

CROSS VIEW CLARION

July 2024

"It takes five additional godly influencers in a child's life besides their parents to truly shape their spiritual walk." –Barb Coffin



The Faith of a Child

by Dcs. Barb Coffin, Director of Children's Ministry

As I sit here to write this article, I am in the middle of VBS week. And boy has it been an awesome week so far! We have over 200 kids hearing about God's Word and over 100 amazing and faithful volunteers to teach and help them. I am overwhelmed and thankful for the love and support of the Cross View family for this special ministry to children. Cross View has really come through in so many ways to support VBS and I am very proud to call it my church. It is obvious that our congregation loves and values children, just like Jesus does. This year at VBS I have had the privilege to give Bibles to participants who have never read one or had their own before. We have also introduced prayer to kids who have never prayed before. I ask you Cross View friends to pray for these kids that have had the seed of faith planted in their hearts.

Allow me to share a true story from one of my previous churches about a youth who attended a church event who had never heard about Christ before. He attended a church event and felt the love of Christ and His people for the first time and became Christian. Not only did he become a Christian, but he brought the truth of Christ back to his parents and siblings and they became Christian, too. He is actually now a missionary with his wife and children for the LCMS and has served faithfully as a missionary for over twenty years. I share this story with you so you can be encouraged by the faith of a child. From one young person sharing their faith several others were saved. Let us never doubt the effect of one of God's children and let us always encourage them in their faith. We do this so well here at Cross View and

I just want to encourage you to continue.

You always hear me saying, “It takes five additional godly influencers in a child’s life besides their parents to truly shape their spiritual walk.” One may ask, how do I build a relationship with a child in order to be able to share my faith with them? The answer is simple, just try to get to know them. You can ask a child a variety of questions to try to build a relationship with them. Here are some example questions for you to use on our Cross View kids. What is your favorite color or holiday? When is your birthday? What do you like to do for fun? Do you have a nickname? The possible questions are endless. Tell them your story, too, as you ask them about theirs.

Finally, something I have been praying about starting here at Cross View for our precious children is a prayer partner ministry. A prayer

partner is someone who builds a relationship with another person and tries to get to know them in order to pray for them. A prayer partner for a child would be an adult regularly checking in and praying for a child here at Cross View. The adult would simply ask them how they are doing and what prayer requests they might have. The adult would then pray together with the child and also on their own. If this sounds like something you might be interested in, please let me know. I would love to start creating prayer partners for our children here to walk alongside of them through their middle and high school years. This is one way to be one of the five godly influencers for a child, as I mentioned above.

Well, I’ve got to get back to VBS prep work for tomorrow. I pray and hope everyone has a wonderful and safe summer!

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

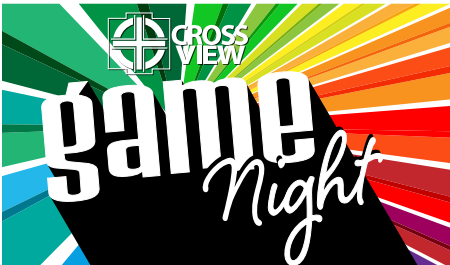
- Year to date income was favorable to plan and 2023 actual.
- Year to date expenses are \$59,513 favorable to budget and higher than 2023. Wages, utilities, and accounting expenses are key under budget areas.
- The primary expense variances were higher missions expense (tied to higher contributions) being offset by lower utility costs and lower wage expenses.
- ECC income was unfavorable to budget with the major variance being tuition income behind plan.
- ECC expenses are nearly on plan, resulting in a Net Surplus of \$16,635.
- The Restored loan was paid off in March.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
5/31/24	2024 Actual Year to Date	2024 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$686,983	\$632,983	\$54,000
Total Expenses	(\$583,689)	(\$643,202)	\$59,513
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$103,294	(\$10,219)	\$113,513
General Fund Ending Balance	\$375,791	\$262,278	

Cross View

Game Night

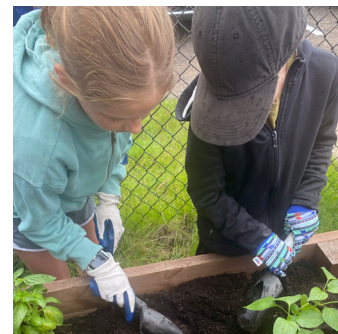
Do you love games? Join us for fun and fellowship every second Sunday of the month from 6:30–8:30 PM in Rooms 209/210. Cross View Game Night is open to all teens and adults, including church members and their guests. Everyone is encouraged to bring his or her own board or card games. If you bring a game, be prepared to show others how to play. Questions? Questions? Contact John Daenzer (johndaenzer@gmail.com) or Michael Kibat (mgkibat@centurylink.net). Register for this event on [CV Connect](#) or Event Registration kiosks.



Early Childhood Center

MS. BRIE IS RETIRING

Ms. Brie, one of our Hopper classroom teachers, has been a part of our Cross View family for over 16 years and decided that she is ready to enjoy retirement. She started in our Toddler classroom and worked there for her first four years and then moved to the Hopper, and School age classrooms. Ms. Brie has been a blessing in many of the classrooms over the years. One of Brie's favorite things at Cross View was watching the children grow and learn. She also loved to play card games with the kids. Many parents have come up to Brie and thanked her for teaching their children how to play the games so they can play them as a family at home. We recognized Ms. Brie during our Hopper Graduation on June 6th. The Hopper kids made her a piece of artwork to remember her time at Cross View. Below are a few pictures from the ceremony.



A PIZZA GARDEN

In June, Marta Volbrecht came to plant flowers, vegetable plants, and herb plants with the School Age kids to make a Pizza Garden. She talked about gardens and how plants in gardens grow. She also talked about places in the Bible we read and hear about gardens. The School Age kids will check on the garden throughout the summer to see how everything is growing. At the end of the summer, they will take all the vegetables and herbs to make a pizza they can eat. Below are some pictures of the kids planting in the garden.



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- Summer Employees
- For all the Preschool kids heading to kindergarten
- Our High-school seniors who are graduating and heading off the college
- Hugs and laughs from our families that have returned to our School Age program
- Ms. Brie and her 16+ years of service at Cross View

Prayer Requests:

- Cancer – for healing, patience through treatment, and doctors who help our families dealing with loved ones who have cancer
- The Call process for a new Director – that God knows what is best for the future of Cross View
- Families traveling during the summer and the 4th of July Holiday weekend

Christian Education

THE LORD'S PRAYER: A DEEPER DIVE

Teaching Leaders: Pastor Steve Wheeler and Pastor Reed Lessing

Dates: Sunday Mornings, June 2–July 14

Location: Fellowship Hall (Rooms 209–211)

During our series on the Lord's Prayer, Adult Bible Class digs deeper into topics that include the prayer's context in Matthew's gospel, forgiving people who have hurt us, and what it means to ask for God's kingdom to come. You're invited to go beyond the words of the Lord's Prayer to discover its magnificent meaning.

"THE CHOICE TO REJOICE" - PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Teaching Leaders: Pastor Steve Wheeler and Pastor Reed Lessing

Dates: Sunday Mornings, Jul 21–Aug 25

Location: Fellowship Hall (Rooms 209–211)

Our Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study will first take up an overview of Philippians. We will then study important sections of the letter that will not be covered in the sermon series that also runs from July 21–August 25. The Bible Study plans are as follows:

- July 21, 28; August 4, 11 – Overview and Major Themes in Philippians
- August 18 – Four Key Verses in Philippians (Philippians 1:1; 4:1–3)
- August 25 – Conquering Complaining (Philippians 2:12–18)

Don't miss these opportunities to expand, deepen, broaden, and widen your joy!

Children's Ministry

PARENT CORNER



Here are the top 10 ways to keep your kiddos happy over the summer!

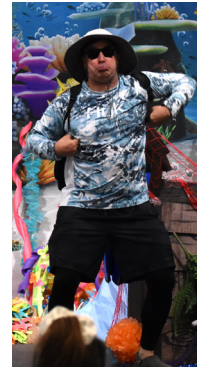
1. Take neighborhood nature walk or play a game of I Spy around your house
2. Be a local tourist in MN (visit zoos, historical landmarks, and museums)
3. Read a new book and discuss it together
4. Plant a seed
5. Have a family camp out under the stars in your backyard complete with s'mores
6. Have a family game night
7. Practice creative writing by using your imagination to write a story or start a journal
8. Have a picnic at a park you have never been to
9. Take a hike
10. Do an outdoor movie night in your back yard complete with a concession stand

Here's a bonus idea... if they complain that they are bored, give them a house chore to do and their boredom will end quickly

SCUBA VBS 2024 WAS A BLAST!

We had over 200 kids and over 100 volunteers. Our theme this year was diving deeper into our relationship with God, and we did! Already looking forward to next year!





Welcome Elk "Roger" Eber!

Cross View is pleased to announce Elk "Roger" Eber has accepted God's invitation to become our Multimedia (Digital) Storyteller and Producer. This position fulfills Cross View's commitment to storytelling, video production, live streaming, and video graphics as a means to build His Kingdom. Roger is an experienced multimedia creator, storyteller, and producer with a news background and instincts for telling stories. In addition, he has a technical skillset to coordinate our emerging digital ministry team that streams Cross View programming with audio and video technology.

Roger was born in Nuremberg, Germany, and moved with his family to the United States at a young age. He was baptized as a Lutheran and is "honored to have the opportunity to learn and grow more within the Lutheran Church through this position." He attended schools with strong church affiliations from first through twelfth grade while also enjoying soccer. Roger has worked for over 21 years as a Video Journalist, a Senior Multimedia Producer, and "supported various aspects of television production while serving as a camera operator and video editor to enhance overall production value. He adeptly operated audio mixing boards to ensure optimal sound quality during broadcasts and recordings."

Roger will be moving to Minnesota from his home in Florida. Earlier

in his career, he worked in several news producer roles in Wisconsin and is excited to move back to the Upper Midwest and join Cross View's positive, faith-based culture here in Minnesota.

We praise God and welcome Roger to Cross View. His unique background in storytelling, multimedia production, and experience in audio technology provide a solid skillset to coordinate our digital ministry outreach program. Please welcome Roger to the Cross View ministry team.



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

Volunteer with the Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is looking for additional help. Couples, families, singles — be a part of an important team! Assist with early service or late service, your choice! Please contact Marcia Johnson for more information at 812-454-4129.



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH JULY SCHEDULE

- July 17: Fellowship Night at Cross View (6:00-8:00 PM)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH JULY SCHEDULE

- July 7: No Youth (Holiday weekend)
- July 14: Youth at CV (6:30-8:30 PM)
- July 19–22: Senior High Retreat in Northern Minnesota
- July 21: No Youth (Senior High Retreat)
- July 28: Youth at CV (6:30-8:30 PM)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH RETREAT

The Senior High Youth group will be heading to Northern Minnesota from July 19–22 for some time away. They'll stay in Biwabik, MN, and spend their days exploring the area, Voyageur's National Park, and Duluth. Please keep the youth and adults attending in your prayers as they travel and enjoy God's beautiful nature during their time away!

Please sign up [here via CV Connect](#).

ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT

The Cross View group has safely returned from their time in Rochester, MN for the Rochester Servant Event. The 16 youth and 6 adults were able to serve those in the community and show God's "Love in Action." Along with

serving, the participants also spent time worshipping, eating meals, learning, building relationships, and having fun all together with the 7 other churches that attended. Thank you for the prayers while the group was away! Please ask the youth and adult leaders about their experiences!



Outreach & Missions

SCHOOL SUPPLIES DRIVE FOR MONTREAL MISSION TRIP

You will have an opportunity to bless the ministry in Montreal by donating school supplies during the month of July. Supplies will be assembled during the Family Mission Trip for students at Barclay Primary School that primarily serves children from immigrant and low-income homes. Check out the Giving Trees in the lobby for more details.

Materials needed: School backpacks, pencil cases, pencils, glue sticks, colored pencils, markers, scissors, sharpeners, and colored folders (no patterns please).



MISSIONAL SERVICE OPPORTUNITY – GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES

Monday, July 15th, in the following shifts:

10:00 AM–Noon, 1:00–3:00 PM, and 6:00–8:00 PM

We are flooding Global Health Ministries with volunteers for a day of impact! We have three 2-hour shifts to choose from to help sort and pack medical equipment and supplies. These items are shared with under-resourced countries around the world to improve access to healthcare. Learn more about their ministry at www.ghm.org. Invite a friend, serve together as a family, or coordinate with your small group! Kids are welcome if they come with an adult. Sign up here on CV Connect to

join us and contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

MEAL TRAIN MINISTRY

In times of need and times of joy, we come together as a community to support one another. We are excited to offer our support through our Meal Train ministry. We invite volunteers to lend a helping hand by providing meals for our members in need. Whether it's a home-cooked dish, a takeout meal, or simply your time to deliver a warm smile and a friendly chat, your contribution will make a difference. If you would like to volunteer your time and culinary talents, please contact Megan Jarvis at meganjarvis.ms@gmail.com to sign up for the distribution list.

If you or someone you know is in need of a meal due to illness, life events, or any other circumstances, please reach out to Megan, and she will gladly help arrange meals to be delivered to your house.



(TC)2 = TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES

2024 Theme: "Hands and Feet"

Ephesians 2:10 "For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do."

Date: August 18, 2024

This is our chance to deploy throughout our community and serve our neighbors. Teams will be sent out after worship and reconvene at the end of the day to celebrate with dinner and closing devotions. All ages and abilities are welcome! After naptime, there will be a park/school clean-up and prayer walk option to fit young families. Indoor service project options are available for those of all abilities.

Schedule:

- 9:30 AM: Worship Service
- 10:30 AM: Event check-in
- 11:00 AM: Welcome, lunch, work group assignments, announcements, group photo
- 12:00 PM: Depart for work sites

- 12:30–5:00 PM: Serve at work sites
- 3:30 PM: Young families start at work sites
- 5:00 PM: All participants return to Cross View
- 5:30 PM: Supper at Cross View
- 6:00 PM: Closing worship, devotion and debrief
- 6:30 PM: Event ends

Location:

- Start & end at Cross View Lutheran Church
- Projects will take place throughout the Twin Cities metro area

Age:

- ALL ages of Cross View congregation members and friends
- Youth entering 7th grade and older may register without an adult
- Children and youth younger than 7th grade must register with an adult

Meals: Lunch and dinner are provided

Registration Fee: \$25 per participant, \$100 family max (scholarships available)

Registration Deadline:

- July 14: Last day to register to guarantee a t-shirt
- August 11: Last day to register (no t-shirt)

Sign Up [here on CV Connect](#) and plan to join the fun! Contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

HYMN-SING FOR SENIORS

August 21st from 11:30 AM–2:00 PM

On August 21st, our Senior Adult Ministry is hosting a hymn-sing with our new organist, Brian De Young followed by a salads and desserts potluck lunch. You are invited to sign up to bring a dish to share either at the Registration Desk or [on CV Connect](#). This event is for adults who are 60+ to enjoy singing some favorite hymns and sharing in Christian fellowship! Contact Amy Gundermann with questions at amy@crossview.net.

TRINITY FIRST TIGER TREK – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7

Join the fun and help to support the school ministry at Trinity First in the Phillips Neighborhood of Minneapolis! You can choose the 5k or 1 mile run/walk at Phalen Regional Park in St. Paul. Register and find out more at trinityfirstschool.org/TIGER-TREK/.



Adult Ministry

HEALING FLATS DONATIONS

The Women's Ministry team wants to thank everyone who donated items to fill Welcome Bags for the Healing Flats homes in Rochester, MN. Mike's House and Gordon's House provide short term housing for those receiving treatment at the Mayo Clinic. Your generosity is amazing and greatly appreciated.



Cross View
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

WOMEN'S MINISTRY SUMMER FUN AT BOARD & BRUSH

Thanks to all who participated in the Women's Ministry evening out at Board & Brush in Chanhassen. We had a great time, and everyone went home with a unique creation to use in their homes or give away as a gift.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, July 15, at 1:00 PM. We will be discussing the book *The Women* by Kristin Hannah. Please feel free to join us as new members are always welcome.



TNT – COLLEGE STUDENTS WELCOME!

Come and get to know others in the same stage of life at TNT (Twenties & Thirties Young Adult Ministry) through Bible study and time hanging out together! Locations vary, but events will be on Tuesdays from 6:30–8:00 PM. Contact Nicole at nclvvo@gmail.com or Hannah at hannah@crossview.net with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

We would especially like to invite Cross View's college students as they return home from their time away. We would love to have you join us!

Summer Schedule:

- July 16: MOA, the Fair on 4th
- July 23: Dinner and FMSC
- August 13: Lake Day/BBQ



Your Amazing Spirit

by David Fulkerson, Cross View member

Have you ever wondered how you personally were created? The following discussion examines this question, starting from a secular/scientific perspective.

One of my friends told me that his grandparents met under very unusual circumstances, and if they had not met he would not have been created. However, that unusual meeting was necessary but not sufficient for his creation. There were many large and small events that had to occur in order for him to exist.

Inside each of our heads is a unique entity that looks out at the world, senses and experiences the world, thinks, learns, loves, hates, controls our movements, etc. Any comprehensive standard dictionary defines the following secular words for this entity: consciousness, ego, personhood, heart, soul, mind, and spirit. Each of these words have their own connotations. We need a single word that expresses all of the above together. The word "Spirit" will be used to encompass all the above words. With this definition, all conscious persons have a Spirit, and we all know generally what that is.

How did my Spirit get in me? We know from science that each person came from a unique combination of two original cells, one from the mother and one from the father. Remarkably,

My Spirit is a great mystery to me, even though my Spirit is Me.

the DNA of this two-cell creature (called a zygote) contained a "blueprint" that already defined the rough characteristics of that future person. These characteristics include details of my hands, eyes, brain, nervous system, Spirit, etc. Each of these things grew

from nothing to what they are today. In other words, my Spirit and other characteristics were already roughly defined at my conception. As defined herein, the Spirit is necessary for the person to function. As with my other parts, my Spirit continued to grow and change after conception and after my birth.

Just before my creation, my mother had a single reproductive cell. My father had about 100 million mobile reproductive cells. When I was created, my father's 100 million mobile cells were vying to combine with my

mother's cell, but only one succeeded. My Spirit had to be associated with only one unique pair of cells. Otherwise, two separate people (e.g. twins) could have the same Spirit, which is inconceivable. If a different mobile cell had succeeded, that new person would be an entirely different person. That person would be similar to my siblings but would not be me, nor would it be me in a different body. I would not exist. That other person would have his/her own Spirit, but it would not be mine, just as the Spirit of my existing sibling is not mine. The world would go on without me and I would know nothing of it. The probability that I exist now is 1.0. Just before my conception, my probability of existence was one out of the above 100 million cells, or 0.00000001.

My initial probability was actually much less than one in 100 million. Many other events also had to have taken place for me to exist. My particular parents both had to exist, as did my grandparents and other ancestors. My parents also had to meet and have a child, as did my other ancestors. We could try to calculate the initial probability that all of the necessary events would have happened, but that would be impossible. However, it is clear that my initial probability was unimaginably tiny. There are eight billion people in the world. Paradoxically, peoples' Spirits are very commonplace, but each particular individual Spirit was originally very improbable.

The improbability of my existence seems to demand the work of a personal Creator God. The Bible says, "For you formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb" (Psalm 139:13). In other words, God made me (and you).

The Bible states, "Thus declares the LORD, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him" (Zechariah 12:1b). The LORD made everything and formed my spirit and your spirit.

When asked what the great commandment was, Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39). To paraphrase, I am to love the Lord my God with all my Spirit and love my neighbor as myself.

In conclusion, each of our individual Spirits is an amazing free gift from God. My Spirit is a great mystery to me, even though my Spirit is Me. I am very thankful that God created you and me.



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

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Matthew Salzwedel, President

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



SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary Worship in the Great Commission Room

Sunday services are also [live streamed](#).

Communion is on 2nd & 4th Sundays.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

RECHARGE

Wednesdays, Sept. – May

6:30 PM Programming

www.crossview.net/recharge

SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Thur., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

Fri., 9:00 AM – Noon

CALENDAR

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

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