those unfinished projects you have at home. Not a crafter? Come with other projects from home that you might have, or a time to read and reflect. Watch for more information and registration details in the weeks to come!

Music Ministry

WOMEN'S CHORUS

Love to sing? We welcome sopranos and altos of all abilities to join this group in singing monthly anthems in worship.

JUBILATE CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Kids grades 2–6 are invited to sing fun and uplifting songs with Director Sarah Fincham. We hope to transition to in person choir in January.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Do you play an instrument? Cross View welcomes all abilities to play music to God's glory in both services.

GUEST MUSICIANS

During the winter months we will welcome a harpist, brass quintet, more piano/organ duets, women's chorus, kids' choir, clarinet solos, flute solos and more. Want to get involved musically at Cross View? Contact Sue Quist sue@crossview.net.





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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
952-941-1094, steve@crossview.net

Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
952-941-1094, toby@crossview.net

Jonathan Zellar, Youth Ministry
952-243-2047, jonathan@crossview.net

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

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

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

Sue Quist, Music & Fine Arts Ministries
952-243-2048, sue@crossview.net

Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist
952-243-2046, alyssa@crossview.net

Julia Montgomery, Administrative Assistant
952-941-1094, julia@crossview.net

Claire Oie, Administrative Assistant
952-941-1094, claire@crossview.net

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Organist
harrison@crossview.net

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.



GROW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary
Worship in the Great
Commission Room

*Sunday services are also
live streamed.*

*Communion 2nd & 4th
Sundays*

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

OFFICE HOURS

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

CALENDAR

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

CONNECT

6645 McCauley Trail West
Edina, MN, 55439-1076

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