

# CROSSVIEW

# CLARION

June 2023

לא תנאף

לא תגנוב

לא תענה

לא תחמד

לא יהיה

לא תשא את

זכור את יום

כבוד את אביך

"The Ten Commandments deepen our ability to love — God and our neighbor. What could be more important than that?" – Reed Lessing



## God's Top Ten

by Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor

Hello everyone! I'm so happy to serve at Cross View!

Pastor Steve and I will be preaching and teaching on the Ten Commandments this summer. We're calling our series "God's Top Ten."

In Matthew 22:37–40 Jesus summarizes the Ten Commandments by breaking them down into two sections—love God and love people. Paul chimes in, teaching in Romans 13:8 that love is the fulfillment of the Law.

Without using the word love, a teacher in a creative writing class asked her students to write something that said, "I love you." Here's what her students came up with. "Honey, your hair looks just great dyed purple and bright orange." "These cookies you baked are hardly burned at all." "Sure, I'll go to the tractor-pulling event with

you. Looking forward to it!" "You take the last piece of apple pie with vanilla ice cream and caramel on top." What do all these ways of saying "I love you" have in common? They all involve what? *Sacrifice.*

That's what the Ten Commandments are all about—sacrifice. And they begin with God's sacrificial love for His people.

An important feature of the Ten Commandments is that God gives them after saving Israel. I can't emphasize the adverb "after" enough. The Ten Commandments aren't isolated tidbits on how to live a moral life to gain God's favor. *Nothing could be further from the truth.* Nowhere in the book of Exodus does Moses suggest Israel was saved from Egypt because of the nation's adherence to the Law. Nowhere.

◀ God gives His directives to people who are already rescued, already saved, and already delivered. And God will continue to sacrifice everything. Finally, that would include His only Son, Jesus — on the wood of the cross for the sin of the world.

1 John 4:19 summarizes God's Top Ten. "We love because He first loved us."

Do you see it? The Ten Commandments deepen our ability to love — God and our neighbor. What could possibly be more important than that?

Martin Luther puts it this way. "This much is certain: those who know the Ten Commandments perfectly know the entire Scriptures and in all affairs and circumstances are able to counsel, help, comfort, judge, and make decisions in both spiritual and temporal matters."

*They teach us how to love.*

Here is our preaching and Bible Class schedule:

- June 11 — The First Commandment: "Who's on First?"

- June 18 — The Second Commandment: "What's in a Name?"
- June 25 — The Third Commandment: "The Day That Makes the Difference"
- July 2 — The Fourth Commandment: "Putting Parents in Their Place"
- July 9 — The Fifth Commandment: "Murder, God Wrote"
- July 16 — The Sixth Commandment: "Surviving in a Sex-Crazed Culture"
- July 23 — The Seventh Commandment: "Edina Vice"
- July 30 — The Eighth Commandment: "To Tell the Truth"
- August 6 — The Ninth and Tenth Commandments: "Overcoming the Desire to Acquire"

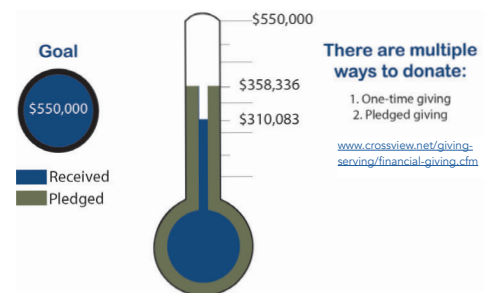
This summer the Ten Commandments, once inscribed on stone, will be written on our hearts in new and transforming ways.  
Get ready to love!

## Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- April member contributions were 67% of budget or \$57,617 less than budgeted. April expenses were \$3,867 less than budgeted.
- Year to Date, Total Income is \$26,262 or -5.35% unfavorable to budget. YTD Expenses are \$42,092 favorable.
- ECC Income is \$34,447 below plan due to openings in some rooms.
- ECC expenses are favorable to plan by \$19,944 resulting in Net Surplus \$843 favorable to budget.
- The Restored! campaign is currently \$155,391 short in pledges to fully repay the loan by the May 2024 maturity date.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
4/30/23	2023 Actual Year to Date	2023 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$464,548	\$490,810	(\$26,262)
Total Expenses	(\$406,222)	(\$448,314)	\$42,092
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$58,326	\$42,496	\$15,830
General Fund Ending Balance	\$227,034	\$211,204	

**RESTORED!**  
Please prayerfully consider donating!



Cross View Restored! Building Campaign	
Contributions Received in April:	\$22,974
Total Pledges Made to Restored!	\$358,336
Total Contributions Collected:	\$310,083
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$25,826
Loan Balance Outstanding:	\$266,000
Additional Gifts Needed to Repay Loan:	\$155,391

# Tuition Support

Cross View supports church member families who send their children to Cross View's Early Childhood Center, LCMS elementary and secondary schools and adults enrolled in professional church worker programs in LCMS post-secondary institutions and seminaries. As a congregation, we feel that it is important to commit ourselves to members who seek this kind of educational experience. Therefore, the congregation annually budgets for tuition assistance and the Early Childhood Center has a line item in their budget for reduced tuition.

**Application Timeline and Process:** Families and individuals seeking tuition support for elementary and secondary

schools and post-secondary institutions and seminaries shall apply annually by completing a Commitment Form. The application period is June 1–July 1 of each year. Forms are available online by [clicking here](#), at the church office, or by emailing Renee Kirchner in the church office ([renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net)). The Tuition Assistance Ministry Action Team (MAT) will review membership and attendance records to determine eligibility. Tuition support is determined annually and is based upon funds available and number of applicants.

**Notification and Payment:** Eligible applicants and their learning institutions will be notified of the tuition assistance amount in August of each year.

## Early Childhood Center

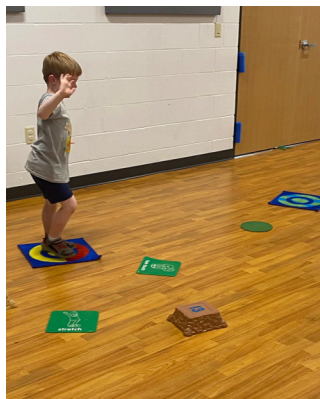
### A FUN SUMMER COMING UP AT THE ECC

During the summer months, the Early Childhood Center will have a lot of special days/events for the kids. They offer bike days and water days each month. They also bring in special guests. And this year they are taking field trips again. There will be special Parent Snack days where each class will do an outreach project and then have a special snack with their

parents. The teachers are taking special themes like space, camping, music, and colors, and planning activities each week with these themes. Watch for pictures during the next few *Clarion* Newsletters to see all these activities in action.

In June the Hopper Class will have a Graduation Party. The ECC staff wish all 20 kids and their families the best as a new adventure is beginning in their lives.

Also, in June they welcome over 30 kids back to their School Age Camp. They are super excited for these kids to return and see their growth over the past year. The ECC had a special event on May 21st with all these kids that included a bounce house, a special treat, they tie-dyed their field trip shirt, and of course our amazing playground. Pictures below show the great time we had.



# Christian Education

## SUNDAY SUMMER SCHEDULE

Our summer Sunday worship schedule will continue with a traditional service at 8:15 AM and a contemporary service at 10:45 AM. Starting May 28th, families with children ages 6th grade and under are invited to some fellowship time on the playground (or the gym if it is raining) during the Sunday school hour. There will be no adult class on May 28, July 2, August 13, or September 3. Starting June 4 there will be a Bible class at 9:30 AM for adults and youth in 7th grade and up.

## EZEKIEL — ALL THINGS NEW!

**DATES: SUNDAY MORNINGS, CONCLUDES JUNE 4**

**ROOM: 209-211/FELLOWSHIP HALL**

**TEACHING LEADER: PASTOR REED LESSING**

The prophet Ezekiel's extensive use of symbolic actions, angelic intermediaries, numerology, and vivid visions make him one of Israel's greatest spokesmen. Through it all, Ezekiel describes the death of one world and the rise of a new one. God will make all things new! [Click here to register on CV Connect.](#)

## 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.](#)



## STAYING IN THE WORD THIS SUMMER

As the summer months fill up with vacations, outdoor activities, and different routines, it can be difficult to stay consistent in our study of God's Word. Below, you'll find some suggestion for devotional materials and Bible study tools as you plan for personal and family devotion time with Jesus this summer.

### Simple Steps Approach

Of course, you don't need a digital device or a purchased devotion book to dig into the Word! Here is a suggestion for a simple approach to studying the Bible on your own.

1. Pray for the Holy Spirit to guide your understanding and time of study.
2. Read a portion of Scripture. This could be a chapter, a paragraph, or even just a verse.
3. Summarize the reading.
4. Identify what the passage reveals about God's nature or attributes.

5. Consider how the reading comforts or challenges you personally.
6. Close in prayer. Thank God for His Word and ask Him to continue to shape your heart.

### Devotional Tools

Choose from several apps (such as [Biblegateway.com](http://Biblegateway.com)) that can be used to create reading plans, study the Bible with friends, receive daily verses, or listen to audio versions of scripture.

- Looking for a creative way to start faith conversations with your kids? Consider starting a group study with your teens through the YouVersion Bible App or use the Bible App for Kids for family devotions ([Bible.com](http://Bible.com) or [youversion.com](http://youversion.com)).
- Lutheran Hour Ministries ([lhm.org](http://lhm.org)) has free devotions available on their website or by using their Daily Devotions app. You can also download their free 30 Days of Household Devotions Booklet to use with your family.
- Using the app WordGo ([wordgo.org](http://wordgo.org)), you can choose from many different books of the Bible and then determine the pace, length, and depth of study.
- Access thousands of video-based Bible studies for personal growth or family devotions at RightNow Media. For free access, text CROSSVIEWLC to 41411 or go to [www.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/CROSSVIEWLC](http://www.righnowmedia.org/Account/Invite/CROSSVIEWLC).
- Pick up a copy of Portals of Prayer at the Event Registration desk in the lobby. The booklet includes a short daily devotion and a collection of prayers.
- Stop by the Cross View resource library in the Fireside Room (213) and check out a book to aid in your summer study.

As we continue to be shaped by God's Word, we pray that our congregation would be Equipped to GO with the truth of His Gospel into our circles of influence.

Blessings on your discipleship journey!

## PREPARING FOR THE SACRAMENT

As we prepare to receive communion in worship, we take time to examine our hearts and acknowledge our need for Jesus as our Savior. We have added a tool in our worship spaces at Cross View to help with self-examination using ten simple questions from Luther's "Christian Questions with their Answers". As you fill out the Connect Card, the questions can be reviewed in the plastic sleeve of the Connect Card folder. You can also find laminated copies at the usher stand in both the Sanctuary and the Great Commission Room available to be used in worship and then placed back in the rack at the end of the service. Be assured that Jesus died for your sins and loves you with an everlasting love!

# Children's Ministry



## STUDENT ART EXCHANGE

Cross Views Sunday School kids engaged in the GlobeServe Ministries International Student Art Exchange this past month. They exchanged art that shared their favorite Bible story with fellow children at the Frauenshuh Preparatory School in Ghana, Africa.

## SCRIPTURE SHARE NIGHT

Cross View children celebrated their last Kidstute class on Wednesday April 26 with a large group Scripture Share in the Great Commission Room. The children all shared on stage their favorite Bible passages that they had memorized. We had a fun fellowship time afterward.



## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

The plan for Summer Sunday School will look at little different this year. All families with children in 6th grade and under are welcome to join outside for fellowship at the playground during the Sunday school hour. We will meet in the gym on bad weather days. This will be a great time for parents to connect with each other and for the kids to play together. A family devotional book has been sent out electronically to all families for use over the summer. Please contact Barb Coffin if you didn't get a copy or need another one.

## STELLAR — SHINE JESUS' LIGHT VBS

Plan to attend an onsite Vacation Bible School experience for children aged 3 (potty trained) to 5th grade, taking place the week of June 19–23. Launch into memorable stations that reinforce relevant Bible Points, and engage in new adventures built around rugged moonscapes, colorful constellations, and lunar landers! There will also be plenty of praiseworthy music, crafts, snacks, games, and fun with friends! [Register here](#) by June 4. With your registration, each family will receive a streaming card, a t-shirt, and supplies for each person's activities for the week.



## PARENT CORNER



**Teach children how to study the Bible.**

### Observation: "What does this passage say?"

Observation is taking a close look at what is going on in the passage of Scripture. Correct observations are key to understanding the meaning of the text. We need to read the Bible thoroughly, slowly, and prayerfully to understand what God is saying.

### Interpretation: "What does this mean?"

Interpretation is trying to understand the intent of the author. Interpretation is affected by the culture in which the author wrote, the biases we bring to the text, and the context in which the passage is found. We cannot understand

◀ a verse without understanding a chapter. We cannot understand a chapter without understanding the entire book. We should teach children to interpret Scripture with Scripture and to consult resources such as commentaries to best understand a passage.

**Application: "What does this passage require of me?"**

We come to the Bible for transformation, not simply information. God's Word has the authority to tell us how to live. We train children to obey all God's commands, not just the ones they like. Teach children that obedience is essential, not optional.

1. **Reading aloud:** Like many books written in a predominantly oral culture, the Bible was written to be read aloud. This is what God told His teachers to do (Deuteronomy 31:11; 1 Timothy 4:13; Colossians 4:16; 2 Chronicles 34:18) and we can do this for our own children.
2. **Personal reading:** By reading the Scriptures with our own eyes, we can reflect more deeply and prayerfully about what they mean (Daniel 9:2). We can teach our kids to get into a rhythm of daily Bible reading.
3. **Music:** He inspired gifted songwriters and musicians to present His word in song (1 Chronicles 15:1-24; Psalms). Start a collection of Scripture songs for your kids to listen to.
4. **Conversation:** He told parents to remind their children of God's commandments in the daily rhythms of life (Deuteronomy 6:7).
5. **Personal repetition:** God commands his people to meditate on His Word, or more literally, "growl," "utter," "mutter," or "speak" to ourselves (Joshua 1:8; Psalm 1:2). Choose verses for your kids to memorize and teach them to recall the verse throughout the day under their breath.
6. **Parables:** Jesus often used parables to draw his listeners in, provoking the curious to search for more understanding (Matthew 13).
7. **Study:** God wants us to rightly handle and analyze His word of truth (2 Timothy 2:15). As kids grow, we can teach them to study the Bible for themselves.
8. **Visual demonstrations:** Often, God would command his prophets to not only proclaim His Word but act it out in some symbolic fashion, making the message take on a new life (Ezekiel 5:1-17; Isaiah 20:1-6). When telling Bible stories, have kids act out what is being read.
9. **Writing:** When we write the words of God with our own hand, it allows us to study His Word in a new way (Deuteronomy 17:18).

## 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.net](mailto:amy@crossview.net)) or

complete the [interest form on the Cross View 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.



## 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

## 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. Questions? Contact John Daenzer ([johndaenzer@gmail.com](mailto:johndaenzer@gmail.com)) or Michael Kibat ([mkgibat@centurylink.net](mailto:mkgibat@centurylink.net)). Register on [CV Connect](#) or the Event Registration kiosks.

## Thank You!

We would like to thank the Cross View members that helped us when John became ill during the early service several weeks ago. Also, we are so appreciative for all the prayers and concern on our behalf.

We love our Cross View family!

*John, Kathi, Ryan, and Esther Etchison*

## Women's Ministry

### RENEW, REFRESH, REJOICE!

Thank you to all the Cross View women and their guests who attended our day of food, fun, fellowship! Meggin Carlson gave a wonderful presentation about how to simplify our lives so we have more time for the things that are eternal, God and people. Thanks, Meggin!



### TRINITY FIRST SENSORY ROOM SERVICE PROJECT

By the time you read this, Part 1 of our Sensory Room Service Project for Trinity First School will have been completed. On Saturday May 6th, our intrepid crew of painters gave a fresh coat of paint to the room that will become a Sensory Room for Preschool–3rd grade students who need a calming environment. Thank you, Eric and Shanda Langaard, for donating the paint and supplies for the job. Part 2 of the project will be providing the needed therapeutic furnishings for this space. That's where the Cross View family comes in. Beginning Sunday, June 25, a bulletin board be in Cross View's upper lobby with all

the information you need to help furnish this room and make it ready for its Grand Opening on August 1, 2023. Principal Sarah Wippich spoke to the congregation on Sunday, May 21, during the Education Hour and told us more about Trinity First, their Summer Bridge to Success Program, and their plans for a Sensory Room. God bless you Cross View and thanks for your endless generosity!

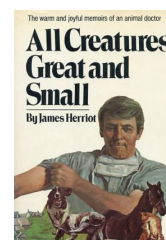


**TRINITY FIRST**  
LUTHERAN SCHOOL



### WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book club will be reading and discussing *All Things Great and Small* by James Herriot. They will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, June 19, at 1:00 PM. Contact Marcy at [mpnordhus@gmail.com](mailto:mpnordhus@gmail.com) if you have any questions or wish to join.



Cross View  
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

# Youth Ministry

## YOUTH GROUP CURLING EVENT

On April 23rd, senior high youth enjoyed an evening of curling at the Chaska Curling Center. Although many had enjoyed this activity with youth group in previous years, several others experienced the fun on the ice for the first time that night. A great time was had by all!



## SOCIAL MEDIA WORKSHOP

On April 30th, many parents and youth attended the "Creating Healthy Social Media Habits" workshop led by guest speaker Dr. Peggy Kendall from Bethel University. It was a very informative presentation and discussion. The evening ended with delicious ice cream sundaes for everyone! The workshop was recorded, and the video is archived [here on the Cross View website](#). Type "social media" in the search bar located partially down the page to find it easily.

## SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, May 21st, was the last day of Sunday School for the school year. There is no youth Sunday School class during the summer. Youth are invited to attend the adult class during the education hour this summer.

## YOUTH GROUP JUNE SCHEDULE

Youth group for rising 9th graders through graduating seniors will continue in person on Sunday nights.

- June 4: Youth group at 6:30 PM; CO Springs Mission Trip participants and parents meeting from 6:00–6:30 PM

- June 11: No youth group (RSE trip)
- June 18: No youth group (Father's Day)
- June 25: Youth group at 6:30 PM

## CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 7th, six young people were confirmed into the Cross View community. It was a beautiful morning and service to celebrate their reaffirmation of their baptism.



## GRADUATE RECOGNITION

On Sunday, May 21st, we recognized our High School Seniors for their accomplishments and their time in youth ministry! They were blessed by their parents and the congregation as their final faith Stepping Stone was celebrated. Please join us in praying for these fine young people as they begin their new adventures in the fall.

Eric Debner  
Cynda-Rhea Gorshe

Natalie Rolfs  
Grace Swiggum



## ROCHESTER SERVANT EVENT

On June 11th, 24 youth and adults leave for Rochester, MN, for the Rochester Servant Event. We ask that you pray for this group as they go and serve in the Rochester community!

Elizabeth Barton  
Matthew Barton  
Vicki Barton  
Evie Carlson  
Jack Carlson  
Meggin Carlson  
Vera Carlson  
Barb Coffin  
Nathaniel Coffin  
Austen Harrison  
Chuck Hawkins  
Clare Hawkins

Mitchell Koch  
Finn Langaard  
Xavier Mellema  
Jeanne Rolfs  
Sam Rolfs  
DJ Severson  
Levi Severson  
Karis Schmidt  
Megan Stapf  
Jonathan Weber  
Vicki Weber  
Jordan Wohlforth

## Outreach & Missions

### SIGN UP TODAY TO SERVE!

Our congregation is supporting a week of summer programming, the Summer Bridge to Success (SBS), at Trinity First Lutheran School in Minneapolis from June 5–8. This is a daytime VBS and summer school blend designed to help children succeed academically by bridging the summer gap. High school age youth and adults are invited to volunteer for the areas listed below. We are looking for lots of volunteers to support teachers in the classrooms, serve lunches, help with SBS children after-care (Tiger Club), and chaperone a field trip. [Registration is open on CV Connect](#), Join us in making a difference!



#### Volunteers Needed for Summer Bridge to Success:

- Classroom Volunteers, June 5, 6, & 8 from 8:30 AM–1:00 PM
- Field Trip Volunteers, June 7 from 8:00 AM–3:00 PM (need to be mobile, able to sit on the ground)
- Tiger Club Volunteers (childcare outside of classroom time), June 5, 6, 7, & 8 from 1:00–4:00 PM
- Lunch Volunteers (prep and serve lunch), June 5, 6, & 8 from 11:00 AM–1:00 PM

### TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES = (TC)<sup>2</sup> SUNDAY, AUGUST 13 FROM 9:30 AM – 7:30 PM

On August 13th, we will come together for a day of serving the Lord and our neighbor! There will be one worship service at 9:30 AM and then lunch followed by a deployment of teams to various service projects throughout the Twin Cities. A second launch of volunteers at 3:30 PM will accommodate families with young nappers. The day will finish with a cookout and closing worship together. This year, there will

be opportunities for all abilities with service projects that will be completed indoors at church. We invite people of all ages to join us as we shine the light of Jesus in our community. Registration will open on June 1st on CV Connect.

### FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: CELEBRATING THE PAST, OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE FUTURE

This past December Cross View Lutheran hosted its first Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) Mobile Packing event. 500 hundred Cross View and community volunteers packed and paid for over 100,000 meals. Those meals were shipped to Malawi in west central Africa to FMSC's mission partner Reach Now International where they are feeding 298 children every day for a year. God be praised!

In conversation with FMSC, we have learned that one of their greatest needs is for additional volunteers over the summer months. Children still need to be fed but generally less groups and individuals volunteer during over the summer. So, this year rather than hosting another mobile packing event at Cross View we will be supporting FMSC's mission of feeding God's children in body and spirit by volunteering and recruiting others to volunteer at their permanent site in Chanhassen. We have reserved 160 slots but could accommodate more if there is interest! Please make a note on your calendar of the times listed below and start talking within your small groups, families, and neighbors about this opportunity to serve. Details and sign-up procedures will be available as we move closer to the dates. Blessing to All!

July 25: 9:00–10:45 AM

July 25: 4:30–6:15 PM

July 26: 4:30–6:15 PM

July 26: 7:00–8:45 PM



### TIME PRIORITIES FOR YOUNGER FAMILIES

Over the years, I have noticed Mark and Vicki Weber active in numerous ministries of Cross View, often “behind the scenes” getting things done in a good and humble spirit. A healthy, thriving congregation requires members who have servant hearts, as Mark reveals in my questions to him.

*Q. Mark, what is your most important criterion when choosing a church family?*

A. The Word of God must be taught in its truth and purity. I think of the church of Philadelphia in Revelation; God had no complaints or grievances with this church and noted of them “though you are weak, yet you are strong.” However God chooses to grow Cross View, if we are like the church at Philadelphia, weak but strong, as long as God’s Word is taught in its truth and purity, I will find comfort and hope in my church family.

*Q. What unique gift has the Spirit given you to serve the Church and her mission?*

A. Jesus noted of himself that “the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve.” So Jesus, who in heaven, had heaven’s resources at His disposal, came down from heaven to earth and with heaven’s armies at His side, He



overthrew the Roman empire and set Himself up as supreme commander of earth... No, that’s not what Jesus did! With heaven’s resources at His disposal, Jesus came to earth and became the servant of all — giving His life as a ransom for many. My hope and prayers have been for the Lord to teach me to be a better servant.

*Q. What person(s) inspire you to be a better disciple of Jesus?*

A. Around the time of my Confirmation many years ago, 1 Samuel 16:7 very much got my attention. The situation at the time was Saul failing as king of Israel, and God went looking for a new king for His people. What was His criteria? Per 1 Samuel, “The Lord looks at the heart.” So, David has been who I’ve tried to model my life after because God recognized him as having “a heart for the Lord” which set him apart from God’s perspective. My hope and prayer has been that the Lord would mature me in my faith to have a heart for the Lord.

*Q. Where do you see Cross View congregation five years from now?*

A. Being on Church Council, this one is very much on my mind. Critical to Cross View’s ministry, Cross View must continue to teach God’s Word in its truth and purity. With that foundation in place, I see opportunity! The lies of this world are failing. People continue to look for hope from anything except God. And in the end, whatever God alternative they have made master in their lives will fail. My hope is that we will continue to mature the Cross View congregation in their faith, enabling them to take a stand and be a witness to a culture searching for hope.

*Q. What is your favorite form of witnessing to Jesus?*

A. I have a passion for apologetics – or the defense of the faith – or “Why do we believe what we believe?” The primary event that moved me in this direction was the release of The Truth Project years ago which helped me stitch together aspects of my faith in ways I hadn’t previously understood. My pursuit of apologetics has been tempered with the energy needed to raise three boys, but with the boys setting up on the launch pad, preparing 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.

## Café Cross View Servers Needed

Coffee and treat servers are needed for June, July, and August. Sign up in church at the Event Registration kiosks or online at <https://www.crossview.net/resources/cafe.cfm>.

If you'd like to join the Café Cross View Ministry Action Team (MAT) to help plan our fellowship hour for the future

months, please contact Carol Niemira ([carolniemira@yahoo.com](mailto:carolniemira@yahoo.com)) or Renee Kirchner ([renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net)).

## Pastor Lessing's Installation Service on June 4

The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing is honored to accept Cross View's call to serve as Associate Pastor. His acceptance notification stated, "It is with great joy that I accept this call, trusting Jesus for wisdom and strength to minister the Gospel faithfully among you and our community. I look forward to many years together as we go about the mission of our church – "Developing fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ along life's journey."

You are invited to attend Pastor Lessing's Cross View installation service Sunday, June 4, at the 8:15 AM service. Pastor Wheeler will be officiating. There will be a brief reception at 9:30 AM at Café Cross View to welcome Pastor Lessing. During the reception, we will also welcome Amy Gundermann as she is now in a full-time position as Director of Outreach & Adult Ministries and Contemporary Worship Team Lead.

## Vacancy Updates

The Director of Youth and Young Adult Call Committee consisting of church members, current active youth representatives, and church staff spent the month of May conducting multiple candidate interviews. The Committee's goal is to recommend a candidate to Cross View voters in June. Please pray for guidance as we seek to identify God's candidate for this staff position.

Traditional worship music options including Adult Choir, Jubilate Choir, Women's Choir, and Bell Choir will be finalized after review and approval by the Personnel Committee and Church Council.

The part-time organist was posted on a variety of online and social media forums. A search committee consisting of Susan Charles, Judy Campen, Chris Marquardt, Renee Kirchner, and Pastor Wheeler hope to have a permanent part-time organist on staff by next September.

A part-time Office Assistant position was posted on the website. Please direct inquiries or a letter of interest to Renee Kirchner, Church Administrator, at [renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net) or 952-243-2045.

## Sabbatical Leave

After 19 years of dedicated service to God and the Cross View congregation, Pastor Steve Wheeler was granted a two-month sabbatical leave from June 28 until August 24. This extended uninterrupted time away from Cross View responsibilities will provide an opportunity for self-care, rest, renewal, and a time for personal and professional growth.

Key sabbatical components include:

- Pastor Reed Lessing ([reed@crossview.net](mailto:reed@crossview.net) 952-941-1094) will provide primary pastoral coverage. His primary responsibilities include weekend worship, Sunday morning Bible study, emergency and crisis care, and attending Tuesday staff meetings (when able). Pastor David Buuck will provide backup support.
- Deaconess Barb Coffin (952-243-2062 [barb@crossview.net](mailto:barb@crossview.net)) will conduct hospital and home visits. Pastor Reed will also conduct visits as needed.
- Amy Gundermann (952-243-2049 [amy@crossview.net](mailto:amy@crossview.net)) will assume primary weekly worship service responsibility. Alyssa Meager, Susan Charles, and Pastor Reed will assist.
- Renee Kirchner (952-243-2045 [renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net)) will assume primary day-to-day facility and administration responsibilities.

- President Julie Marquardt will be the contact for governance issues or decisions.
- Scott Douglas will be the contact for personnel issues or decisions.
- Emergency communication involving Pastor Steve will run through Scott Douglas, Personnel Committee Chair and Elder, [sldouglas1@icloud.com](mailto:sldouglas1@icloud.com) or cell 952-215-9848. Backup contact will be Lynn Pahl.
- We pray few (if any) deaths will occur during the eight-week sabbatical. If a death occurs and the family wishes to have the service prior to Pastor Steve's return, Pastor Reed will provide service planning and coverage. Death of a member will be communicated to Pastor Steve by Scott Douglas. Pastor Steve's shepherd heart will be present even though he will be absent from the service.
- Members may contact Renee Kirchner, 952.243.2045 [renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net) or Scott Douglas 952.215.9848 [sldouglas1@icloud.com](mailto:sldouglas1@icloud.com) with additional questions.

Church Council and the Personnel Committee request prayers for Pastor Steve and Cross View as we provide our Senior Pastor an opportunity to completely separate from congregational responsibilities.



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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor  
952-941-1094, [steve@crossview.net](mailto:steve@crossview.net)

Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor  
952-941-1094, [reed@crossview.net](mailto:reed@crossview.net)

Stacey LaMere, Early Childhood Center  
952-941-5215, [stacey@crossview.net](mailto:stacey@crossview.net)

Barbara Coffin, Children's Ministry  
952-243-2062, [barb@crossview.net](mailto:barb@crossview.net)

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration  
952-243-2045, [renee@crossview.net](mailto:renee@crossview.net)

Amy Gundermann, Director of Outreach and Adult Ministries  
Contemporary Worship Team Leader  
952-243-2053, [amy@crossview.net](mailto:amy@crossview.net)

Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist  
952-243-2046, [alyssa@crossview.net](mailto:alyssa@crossview.net)

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Julie Marquardt, President

Nader & Georgette Alaraj, POBLO

The *Clarion* is published monthly by Cross View Lutheran Church.  
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## 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](http://www.crossview.net/calendar)

## CONNECT

6645 McCauley Trail West  
Edina, MN 55439-1076

952-941-1094 (Office)  
952-941-0009 (ECC)



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