

CROSSVIEW CLARION

May 2024

"What if things don't get better? What if a new day is hopelessly out of reach?" – Hannah Zahrte



Changing of the Seasons

by Hannah Zahrte, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministries

The sun is shining, birds are singing, and flowers and trees are in bloom! Spring is one of my favorite seasons. It feels rejuvenating! Everywhere you look there are reminders of new life! I myself tend to feel like a new person when spring comes. It's not uncommon for us to experience long winters here in Minnesota. During those times, we might forget and lose hope of what a warm sun and green grass looks like. Sometimes we think we're out of winter and are given a false hope of spring but can be rudely awakened when it snows an additional 10 inches in May.

Don't get me wrong, God blesses us with

beautiful winters that produce individually unique snowflakes and the silence a snow fall can bring. But as months of cold and dark days drag on, one can lose sight of the brightness and color our God gives us during the springtime. We know spring is coming; it always does. But, during those long months, an approaching spring might seem hopelessly out of reach.

How often do we look at the darkness in our own lives and wonder the same thing? What if things don't get better? What if a new day **is** hopelessly out of reach?

Everyone faces different struggles in their

lives. It could be mentally, physically, emotionally, etc. We live in a sin darkened world, and some days it can feel like there is no hope. It can feel like the darkness has won.

However, we’re reminded in John 1:5, “The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”

We have a God who is faithful and good! A God who delights in us and keeps His promises. A God who loves us and, because of His great love for us, sent His Son Jesus to earth to defeat the darkness of sin, death and the devil through His death and resurrection. Through Jesus, we win!

As we celebrated and were reminded last month, we have victory! Through Jesus, we have hope! “But thanks be to God! He gives us the

victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Corinthians 15:57)

It might feel easier to let the despair and darkness win, but don’t let it. Allow the changing of the seasons to remind you that there are brighter days ahead and, because of Jesus, the ultimate victory is yours!

I pray that this springtime reminds you of these truths:

- 1. The darkness in your life will not last.
- 2. You are made new every day because of Christ’s death and resurrection, and because of Him, the Light of the World, you have the hope and promise of eternal life.
- 3. You are loved and cherished by the Creator of all things, of the seasons, and most importantly, of you.

Financial Update

Year-to-Date Results

- Year to date income was favorable to plan and 2023 actual.
- Year to date expenses are \$30,960 favorable to budget and higher than 2023.
- 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 while expenses are favorable to budget.
- ECC \$12,390 Net Surplus is slightly unfavorable to budget.

Multimedia

Storyteller and Producer

A Ministry Action Team (MAT) is working with Pastor Wheeler and Renee Kirchner to fill this position with an experienced multimedia creator, storyteller, and producer who 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 to support Cross View’s volunteer digital ministry team who support streaming with audio and video technology. Response to Cross View’s posting has been positive. Let’s pray our Lord will provide a viable person for this important outreach ministry position.

Cross View Lutheran Church			
3/31/24	2024 Actual Year to Date	2024 Budget Year to Date	Actual vs. Budget Favorable (Unfavorable)
Total Income	\$481,264	\$397,598	\$83,666
Total Expenses	(\$356,376)	(\$387,336)	\$30,960
General Fund Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$124,888	\$10,262	\$114,626
General Fund Ending Balance	\$397,385	\$282,759	

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.

ECC EASTER CELEBRATION

On March 28th we celebrated Easter! We had a special Chapel where all the families were invited, and each child received an Easter Egg with a special cross to remind them that Jesus carried the Cross for us. Then after chapel we had an Easter Party. The party included face painting and tattoos, games, a photo booth, Easter Egg hunt, artwork, and a special snack that told the Easter Story. The ECC children loved the egg hunt! Here are some pictures from the parties.



ECC PRAISES AND PRAYERS

Praises:

- For our new hire that will start in May
- For all the teachers — Teacher Appreciation week May 6–10
- Beautiful weather to play outside
- Generous small group of Cross View – new bikes for the kids/sofa and chair for the staff
- Less kids and teachers sick

Prayer Requests:

- Cancer — for healing, patience through treatment, and doctors who help our families dealing with loved ones who have cancer
- The beginning of the Call process for a new ECC Director
- For all Lutheran schools/preschools as the school year ends; patience as kids are ready to move rooms or get the summer started

Christian Education

CANDID DISCUSSIONS ON TODAY'S HOT ISSUES

Teaching Leaders: Pastor Steve and Pastor Reed

Dates: Sundays through May 19

Location: Rooms 209-211

Cross View will offer a Sunday morning Bible class from 9:30–10:30 AM each week through May 19th in the fellowship hall (rooms 209–211) entitled "Candid Discussions on Today's Hot Issues." We will discuss issues of human sexuality, Wokism, and more. The class will present a Biblically based, gospel-response to some of today's hot issues, taking into account how they relate to our lives as Christians as well as our lives as citizens of the USA.

On May 19th, Rev. Fred Hinz who is the Public Policy Advocate for the MN South District will be our guest. He will offer an update about what we as Christians should be aware of from a policy perspective about what is happening in our state and nation.



BOUNDARIES PARENTING CLASS

Teaching Leader: Barb Coffin

Dates: Sundays through May 19

Location: Chapel

Barb Coffin will be leading a Family Life adult education class for parents of all ages of kids on Sundays through May 19 at 9:30–10:30 AM in room 223 (the chapel upstairs). We will be using the book *Boundaries with Kids* by Drs. Henry Cloud and John Townsend. The class will discuss biblically based principles to define appropriate boundaries and consequences for your kids, set limits and still be a loving parent, bring balance to an out-of-control family life, and much more. Please join us!

Early Childhood Center Director

The Call Committee for a new Early Childhood Center Director is meeting on a regular schedule. Their first goal is to establish a viable candidate pool for phase one interviews. The committee encourages Cross View members to submit name and contact information of Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod trained

candidates to Scott Douglas, Call Committee Chair at sldouglas1@icloud.com. Next steps include establishing list possible candidates, exploring candidate interest, and conducting phase one interviews. The committee's goal is to propose one or two candidates to Cross View voters by the mid-July. We give thanks for Call Committee

members who are diligently working to identify God's plan for our new ECC Director. Members include Megan Jarvis, Emma Julkowski, Glenda Kibat, Chen Mellema, Janet Ost, Tina Schlecht, Steve Wheeler, Scott Douglas – Call Committee Chair, and Renee Kirchner – Ex officio member.

Children's Ministry

SPECIAL NEEDS SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS STARTS IN OCTOBER

Special Needs Sunday School class to start in October! There has been a Cross View MAT hard at work creating a new special needs Sunday school class to be held once a month on every second Sunday at 9:30–10:30 AM starting on October 13th. We are looking for volunteers to help with the monthly class and there will be a volunteer training on June 9th. We are also looking for students to attend. Please invite any child ages 3 to 12 who has developmental special needs. We also ask you to pray for this start up as it could be a great community outreach in the future, but we want to start slow. Our goal is to have five children to attend to learn about Jesus starting in October. Please see Barb Coffin, barb@crossview.net, or Nicole Krueger, nclvvo@gmail.com, with any interests in volunteering or to receive an information packet for any potential student.

With your registration, each family will receive a t-shirt, snacks, and supplies for each person's activities for the week. Note: If registering after May 27th, a t-shirt cannot be guaranteed.

If paying by check, please make check out to Cross View Lutheran, with VBS in the memo line.

Register on [CV Connect](#).

LAST DAY OF SUNDAY SCHOOL

The last day of Sunday School is May 19th. All the classes will have an ice cream party to celebrate our fun year.

SUMMER SUNDAY SCHOOL PLANS

As we did last year in the place of Summer Sunday School we will have a gathering of all parents and kids at the playground outside 9:30–10:30 AM. This time will be great fellowship time for our church families!

PARENT CORNER



5 Minutes A Day

- Highs and Lows: Share a high and a low for the day. Highs are required but lows are not.
- Share a Bible Verse: Picking the same Bible verse for everyday of the week allows you to memorize a Bible verse a week.
- Ask what is God telling me? What am I going to do about it?
- Bless one another: This can be done by making the sign of the cross on each other's foreheads or by praying over each other.
- Here are some possible verses to start out: John 3:16, Deuteronomy 6:5, 1 Corinthians 13:13, Jeremiah 29:11, Matthew 28:5-7, Mark 2:23-3:6



CROSS VIEW VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DIVING INTO FRIENDSHIP WITH GOD

An onsite VBS experience for children aged 3 (potty trained) to 5th grade, during the week of June 17–21. Join the experience through stations as we dive into friendship with God.

Youth Ministry

JUNIOR HIGH YOUTH APRIL SCHEDULE

- May 5: Confirmation Sunday
- May 19: 8th Graders join Senior High Youth (6:30–8:00 PM)
- May 22: Fellowship Night at CV; Welcome 6th Graders to Junior High (6:30–8:00 PM)

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH APRIL SCHEDULE

- May 5: Youth at CV
- May 12: No Youth; Mother's Day
- May 19: Youth at CV; Welcome 8th Graders
- May 26: No Youth; Memorial Day

SENIOR HIGH WHIRLYBALL

The Senior High youth had fun at Whirlyball in Bloomington on April 14! Ten youth battled it out in bumper cars trying to score points for their team.



WELCOMING 6TH AND 8TH GRADERS

As the school year comes to a close, our Junior and Senior High youth groups will gain new members! Starting Sunday, May 19th, the 8th grade youth will be invited to start attending Senior High Youth Group. Then on Wednesday, May 22nd, the 6th graders will be welcomed to our Junior High ministry during a Fellowship Night here at Cross View. We look forward to seeing new faces and creating new relationships!

JUNIOR AND SENIOR HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday, May 19, will be the last day of Sunday School for the school year. There will be no youth Sunday School classes during the summer. Youth are invited to attend the adult class during the education hour this summer.

CONFIRMATION CELEBRATION

Sunday, May 5

10:45 AM Worship Service

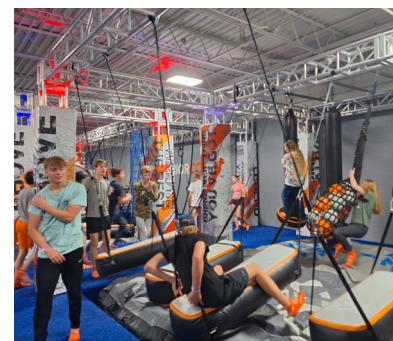
Both services that Sunday will be in the Sanctuary

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

On Sunday, May 5, our six 8th graders will confirm their faith in front of the congregation! The service will be at 10:45 AM. Both services this Sunday will be held in the sanctuary.

JUNIOR HIGH SKY ZONE

The Junior High youth were at Sky Zone on April 13. Eleven youth had fun jumping on trampolines and trying their luck at the different obstacle courses there.



EASTER BREAKFAST ENJOYED BY ALL!

Cross View's youth thank everyone who participated in the Easter Breakfast. Proceeds support their upcoming mission trips and the trip to the LCMS Youth Gathering in New Orleans in 2024.



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.

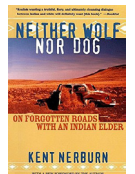
"Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ."-Galatians 6:2



Adult Ministry

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

Women's Book club will meet at church in room 120 on Monday, May 20, at 1:00 PM. They will be discussing the book *Neither Wolf Nor Dog* by Kent Nerburn. Please feel free to join them 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!

Spring Session Schedule:

- May 7: Cross View
- May 21: Picnic Potluck (Medicine Lake/Normandale Lake)
- There will also be summer sessions:
- June 11: Dave and Buster's (Southdale)
- July 16: MOA, the Fair on 4th
- July 23: Dinner and FMSC
- August 13: Lake Day/BBQ

Sing the Lord a New Song!

"Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!" These are the opening words of Psalm 98. With each new stanza, this Psalm extends wider and wider the invitation to sing praises to God. In stanza one (vv. 1–3), it calls for the worshiping community to join in song and praise to God. In stanza two (vv. 4–6), it calls for all of the people of the earth to join in song and praise to God. In stanza three (vv. 7–9), it calls for all of creation to join in song and praise to God. Singing songs and joining in praise to God has always been central to the worship of God's people throughout the ages.

This certainly has been true at Cross View for the past 55 years! In that time, we have been blessed by many faithful musicians who have led us in our time of worship. The past 17 months have been no exception. In the wake of several transitions in music ministry at the beginning of 2023, several servants of the Lord stepped up to provide excellence in worship.

In January of 2023, Judy Campen stepped up to provide marvelous organ and piano accompaniment for our traditional worship services and other musical ensembles. Since that time, she has led and inspired our congregation to sing praises to the Lord. She and her ministry partner, Roy, faithfully traveled from Rosemount through snow and weather, day and night, multiple times per week to lead us in song. What a labor of love!

In February of 2023, following the January voters'

meeting, Susan Charles (Bentley) volunteered to reconvene our adult choir, continue special ensembles, and to provide weekly planning and selection of music for worship services. At the same time, John Bentley also volunteered to lead the handbell choir. Both carried out their responsibilities with joy as unpaid volunteers all the way through August of 2023. They were brought on as staff in September and have continued as such to the present. What a labor of love!

In the past 17 months, these three individuals have led us to sing to the Lord a new song as we have enjoyed beautiful services in Lent, Holy Week, Advent, Christmas, and more. Words cannot begin to express our sincere gratitude for their many sacrifices and contributions to empower the mission and ministry of our congregation through worship.

In May of 2024, these three musicians (and dear friends) will be stepping down. Judy and her wonderful husband Roy are looking forward to resuming the joys of retired life. Susan and John, who were joined in marriage in September of 2023, are looking forward to resuming retirement, being newlyweds, and enjoying grandparenting. With thankful hearts, we wish each of these dear friends the very best.

To celebrate their ministry among us, we will recognize these servants of the Lord on May 19th in worship. There will also be a card shower and a lite reception prior to the voters' meeting. Please look for opportunities to express your sincere love to each of them in the coming weeks. "Sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things!"



Outreach & Missions

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 taking 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. Brochures and applications can be found at the Registration Desk. Contact Amy Gundermann at amy@crossview.net with questions.

CAREPORTAL MINISTRY

Virtual Training: Monday, May 13th, 6:30–8:00 PM

Our CarePortal Team is busy ministering to families in need in our community. There are still lots of opportunities to help with our CarePortal ministry, 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.

Our team is receiving encouraging feedback from the families that are being impacted by this ministry as well as the professionals that are working with the families. For example, one mom received new tires for her car to safely drive her children around. She sent a text expressing what a huge blessing it was to her and how "extremely grateful she is for all who stepped up to help when they definitely didn't have to." A social worker that is partnering with us through CarePortal wrote "We are amazed by the work you all do and are so grateful to be partnering together to improve the lives of children and families." What a joy it is to see the body of Christ in action through this ministry!

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.msj@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/their home.

WORK DAY AT CAMP OMEGA – MAY 4TH

The Men's Ministry is hosting a work day at Camp Omega on Saturday, May 4th. Volunteers will meet at church at 8:00 AM and return by 6:00 PM. Youth and adults (both men and women) are welcome to join them as they help Camp Omega prepare for the summer camp programming. Anticipate projects include trail-clearing, picnic table repairs, light construction projects, and cleaning. Lunch will be provided. Contact Dan Battcher at dtbattcher@gmail.com with questions. [Sign up on CV Connect](#) to join the fun!

SENIOR ADULT MINISTRY RELAUNCH THURSDAY, MAY 16TH, FROM 1:00–3:00 PM IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

We are excited to relaunch the Senior Adult Ministry at Cross View! Their first event will include a presentation titled "Faith at America's Founding" by Chip Combs. Chip has taught at Augsburg and St. Scholastica Colleges and is fascinated by religion, sports, literature, science, and history. He wrote a book entitled "And God Created America" about the faith of the founders of the United States. After the presentation, there will be time to socialize with treats and discuss next steps for our Senior Adult Ministry. This group is intended for those 60+. [Sign up on CV Connect!](#)

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

In March, 51 Cross View women and girls gathered to pack meals for the needy around the world.



WOMEN'S MINISTRY: SAVE THE DATE

On Tuesday June 11th, join Cross View women at Board and Brush Art Studio in Chanhassen to create art projects with the help of their staff. Projects of varying size and price are available for you to choose from. We've requested an evening time slot. Questions? Text or call Marcia Johnson (812) 454-4129 or Vicki Weber (952) 838-5500.

Board & Brush
creative studio

ADULT BIBLE CLASS HOSTS NEEDED

Cross View is looking for volunteers to serve as host during our Adult Bible Class on Sunday mornings. Tasks will include simple responsibilities that support the teaching leader and help to welcome others into the class. If you are interested, please contact Amy at amy@crossview.net.

RELIEF TEAM UPDATE

Our congregation hosted training for volunteers to deploy when there is help needed following a disaster. Thirteen people received LERT (Lutheran Early Response Teams) training by our District in April at Cross View. If you were not able to attend the training but have interest in serving, contact Phil Johnson at philj23@gmail.com for more information. Thanks to everyone who stepped forward already!

"In God's Hands" Art Exhibit

During April, Cross View hosted an art exhibit through Great Commission Artists. Members and visitors reflected on the truth that in an unpredictable world, we have a sovereign God who never changes.



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.



Lutheran Church Extension Fund Update

This 18-month term note from LCEF is 3x higher than the national average. For more information go to www.lcef.org or contact LCEF at 1-800-843-5233. New money only.





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

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

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

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

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

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

Amy Gundermann, Director of Outreach and Adult Ministries
Contemporary Worship Team Leader
952-243-2053, amy@crossview.net

Hannah Zahrt, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry
952-243-2047, hannah@crossview.net

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

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Julie Marquardt, 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

OFFICE HOURS

Mon.-Fri., 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM

CALENDAR

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

6645 McCauley Trail West
Edina, MN 55439-1076

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



www.crossview.net



[CrossViewLutheran](https://www.facebook.com/CrossViewLutheran)



[@crossviewlutheran](https://www.instagram.com/crossviewlutheran)