

CROSS VIEW CLARION

May 2021



"You are loved more than you can imagine and sent with more purpose than you thought" -Toby Schmidt



Who ARE you?

by Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor

Beloved Cross View family,

How would you answer the question, "Who ARE you?" (not "Who are YOU?") As you think about your answer, you really start to dig into the heart of your identity. In his book *Loved & Sent*, Jeff Cloeter, Senior Pastor of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Missouri, says, **"As Christians, we often stutter when questioned. Who are you?"**

It's fascinating how we answer that question. So often, we derive our identity from within ourselves. In his book, Pastor Cloeter encourages

us to **ground our identity not from inside ourselves but from outside of ourselves. Let yourself be defined by God.**

So, we've gotten hold of the answer to *Who am I?* Now we're able to answer an even more powerful question: *Why am I?* (What is my purpose in this life here on earth, in this community, family, circle of friends? What's God given me to do?). These two questions (who and why) are at the very root of human existence, and as Jesus followers, we're actually able to find the answers to these fundamental questions. And the

answers, as Pastor Cloeter states in his book, are “loved” and “sent”. Who are you? One loved by God. Why are you? Sent for God’s purpose.

In our current sermon series and during Education hour, we’re exploring what it means to be **loved more than you can imagine and sent with more purpose than you thought**. We’re diving into Scripture and exploring what it means to have a Christian identity and purpose, and how to it apply to our daily lives.

Beloved, we are walking into spring, a time of flowers and trees blooming. Join us as we walk into this new season and discover together that you and I, and the people God has placed in our lives, are loved more than we can imagine and sent with more purpose than we ever thought possible.

If you’d like a copy of *Loved & Sent*, a limited number are available at the Welcome Center for \$10. Or you can order your own copy from Amazon.

Financial Update – Year-to-Date Results

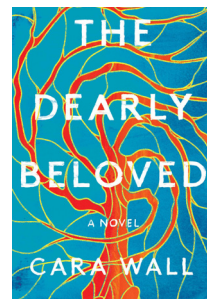
- March contributions were \$18,634 below budget and \$28,748 less than March 2020.
- Year to Date income for the first quarter is ahead of budget by \$4,047.
- Year to Date expenditure is less than budget primarily due to lower wage and benefit expenses with open positions.
- ECC tuition income remains below budget with some openings in one room.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
3/31/21	2021 Actual Year to Date	2021 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Greater (Less)
Total Income	\$309,549	\$305,502	\$4,047
Total Expenses	\$302,381	\$338,064	(\$35,683)
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$7,168	(\$32,562)	\$39,730

Women’s Ministries

WOMEN’S BOOK CLUB

The women’s book club has selected *The Dearly Beloved* by Cara Wall to read and discuss in May. We are going to try to meet outside at Boulder Creek Park in Minnetonka at 1:00 PM on Monday, May 17th. Please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you have questions or are interested in joining.



Early Childhood Center

Notice of Nondiscriminatory Policy As to Students

Cross View Early Childhood Center admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin to all the rights, privileges, programs, and activities generally accorded or made available to students at the school. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, sex, national and ethnic origin in administration of its educational policies, admission policies, and athletic and other school-administered programs.



WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

The Early Childhood Center celebrated the Week of the Young Child in April. The celebrations included a magic show, bubble day, celebrating Twins’ opener, a dance party, and pajama day. The children enjoyed all the events throughout the week. We also had special colors to wear each day.

The Cross View Early Childhood

Center is looking for donations of the following new or slightly-used items:

- Puzzles for toddler to school age (up to 100-piece puzzles)
- Chapter Books for our school age program in the summer
- Legos for our school age program in the summer
- Balls and child lawnmowers for the playground
- Board games for school age students
- Etch-a-Sketch
- Light Brite
- Books with Tape/CD
- Science items

Christian Education



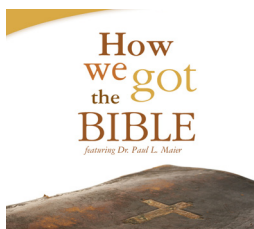
LOVED & SENT

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, 9:30-10:30 AM
APRIL 18-JUNE 6, ONSITE (ROOMS 209-210) & ONLINE

No matter what stage of life, we are always living with basic questions of identity and purpose. In a complex world, we are given countless answers to "Who am I?" and "Why am I?" In this Bible study, we'll learn about how "You are loved more than you can imagine and sent with more purpose than you ever thought." Pastors Steve and Toby will be facilitating this study. [Register on CVConnect](#). If you have questions or need information, email Pastor Toby at toby@crossview.net.

HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE

SUNDAY MORNING BIBLE STUDY, 9:30-10:30 AM
MAY 9-JUNE 13, ONSITE IN ROOM 218



The story of the Bible has been called "The Greatest Story Ever Told." But did you ever wonder where the Bible came from? Who wrote it? Why they wrote it? Who decided which books to include? In this study, Dr. Paul

Maier travels to the Bible Museum in Goodyear, Arizona, to take a look at how we got the Bible. This class will be led by Greg Lenz. [Register on CVConnect](#). If you have questions or need information, email Greg Lenz at gregorylenz73@gmail.com.

KEEPING PLACE

NEW WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY, TUESDAYS, 7:30-8:45 PM
MAY 11-JUNE 8, ON ZOOM

Home. There's nowhere quite like it. It's a safe place, a place of belonging, the place we feel secure. We all long for home, we all feel the ache of homesickness in our hearts.

In the 5-session series on Right Now Media, author and Bible teacher Jen Pollock Michel will take us on a journey through Scripture to uncover the meaning of home. We'll discover our holy yearning for a place to belong, how God graciously provides that place for us, and how we can model His hospitality in our lives each day. Come along with the ladies as we dig into God's Word, laugh together, share joys and burdens, and pray with one another. This class is led by Vicki Weber. [Register on CVConnect](#). If you have questions or need information, call Vicki Weber at 952.838.5500.



VBS IS COMING!

Life is an expedition, but God is good! Each day during this summer's vacation Bible school, *Treasured*, we'll discover that God's greatest treasure isn't diamonds, gems, or gold – it's us! Life is an expedition full of ups and downs and twists and turns. It can often feel like a jungle with no map. This week we'll experience the reassurance of God's love which empowers us to boldly face life's challenges. Join us onsite June 21-25, 9:00-11:30 AM for a great week!

Onsite VBS is open to students age 3 (potty trained) through entering 4th grade. Cost is just \$15 for the week! (Students entering 5th grade and older are invited to volunteer). To guarantee a t-shirt, please register by Monday, May 17. Registration is now open by going to www.crossview.net/vbs or [click here to register participants](#) or [register volunteers](#).



Youth Ministries

(TC)²-TAKING CARE OF THE TWIN CITIES-RETURNS
JULY 25-29, 2021

Need a reminder of what (TC)² is? It's five days of service to our church family and our community doing outdoor projects to help and support them. Projects such as painting a garage, washing windows, cleaning up a yard, cleaning up our area parks – these are ways we can serve our church family and community! Last year's (TC)² was hugely successful, so we're doing it again!



Do you know someone who needs help? Are you able and willing to help us? Are you able to support this servant event? Fill out the form on our website or let Jon

Zellar or John Porisch know if you have a project we can help with! All families with youth, 6th grade through high school, are encouraged to be a part of this awesome week of service. We're also looking for senior saints to work alongside the youth. If you have a skill or experience to share, we need you!

What's the (TC)² daily schedule? Our mornings will start at CV with a devotion and praise before heading out in small groups into the community. Bring your own bagged lunch and work side by side (socially distanced) to grow, connect, and help one another. At the end of each afternoon, we'll meet back at CV for dinner and close the day with a short worship and praise!

Registration is now open! [Click here to get registered](#). Please note the three different registration forms.

Outreach & Missions

WE'RE GETTING CLOSER!

The new Welcome MAT design team has continued to meet monthly, working diligently toward the launch of this exciting new ministry! The actual launch is planned for September, but they have planned presentations to the congregation and training for all volunteers a couple of months prior to that. The major factor for this is that they still need lots of volunteers to make this ministry successful as planned. The Welcome MAT is in need of Hosts, Connectors, Welcome Center Attendants and a couple of lead positions. If you have a gift or passion for making visitors feel welcomed and bringing them in to Cross View, the design team prays that you would consider becoming a part of this vital ministry. They will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the roles that need to be filled. Please contact any of the following team members with questions and/or offers to volunteer.

- Tonya Bushey, tonyabushey@gmail.com, (612) 716-5583
- Sue Harrison, kharrison1111@gmail.com, (713) 269-9657
- Barb Martenson, blynnmart@gmail.com, (952) 240-3597

The Welcome MAT design team thanks you for your prayerful consideration for participation in this exciting and vital ministry to grow God's Kingdom!



POBLO UPDATE

We are POBLO Ministries (*International Friendship Center, aka 'IFC'*). "We" means Cross View and other Lutheran churches joining us as "we" work with immigrants and internationals in the Twin Cities. Folks arrive here at different times in a very diverse city but never fully get a chance to be helped or guided. "We" seek to create relationships with families from different cultural and religious

backgrounds. We (the Alaraj family) serve as liaisons between our American brothers and sisters in the church to connect and serve so that "we" can fulfill spiritual, physical, and emotional needs. Together, "we" connect with these families by offering free classes like English, citizenship, PC, sewing, knitting, etc. However, the most important thing is that "we" treat them as a family. Most of them don't know about The Lord, and through close relationships (*especially with servants from Cross View*), we introduce to them the love of Jesus in different ways and conversations.

Most recently, with the coronavirus pandemic's ramifications, several families have lost their jobs or have an understandable but higher sense of fear and need to be prayed with or helped out directly. Rarely, we lend them some cash to cover certain urgent needs. However, through personal contacts and checkups "we" can demonstrate who Jesus is, through the church and us. Thank you for helping us offer all this help and prayer in the name of Jesus and His Church. We crave your continued prayers. We ask for your ongoing support. Cross View, you are always appreciated and treasured! Many Blessings!

Please prayerfully consider being a sustaining individual donor. Through your financial support, the lives of believers and nonbelievers alike will experience the love of Christ and the salvation of souls. If you have questions, talk to your pastor, or contact us directly: nader@poblo.org, (402) 968-6486. You can also follow us on Facebook. Request to be added to the Facebook page (as it is private).

—Your Missionaries, Nader & Georgette Alaraj & Kids.



STEPHEN MINISTRY CORNER

Our congregation's Stephen Ministry equips laypeople to provide one-to-one Christian care to people in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. Stephen Ministry is a confidential ministry. The identity of those receiving care and everything they discuss with a Stephen Minister remain private.

A Stephen Minister is...

- A child of God who walks beside someone who is hurting.
- A congregation member who is carefully selected to serve in this role because of his or her caregiving gifts.
- A layperson with 50 hours of training in providing high-quality, distinctively Christian care.
- A caring Christian friend who listens, cares, prays, supports, and encourages.
- Someone who meets faithfully each week with his or her care receiver for as long as there's a need.

If you need a Stephen Minister or are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister, please contact one of Cross View's pastors.

"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."

—Galatians 6:2

IMPORTANT NEWS! NEW SCHEDULE!

Cross View's interim Sunday worship schedule is now in effect to accommodate our growing Sunday morning attendance:

- 8:00 AM Traditional Worship — Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Traditional Worship — Sanctuary
- 9:30 AM Education Hour
- 10:45 AM Contemporary Worship — Great Commission Room with overflow seating in the Lobby
- 12:15–12:45 PM Drive-through Communion — 2nd and 4th Sundays

Celebrating Margaret Garrison's Ministry Among Us

We give thanks to our Lord for Margaret Garrison and for her dedicated and faithful service to Jesus and to our congregation. Many knew Margaret as the sweet voice that answered the phones of Cross View and as the smiling face at the front desk of the church office, but Margaret contributed so much more to our mission and ministries over the past five years.

Each week, Margaret oversaw the production of our bulletins and announcements. She oversaw office logistics and membership related issues. She daily worked with volunteers and coordinated many of our ongoing schedules connected to worship and other ministries. Beyond the weekly duties required by the church office, Margaret regularly went the extra mile to provide support to Cross View's pastors, directors, and membership.

In addition, Margaret was passionate about getting people involved in ministry. She made the spiritual gifts inventory that we use for existing and new members a reality. Her gifts in visioning were instrumental to the development of the newly revised "Welcome to Cross View" class for new and prospective members. It's safe to say that she was always way more than "just a secretary."

In February, Margaret submitted her resignation, indicating that she wished to pursue other endeavors at this time. Her deep commitment to our congregation led her, with love, to see us through the Holy Week. We will deeply miss her but wish her God's richest blessings as she begins a new chapter of life and service. If you didn't get a chance to send Margaret a card, thanking her for her ministry, please drop it by the church office. We will make sure to forward it to her.



Welcome to the Lord's Table

On Maundy Thursday, nine of Cross View's students (*Matthew, Lucca, Aiden, Tabitha, Erik, Ethan, Reuben, Liam, and Katrina*) were welcomed to the Lord's Table after completing a six-week course in preparation for their first communion. The class was held on Sunday mornings with both students and parents attending. The class incorporated faith formation that took place in the home each week with their parents. Discussions, memory work, weekly worksheets, and interactive activities contributed to the overall learning experience. Parents and students capped off the class with a "final celebration of learning" (otherwise known as a final exam). Everyone did super! We give thanks to the Lord for His precious meal and we celebrate with these young students as we say, "Welcome to the Lord's Table!"

Traveling Student Art Exhibit Coming in May

Cross View will host the third traveling high school student exhibit titled: "God Our Refuge, a Safe Place in Time of Trouble."

Area high school students expressed their response visually in artwork to the following question: "How do you seek refuge in God to find a safe and powerful place away from the time of trouble caused by the coronavirus pandemic, to experience God's help and all things working together for good?"

The exhibit scripture is Psalm 46:1 and Romans 8:28. Students selected a scripture meaningful to them that inspired their artwork in addition to their response to our inspiration question. There are 14 works of art in this exhibit that will be displayed in the sanctuary. For this 2021–2022 exhibit, there is a video that accompanies the students' artwork, as a virtual exhibit. The video will be available on our website to members unable to view the exhibit in person or wishing to hear the student artists discuss their work.



Cross View Position Vacancies

Cross View currently has three vacancies. Additional information for each one is [here](#) on [Cross View's website](#).

Praise Band — We have not received any qualified applicants. Our commitment to the Praise Band remains strong. Staff is discussing how to reimagine this contemporary worship component.

Children's Ministry — Cross View members are encouraged to fill out a "Member Nomination Form" located at the Welcome Center. Posting locations include: Cross View website, Minnesota South District Classified Ads, Handshake (42 Lutheran colleges), Minnesota Council of Non-profits, a Facebook job board, and the Weekly Connections insert. Lynn Pahl is the Search Committee Chairperson. Additional members include Vicki Barton, Erik Kelly, Rachael Johnson, Jill Harrison, Emily Hawkins, Pastor Wheeler, and Renee Kirchner. Applications are coming in. We hope to conduct interviews in May.

Administrative Assistant — This full-time vacancy is the result of Margaret's resignation. Information is located at the Welcome Center and on Cross View's website.

Please email Renee Kirchner at reenee@crossview.net or Scott Douglas at sldouglas1@icloud.net if you or someone you know is interested in any of these vacancies.

Confirmation Sunday – May 2

On May 2, 2021, twelve 8th grade students will undergo the rite of confirmation, reaffirming the promises made at their baptism. Because of capacity limitations with Covid-19, the rite of confirmation will be held at 3:00 PM. Only family and their guests will be able to attend in-person. The service will be streamed and archived for all to enjoy. The sermon at the three morning services will be the same as the sermon at the 3:00 PM service.

We thank God for each of these young people and are so thankful for the testimonies that they have shared with us over the last several months. Please keep these young people in your prayers as they move into a new season of growth and development as fully-devoted followers of Jesus Christ,

Good Friday Family Worship In Review

On Good Friday afternoon over 60 people attended our family friendly worship service. With the help of George, the monkey, parents, and kids learned all about our "yuckiness" our sin, God's love and sacrifice for us, and the righteousness of Christ that covers us all. Through various visuals and activities families learned what Good Friday is all about.





CROSS VIEW

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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
952-941-5453, steve@crossview.net

Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
952-243-2053, toby@crossview.net

Jonathan Zellar, Children's Ministry (Interim) & Youth Ministry
952-243-2047, jonathan@crossview.net

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

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration
952-243-2045, renee@crossview.net

Sue Quist, Music & Fine Arts Ministries
952-243-2048, sue@crossview.net

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

Claire Oie, Administrative Assistant
952-941-1094, claire@crossview.net

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Organist
harrison@crossview.net

Paula Wilson, Interim Lead Vocalist - Contemporary

Julie Sherman, President

Nadar & Georgette Alaraj, POBLO

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



GROW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary*

9:30 AM Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary
Worship in the Great
Commission Room*

*Also live streamed.

SUNDAY EDUCATION

9:30 AM Onsite & Online

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

CALENDAR

Cross View's most current
calendar is always available
on our website at
www.crossview.net/calendar

CONNECT

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