

"As Christians, we rejoice in the grace we have received through Jesus and eagerly look for ways to love others." – Amy Gundermann

Be the Hands and Feet of Jesus

by Amy Gundermann, Director of Outreach & Adult Ministries, Contemporary Worship Team Leader

"Whatever you did for one of the least of these...you did for me." -Matthew 25:40

What does it mean to follow Jesus? As we respond to His call to each of us as disciples, we pray for the Holy Spirit to help us live differently. By God's merciful hands, we are shaped like vessels of pottery to reflect His love to those around us. At Cross View, we have an exciting new ministry launching this fall that will give you an opportunity to live out your calling as a disciple of Jesus in a tangible way. We are joining a network of churches, businesses, schools, and other community partners who respond to the

needs of children and families in crisis within our community through a program called CarePortal. Through this program, we will have an opportunity to be the hands and feet of Jesus while caring for children and families who are our neighbors here in Hennepin County.

Through a technology platform, caseworkers identify physical needs which are then met by a team of responders within the network of churches. For example, providing a family who had been previously homeless with essential furniture and bedding in order for them to get back on their feet. This September, you will be invited to join our church's team of responders.

Once our team is trained and ready, we will become an active part of the response network impacting the lives of vulnerable people in need. Every year, 7 million children in the United States experience maltreatment. Over 400,000 children have been placed in foster care. CarePortal's goal is to prevent the separation of families through the foster care system by offering support "upstream". Working together with the CarePortal network, we can help families in our community stay together and flourish.

As Christians, we rejoice in the grace we have received through Jesus and eagerly look for ways to love others. Through CarePortal, our congregation will be invited to make a difference in the lives of others and shine brightly with God's love. If you'd like to learn more, visit their website at https://www.careportal.org. Watch for more information to come about joining the response team at Cross View and please pray for the lasting hope we have in Jesus to be made known in our community through this ministry.

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- May expenses exceeded income by \$5,376.
- Year to Date, Total Income is \$4,179 or 0.76% favorable to budget. YTD Expenses are \$48,678 favorable.
- ECC Income is \$27,982 below plan due to openings in some rooms.
- ECC expenses are favorable to plan by \$15,700 resulting in Net Surplus \$38,299.
- The Restored! campaign is currently \$134,727 short in pledges to fully repay the loan by the May 2024 maturity date.

Cross View Lutheran Church				
5/31/23	2023 Actual Year to Date	2023 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)	
Total Income	\$556,971	\$552,792	\$4,179	
Total Expenses	(\$504,022)	(\$552,700)	\$48,678	
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$52,949	\$92	\$52,857	
General Fund Ending Balance	\$221,657	\$168,800		

Cross View Restored! Building Campaign			
Contributions Received in May:	\$3,559		
Total Pledges Made to Restored!	\$358,336		
Total Contributions Collected:	\$313,642		
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$6,424		
Loan Balance Outstanding:	\$243,000		
Additional Gifts Needed to Repay Loan:	\$134,727		



New Ministry Team Forming: Wednesday Night Meals MAT

This Fall, Cross View will be kicking off the Wednesday night programming with a meal. We're looking for people to help get this new ministry started. If you're gifted with planning, organizing, recruiting, or would simply like to serve on a weekly prep, serving, or cleanup team, contact staff liaison Renee Kirchner (Renee@crossview.net)

Landscape Project Saturday, July 15, 8:00 AM-Noon

Join the Gardening MAT as we re-mulch our gardens. Please bring gloves and a shovel — and a wheelbarrow if you have one. Questions? Contact Sue Hanson (hansons96@gmail.com). And, yes, there will be donuts and coffee!



Sincerely Grateful!

Most of you have heard by now that I will be taking an eight-week sabbatical June 28–August 24. I am sincerely grateful to Cross View's personnel committee, church council, ministry staff, and others who urged me to apply for the sabbatical and subsequently approved it. After over 19 years of ministry at Cross View, this time away will afford me the opportunity to rest, to renew, and to recharge as I prepare for the next season of ministry.

I am sincerely grateful to everyone who is pitching in to provide coverage during my absence. A solid plan for ministry coverage and congregational care is in place. If you have an emergency or have ministry needs, please contact the church office. Several communications regarding ministry coverage have recently been shared. More

will be shared in the coming weeks. In summary, Pastor Reed will provide primary pastoral care. Deaconess, Barb Coffin, will provide hospital visitation. Other Cross View staff, as well as lay members, will provide additional support and coverage during my absence.

Thank you so much for your prayers, your blessing, and your many expressions of love as I have prepared for the sabbatical. I will provide a report sometime following the sabbatical. Please know that I am, have been, and will continue to be lifting the congregation in my prayers in the weeks ahead. God's peace be with you!

In Christ, Pastor Steve

Help Wanted

As a church family, we rely on each person stepping forward to help out in a unique way. We are in need of additional volunteers in two areas described below. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might be calling you to use your gifts at Cross View.

A/V Volunteers: Are you a techie? We need your help to bring a great experience to those worshipping onsite and online! Training will be provided for each position. Questions? Contact Don Klingel (612-916-2493) or Gregg Poppe (612-237-6744)

- Graphics Sanctuary and Great Commission Room (ProPresenter)
- Audio Sanctuary, GCR Media Room (Allen Heath boards)
- Lighting Sanctuary and Great Commission Room (ChamSys QuickQ 20 boards)
- Live-streaming Media Room (Wirecast)

Lectors for 10:45 AM Worship Service: As we gather to worship the Lord, our focus is on the Word of God. We read directly from the Bible every Sunday, sing songs, and listen to preaching based on those readings. We need additional lectors for the late service to read the Scripture passages for the day. To volunteer, please contact Sue Harrison at kharrison1111@gmail.com or 713-269-9657.

Early Childhood Center









ECC JUNE PROJECTS

During the month of June our three preschool rooms participated in outreach projects to help people in need in our community. The Hopper and Penguin classrooms made sandwiches for the Sandwich Project in Minneapolis. The Duckling class made birthday bags for low-income kids who don't get any presents on their birthday. Parents were invited to help their child make sandwiches for the birthday bags. This was an awesome way to show the kids of the ECC that there are other kids, just like them, who are not as fortunate. After

we were done with the projects, we prayed over them and had a special treat as a class. Below are some pictures of each event.

UPDATED TECHNOLOGY NEEDED

Cross View Early Childhood Center needs some technology updates. The iPads we use every day are getting outdated and our computers that the teachers use are very old. If you have a connection to get some new iPads/computers or would like to donate to our technology fund, please reach out to the ECC office by emailing stacey@crossview.net or call 952-941-0009.

Children's Ministry









STELLAR VBS TRULY STELLAR

THANK YOU to the awesome Stellar VBS volunteers! We had over 60 volunteers and over 140 kids attend! I want to say thank you to all the volunteers who made this camp possible. Thank you to all the congregation members who brought in a lot of supplies and prayed for the week. It was awesome and God was praised!

PARENT CORNER



Talk as a family.

As you are riding in the car or relaxing at the lake be sure to take time to talk as a family. Use some of these questions as a starting point.

- What is your favorite book?
- What do you like to do on a rainy day?











- What is your favorite praise song/hymn sung at church and why?
- What is one thing you are thankful for this week?
- What is one thing God has taught you this week? And what are you going to do about it?
- What is one thing you are going to do to serve someone this week?
- If you were a cartoon character which would you be and why?
- What is your favorite sport?
- What do you want to be when you grow up?
- Do you know that you are a dearly loved child of God?

ATTENTION FAMILIES

If you haven't received the free summer devotional digital book for use this summer, please let Barb Coffin know at barb@crossview.net and she will email it to you.

Youth Ministry

COLLEGE STUDENT WELCOME HOME LUNCH

Some of the college students who were already home for the summer enjoyed lunch and fellowship together after church one Sunday afternoon in late May. It was fun to have an opportunity to reconnect after the school year and kick off the summer together.



COLORADO SPRINGS MISSION TRIP

On July 14th, 14 senior high youth and 4 adults leave on a mission trip to Colorado Springs, CO. We ask that you pray for this group as they go and serve in the Colorado Springs community!

Chad Meger
Paige Meger
Karis Schmidt
Brian Swiggum
Grace Swiggum
Henry Swiggum
Owen Swiggum
Luther Thompson
Jonathan Weber

JUNIOR HIGH JULY SCHEDULE

Note change in start time to 6:00 PM for the summer.

- July 12: Jr High Fellowship at Cross View 6:00–8:00 PM
- July 26: Feed My Starving Children at Chanhassen site 4:30–6:15 PM

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP JULY SCHEDULE

Note change in start time to 6:00 PM for the summer.

- July 2: No Youth Group (4th of July weekend)
- July 9: Youth Group at Cross View 6:00 PM
- July 14–23: Colorado Springs Mission Trip
- July 16 and 23: No Youth Group (due to Colorado Springs mission trip)
- July 26: Feed My Starving Children at Chanhassen site 4:30–6:15 PM
- July 30: Mini Golf & Ice Cream Outing

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT

Rochester Servant Event (RSE) was an incredible way to start the summer for Youth Ministry! The Cross View group of 17 youth and 7 adults joined about 200 people from 10 other churches from Minnesota and Wisconsin at RSE in June.

Participants spent three days serving people in the Rochester community. In addition, they spent time together worshiping, eating meals, building relationships, learning, growing, and having fun. They had a great time and are already looking forward to next year's event.

Please ask the youth and adult leaders about their experiences. They would love to share the amazing ways they saw God at work throughout the week. This KTTC news clip, featuring one of our very own adult leaders, provides a good overview as well. Please pray that the group continues to build on the week's experiences now that they have returned home.





















Outreach & Missions

GUATEMALA MISSION PROJECT CONTINUES

From April 20th to April 28th, Tom and Laurie Koch returned to Guatemala to represent Cross View in a continuation of the Cross View Mission Project in Los Vásquez, Guatemala. They met with the Cocode, the village counsel, and found the completed water project continues to be a blessing for the village. Even though they are currently in the dry season, there is still a reliable supply of water.

Tom and Laurie made multiple home visits, seeing how the water system has been a benefit for the individual families. Throughout their visit, they felt a deep sense of appreciation from the Cocode and the individual people of Los Vásquez for the water system and the other projects that have been completed. One of the primary reasons for their visit was to bring over 100 pounds of

visit was to bring over 100 pounds of school supplies. Thanks to Lori Buuck and Judy Larson and their small group for providing many needed school supplies. The teachers and principal were delighted to receive these materials they normally would not have. Thank you for your generosity! In addition, Cross View's children and youth sent letters to the students in Los Vásquez to develop friendships. The children in Los Vásquez wrote letters back to our youth.

The Cross View mission team is partnering with Los Vásquez on a greenhouse project. Undeveloped land was donated for the community of Los Vásquez to use to build the greenhouse. Now that there is water available, Cross View is providing the materials to build the greenhouse, fencing, a drip irrigation system, tools, and seeds. This greenhouse will be 25 meters by 20 meters (roughly 75 feet by 60 feet.) The Cross View mission team is working with an agronomist in Guatemala to provide guidance for a drip irrigation system to grow the vegetables.

Fourteen families volunteered to

clear the land, provide the labor to build the greenhouse, and maintain the indoor vegetable garden. This project would not have been possible without the water project.

Cross View also provided ten scholarships for 5 young women to learn how to sew and 5 young men to learn woodworking. We hope this education will provide careers while these individuals live in Los Vásquez.

Thank you, Cross View, for generously supporting the Guatemala Mission Project. We look forward to mission trips in 2024 and partnering on new development project that will help our brothers and sisters in Christ, living in Los Vásquez.



THANK YOU, TRINITY FIRST VOLUNTEERS!

Cross View supported Trinity First's Summer Bridge to Success Program the first week of June. During this VBS/Summer School combo, members volunteered in classrooms, prepared warm lunches, and taught a programming class to approximately 100 students grades K-8. The week ended on a high as students went on a field trip to Base Camp and challenged themselves on the rock wall, archery, and through team building activities. Thanks to our Trinity First MAT and the amazing volunteers who came out to represent Cross View and make this a successful kick-off week for their program!





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

(TC)² – TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES

It's time to come together and love our community through missional service in a big way on Sunday, August 13! We will start with worship at 9:30 AM, then have lunch at church and deploy to different service sites. There will be a second launch in the afternoon for those with small children and those who will help with sit-down projects. We will finish the day with a closing devotion and wrap up by 7:30 PM. Lunch and dinner are included in the \$25 participation fee. Use the QR code to register by July 12 (receive a t-shirt) or by July 31 (no t-shirt). Contact Amy Gundermann (amy@crossview.net) with questions.





SERVICE OPPORTUNITY: FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

Are you looking for an opportunity to serve with your family, small group, or neighbors? Volunteering at FMSC is a simple way to make a big impact and it is fun to do together! Healthy meals are assembled that are used to combat hunger around the world. We have reserved 160 slots for our congregation to volunteer at the Chanhassen location. Visit www.crossview.net/ministries/events.cfm or follow the links below to sign up.

Tuesday, July 25: 9:00–10:45 AM Tuesday, July 25: 4:30–6:15 PM Wednesday, July 26: 4:30–6:15 PM Wednesday, July 26: 7:00–8:45 PM

CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Even though it is the middle of summer, it is time to start planning our nativity outreach event for this Christmas! The date will be Saturday, December 2nd. If you would like to serve on the MAT and help proclaim the birth of the Savior to our community, contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net.

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



Women's Ministry

TRINITY FIRST SENSORY ROOM FURNISHINGS FUND

It's not too late to contribute to the TRINITY FIRST Trinity First Sensory Room Furnishings

Fund. Make your check or electronic payment to Cross View and designate it for "Trinity First Sensory Room." This money will be sent directly to Trinity First to help them fully furnish their new "Sensory Room" with therapeutic equipment to help students in need of a calming environment.

MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY

Do you know someone who could use help with a few extra meals...a new mom, someone recovering from surgery, a family dealing with the loss of a loved



one? Would you be willing to prepare a meal or two in one of the above circumstances? If so, Meal Train is a wonderful way to make that happen. To learn more about Meal Train, check it out at https://www.mealtrain.com/?msclkid=cd4d98cec5221ac3700ffc9ae0677a06

Cross View's Women's Ministry has designated two young Cross View members, Emma Julkowski and Megan

Jarvis, to oversee this process. They'll set up the Meal Train and send out the notification to all who'd be willing to prepare a meal. All we are missing is YOU!

If you know of a need, let the Cross View office know and they will contact Megan Jarvis to set the wheels of love and service in motion.

If you would be willing to prepare a meal once a Meal Train has been initiated, please contact Megan Jarvis at meganjarvis.msj@gmail.com so she can put you on a list of those willing to be notified that meals are needed. Once you receive an email notification from Megan, you go to the Meal Train link she will provide, pick from available dates to make a meal, cook, and deliver a meal. It's that easy and provides one more opportunity for us to love others as we have been loved.

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, July 17, at 1:00 PM. We will be discussing the book *Spare* by Prince Harry The Duke of Sussex. Please feel free to join us on the 17th as new members are always welcome.



Journey to the Holy Land with Pastor Reed

You are invited to join Rev. Reed Lessing and Rev. Nabil Nour, a native of Israel born in Nazareth, on a Journey to the Holy Land Israel for an experience of a lifetime. We will depart from Chicago on December 27, 2023 (waiting confirmation) and return on January 6, 2024. Walk where Jesus walked... where every page of the Bible is seen in its original context alive...cruise the Sea of Galilee...climb the Mount of Olives and view the Old City of Jerusalem... visit Tabgha, scene of the Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes...the Mount of Beatitudes, site of the Sermon on the Mount and where Jesus chose His Twelve Apostles...walk the Via Dolorosa (road of suffering) to the Church of the Holy Sepulcher... troll in the Garden of Gethsemane...visit Bethlehem...the Church of the Nativity, and much more.

What to expect: During this 11-day tour, you will experience the sounds, smells, and sights of two civilizations, the old and the new...living by the law or living by the Gospel. You will stand at the crossroads of history and feel the vibrant influence of how this land shapes all other lands.

We will do more than just visit sights. We will go off the beaten path and have personal and daily devotions. The Bible will be our map and guide but more importantly our compass. Experience the Holy Land — a place like no other. Please join us on this blessed adventure in the footsteps of the Savior.

The price is \$5,300.00 includes air fare departing from Chicago to Tel Aviv and back to Chicago, hotel accommodations (for double occupancy), tips, entry fees, and all meals.

For further information contact:

Rev. Nabil Nour

46448 263rd St., Hartford, SD 57033 605-526-3571 (O)

preachermanfootwasher@gmail.com

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing 1737 Jefferson, St. Paul, MN 55105

651-294-4000 (O)

lessing@csp.edu

Small Group Ministry

JOIN A SMALL GROUP!

At Cross View, we know being a member of a small group can be transformational. Groups spend time together in God's Word, share life's joys and challenges, pray for one another, and serve others like Jesus did. Several new groups are starting to form over the summer. If you'd like to join a group or become a small group leader, please contact Amy Gundermann (amy@crossview.

<u>net</u>) or complete the <u>interest form on</u> our website.

SMALL GROUP LEADERS ROUNDTABLE AUGUST 23 FROM 6:30–8:00 PM

Save the date for the next Small Group Leaders Roundtable! If you are a current leader, please plan to join us for ongoing training and supportive conversations with other leaders.

Young Adult Ministry

TNT = TWENTIES & THIRTIES

Cross View's revamped Young Adult Ministry is now called TNT which stands for Twenties and Thirties. Come and get to know others in the same life stage through Bible study and time to hang out together! Upcoming dates are listed below. Contact Nicole (nclvvo@gmail.com) or Michael (michael-munl2018@gmail.com) with questions or to be added to the GroupMe for TNT.

July 8: Pool Party at Nicole and Maxwell's Home from 1:00-3:00 PM

July 12: Full Tilt in Bloomington from 6:30-8:00 PM

July 26: Cross View Feed My Starving Children Event from 7:00–8:45 PM

Christian Education

GOD'S TOP TEN

DATES: SUNDAY MORNINGS, JUNE 11-AUGUST 6 (NO CLASS ON JULY 2) ROOM: 209-211/FELLOWSHIP HALL

With Exodus 20:1–17 as our guide, this summer we're going to explore the Ten Commandments. Our pastors will be preaching about them from the pulpit as well as taking a deeper dive during Adult Bible Class. The series begins on June 11th and runs through August 6th. What an awesome opportunity to learn more about some of the greatest words ever spoken! Click here to register on CV Connect.



SUMMER SCHEDULE

No Bible class: July 2nd, August 13, or September 3rd One service on August 13 at 9:30 AM

Welcome, Pastor Reed and Amy

On Sunday, June 4, Cross View installed Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing as our Associate Pastor and welcomed Amy Gundermann as our Director of Outreach & Adult Ministries.

Although they both have been serving Cross View in those roles for several months, it was wonderful to make it official!











Focus on the Family of Cross View by Paul Emmel

FAITHFULLY FOLLOWING JESUS

Eugene and Ethel Berndt of St. Louis Park just celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary. They have six children, sixteen grand-children, and four great grandchildren. At 93 years of age and healing from major surgery, Gene remains constant in reading and reflecting



on the Christian life through personal study. I admire his energetic hunger for learning and his tested wisdom from years of faithfully following Jesus.

Q. Gene, what are some of your memories of being Lutheran?

A. About eighty years ago in South Dakota, I was preparing to be confirmed in the Lutheran faith. We were asked to memorize the five chief parts of Luther's Small Catechism along with the supporting Bible verses. After two years of Saturday confirmation classes, we were ready to be questioned by the pastor before the entire congregation. One of my questions was about sanctification. Luther's answer was, "I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to Him. But the Holy Ghost has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith." Over the years, I have learned the power and need for the Holy Spirit at all times.

Q. What do you appreciate most about being part of Cross View Lutheran?

A. The congregation is much like the people I grew up

with. I share much of their culture and values. I like the singing and familiar songs and tunes. The electronics and visuals are great!

Q. Please comment on your personal motto "Perpetual Gratitude."

A. That means giving thanks in all things as a response to God's love. God keeps giving and giving in our lives. I look at His creation when out for a walk. This is all for our enjoyment! After my retirement, God has provided many inspirational and gifted writers for me to grow spiritually. This also calls me to a life of gratitude. God's grace is unlimited!

Q. Throughout your many years, how do you maintain your trust and faith in Christ?

A. There are many devotional books. I use "Portals of Prayer." You will note Luther's Morning and Evening Prayer that covers much for thanks, grace, and protection.

Q. What are some of your favorite Scripture verses or hymns? A. Romans Chapter 8, the 23rd Psalm, and I Corinthians 13 on "Love" and the hymns "Blessed Assurance" and "Lift High the Cross."

Q. Since you have not been able to attend worship services because of health issues, what do you miss most about Cross View?

A. I absolutely miss the people in person! I do watch the live streaming on a regular basis and a Zoom class when offered. paring for launch, I see more time in my future to engage in apologetics.



Paul Emmel is a retired pastor in the Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod and a member of Cross View Lutheran Church. Paul regularly shares his writings which reflect God's beauty and the world around us. If you would like to subscribe to these emailed messages, email him at paulspatter@aol.com.



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

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

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

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

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

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, amy@crossview.net

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

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Julie Marquardt, President

Nader & Georgette Alaraj, POBLO Missionary

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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