

CROSS VIEW CLARION

July 2020



"We are tremendously excited to...share the message of the Gospel through our words and actions!" -Jonathan Zellar



(TC)²: Summer Service Event

by Jonathan Zellar, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Feet are weird...They are durable, painful, supportive, necessary, and stinky. I suppose there are such things as foot models for sandals and other such things, but overall if you think too much about feet it gets strange. At least for me it does. However, in Romans chapter 10 we get a different vantage of feet. It says, **"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring Good News."** (10:15). Imagine that. Beautiful feet.

This summer our junior and senior high youth were supposed to be headed on their respective mission trips. But, just like so many other things in 2020, they got canceled. So, we decided to try and

remake one for ourselves here at Cross View. If you haven't heard here it is:



short for

Taking Care of the Twin Cities
Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina
July 26-30, 2020

What is (TC)? It's our church family serving our church family and community by doing work

projects like painting a shed, washing windows, cleaning up a yard, etc.

Who will be participating in (TC)? Our entire Cross View church family! Originally, it was intended for our youth whose mission trips were cancelled but it has become an event for all ages! If you missed the registration and still want to sign up, please reach out to me (jonathan@crossview.net).

What will (TC) look like? As allowed by current pandemic conditions, our mornings will start at Cross View with devotion and music before heading out in small groups into the community to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Bring your own bagged lunch, stay socially distanced but work side by side to grow, connect, and help one another. At the end of each afternoon, we'll meet back at Cross View to

close the day with Scripture and music and share a meal (following CDC protocol). *Note: This event is being planned in such a way that we will not cancel the event but can modify to meet state guidelines at the time. If necessary, those updated details will be communicated closer to the event date.*

When is (TC)? The event kick-off will be Sunday evening, July 26th. Service project work will be done during the day Monday through Thursday, July 27th–30th. Plan on full days, arriving at Cross View by 8:30 AM, ending after supper at 5:30 PM.

We are tremendously excited to be offering this event for our Cross View family. To be beautiful feet and share the message of the Gospel through our words and actions!

Sunday Morning Onsite Worship Schedule

by Pastor Steve Wheeler

To say that the last several months have been “dynamic” in nature would be to grossly understate the matter. With the Covid-19 Pandemic, we have experienced an unprecedented shut-down in our nation and throughout our world. Governor Walz’ shelter-in-place order created a shutdown unlike anything we have ever experienced. Obviously, houses of worship were a part of that shutdown. In response to the shutdown, Cross View’s staff and leaders worked tirelessly to migrate our ministries to online formats. We are and will continue to do our best to care for the congregation with Word and sacrament ministry during this challenging season.

Effective May 27, our Governor re-opened houses of worship, limiting assemblies to 25% of capacity with a maximum of 250 people, utilizing social distancing. The church council decided that Cross View would resume an onsite worship offering, starting June 14. Cross View’s staff gave great thought and planning to implement a safe plan that satisfied the MN Dept. of Health and the CDC’s requirements. Based on anticipated attendance and restricted capacity, it was decided we would need to have two worship offerings. On June 12, shortly after we had communicated our schedule and plan to the congregation, the governor loosened restrictions, allowing 50% of occupancy capacity, with a maximum of 250 people in a



self-contained space, utilizing social distancing rules.

This change in restrictions significantly changed the playing field of what we, at Cross View, are able to do safely and what is best to do logistically for the summer months. That is why we are changing the onsite worship schedule for the summer months. Three major factors drive the change. 1) The new MN restrictions allow us to worship more people in a single space with safe social distancing. 2) The number of onsite worshippers at this time does not merit two services. 3) We are very short on volunteers to help run the onsite worship services.

Starting July 5, the new onsite Sunday worship schedule will be as follows:

- **9:00 AM: One blended service in the sanctuary**
- **10:30 AM: Online Bible Classes**
- **11:30 AM–12:15 PM: Drive through communion pick up (on 2nd & 4th Sundays).**

We ask those attending to wear masks and to pre-register their attendance the week before. In addition, we ask that those desiring to receive communion, using the drive through option, register the week before. We will continue to offer a high-quality online worship service for those who are unable to attend the onsite services. Should we reach capacity, we will utilize the Great Commission Room to accommodate overflow. Let us pray that the day will come soon when we all can gather together for worship. Oh, how deeply we miss those days! That being said, we are thankful to our Lord that we can offer this first step toward resuming onsite worship and activities at Cross View.

Financial Update

June 16 Voters' Assembly Meeting Recap

- A quorum of 42 members was present at the meeting. Because a Special Quorum of 64 members was not achieved, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled to act upon the 3 proposed Bylaw amendments. All agenda topics were presented and summarized below.
- A 4.0 Building for Generations update was presented. The project is nearly complete!
 - The sewer enhancements are done.
 - Parking lot surface and landscaping projects will be finished before July.
 - New parking lot lighting is also coming soon.
 - LED panels for the Great Commission Room will be installed upon arrival.
 - A wish list of additional enhancements continues to be under consideration by Church Council and the building steering committee.
 - Pledges totaling \$3.7M, or 92% of the total have been collected. The remaining \$317,267 remains important to collect to fully fund the project and limit debt to the approved amount.
- The Church Council election slate was approved unanimously! Please join me in welcoming new and returning Church Council members.
 - Julie Sherman, President
 - Patrick Kullmann, Vice President (new member)
 - Keith Ahrendt, Treasurer (new member)
 - Matthew Salzwedel, At-large (new member)
 - Vina Marquart, Secretary
 - Mark Fincham, At-large
 - Vern Hanson, At-large
 - Brian Swiggum, At-large
 - Mark Weber, At-large
- The CARES Act, Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan resolution was ratified. The entire loan of \$373K is planned to be used toward eligible expenses during the loan period per PPP requirements, and therefore is expected to be fully forgiven.
- Cross View and ECC financial updates were provided.
 - Cross View receipts are 14%, or \$82K unfavorable to 2020 budget while expenses are \$66K favorable, resulting in a year-to-date deficit of \$15K.
 - A conservative forecast based on giving to date provides a path to year-end break-even results, assuming full forgiveness of \$176K PPP proceeds.

Cross View			
May 31, 2020	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs. Budget
Total Income	\$495,459	\$576,970	(\$81,511)
Total Expense	\$479,239	\$545,628	\$66,389
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	\$16,220	\$31,342	(\$15,122)

\$176K expected PPP forgiveness by 12/31/20

- ECC income is 14%, or \$77K unfavorable to budget as a result of fewer children at the center. Lower expenses than budget result in a year-to-date deficit of \$36K.
- Families continue to return to the ECC. A conservative forecast results in a small surplus by year-end, assuming full forgiveness of \$197K PPP proceeds and no COVID-19 related closures.

Early Childhood Center			
May 31, 2020	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs. Budget
Total Income	\$456,510	\$533,830	(\$77,320)
Total Expense	\$509,219	\$550,306	\$41,087
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$52,709)	(\$16,476)	(\$36,233)

\$197K expected PPP forgiveness by 12/31/20

- Bylaw amendments regarding 1) the Endowment fund; 2) electronic participation in Voters' Assembly meetings; and 3) electronic notice of Voters' Assembly Meetings were presented at the meeting. Actions to vote on the proposed amendments will be included in an upcoming Voters' Assembly Meeting with members present constituting a sufficient quorum to act upon the proposals, per Cross View Bylaws.

A Note of Gratitude...

It has been one of the biggest blessings of my life to serve on Church Council for the past 6 years and in the role of President for the last 4 years. I am grateful to our exceptional Church Council members and Cross View staff for their talents, positive energy and never-ending vision to better serve our Lord by expanding His Kingdom through Cross View ministries. I also thank the congregation for your constant support of me personally through words of encouragement, accepting volunteer roles, and your generous donations to make our collective vision come to life. Our objectives continue to be successfully reached by combining all our strengths.

Cross View, you continue to be in good hands with our newly elected Church Council and incredible staff. I am excited to see what's next for us!

*Grateful for the opportunity to serve,
Lynn Pahl*

Be Still and Know that I am God...

by Pastor Steve Wheeler

Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth. The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress. -Psalm 46

Perhaps no other Psalm in the Psalter more graphically describes what “a world in chaos” looks like. The Psalmist describes the earth giving way, the mountains falling into the ocean, the waters roaring and foaming. Yet, in the midst of all the chaos, the Psalmist bids the people to take refuge in the One who is our only sure fortress—in God.

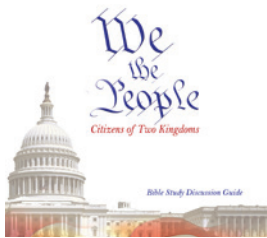
The past four months and the last several weeks have taught us all many important lessons, not the least of which is this...we live in a broken world. Not only are we struggling to make our way through a pandemic, but we also find ourselves in the midst of civil and political unrest. The unlawful killing of George Floyd not only sparked protests and civil unrest, but it has also brought to the forefront that we are a broken people living in a broken world. Racist attitudes and broken relationships still abound and need to find healing. Much work needs to be done to unite people and to tear down barriers between peoples. Thoughtful change needs to be implemented. Listening to one another's stories and praying for God's love to overcome hatred and brokenness is a must.

As we look at what is now happening in cities all across our land...cities like Minneapolis, Atlanta, Seattle, Chicago, and others it runs a cold chill down our spine. It all seems so big. It feels like “the waters are roaring, the mountains are quaking with their surging, and earth is giving way beneath us.” It is in times such as these that Psalmist's words speak a word of peace and hope. There is another city—the city where the Most High dwells! “God is within her, she will not fall; God will help her at the break of day.”

In the midst of the chaos and unrest, in the midst of the pandemic and uncertainty, let us remember that city and find refuge in God who is our fortress. He is the only One who can bring healing. He is the only One who can still our troubled hearts. God made a way to heal our broken world. That way is Jesus! The cross tears down barriers between peoples, races, nations, and conflicts. The cross brings healing to all that is broken. Jesus' love, grace, and forgiveness, stills troubled hearts rocked by fear, loss, and uncertainty. Let us pray for God's grace and love that is in Jesus to be a healing balm to our community and world. Let us pray that we would daily be led to share that love with our community – one person, one relationship, and one conversation at a time. As we do, let us remember, in the midst of all the chaos, God is in control. “He lifts his voice and the earth melts.” Be still and know that He is God.

Christian Education

JULY BIBLE STUDIES DURING EDUCATION HOUR:



We the People: Citizens of Two Kingdoms. Join us for this **three-session Bible study on July 12, 19, and 26.** Politics and politicians—there's seemingly no way to escape them. Though government and those who govern are often

criticized by press and citizen alike, it is through government that God works His designs in this world. Join us as we learn from Dr. Dale Meyer as he surveys government in history, the character of the United States as a nation, and the Christian's role as a citizen of any country. Please register on [CVConnect—Events](#).

Amos: The Prophet of Justice. Join us for this **nine-session Bible study on Sundays in July and August (starting July 5).** In the Old Testament, justice is closely linked to the righteousness God imparts to us by His grace. Unlike today, ancient Israel was a theocracy, where the church and the state were combined. Today however, we live in two kingdoms—God's kingdom of grace in Christ Jesus and His kingdom

of secular rule. (This is not your American “separation of church and state”.) Join us as we dig into Amos, as we distinguish between these two kingdoms and between Law and Gospel, as we seek to understand the Book of Amos, and see how ultimately Amos's prophecies are all fulfilled in Christ. Please register on [CVConnect—Events](#).

WOMEN'S VIRTUAL BIBLE STUDY

NEW STUDY BEGINS TUESDAY, JULY 21; 7:30 PM

For the past two months, 20 women have met virtually weekly to study God's word, have good conversation, and build relationships as we went through “Cultivating Faith—A Journey Guide.”

A new study (still to be determined) will begin Tuesday, July 21 at 7:30–9:00 PM. This study will meet on Zoom from the comfort of your home, or wherever you may be!

Please contact Christine Eid at christine@crossview.net or 952-941-1094 if you are interested in more information or want to join us! We would love to have new people come on board! (And if you know someone outside of the Twin Cities who might want to join us, invite them too! A friend from Sioux Falls, SD, was a part of our first study!)

Christian Education

ROCKY RAILWAY – JESUS’ POWER PULLS US THROUGH

The train traveled all over as we learned virtually at Bible School this year of God’s love and power. Beginning June 22, participants not only in Minnesota, but St. Louis, Colorado, and even Africa, joined us to watch videos and

experience the many activities online. Take home bags were sent to participants so that they had supplies for their railroad experience. So many people made this experience possible, and we give thanks for all of them!



Outreach & Missions

CROSS VIEW CONNECTION CARE TEAMS

by Connie Landreville

Sometimes I don't know what to think. However, it makes me happy that sometimes I am delighted and surprised that people are better than they could appear. We sent out a notice that there were some volunteer opportunities for the Cross View Congregation—not a lot of responses, but we didn't know if only a few people got this information or whether most people just couldn't (rightly so!) respond due to their individual circumstances. So, because of this weird situation, we didn't know what the response would be to some requests for help across the Twin Cities area.

I am happy to report that Cross View has been active in response to the COVID 19 fallout and to the George Floyd fallout. We have had people respond to requests for meals for home-bound people needing help, requests for masks for healthcare workers and for our own congregation, requests for food and for help in distribution at our Sister Church, Trinity First, in response to the unrest in Minneapolis, and to requests to help distribute food due to financial hardship because of the coronavirus fallout in Shakopee and Bloomington.

Talking to people who have benefited from the help is so touching. People who have received meals keep saying how much they enjoyed the food and how much it helped them during a difficult time in their lives.

Seeing the piles and piles of mask that were donated—

and realizing it took a lot of time for each mask to be made—demonstrated the selflessness of the people who sewed them.

Sorting and stacking the thousands of dollars of supplies—from food and fresh produce to diapers and hygienic products—showed the generosity of not only our church but a community of churches.

Walking Lake Street from Chicago Ave to Minnehaha Ave handing out water and bibles, praying with people, and seeing on almost every block a different organization handing out water or food, or scrubbing and painting over graffiti and sweeping the sidewalks made our spirits soar. Handing out food to the miles and miles of cars—some waiting three hours—at the Shakopee food distribution center at New Creation Church made us joyful as car after car—some filled with family, some with just an older couple—got lots of food put in their trunk or back-seat and we got beautiful smiles and happy thank-you and God's blessings in exchange!

These are not normal times. But if you look closely, you can see the Hands and Feet of Jesus. We are not alone. You are not alone. We will get through this and be better for this because of Jesus. All the glory goes to Him.

If you would like to be on a contact list when more volunteer opportunities come up or if you need some help, please contact me, Connie Landreville, at connie.landreville@gmail.com.



POBLO INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

It is heartbreaking and discouraging to see the United States veer off into chaos, with so much anger and suffering gripping the nation, resulting from the Coronavirus pandemic nationally and globally and recent protests. Financial insecurity is a reality. This time also marks our fourth anniversary as missionaries in the Twin Cities.



Because the story of Mr. Floyd is very near to us, I would like to give you some related feedback. The owner of Cup Foods, where George Floyd handed out the questionable \$20 bill, is a Muslim Palestinian by the name of Mahmoud. This homicide death sparked protests all over the U.S., and the world.

As POBLO International Ministries working on behalf of the LCMS, our hearts and minds are focused on reaching out to the lost, constantly. They could be immigrants, minorities, internationals, and refugees, even homeless or affluent locals. During the seminars about "Islam & You" that we have been offering Twin Cities churches about the religion of Islam and reaching out to Muslims and other immigrants, we repeatedly emphasized the role of the Church in the community God planted her within.

I always ask myself: Until when will the church continue to PRAY FOR and AVOID real community problems? Why miss opportunities? Are we too blind or selfish to be involved? Are we too timid to get our hands and feet dirty and hurting? Would it bother you if I quote a well-known Catholic figure who said, "I prefer a church which is bruised, hurting and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a church which is unhealthy from being confined and from clinging to its own security." And if I may add, a church that could close its door in the next ten years, according to the Hartford Institute For Religion Research.

I plead to you to rethink about your walk with Christ. It does not matter if you are a clergy or not. It does not matter how old you are. The more clergy appease our deficient behavior, the worse the problem becomes. You may disagree with my outlook, that every lost soul in the community God placed you in, is a result of a church goer

who never planned to reach to that lost soul. Reminds you with Jonah, right?

Remember the original disciples and apostles of the church. They did not start their outreach in D.C. They started it where my father was born and raised, in Jerusalem, Palestine, without contemporary technology. That's why there is a church in Minnesota you can worship in 2000 years later, because some Christians followed the Commands of Christ. Be faithful to God by changing your community for the sake of the Good Savior. The Lord is near. There is a God Who can enable you and the Body of Christ to deliver the Gospel to the victim and to the perpetrator.

The CDC has issued guidelines to combat the spread of coronavirus. The following is my guideline to help you avoid avoiding problems in your community and be proactively engaged in Kingdom building.

1. Pray that God swiftly changes your heart and mind to serve him; to give you strength and boldness to be His child and mission soldier/leader.
2. Know seven neighbors to your right, and seven neighbors to your left (i.e. knock on their doors; introduce yourself; ask them if you can be of any help to them at one point.) Stay persistent with those unresponsive. Be careful as a snake; Be gentle as a dove.
3. Get involved in the Church's International Friendship Center (IFC) or ministry reflecting your talents. Volunteer your time and donate your items. Credit God for everything you say or do.
4. Constantly thank Jesus for His love and provisions. Always ask Christ to give you and those you meet a desire to talk, walkabout and personalize His love and salvation for each of you. Discuss topics and have a meal.
5. Effectuate your devotions. Develop a monthly plan for activities and target your neighborhood.
6. Jesus said, "...Go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28:19)

-The Alaraj Family, Nader & Georgette & Kids

Cross View Voices Podcast



Ben Griffin, Chris Roth, and Christine Eid! So much fun and so much to learn.

Thanks to you Cross View Voices (CVV), the podcast cross view has started, has over 200 downloads! We've had the pleasure of covering a wide range of topics as well as having discussion with many different people. We've highlighted Greg Finke,

New episodes come out on Thursdays and if you have any ideas of more ways we can connect or have stories to share please email us at cvvoices@crossview.net.

You can find CVV on: Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, iHeart Radio, and anywhere else you would listen to podcasts. You can also find us on Cross View's website at <https://www.crossview.net/ministries/podcast.cfm>.

Early Childhood Center

ECC IN FULL SWING THIS SUMMER

We all enjoyed Vacation Bible School a few weeks ago, even though it was less involved due to COVID. It was a great week filled with Bible stories, crafts, songs, snacks and games that were done in each classroom. We learned about how Jesus' love can help us during good and hard times in life.

We are in full swing this summer and have many fun activities planned. We have already had water days and some theme days that the teachers have planned, such as ocean, garden, kite and fishing days. These theme days are in place of the typical summer activities with a bounce house, fieldtrips and petting zoos. The Lord has been good and taken care of us during these hard times and we are making the best of the summer.



STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Stephen Ministry acknowledges the dignity of suffering by entering into the lives of suffering individuals without judgement, without advice, in humility, and in complete confidentiality, bringing the presence of Christ into painful situations. Simply an ear to listen, and a voice to pray, seeking help from the only true source of help, the holy triune God. Healing begins when we place our anguish out in the open and voice it as prayer, like the Psalms.

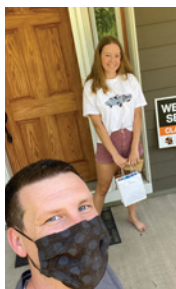
Quoting Eugene Peterson, "[In the Psalms]...suffering is not something embarrassing that must be hushed up and locked in a closet (where it finally becomes a skeleton)...and suffering is not a puzzle that must be explained and therefore turned over to theologians or philosophers to work out an answer. Suffering is set squarely, openly, passionately before God. It is acknowledged and expressed. It is described and lived." If you are having trouble acknowledging, describing, or living with suffering, please request help from Stephen Ministry.

*I pray to God—my life a prayer—
And wait for what he'll say and do.
My life's on the line before God, my Lord,
Waiting and watching till morning,
Waiting and watching till morning.
Psalm 130:5-6 (MSG)*

Youth Ministries

HOME VISITS TO YOUTH

Starting in June, Jonathan Zellar began to go visit all of the youth who are still stuck at home. He's been delivering confirmation gifts and graduation gifts as well as seeing all the friendly faces. If you haven't gotten your visit, you'll be hearing from him soon!



Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The Cross View's Women's Book Club will meet online using Zoom on Monday, July 20th at 1:00 PM. They have chosen *The Tuscan Child*, by Rhys Bowen to

read and discuss.

Please feel free to contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have any questions or wish to join the book club.





CROSS VIEW

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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
ext 203, steve@crossview.net

Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
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Christine Eid, Children's Ministry
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José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Interim Organist
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Paula Wilson, Interim Lead Vocalist - Contemporary
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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 WITH CROSS VIEW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM Blended (On-Site)
Pre-recorded services are
available online all weekend.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

10:30 AM (Online)

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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