

CROSSVIEW CLARION

November 2020



"When you're in the business of catching fish and come up empty handed (or netted) it's a bad day." -Jonathan Zellar

Because You Say So

by Jonathan Zellar, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Luke 5:5: "...But because you say so, I will let down the nets."

Imagine: It's 8 AM. You're coming off of the night shift, cleaning and packing up all of your tools and materials. You've just spent the entire night working and have had no success. Nothing worked the way you intended. You don't have anything to show for your time spent that day. You're frustrated, tired, and ready to throw in the towel. Just then, someone with authority stops by and says to you, "You're going to go back to work for a little bit. Get it all back out."

Hypothetically, how would you respond? It would

probably sound something like "Are you nuts? I just spent the last 12 hours working my tail off and didn't accomplish anything. Most of my stuff is cleaned up, repaired, and put away and you expect me to get it all back out and keep at it? Thanks, but no thanks."

Can you relate? Have you ever been in a situation where you've given everything you've got and have nothing left? You feeling like you've got empty nets and no motivation or desire to try and fill them up?

We read in Luke 5:1-10 that Peter was the same way. He had "worked hard all night long and caught nothing." Can you imagine what he had to

be feeling? This was his job. His livelihood. How he provided for his family. Not only was he mentally and physically exhausted from such a demanding job, but it was also a big letdown for business. When you're in the business of catching fish and come up empty handed (or netted) it's a bad day.

Peter's nets were empty. Interestingly, the story continues. He says, "But because you say so, I'll let down the nets." Right before this interaction Jesus had been teaching the crowds from Peter's boat and something Jesus said impacted Peter. It impacted him enough to keep going and try again.

The difference for Peter between empty nets and full nets is Jesus. It's Jesus' word. This is the same encouragement to us. If you're feeling like your nets are empty. Like you're done for the day, week, month, maybe even 2020, listen to Jesus' words from John 16 "...take heart! I have overcome the world." We can keep fishing, or working, or making an effort, because He says so. Because The Word of God filled Peter's nets. That same word of Jesus fills us with everything we need to keep going "Because He Said So."

Financial Update

YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS

- ECC Tuition – We came in at 81% of budget, which is slightly higher than our forecast by \$7k. The income statement for ECC DOES NOT yet include any PPP loan forgiveness amounts.
- ECC Wages – Uptick in wages due to increased enrollment.
- All staff continue to watch spending and keeping expenses low.

Cross View			
September 30, 2020	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs.Budget
Total Income	\$823,189	\$940,236	(\$117,047)
Total Expense	\$884,332	\$1,002,298	\$117,966
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$61,143)	(\$62,062)	\$919

\$169K expected PPP forgiveness by 12/31/20

Early Childhood Center

PASTOR APPRECIATION MONTH

During the month of October, the ECC recognized Pastor Steve and Pastor Toby for Pastor Appreciation Month. They also took this time to recognize Jonathan and Christine for everything they do for Cross View and the ECC. The children made a classroom card for each of them and surprised them with special video from each classroom. They also provided a catered lunch for the staff.



ANNUAL BOOK FAIR

November 9–20, the ECC will have their annual book fair. You can purchase books for your family and friends. It is also a great opportunity for the school to bring in books to the classrooms and to the children we serve during the weekdays. It is an online book fair only this year. Watch the Cross View Facebook page for more information about how to shop online.





Thank You for Making a Difference, Good & Faithful Servant!

On October 18, 2020, Christine Eid announced her retirement from full-time children's ministry. Christine was installed at Cross View on July 15, 2007. In her thirteen years among us, God used her gifts and talents to grow and to transform our children's ministries. During her tenure, we enjoyed first-class Sunday school programing, excellent Wednesday evening programing, fun Christmas programs, vibrant Vacation Bible Schools, engaging children's messages, and so much more. Christine used her gifts of administration, organization, recruiting, and training to truly take our children's ministry to the next level. We thank God for the remarkable way that He used her to make a difference among us and especially among Cross View's children and families!

Not only has Christine made a difference at Cross View, but she has also made a kingdom impact on the church at large. Her full-time ministry as a Director of Christian Education (DCE) spans a total of 36 years in The Lutheran

Church – Missouri Synod (LCMS)! Christine served at Immanuel – Downers Grove, Il., Beautiful Savior – New Hope, MN., Lutheran Youth Encounter, and St. Matthews' – Columbia Heights, MN. She also was a Kindle 2004 associate. (Kindle is a leadership training organization for DCEs.) In 2017, Christine was voted by her peers to receive the "Master DCE Award," the highest award given to DCEs!

Christine has lovingly agreed to continue her service at Cross View as late as the end of May as we seek to fill her position. We thank Christine for her service at Cross View and celebrate her 36 years of full-time ministry to the church at large. We will deeply miss her! As her ministry among us draws to completion, let's pray God's richest blessings upon her and echo the words that we know she will one day hear from her Savior, *"Well done, good and faithful servant!"*

Christian Education

CALLING ALL CHILDREN (PRESCHOOL - 6TH GRADE) WHO LOVE TO SING!

We would love for you to sing with us virtually for the Cross View Christmas Program! Mrs. Sarah Fincham, Director of Jubilate Choir, and Sue Quist, Director of Music & Fine Arts, would love to have you join in song — in a year like no other!

We welcome all children, whether or not they have participated before. This year, we will have virtual choirs, practicing and recording, from the comfort of your own home.

Here are details that can help you make your decision:

- Preschool–1st grade will sing with Sue Quist — singing from home, videoed on a parent's cell phone. Listening links will be emailed for students to sing along with while recording.
- Our first song is "Away in a Manger". We can send you the listening link.
- Kids 2nd–6th grade will sing with Mrs. Sarah Fincham in Jubilate Choir — again singing from home, videoed on a parent's phone, with listening links to sing along with being emailed to parents.

Jubilate Choir will produce (at minimum) three songs this season. Target times will be Christmas, February and Easter time. Sarah will create and provide teaching videos for singers to practice with. Families will be given simple instructions to help in creating a recording of the singers...you just need a cell phone! Children will use simple equipment (like headphones) to sing along with the provided practice track during their recordings. Once the recording is made, you will email the file to Sarah, where it will then be transformed into a virtual choir collaboration! Our first collaboration will be for our upcoming Christmas program. We can send you a listening link.

We hope to make this a joyful season of music making, and as simple for parents as possible! **Are you ready to sign up?** Email Sue Quist: sue@crossview.net.

THE THANKFUL PUMPKIN

This year has been a challenge for so many. It is easy to get caught up in other things, especially those things that can easily bring us and our families down. It affects not only adults but children too. Cross View's children's ministry program decided to take this special time of year in order to reflect, to stop and focus. We need to be intentional about counting our blessings.

In order to help families in children's ministry teach this important lesson to their children, interested families may receive craft pumpkins and sharpies starting October 25. These pumpkins will be transformed into "thankful pumpkins" so that families can remember to count their blessings during the days leading up to Thanksgiving.

Families are encouraged to discuss the daily verse of thanksgiving before adding something to their pumpkin for which they are thankful. Over the three weeks leading to Thanksgiving they will be able to count their blessings while remembering the blessings from God that bring light to their family. Families can share their creations by tagging their photos @CrossViewLutheran. It will be a joy to see the Thankful Pumpkins as they evolve into visual reminders to give thanks and remind everyone that we are all a little bit like pumpkins.

God picks us from the patch and brings us in.

(John 15:16)

He washes all the dirt from us.

(2 Corinthians 5:17)

He opens us up and scoops out all the yucky stuff, removing the seeds of doubt, hate, greed and more.

(Romans 6:6)

Then He carves us each a new smiling face.

(Psalm 71:23)

And He puts His light inside each of us to shine for all the world to see.

(Matthew 5:16)

Throughout November, remember we shall go forth as God's servants shining bright with His light for all the world to see in order to remind those around us that they too can count their blessings and continue to grow their faith.

ONE NATION UNDER GOD: HEALING RACIAL DIVIDES IN AMERICA (SUNDAYS 11/15–12/20)

One nation under God? Amid divisive rhetoric, violence, riots, and racial tensions, confusion arises—how can Christians tear down the racial walls dividing our country?



We are a nation divided, and this division stems from a lack of communication, empathy, and understanding. As Christians we know that forgiveness is not something humans can do on their own, but it requires God changing human hearts as His people search through His Word.

Join us for "One Nation Under God: Healing Racial Divides in America," a study written by author Rev. B. Keith Haney, an African American LCMS pastor that encourages everyone to seek answers to racial tensions in the only place where truth and peace can be found — God's Word. Healing must begin with Jesus. In this six-session study, you'll openly communicate and begin the healing process. Let's be a nation united — united under God.

Classes are Sundays onsite/online from 9:30–10:30 AM, November 15 through December 20. Register online for the [onsite class](#) or the [online class](#). Masks are worn and physical distancing is observed onsite. Contact Pastor Toby (toby@crossview.net) with questions.

BASIC (BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN CHRIST) CONNECTIONS (SUNDAYS 11/8-12/13)

BASIC Connections is a weekly opportunity for Jesus' followers to come together in an intentional, inter-generational setting for conversation and prayer as they engage in Jesus' mission to redeem and restore all things to God. The group meets Sunday mornings from 9:30–10:30 AM onsite at Cross View in Room 220 (the Children's Ministry Reception) for six weeks at a time.

Focusing on five basic questions each week, participants weave together their personal experiences with God's Word and prayer in a small group context. Each week begins with a relevant devotional thought and is followed by sharing about how individuals are seeing God move, how God is speaking through His Word, how conversations are going with pre-Christians, how we can do good and how we can pray for each other. Those who attend commit to confidentiality, consistent presence, active listening, honest sharing, support, and using the Bible as a compass for prayer and personal growth.

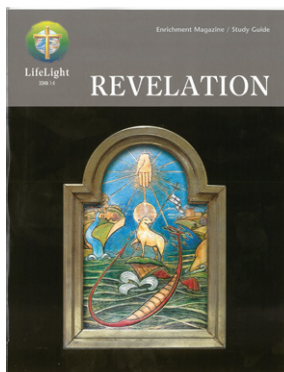
Masks are worn and physical distancing is observed. The next session begins on November 8 and goes through December 13. If you are feeling the Spirit leading you to deepen your ties to Jesus and to your fellow believers, come and be part of the Connection.

Contact Jan Schrader (jschrader1010@gmail.com) or Pastor Toby (toby@crossview.net) with questions, [register for class](#), or just show up in room 220 on November 8!

REVELATION (WEDNESDAYS 12/2-2/10)

So many people are intrigued by the last book (technically letter) of the Bible. Many interpreters often miss an important truth about the letter, too. The Letter wasn't written as a complicated outline or sequence of end-time events. Instead it is a series of visions that all point to the same truths: God's people will face suffering in this sinful world, Christ will return in judgment, and He will rescue all who call on His name.

Join us this winter, Wednesday evenings from 6:30–8:00 PM, onsite and online, as we dig into this often confusing book. We will see together how John clearly reveals how Jesus, our risen Lord and Savior, now reigns in eternal splendor, and how John moves us from vision to vision describing heaven's brilliance and the devil's darkness. Classes are Wednesdays December 2 and go through February 10. [Register online for the onsite or online class here.](#) There is a \$10 fee for the book necessary for this class.



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 the Pastors.

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

—Galatians 6:2



Volunteers Needed!

The Altar Guild Ministry Action Team is seeking volunteers to help with the preparation of The Lord's Supper here at Cross View. This group of people — women and men, young and old — have the responsibility and privilege of making ready this special meal we celebrate together. The commitment amounts to preparing for

The Lord's Supper on six Communion Sundays throughout the year. Volunteers work together in teams of two and are thoroughly trained. If this very meaningful opportunity to serve is of interest to you, please contact me, Marcia Johnson, at 812-454-4129 (call or text) or email me at marcia.sarahandemilysmom@gmail.com.

Outreach & Missions

A NEW AND EXCITING WAY TO SAY WELCOME!

Cross View has been blessed over the years with many volunteers who have been part of the church's welcome ministry as greeters and welcome center workers. We are so very thankful for those who have served in these capacities. With the completion of our new building and remodeled space, along with the unplanned arrival of COVID-19, we have had to make adjustments in the way we greet people. Yet one thing that has not changed is our desire to welcome everyone who comes through our doors and make them feel a part of Cross View. We hope that all of you will be excited about the newly formed extension of our welcome ministry, called the Welcome MAT.

The new ministry's design team, consisting of Tonya Bushey, Sue Harrison, Barb Martenson, Gregg Poppe, Phil Johnson and Pastor Steve Wheeler, has been meeting almost weekly over the past months to form a vision of what this new welcome team will consist of and what it will look like once implemented. Getting people connected is at the heart of our planned relaunching of the welcome ministry. We not only want to say "welcome" as visitors come through the door, but we also want them to know that there is something for them at Cross View. We want to assist visitors in answering any questions they may have and let them know that Cross View is a place where they belong and can be themselves. Our goal is to not only make their first visitor experience a great one, but to help them find a point of connection that will make them want to come back again.

The Welcome MAT design team is very excited with the progress we have made in developing this newly enhanced ministry. The team is still working on the complete design and fine-tuning details, but some of the changes you will see include new names for some of the roles currently in place. Instead of "Greeters", we will have new names such as "Hosts" and "Connectors". The current Welcome Center kiosk will become the focal point for welcoming visitors, giving church information and small gifts, and collecting personal information. These are just a few of the changes to occur as we move forward with the vision of the Welcome MAT. As COVID-19 restrictions begin to lift, we will schedule a time to gather all volunteers for visioning and training. Currently, we are looking at some time in the first quarter of 2021 for implementation of this ministry.

As you can imagine, we will need an active, coordinated response from the congregation to make this a success. We are reaching out to both existing and new volunteers to prayerfully consider being a part of this exciting new ministry. If you would like to volunteer, please reach out to any of the design team members listed below. We need you and look forward to growing Christ's Kingdom with you!

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

ADVENT IN A BOX

In light of COVID-19, we're doing Advent In A Box instead of Children's Nativity. This Advent, [families who register](#) will receive a box to help them observe (and celebrate) Advent. Inside will be a bag for each of the four weeks of Advent. Each week there will be a candle lighting devotion, a Classic Christmas movie devotion, crafts and activities related to the theme of the week (Hope, Peace, Joy, Love), and an outreach idea to share this season with others. You can choose to do all or just few activities. Our hope is that families (Cross View families, ECC families, Trinity First families, POBLO families, and anyone who registers) will learn about and enjoy this season of waiting and anticipating, as we not only celebrate the first time Jesus came into the world (Christmas), but also His second coming.

Families can [register for Advent In a Box](#) on CV Connect between November 1–14. They can pick up their box on Sunday, November 22, Noon–2:00 PM. (The first Sunday in Advent is November 29.) Families can also [register to help assemble boxes](#) on Sunday, November 15, from 6:00–8:30 PM.



TRINITY FIRST THANKSGIVING – TURKEY-TAKEOUT

Trinity First Thanksgiving is fast approaching. However, this year it will look differently. Our goal for this event is



to encourage and show appreciation for the staff and families by providing an opportunity to gather safely, eat a healthy meal, and just be together for thanksgiving.

We partner with Trinity First Lutheran School as they serve low-income families in the Minneapolis Phillips neighborhood.

We are working with Trinity First staff to give each of the 70 families a "Turkey-Takeout" basket. Each basket will contain all the dry and canned fixings for a traditional meal, mashed potatoes, corn, stuffing, etc. In order to accomplish this however, we still need help.

There are two ways to help:

- One, help with the turkey and the pie. Would you consider donating \$20 so that we can give a gift card to each family? This gift card would be added to the Turkey-takeout basket and would enable each family to purchase about a 10lb turkey and a dessert of their choice at a local grocery store. [Click here to donate.](#)
- Second, help assemble the "Turkey-Takeout" baskets. On Sunday, November 15, from 6:00–8:30 PM we will be assembling the baskets at Cross View. Please [register to help assemble "Turkey-Takeout" here.](#)

GUATEMALA MISSION WORK CONTINUES THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

The work of Cross View's Guatemala mission team continues, even though we are unable to travel to Guatemala due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Our mission team has formalized our group into Cross View's Guatemala Mission Action Team. Our team consists of Vicky Barton, RoseAnn Meier, Laurie Koch, Pastor Steve, Pastor Toby, and Tom Koch.

Two important actions have been taken by Cross View's Guatemala mission action team. The first is to move forward with a water study to be conducted by a Guatemala engineering firm. On October 6th, our team had a long ZOOM meeting with Charles "Carlos" Cohen, the CALMS missionary in Guatemala, and Helio Ramirez, who works for the provincial government, which includes the village of Los Vasquez. Following this ZOOM meeting, we determined the best way to approach the water issue is to have a comprehensive water study done for Los Vasquez. A donor has provided the funds to proceed with this water study. This donation was given in honor of Ed Whelan, a good friend and a wonderful bicycle mechanic.

The second action is to provide Wilson Vasquez with a two-year scholarship. Wilson is a young man from the village of Los Vasquez who is studying nursing and is in need of scholarship assistance. Two anonymous donors from Cross View are providing scholarships.

Our Guatemala mission action team has also set a goal of returning to Los Vasquez in April of 2021. This mission trip is subject to being able to safely travel in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please keep the people of Los Vasquez, in your prayers. Please pray for their safety during the pandemic. Please also pray for the water study that is going to be done and that the engineering firm may find a solution for clean water. If you are willing to help, any donation for the people of Los Vasquez would be deeply appreciated. Please contact Tom Koch, tjkoch47@gmail.com or at 612-386-3901, Pastor Steve, or Pastor Toby for more details.



Above: A prayer of thanksgiving was led by Teodora Garcia, Delegado de la Iglesia, of Los Vasquez. This prayer of thanksgiving was for food donations sent by Cross View.



Left: Wilson Vasquez, nursing student.

Coins for Thanksgiving

During Sundays in November and all the way through Thanksgiving, any change that is deposited in the offering baskets will be collected and donated to our local POBLO (People Of the Book Lutheran Outreach). POBLO reaches out to immigrant community around us and has an IFC (International Friendship Center) at Mt Hope Lutheran Church, Bloomington. [Learn more about POBLO here.](#)



Podcast: Cross View Voices

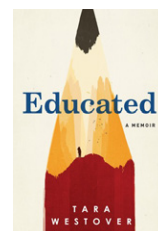
Looking for something to listen to? Look no further than Cross View's own podcast: Cross View Voices. The podcast is here to discuss the many ways that our faith intersects with our lives. It's got resource reviews interviews with ministry friends like Greg Finke, Ben Griffin, Chad Bird, and covering the things that you are talking about and wrestling with. If you have any ideas of more ways to connect or stories to share, drop an email to cvvoices@crossview.net.

Find Cross View Voices on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Podcasts, iHeart Radio, and anywhere else you listen to podcasts. You can also find us at Cross View's website at <https://www.crossview.net/ministries/podcast.cfm>.

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

This coming month we will be reading *Educated* by Tara Westover. We continue to meet via Zoom and our next meeting will be Monday, November 16th at 1:00 PM. Please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com with questions or if you are interested in joining.



Youth Ministries

RAKE AND RUN

The Junior and Senior high youth will do their annual Rake and Run fundraiser on Nov. 7th. Thankfully it's an outside event and can still happen even under COVID restrictions!

If you are interested in having the youth rake your lawn for a donation towards their mission trips and activities, please contact Jonathan at jonathan@crossview.net. Jonathan will contact you the week of Nov 1st to give you a rough estimate of what time they will be to your house. The youth ask for a donation of \$5 per bag raked, however, that is not

mandatory. They are happy to rake your lawn regardless!

If youth and adults are planning to help rake and drive, please sign up via the CV Connect link that Jonathan has sent out.

CONFIRMATION 2020

On October 25th, 17 of Cross View's youth affirmed their faith through the rite of Confirmation. It was a wonderful service to celebrate this step in their journey of faith. Praise God for these students and their families!





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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor
ext 203, steve@crossview.net

Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor
ext 206, toby@crossview.net

Christine Eid, Children's Ministry
ext 215, christine@crossview.net

Jonathan Zellar, Youth & Young Adults Ministries
ext 207, jonathan@crossview.net

Stacey LaMere, Early Childhood Center
ext 222, stacey@crossview.net

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration
ext 204, renee@crossview.net

Sue Quist, Music & Fine Arts Ministries
ext 210, sue@crossview.net

Margaret Garrison, Administrative Assistant
ext 200, margaret@crossview.net

Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist
ext 205, alyssa@crossview.net

Claire Oie, Administrative Assistant
ext 200, claire@crossview.net

José Portillo, Minister of Facility & Maintenance

Harrison Lawrence, Interim Organist
music@crossview.net

Paula Wilson, Interim Lead Vocalist - Contemporary
paula@crossview.net

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 WITH CROSS VIEW

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:15 AM Traditional Worship
in the Sanctuary

10:45 AM Contemporary
Worship in the Great
Commission Room

**Both services are also
available via live stream.**

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 WITH CROSS VIEW

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Edina, MN, 55439-1076

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