

CROSSVIEW CLARION

July 2022



"You and I are the front door of the church. This means that the front door of your home, is really the front door of the church." -Toby Schmidt

Front Doors

by Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor

Close friends of mine went to Ireland and one of their biggest comments about their trip was the variety of front doors up and down every street. In Ireland, people use front doors to celebrate and express their household's culture and personality. So, the front door not only helps you find the right home to enter, but also whether you actually want to enter that particular home.

That leads me to ponder the "front door" of the church. See for decades, the "front door" of church — the gateway to participation — was worship. Back when I was a kid (and even as young adult), people learned about church from something like a newspaper, phone book ad (do

these still exist?), or even the denomination people belonged to (since birth). And of course, people actually and literally used the real front door to come in and become part of the congregation. But things have changed a bit since then.

Even before, but especially during, COVID the "front door" of church shifted to the church website. In fact, recently, in a September 2021 Lifeway Research study, it was found that among those who say they don't regularly attend church services, more than 1 in 4 (26%) participated in an online church service during the pandemic. That's amazing. The "front door" is no longer the front door.

What's even more amazing is this quote by Tim Gossett from Aboundant.com (an innovative company helping ministries develop church websites and more.) Tim says,

"But even thinking of the website as your front or only door isn't fully accurate. What both guests and marginally active people in your congregation want is not a church with the best technology, coolest design, and slick descriptions of all that it does. The real front door of your church is...Relationships." (Gossett, March 2020, <https://aboundant.com/your-church-front-door-is/>)

Relationship, community, and you. Truth be told "church" and the presence of the church, boils down to you and me. It's your community – where you live and your relationships with others around you. This reminds me of the early church, the church in Acts. Acts is all about how the Lord Jesus calls every disciple, including you and me, to be his witness, a witness to Jesus' death and resurrection and salvation and new life that is ours in His name. Acts

is about how God works through His Word, spoken or written, and Spirit to bring people to faith. One example is in Acts 8:1, 4 right after the stoning of Stephen, "On that day a great persecution broke out against the church in Jerusalem, and all except the apostles were scattered throughout Judea and Samaria ... Those who had been scattered preached the word wherever they went." (I encourage you to read all of Acts, or at least Acts 6-10.)

The "front door" of the church is changing from what it was, back to what it used to be. **You and I are the front door of the church.** This means that **the front door of your home, is really the front door of the church.** So, this summer, with all the neighborhood gatherings, the night outs, the lake time, with all this time with others, remember where the front door is.

Remember all those doors in Ireland. What's the culture and personality your front door celebrating and expressing? Use your front door to help others find the right home. Invite them in and be a part of God's household and His family.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- May 2022 member contributions were 76% of budget or \$21,414 less than budgeted
- Year to Date income is 4.55% below budget or \$25,871 less than budgeted.
- Year to Date expenditures are \$825 above budget.
- Year-to-date General Fund Deficit of \$35,857 is \$26,696 less than budgeted.
- ECC income was favorable and expenses unfavorable to budget, resulting in a net surplus better than budgeted by \$15,318
- Restored! Is off to a good start with pledges covering 62% of the loan. \$244,664 additionally is needed to fully repay the Restored! Loan.

5/31/22	2022 Actual Year to Date	2022 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$542,970	\$568,841	(\$25,871)
Total Expenses	(\$578,827)	(\$578,002)	(\$825)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	(\$35,857)	(\$9,161)	(\$26,696)

Cross View 4.0 Building Campaign

Contributions Received in May:	\$36,331
Total Pledges Made to Restored!	\$340,796
Total Contributions Collected:	\$44,460
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$36,331
Loan Balance Outstanding:	(\$541,000)
Additional Pledges Needed to Repay Loan:	(\$244,664)

The Endowment Fund

A brief history is in order. Early in the 1990s a Cross View Endowment Fund was formed. It was structured in such a way so as to be administered by members of Cross View. When formed, it generated interest, and resulted in gifts to the Fund. That initial success was short-lived primarily because we experienced a big change in staffing which resulted in our collective attention being focused on other ministry needs. This temporary lack of focus should not be interpreted as a dismissal of the importance of having a viable endowment program.

Being fully aware of its importance, Council re-visited the Endowment Fund with an eye toward reactivating it in earnest. The framework of the Fund was changed, and the Voters approved those changes. The Voters also approved distributions from the Endowment in 2021. These included \$6,000 to CALMS (our mission partner in Guatemala), \$2,000 to POBLO (our mission partner for new immigrants), and \$1,000 to LINC (for empowering Twin Cities ministry leaders). The Endowment Ministry Action Team is preparing for a re-launch of the Endowment Fund this Fall. We believe that we have put off this very viable and constructive program for too long. After all,

"He who wills not when he may,
When he will he shall have nay."

In the meantime, if you have any questions about the Endowment Fund, feel free to call or email me.

Vern Hanson, Chair
Endowment MAT

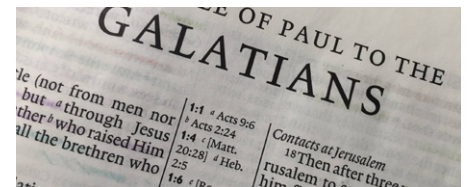
Christian Education

GALATIANS

SUNDAYS, 9:30–10:30 AM

JULY & AUGUST, (ROOMS 210/211)

On Sundays during the discipleship hour, beginning July 10, we're going to dig into Paul's Letter to the Galatians. In his letter he addressed a number of false teachings that were running rampant in churches in Galatia. Paul's letter is just as applicable for us today because our society (and so do we) still struggles with many of the same false teachings. Join as we dig into Galatians together as Paul leads us back to the Truth revealed in Scripture and the promises of Christ. Register for this [onsite class on CV Connect](#).



Early Childhood Center

URGENT: ECC TEACHERS NEEDED

The ECC is looking to the congregation to help them find candidates for two open roles in the Early Childhood Education Center (ECC). They have an urgent need for two full-time teachers. While they are open to any candidates with early childhood education experience, the most immediate need is for toddler-aged teachers. At a minimum, candidates must have a love for Jesus, be 16 years of age or older, and move around to play and interact with the kids. Filling these open positions in a timely manner is critical for them to maintain normal operations of the center.

Please share this information with your network of friends and family. They were previously able to fill an open ECC role with connections found through our congregation, and hope — through God's grace — they can do the same again. If you know of someone who might be interested, please email name, contact information, and resume (if you have it) to stacey@crossview.net. In addition, please pray for the ECC and pray that these needs be filled in a timely manner, so that the ECC can continue to serve the emotional, physical and spiritual needs of our youngest community members.

HOPPER GRADUATION

This past month we had our Hopper Graduation. Twelve of the 21 kids in this class started in the infant room and went through all five classrooms. It is bittersweet to see these kids leave but we know we have taught them about God's love to share with the world.

Enjoy this class picture.



Youth Ministries

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT

In June, Cross View youth and adults joined with other Minnesota youth groups and participated in the Rochester Servant Event. They gathered each morning for worship and then served throughout the day. In the evening,

they celebrated what God did throughout the day and ate a meal together. It was an excellent opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus...and have a great time with old and new friends!



Music Ministry



REGISTER TODAY
MUSIC/ART CAMP
JULY 25-29
For campers who have completed
1st thru 5th grade.
AT CROSS VIEW • INVITE YOUR FRIENDS!

SPECIAL MUSIC

Do you sing or play an instrument? Cross View invites youth to play special music in worship. Contact Sue Quist for more information: sue@crossview.net.

WOMEN'S CHORUS

The Cross View women's chorus will resume in September and invites all interested women to join them. All abilities welcome. They have weekly rehearsals and sing for 8:15 AM worship monthly. Contact Sue Quist for more information: sue@crossview.net.

MEN'S CHORUS

Like to sing? We would like to begin a men's chorus this fall to sing in 8:15 AM worship monthly. Join us to sing Praises to our Lord.

ADULT CHOIR

Inviting all interested singers to join the choir in the fall to sing for 8:15 AM service monthly. Join us to sing as little or as much as you would like. Contact Sue Quist for more information: sue@crossview.net.

HAND BELL CHOIR

The group will resume in fall — and they always need substitutes. This group rehearses Wednesdays from 6:30–7:15 PM and plays monthly in 8:15 AM worship.

Outreach & Missions

JUNE 2022 PROGRESS REPORT: WATER FOR LOS VÁSQUEZ

We praise God for the wonderful progress that has been made in the Water for Los Vásquez project. However, the rainy season has begun, and the work is slowing down. Fortunately, the end is in sight!

During the construction process, there has been no interruption of Los Vásquez's water service to the community, which is really good news.

Work on the water collection site structure is 60% done. This is slow work since the materials, bags of concrete and rebar, must be carried by hand up the side of the mountain. Members of the Los Vásquez community have been doing this heavy work before dawn to avoid the heat.

The pipes from the water collection site to the main holding tank have been buried in the ground and are fully functional.

The main holding tank is completed and filled with water. Please see the enclosed photograph taken just before it was filled with water. During the excavation process tree roots and other debris at the construction site required a reassessment of the original plan. An outside consultant suggested the main holding tank be expanded and further reinforced. This tank was expanded from 75 cubic meters to 100 cubic meters.

Currently, workers are installing the supply lines into the individual homes in Los Vásquez.

Our missionary in Guatemala, Charles "Carlos" Cohen, estimates the project will take at least another 30 to 60 days, depending on the rainy season.

Please continue to pray for the people of Los Vásquez, the construction workers, and our missionary, Carlos.



POBLO TWIN CITIES MISSION UPDATE (FROM SHARI, IFC COORDINATOR)

The POBLO mission is ramping up! We are reaching out to old students and letting them know we are back teaching in person. We have started a "coffee and conversation" meet up at Mt. Hope Lutheran Church (Bloomington) for students and teachers. Our first meet was very successful allowing the teachers the opportunity to ask questions and get to know each other better. We brainstormed ideas to make classes work more efficiently.

Our **food truck event** will happen June 27th at St. Michael's in Bloomington, this is to help raise funds for the IFC, but mostly to let our community know about the IFCs and our FREE CLASSES. I find the most joy in teaching the classes and really getting to know our students. They are fascinating people with interesting stories. My greatest blessings come from connections made with the students. We are all family. God was very present in one of our meetings and we all prayed together, we all felt His hand touch us that day. We will be adding cooking classes very soon, we will have one student be the Star Chef for the night and teach us about their culture while we have conversations in English!



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

POBLO UPDATE FROM NADER

This month I would like to share encouraging news about the 79th convention of the Minnesota South District. The only disappointment was that POBLO's treasurer, Mike Hentges, was beaten by another candidate to represent the circuit. This would have been a voice of missional outreach. Brother Mike and Coordinator Shari took turns at the booth, as well as POBLO Ambassador, Rev. Robert Schmidt of Cross View.

POBLO Twin Cities was featured and was designated as a recipient of the convention's offering. What a blessing and generosity of the churches! More importantly, several churches showed interest in forming partnerships with POBLO Twin Cities, especially in the St. Paul area.

I did get a chance to speak on behalf of POBLO Twin Cities for about four minutes to more than 600 pastors and laypersons. It was the greatest and most direct exposure for POBLO Twin Cities since its existence from 6 years ago. We assured the churches that POBLO exists to serve them personally, and to enable the churches to bridge cultural and religious gaps with all different and diverse groups in their surrounding communities, ranging from seniors, immigrants, and preschool families to youth and racial diversity.

According to the Hartford Institute for Religion Research, 50% of churches will cease to exist by the year 2040. POBLO Twin Cities hopes that each church partakes in God's vision of having people from all nations, tribes, peoples, and languages, as mentioned in Revelation 7, to fulfill this heavenly image right here in the diverse state of Minnesota.

The mission field is here — the time is now! If you can contribute to POBLO Twin Cities, become a volunteer, or donate items, please contact Shari Schulze at (612) 552-3878, shari@poblo.org. If you would like to become an individual donor, please visit <https://www.poblotwincities.org/> or contact Mike Hentges at mhentges@comcast.net. Many blessings!



Cross View Game Night

Do you love games? Join us for fun and fellowship every second Sunday of the month starting tonight 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? Contact John Daenzer (johnndaenzer@gmail.com) or Michael Kibat (mgkibat@centurylink.net). Register for this event on [CV Connect](#) or the Event Registration kiosks.



Women's Ministry

WOMEN'S SUMMER PICNIC

When: Tuesday July 19, 5:00–8:00 PM

Where: 9405 Briar Circle, Bloomington

Cross View women of all ages are invited to the home of Barb Schaus on Tuesday, July 19, for a good old fashioned summer picnic. Come and enjoy hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, ice cream, fun and games. Sign up at the Event Registration desk or on CrossView.net. Contact Glenda Kibat 612-418-2718 or Marcia Johnson 812-454-4129 to answer any questions you may have.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be reading and discussing "Becoming Mrs. Lewis" by Patti Callahan Henry. We will meet on Monday, July 18, at 1:00 PM. Please watch the bulletin for our meeting place as we may try to meet outside. You may contact Marcy (mpnordhus@gmail.com) if you have questions or are interested in joining.



Early Childhood Center

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Summer Sunday School for parents and their children ages two to 6th grade in room 216/217. Check out the fun lesson themes for July.

July 3: No Sunday School (Independence holiday weekend)

July 10: God Blesses Those who are Sad in Matthew 5:4

July 17: God Blesses Those who are Gentle and Kind in Matthew 5:5

July 24: God Blesses Those who are Fair in Matthew 5:6

July 31: God Blesses Those who are Merciful in Matthew 5:7

VBS

A huge thank you to all the Monumental volunteers (over 60!) for our Vacation Bible School program that took place June 20-24! And thank you to the entire congregation for all the donations and prayers.

They had almost 160 kids participate during a fantastic week filled with lots of friends, fun, and faith. The photos below show you some of the great times that they had exploring God's awesomeness.





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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
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Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
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Jonathan Zellar, Youth Ministry
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Stacey LaMere, Early Childhood Center
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Barbara Coffin, Children's Ministry
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Sue Quist, Music & Fine Arts Ministries
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Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist
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Amy Gundermann, Contemporary Worship Team Leader
amy@crossview.net

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Organist
harrison@crossview.net

Julie Marquardt, 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

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