

CROSSVIEW CLARION

March 2024

"Who despises the day of small things? Not Jesus. He embraced them, knowing they foreshadowed the ultimate day of small things." – Pastor Reed Lessing



Who Despises the Day of Small Things? The Book of Zechariah: Our Lenten Focus

by Reed Lessing, Associate Pastor

August 28, 587 BC was a dark day in Judah's history. Nebuchadnezzar, the great Babylonian king, torched Jerusalem's temple and destroyed the city's walls. Everything—the monarchy, the priesthood, the storied history in the Promised Land—went up in a puff of smoke.

However, seventy years later, Judahites began rebuilding the temple. The prophet Haggai tells us what people were saying. Compared to Solomon's temple, in all its glory, this temple was nothing (Haggai 2:3). Nothing! When compared to Solomon's architectural wonder, this one

looked second-class.

Zechariah then asked this question. "Who despises the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10).

The prophet calls people to repent (Zechariah 1:2–6). Inspires them with visions and oracles (Zechariah 1:7–6:15). Invites God's people to change from fasts to feasts (Zechariah 7:1–8:23). Then he gives them stunning revelations about the coming Messiah (Zechariah 9:9–10; 10:4). He will be sold for thirty pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12–13), pierced and killed (Zechariah 12:10), and struck down so his sheep scatter (Zechariah 13:7).

◀ In the end, though, the Messiah will rise again and return to reign with God in the New Jerusalem forevermore (Zechariah 14:9, 16, 17). Zechariah’s sermons rekindled people’s faith and strengthened their resolve. Judahites rebuilt the temple and dedicated it on March 12, 515 BC.

“Who despises the day of small things?” Not Jesus. He embraced them, knowing that they foreshadowed the ultimate day of small things. On that day, to belittle and demean him, his enemies used a whip, a blindfold, a spear, and three nails. Zechariah knew about this small day as well. “On that day they will mourn for him, as one mourns for an only child, and weep bitterly over him, as one weeps over a firstborn son.” (Zechariah 12:10) Three days later Jesus was alive, never to die again!

What has been destroyed and torched in your

life? What looks hopeless, lifeless, and dead? Is it a relationship? Your health? Your family? Your future? Your finances? Your job? God’s gift to you is the book of Zechariah. This book is for everyone living in wreckage and ruin.

God has called all of us to rebuild something. It might not be Fox News worthy or get the attention of Time Magazine — but raising children who follow Jesus, being an honest and hard-working employee, praying for our grandchildren, running a business with biblical integrity, keeping the Sabbath Day holy — these may appear to be small things. In the kingdom of God, not so!

Here is God’s promise to you through the prophet Zechariah. “Not by might, not by power, but by my Spirit.” (Zechariah 4:6).

By God’s Holy Spirit the wreckage will rise again!

Financial Update Year-to-Date Results

- January Income was better than planned and 2023 actual.
- January Expenses were unfavorable to budget and higher than January 2023. The primary expense variance was higher missions expense due to higher contributions.
- ECC Income was on budget while expenses are \$8,441 favorable to budget.
- ECC \$30,032 Net Surplus is favorable to budget by \$8,441.
- The Restored! campaign has achieved its pledge goal! Payment of the remaining pledges will allow for the Restored! loan to be paid off by the May 2024 maturity date.



Cross View Lutheran Church			
1/31/24	2024 Actual Year to Date	2024 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$198,750	\$129,051	\$69,699
Total Expenses	(\$115,588)	(\$104,973)	(\$10,615)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$83,162	\$24,078	\$59,084
General Fund Ending Balance	\$355,659	\$296,575	

Cross View Restored! Building Campaign	
Contributions Received in January:	\$4,884
Remaining Pledges to Be Received:	\$55,076
Total Contributions Collected:	\$530,374
Balance in Restored! Fund:	\$9,977
Loan Balance Outstanding:	\$31,000
Restored Surplus:	\$34,053

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays, February 21–March 20
6:30–7:15 PM
Lenten Dinners Served 5:15–6:30 PM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: March 24

8:15 AM (Traditional)
10:45 AM (Contemporary)

Maunder Thursday, March 28

7:00 PM (Traditional)

Good Friday, March 29

2:00 PM (Traditional)
7:00 PM (Traditional)

Easter Sunday, March 31

8:15 AM (Traditional)
9:15–11:15 AM Easter Breakfast
10:45 AM (Contemporary)

WEATHER-RELATED CHURCH AND OFFICE CLOSINGS

All unscheduled closings and late starts will be posted to CV Connect and our [website](#). Cancellations of evening activities will be posted no later than 3:00 PM.

Christian Education

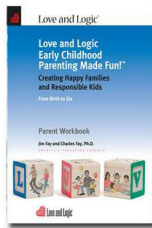
LOVE & LOGIC® EARLY CHILDHOOD PARENTING CLASS

Teaching Leaders: Pastor Steve and Dawn Wheeler

Dates: Sundays, January 14–March 10 (dates extended)

Location: Fellowship Hall (rooms 210-211)

Cross View's family-focused ministry is excited to present a Love and Logic® training class for parents of children birth to six. With forty years of research and a proven track-record of success, this parent-training seminar will equip parents of teeny, tiny kids. We will be flexible, anticipating that we may need an additional two Sundays to get through the course materials and discussions. [Register on CV Connect.](#)



ZECHARIAH: YOUR KINGDOM COME!

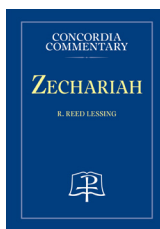
Teaching Leader: Pastor Reed Lessing

Dates: February 18–March 24

Location: Sanctuary

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14th and so does our emphasis on the book of Zechariah. The prophet's chief concern is God's kingdom. Throughout all fourteen chapters, Zechariah fervently announces that God's kingdom is coming through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Jesus. The book of Zechariah abounds with stunning portraits of our Savior. Based upon his 2021 Concordia Publishing House commentary, this Bible Study, led by Pastor Reed, will build upon our mid-week Lenten and Holy Week services. Great joy and delight await all participants!



GENESIS IN THE GOSPEL OF JOHN

Teaching Leader: Jeff Coffin

Dates: February 18–March 24

Location: Room 209

When carefully reading the Gospel of John, many themes from early Genesis (Genesis 1–3 mainly) come flying off the page. John has intended us to read his Gospel as the fruition of the work God started at creation and will finish in the new

creation. Early Genesis, correctly understood, sets the table for how to understand the remainder of Scripture. During Lent we will delve deep into this book to see how Jesus fulfills what God always intended. If you have never known why John 20 is considered to be one of the most treasured chapters of the Bible, you'll not want to miss this study.

WELCOME TO CROSS VIEW - NEW MEMBER CLASS

Join us at 9:30–10:30 AM on Sundays this spring for our Welcome to Cross View series. This is a class for anyone interested in becoming a member and for those who have been members and want a refresher. You'll get an overview of the Cross View family, our beliefs, and how to get more involved.



- **February 18–March 3: Joining the CV Family** — Go a little deeper and learn the heart of the Cross View family. In this class, you'll learn about our Lutheran faith and beliefs.
- **March 10–March 24: Going All In With the CV Family** — Go all in and learn how to get involved with your gifts, talents, and how God created us to Connect, Grow, and Serve.
- **March 24: New Member Sunday** — Formally become a member of the CV faith family during the 10:45 AM worship service.

[Sign up on CV Connect](#) or use this QR code to [register](#). If you have questions or need more information, contact Ann Ryan (annryan@hotmail.com) or the church office at 952-941-1094.

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

LEANING ON JESUS, A STUDY OF GOD'S STRENGTH

Dates: First Monday of each month, 9:30 AM

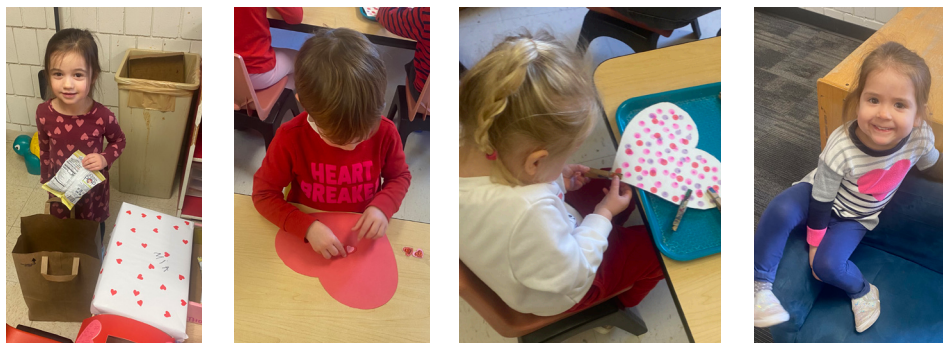
Location: Room 218

Women's Bible study book is entitled *Leaning on Jesus, a Study of God's Strength* by Deb Burma. They meet at 9:30 AM in room 218. Please feel free to join as new members are always welcome. For newcomers, the book is available from Amazon or www.CPH.org. If you have any questions, please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com.

Early Childhood Center

ECC FOCUSES ON LOVE

During the month of February, we focus a lot on the word LOVE. Classroom projects are based around the shape of a heart, we use the colors red and pink, we sing Jesus Love Me, and we have our annual Valentine's Day parties. The children love this day as they get to decorate their own box and bring in Valentine's for their friends. Below you will find pictures from the special day.



THE ECC IS HIRING!

The Early Childhood Center is looking to hire summer employees from May/June to August. They offer flexible hours and days. They are also looking to hire another School Age teacher for their program. This position would be working with kids Kindergarten through Fourth Grade. If you know anyone interested, please have them reach out to the ECC office at 952-941-0009.



THANK YOU FOR THE BOOKS

Thank you to all members who donated books to the ECC. Below you will see some of the children reading the new books that we received. Books take kids on an adventure and make their brains think. It is a blessing to have new books to add to our libraries. THANK YOU!



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS


Praises:

- All the children that will be joining us this summer for our School Age Program – 43 children
- The warm weather we have had to be able to play outside
- Niesha, our substitute is returning after the birth of her baby daughter
- The NEW books that the children have been reading

Prayer Requests:

- Ada Ritz: Continue healing from cancer and a trip to Mayo Clinic for more treatments
- For all the sick: Healing of pink eye, Influenza A, COVID, and much more
- For families struggling with children who have difficult behaviors
- The beginning of the call process for a new ECC director

Children's Ministry



CROSS VIEW VBS
DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

Save the dates for Vacation Bible School experience for children aged 3 (potty trained) to 5th grade, taking place the week of June 17–21.

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE

Come celebrate with our 5th grade families as the students celebrate their First Communion on Thursday, March 28, at the evening worship service.

PARENT CORNER



When you enjoy your jelly bean candies with your children, you can make it a Bible lesson.

The Jelly Bean Prayer

RED
is for the blood he gave.

GREEN
is for the grass he made.

YELLOW
is for the sun so bright.

ORANGE
is for the edge of the night.

BLACK
is for the sins we made.

WHITE
is for the grace he gave.

PURPLE
is for his hour of sorrow.

PINK
is for our new tomorrow.

An egg full of jelly beans, colorful and sweet, is a prayer, is a promise, is a special treat.

May the joy of Christ's Resurrection fill your heart and bless your life.

–UNKNOWN

Early Childhood Center Director

Cross View has started the Call process for our next Early Childhood Center Director. Our goal is to have a new ECC Director in place by June 1st.

Tasks include:

- Establish a Call Committee
- Finalize a job description
- Complete the LCMS – Minnesota South District “Intent to Call Form”
- Advertise the vacancy by February 29th
- Conduct focus group interviews with ECC employees and parents – March
- Screen, interview, and select candidate(s) – April/May
- Voters extend a Divine Call – May/June

Cross View members are encouraged to submit name and contact information of LCMS trained candidates to Scott Douglas, Call Committee Chair at sldouglas1@icloud.com

Director Of Music and Choir Ministries

It is with humble anticipation we announce Dr David L. Mennicke will assume Cross View’s part-time Director of Music and Choir Ministries position effective June 1st. Dr. Mennicke is currently on sabbatical leave from his Professor of Music position at Concordia University, St. Paul. Additional ministry positions held by Dr. Mennicke include Director of Chorale and Men’s Choir at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Minneapolis, and St. Paul Outreach Center Coordinator. Dr. Mennicke is excited join Cross View’s family as we continue our mission to “Develop fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ along life’s journey”. Additional information can be found at: <https://www.csp.edu/person/dr-david-mennicke/>.



Multimedia Storyteller and Producer

Cross View commitment to video production, live streaming, and video graphics are essential components to build His Kingdom. Church Council and Cross View Voters recently approved a new position titled “Multimedia Storyteller and Producer”. This position provides an experienced multimedia creator, storyteller, and producer that will play a lead role in sharing Cross View’s story as well as reaching the unchurched in our community with stories of redemption, hope, and gratitude. This person will also lead

planning and production livestreaming for worship services and other needs to support of Cross View’s emerging volunteer digital ministry team who support streaming work with audio and video technology.

Our goal is to post this position on the Cross View website and other recommended venues by March 1st. Members are encouraged to submit name and contact background information to Scott Douglas, Personnel Committee Chair, at sldouglas1@icloud.com.

Pastor Reed Lessing Leading Seminar at Concordia St. Paul

Have you ever had a hard time praying? Or expressing your emotions in your prayers? Do you wonder how the book of Psalms points to Jesus? And how you can pray through it more confidently? If you answer “yes” to any of these questions, then this seminar is for you! Pastor Reed will lead “Sing a New Song: A Seminar on the Book of Psalms” on March 16 from 9:00 AM–3:00 PM on campus or online. All participants will get a 100-slide PowerPoint document and a 50-page Bible study to share insights with others. Registration is \$15 and includes lunch. You may sign up here <https://www.one.csp.edu/s/286/20/interior.aspx?sid=286&gid=1&pgid=2853>.



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.



Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH MARCH SCHEDULE

- March 2: Fellowship Night at CV (6:30-8:30 PM)
- March 31: Easter Breakfast

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH MARCH SCHEDULE

- March 3: Escape Room
- March 10: Youth at CV
- March 17: Youth at CV
- March 24: Youth at CV
- March 31: Easter Breakfast, No youth night

SENIOR HIGH ESCAPE ROOM

The Senior High will be heading to an escape room on Sunday, March 3. More details to come about time and place. Keep an eye out for the registration sign up on CV Connect.

SENIOR HIGH TUBING

The Senior High youth went tubing on February 4 at Buck Hill. The 15 youth and four adults had a blast going down the tubing hills!



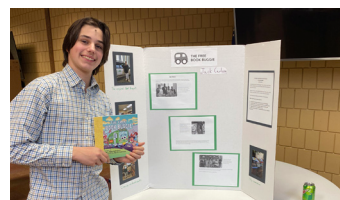
JUNIOR HIGH MENTORSHIP BOWLING

The Junior High youth and their mentors went bowling at Bowlero on Saturday, February 10! It was a great time to connect with one another and have fun doing so!



7TH GRADE CONFIRMATION SERVICE PROJECTS

On February 14, the 7th grade confirmation students presented their service projects in the Fellowship Hall. It was a nice celebration of the many different ways our youth served the community over the past several months!



LENTEN MEALS AND EASTER BREAKFAST

Lenten meals hosted by Cross View's youth started on Ash Wednesday (February 14) and will continue until March 20. Menus are available to view at the Welcome Center, and registration is available on CV Connect. Please register for a Lenten Meal the Sunday before in order to get accurate numbers. However, walk-ins are welcome!

Easter breakfast will be hosted by the youth on Sunday, March 31, from 9:15-11:15 AM. Congregation help will be needed for the egg bakes. Please keep an eye out for the sign up in the lobby.

Adult Ministry

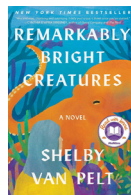
FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: CROSS VIEW WOMEN'S EDITION!

Cross View Women's Ministry is sponsoring a Feed My Starving Children event for Cross View women of ALL ages on Saturday, March 16, from 9:30–11:15 AM at the Chanhassen packing facility. Check in time is 9:15 AM. We have 50 spots to fill so please take advantage of this opportunity to serve God's people around the world. Moms, please bring your daughters who are old enough to serve (6 and above) or a special friend. [Register on CV Connect](#) today! Questions? Ask Glenda Kibat or Marcia Johnson.



WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book Club will be reading *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt for our March meeting. We will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, March 18, at 1:00 PM for our discussion of the book. Please feel free to join us as new members are always welcome.



MEN'S MINISTRY: ARISE WITH THE GUYS



You are invited to attend Arise with the Guys (arisewiththeguys.com) program at Grace Church in Eden Prairie and then have lunch together at Cross View on April 20th. Meet at Cross View at 7:45 AM and carpool together to Grace for the program from 9:00–11:00 AM followed by lunch. The cost is \$15 which includes the program and lunch. [Register on CV Connect](#) by April 13th. Contact Dan Battcher at dtbattcher@gmail.com or Dave Wagner dave@ambrosiacoffeemn.com at with any questions.

TNT

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 are on Tuesdays from 6:30–8:00 PM. Contact Nicole (nclvvo@gmail.com) or Hannah (hannah@crossview.net) with questions or to be added to the TNT GroupMe.

Upcoming event: March 5 at Cross View

The group will take a break following the March 5 meeting for the spring. They'll start back up again in April.

SAVE THE DATE!

SATURDAY APRIL 27TH 9:00 AM–2:00 PM

Cross View's Women's Renew, Refresh, Rejoice Spring Gathering

- 9:00–11:00 AM Coffee, pastries, devotional video presentation
- 11:30 AM–1:00 PM Lunch out on France Avenue
- 1:00–2:00 PM Visit the Edina Spring Boutique Craft Show



RECHARGE WEDNESDAY NIGHT MEALS UPDATE

Recharge meals is taking a break while our Youth do their annual Lenten suppers fundraiser. Recharge meals will start back up in the Fall.

Thank you to our fabulous kitchen prep team headed up by Luis Dominguez and servers who helped serve up Cross View hospitality and 1200+ meals during our inaugural Wednesday night dinner season! Our Recharge meals were filled with good food (thanks to Chef Jeff and crew) and fellowship was enjoyed by multiple generations of Cross View members and friends.

Outreach & Missions

MISSION TEAM RETURNS TO GUATEMALA!

On April 11th, Cross View's Guatemala mission team will return to Los Vásquez. This will be the fifth-year anniversary of working with our brothers and sisters in Christ in Guatemala.

Again, we will carry about one hundred pounds of school supplies for the teachers in the elementary school. We thank Lori Buuck and Judy Larson, along with their small groups, for donating pencils, paper, scissors, colored markers, and many other much needed school supplies.



Last year, Cross View provided materials to build a greenhouse. The people of Los Vásquez donated the labor for the construction of the greenhouse, and we are looking forward to seeing the results of their hard work.

Cross View previously provided scholarships for five young men to learn woodworking skills and for five young women to learn how to sew. We will be donating two sewing machines so the young women can now use their education and hopefully develop a seamstress business in the village and nearby area.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting an "asado," a village wide meal, to promote good will between Cross View and the people of Los Vásquez.

Please keep the people of Los Vásquez and our mission team in your prayers as we share the love of Jesus!

BIG THANKS FROM AMNION!

Thank you to everyone who responded with generosity to the Sanctity of Life donation drive for Amnion Pregnancy Center. We delivered a carload of donations that will make a huge difference for families facing an unplanned pregnancy. The totals from our donation drive for Amnion were:

- Diapers 2,388 approx. \$1,026
- Wipes 6544 approx. \$654
- Toys 26 approx. \$108
- Pacifiers 3 approx. \$3

Pray for Amnion as they minister to each precious person with God's love.



BLOOM FOR JESUS INDIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Indian fellowship group that meets at Cross View once a month is looking for help with rides for a number of students in the U of M area who would like to attend. There are over 400 students from India studying at Concordia University and this Christian fellowship is presented with some exciting opportunities to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus. If you are interested in getting involved, contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net.

GETTING OUR HANDS DIRTY

Training: April 6th, 8:30 AM– 3:00 PM

Information Session: March 13th at 7:15 PM in the Fellowship Hall following Lenten Worship

Do you enjoy working shoulder-to-shoulder to make a difference in the lives of others? Our congregation is hosting a specialized training session for those interested in helping with disaster relief with Christian care. Cross View is partnering with the Minnesota South District to offer the training necessary to join a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT). Once we have a team of people trained, we can be ready to deploy when a community is hit with a disaster such as a hurricane, flood, or forest fires. There will be a brief information session on March 13th after the Lenten Worship Service if you would like an overview of the ministry. Learn more about the training on the [Cross View website](#) and sign up at [Cross View LCMS LERT Training](#). Contact Phil Johnson at philj23@gmail.com or Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

EASTERFEST!

Date: March 9th from 10:00 AM–Noon

EasterFest is coming up soon! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for a celebration of Easter with tons of kid-friendly fun including an egg hunt, face painting and a petting area with bunnies and chicks. There will be experience stations where guests can learn about the Easter story and God's incredible love for the world. We need MANY volunteers to make this event run smoothly, so [sign up on CV Connect](#) to help out and visit the donation board in the lobby to donate treats (due by March 3rd). Contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net or Barb Coffin at barb@crossview.net with questions.



FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN: CROSS VIEW WOMEN'S EDITION!

Date: March 16th at 9:15 AM

Cross View women of all ages are invited to serve God's people at a Feed My Starving Children in Chanhassen. We will meet at the FMSC site at 9:15 AM and pack from 9:30–11:15 AM. Please sign up by March 13th. We have 50 spots to fill so [sign up on CV Connect today!](#) This event is sponsored by the Women's Ministry of Cross View.

POBLO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

If you have a heart for ministering to those who have recently immigrated to the United States, consider volunteering with POBLO! They are currently in need of help on Tuesday nights with ESL classes and a new DMV class. No experience necessary. Contact volunteer coordinator Shari Schulze at shari@poblo.org.



FAMILY MISSION TRIP TO MONTREAL!

Dates: August 4–10, 2024

As we live out our mission to Equip & Go at Cross View, you are invited to prayerfully consider a family mission trip to Montreal, Quebec. This trip is open to anyone 7 years old and up and will include a variety of service opportunities. Family mission trips can be life-changing experiences as you step outside of your comfort zone together and share the love of Jesus. Contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

CAREPORTAL MINISTRY

Virtual Training: Thursday, March 7th 6:30–8:00 PM or Friday, March 22nd 8:30–10:00 AM

Our CarePortal Team is busy ministering to families in need in our community. There are still lots of opportunities to help, even if you have not attended the training. We need people to volunteer to help with shopping, delivery, and collecting items from partnering churches. We also are looking for people who have children's clothes and furniture to donate. Contact Pam Olsen at careportal@crossview.net or 612-412-2330 to find out how you can help.



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.

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



Focus on the Family of Cross View by Paul Emmel

TELL YOUR STORY

Every member of the Cross View family has a unique story. These stories are all interesting and need to be told. But we seldom share our stories with each other because personal testimony is not a strong Lutheran tradition. Unfortunately, we keep our stories to ourselves. I recognized Vicki Berge as someone who might be willing to tell her story of faith. I asked her and I was not disappointed. This interview is what I discovered.



Q. Vicki, how were you attracted to Cross View?

I met Susan Charles Bentley before the first day of school at Creek Valley Elementary School in August 2002. I had been home taking care of my first grandchild for the previous two years. When I met Susan, it was love at first sight of her and I met Jesus. She was my prayer partner for the next eleven years until I retired from teaching at Creek Valley. During those years, I got to know Gordon and all of Susan's family. She taught my grandchildren and is close to my adult children. (Our oldest son was Gordon's doctor.) We decided to become "cousins" because we must be related.

I knew that Cross View must be great because Susan was a shining light in our very secular setting. When our dearest Gordon was "getting ready to go to heaven," I told him that I would watch out for Susan. When I went to his funeral in 2021 at Cross View, it was such a blessing that I never went back to my former church where I had been for over twenty-two years. I knew Cross View was my home. Pastor Steve's preaching and Pastor Reed's preaching cemented the deal. I have been blessed and edified, instructed, and comforted beyond my expectations. Cross View brothers and sisters have welcomed me with love and kindness.

Q. What is your faith history as a child and young adult?

I was raised by a very large extended family. My parents divorced when I was two. My mother and I moved into my

grandparents' home with five aunts and one uncle. We were Lutherans who loved Jesus Christ. We were pastors and teachers and parish workers, choir directors and organists and singers. I was very loved and remember singing, "Into my heart Lord Jesus" as my first song while I marched around with the hymnal in my pretend choir robe (flannel nightgown.) Even though we were Lutherans, we sat in the front row.

I remember being in trouble with my grandmother one Sunday. I was still sitting in the pew, and she had to come and find me. She said "Vickela, what are you doing!?" "I am staying here so I don't sin." Grandma said "You are sinning right now because you are supposed to be setting the table at home. Pastor Martin is coming for dinner!"

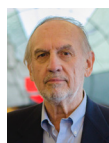
When I was ten, I found out that my mom was dying. This was a pivotal time in my faith journey. My mother was going to meet Jesus, and I knew I wanted to stay close to Jesus always so I would meet Him myself one day. I was confirmed and then married my husband in the Lutheran church. I met him in the church basement.

Q. What has The Holy Spirit been teaching you recently?

"Wait on the Lord — repent, repent, repent." For what? My selfishness being more important to me than my servant hood! This is a great sorrow. I don't want the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches to steal away the things that I was made for. Giving God the glory is what we were made for.

Q. Please share an experience about reaching out to others with the Gospel.

Recently, I was able to witness to my half-sister in Arizona. She was baptized as an infant and had fallen away from Jesus. We prayed together and she recommitted her life to Christ Jesus. She died on February 9, 2024, of pancreatic cancer at the age of 61. God is for us!



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

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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

5:15 PM Meal

6:30 PM Programming

www.crossview.net/recharge

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

CALENDAR

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

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