C R O S S V I E W DEL CONTRACTORIO October 2019

"In a world where we are stretched in so many ways...God is looking at our heart and not our bank accounts, friends, or family. " -Jonathan Zellar



Mixed Priorities

by Jonathan Zellar, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministries

Imagine you have been called up on stage with two other volunteers. The other two volunteers are given colored circles to place on the floor wherever they wish. Then they are told to guide you towards their circle on the floor. They start to give you directions, which pulls you opposite ways. What do you do? Which circle do you walk to? Do you listen to the loudest instruction giver? Do you go to the circle that is your favorite color? Do you freeze and stand where you are?

Does this scenario resonate with you? It does for me. In such a busy society and culture, we're all pulled in so many directions. We have work responsibilities that demand our time and effort. We have family responsibilities and relationships that require our time and full attention. Kids have sports practice, the spelling bee, grades to maintain, and friends they want to hang out with. We have friends we want to hang out with, too! All of which demand priority in our lives. Oh yea, don't forget about church and our relationship with God!

This is where the lesson from Jesus really rings true in Luke 16:13-15. Jesus starts by sharing with His disciples about a shrewd man who was in quite a predicament. At the end of the story He notes "No servant can serve two masters, since either he will hate one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve both God and money." Jesus is clarifying priorities. He is telling His listeners (the Pharisees) that they have put their worldly needs and wants over and above their service to God. They've put their love of money over their relationship with God. They are seeking approval and justification in the wrong places. God doesn't care what their bank account looks like because He is looking at their heart.

The same goes for us today. In a world where we are stretched in so many ways, this passage reminds us that God is looking at our heart and not our bank accounts, friends, or family. He is reminding us that He is the priority and that once He's first in line everything else will fall into place. The best part about this message of priority is that Jesus did all the work. He went to the cross because we are His first priority and He wants us to be in relationship with Him.

Imagine our scenario again. This time the leader instructs the circles to be placed on the floor like the first time and then says to everyone in the room "Your goal is to get to the circle on the left, then the circle on the right, and finally back to where you started." The directions are clear right? Priorities have been set, directions are given, and you can all walk the path together to get where you need to go.

The same is true for God's word. When we are in it regularly, we get what we need to walk our path of life no matter how difficult it is. The Holy Spirit walks with us, helping us to see Jesus, and focusing us on our relationship with God. Once we make our personal devotions or family devotions a priority, we start to see everything else as a way to honor and walk with God!

Fruitful Discipleship

In John 15, Jesus identifies himself as the source for fruitful discipleship. "I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit..." [John 15:5] Every member of God's church is called to be fruitful-the rich, the poor, and everyone in between,

because everyone has been entrusted with time, abilities, and resources from God. Fruitful discipleship is a call to release "who we are and what we've received" to the glory of God and for the benefit of others as we engage together in His mission.

As we look ahead to the 2020 year of mission and ministry, words can't begin to convey our excitement and anticipation for all that God will do as His people at Cross View abide in Christ and He abides in them. With the dedication of our new building sometime in early February, a multitude of new possibilities will unfold for discipling

existing members and reaching out to our community and world in fresh new ways. New adult classes will be launched. A new worship service will be launched in the fall of 2020. We are

looking to host workshops and speaker series for members and the community on topics like parenting, marriage, financial planning, Biblical Worldview, etc. Preliminary talks have begun as to how we will use technology to take the Good News of the Gospel well-beyond our doors.

The 2020 year in ministry will be a pivotal year as we seek to enlarge our missional footprint in our community and world. The building we are constructing is but a

tool for reaching people with the saving message of Christ. Once the building is completed, we will need volunteers and resources to carry out our ministry in it and through it. Around the middle of October, you will be receiving an important mailing connected with our Fruitful Discipleship series. Please prayerfully complete the Spiritual Gifts Survey (if you haven't already) and complete the Financial Commitment card. Please bring them with you to worship on October 27th. We will pray God's blessing on these sincere expressions of fruitful discipleship.

Fruitful Discipleship Fruitful Discipleship Fruitful Discipleship

Connection Center. Let us pray for fruitful discipleship and a generous outpouring from God's people that will empower bold new mission and ministry for the year ahead.

CV 4.0 – Building for Generations Update



Cross View's 4.0 Building For Generations construction project continues to progress. The multi-purpose room "box" has a roof and sub-floor. Members walking into church can identify the stairway from the lower east entrance to

upper west entrance. The new narthex and Café Cross View sub-floor connects the sanctuary to the new multi-purpose room.

October is a critical month for outside construction work. Plans include enclosing the multi-purpose room, connecting the multi-purpose room to the existing building, and finishing outside work. Wet weather and smaller work crews are creating construction delays across the metro area. Asphalt and concrete companies cease operations around November 1st. Landscape work and lawn irrigation must be completed prior to the first freeze. Let's all pray for a warm and dry October!



Cross View's leadership continues to maximize building design within budget parameters. The additional fellowship area, more multi-purpose education space, and expanded Early Childhood program areas will empower our membership to reach out and grow His Kingdom. The Early Childhood Center classroom renovation is complete. Students and teachers are enjoying renovated classrooms, new bathrooms, and a new diaper changing area. Additional ECC elements scheduled for completion include:

- Converting the middle stairway to storage
- Refreshing the west hallway bathrooms
- Relocating the ECC office to east main entrance
- Completing a new exercise area in the youth addition
- Providing safe and secure ECC classrooms

The sanctuary fire sprinkler installation is finished. The ceiling wood selection of unfinished cedar tongue and



groove mounted on sheetrock replicates previous sanctuary acoustical qualities. A big thank you to a Cross View family for an additional donation to help fund the cedar wood ceiling. Praise Break!

Competitive bidding and value engineering created additional

funds for LED dimmable sanctuary lighting and wiring infrastructure above the ceiling for future sanctuary worship enhancements. Praise Break!

The current sanctuary completion timetable:

- September 17-25: LED lighting wiring and future infrastructure wiring
- September 26-October 11: Hang sheetrock ceiling base
- October 14-November 1: Install cedar tongue and groove ceiling
- November 4-8: Finish light installation and remove construction material
- November 11-15: Reinstall pews and unpack the organ.
- November 17 or 24: First Sunday service in remodeled sanctuary

Financial Update

- July income was 37%, or \$35K less than budget, eroding our favorable year-to-date income variance to about \$37K less than budget. Budget includes a 9% year-overyear increase.
- The net surplus is \$38K favorable to budget due to lower expenses than planned and capital campaign contributions resulting in no debt incurred to date.
- Your generous contributions to both the operating and capital campaign remain critical in 2019.
- Sunday church attendance has been light for the past couple of months. We encourage members to join us in

person to be nourished through our new focus on Soul Food. There is plenty of space in the parking lot and fellowship hall for worship!

Cross View			
Aug 31, 2019	2019	2019	Actual Better/(Worse)
	Actual YTD	Budget YTD	vs.Budget
Total Income	\$715,375	\$752,812	(\$37,437)
Total Expense	\$723,189	\$798,538	\$75,349
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$7,814)	(\$45,726)	\$37,912

Christian Education

THIRD GRADE BIBLE BLESSING

Our Sunday School classes are off to a great start! Third graders, with parents, have gone through an Introduction to the Bible class. This 4-week class will culminate on October 6 with a special blessing at the 10:45 service. Please keep these students in your prayers as they continue to grow in the Word and in their relationship with Christ.

KIDSTITUTE UPDATE

Kidstitute is Cross View's Wednesday night program for children age 3 through 6th grade. This fall we are studying the 10 commandments and how God has given them to us to help guide us in living a life that is pleasing to Him. We meet 7-8 PM. Students are always welcome! We hope you will join us!

WELCOME TO CROSS VIEW (CV) CLASS

Interested in learning more about who we are or in becoming a member of our congregation? Join us Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM, this fall for an informational class to learn an overview of our mission and ministry.

- October 16, "Getting to know the Cross View (CV) Family" (an introduction and orientation to Cross View and how to become a member of the CV family)
- October 23-November 13, "Joining the CV Family" (an introduction to the Lutheran Faith and what we believe)
- November 20-December 18, "Going All In With the CV Family" (an introduction to how we live out God's mission together using all the gifts and opportunities He gives us)

This nine-week class is led by Pastor Steve Wheeler. Interested? Contact <u>margaret@crossview.net</u> or 952-941-1094. Classes will be Wednesdays, 7:00-8:00 PM from October 16 through December 18.

"WORK AS WORSHIP" RETREAT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12, 9:00 AM-12:00 NOON

You may spend hours each week at church or in personal Bible study. God uses that time to help us Connect with each other and Grow in our faith. But what about the 40+ hours a week on your job? Do you see the same potential there?

Cross View's Men's Ministry invites men, women, and young adults, everyone who wants to better incorporate their Christian faith into their jobs to a Saturday morning retreat. Experience dynamic speakers as they share what it's like for us to worship with our work. Saturday, October 12th, 9:00 AM-12:00 noon. A light breakfast will be provided. For more details and to register, please visit <u>https://www. crossview.net/ministries/men.cfm#detailid_377431</u>.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY DIGS INTO FRUITFUL DISCIPLESHIP

During adult Bible study on Sundays in November we'll be delving what is fruitful discipleship. We'll dig into how our connection with Christ, the True Vine who gives us everything we need to be His disciples. We'll learn how God continue to carry out His mission through us, and how He bears fruit for His kingdom through us. Join us as we learn together how Christ our Vine supplies everything to grow His people and bear fruit for His kingdom.

Sunday morning Bible studies will be in the western side of the Fellowship Hall. Questions? Ask <u>Pastor Toby</u>.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

It's only October, but plans are in the works for children's Christmas programs. We will begin rehearsals during the education hour this month.

Specifics with details and rehearsal schedules will be sent out to families later this month.

Early Childhood Center

ECC THANKFUL FOR VOLUNTEERS AND DONATIONS

We would like to thank all our volunteers who have helped us in the Early Childhood Center. We would especially like to thank the following; Denny Scheppmann and Dick Rostal who do general repairs and maintenance, and Darlene and Cal Senechal who donate medical paper that we use for our diapering areas. We would also like to thank all who donate toys, school supplies and books.

We always welcome volunteers to rock babies, prep art projects for the classrooms, read to the children, create homemade projects for the children to play with on the playground, donate books and toys, among other things. If you feel you have a God given gift to work with or around children and also have time to volunteer, please stop by the Early Childhood Center or give us a call at 952-941-0009.

GROWING LOVING FOLLOWERS

Each Wednesday, we have chapel together. The time is led by Pastor Steve, Pastor Toby, and Christine or Jonathan, our children and youth ministry leaders. It is a worship experience with songs, message, prayer and Bible reading. This is a great time to spread the word of God and show the children how to worship the Lord. As our mission statement states, Cross View Early Childhood Center is growing loving followers of Jesus Christ through early care and education.

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The October Women's Book Club will be hosted by Carol Kuhlman at church at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 21. We will be reading and discussing *The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry* by Gabrielle Zevin. New members are always welcome. Please contact Marcy at <u>mpnordhus@gmail.com</u> if you have any questions.



WOMEN'S DINNER CHANGES DATE FOR NOVEMBER

S ave the date for Women's Dinner on November 21st! This is a change from the normal 4th Thursday due to Thanksgiving. Details to come.

Senior Ministry

OCTOBER SENIOR SERVICE EVENT

Where: Global Health Ministries (www.ghm.org)

When: Wed. October 16 9am-1pm

We will meet at Cross View to carpool to GHM in Fridley, MN. Please join your fellow seniors in supporting a Christian ministry whose focus is "ensuring access to quality healthcare for the world's most vulnerable." Questions? Call Chuck Daenzer at 952-200-0802.



Youth Ministries

SEVER'S CORN MAZE

On October 13th our Junior and Senior high youth will be headed to Sever's Corn Maze. Sever's has moved south and has expanded by three times the size! It will be fun to see the changes and additions that they have made! If your student is planning to attend, please sign up on the sheet outside Jonathan/Christine's office so we can have enough drivers and food.



Other details are as follows: Drop off is at 1:30 PM at Cross View. We will leave for Sever's Corn Maze and will be returning around 6:00 PM. Then we will have dinner, a devotion, and conclude with some games at the end. Pickup will be at 8:30 PM at Cross View.

RAKE AND RUN

The Junior and Senior high youth will do our annual Rake and Run fundraiser on October 26th. If we have enough yards this year we may need to expand to multiple days. How exciting!

- 1. If you are interested in having the youth rake your lawn for a donation towards their mission trips and activities, please sign up on the sheet outside Jonathan/Christine's office. Jonathan will contact you the week of Oct. 20th to give you a rough estimate of what time we will be to your house. The youth ask for a donation of \$5 per bag raked, however, that is not mandatory. We are happy to rake your lawn regardless!
- 2. If youth are planning to attend, please sign up on the sheet outside Jonathan/Christine's office so we can have enough drivers and food

RETHINK CONFERENCE

On November 8th and 9th, we have an opportunity to attend a conference at Grace Church titled "reTHINK Your False Ideas About God." This conference is put on by a company called Stand to Reason (STR) and discusses a lot of the hot topics out there such as God's Existence, Homosexuality, God and Science, Trustworthiness of Scripture, and many others.

reTHINK Conference

When: 4:00 PM November 8th through 7:00 PM November 9th At Grace Church

Cost: \$75 per person (Adults as well)

Housing: We will be staying at Cross View overnight in order to eliminate drop-off and pick-ups.

Transportation: We are asking our chaperones to drive youth to and from the conference.

Outreach & Missions

THE SHERIDAN STORY

The Sheridan Story is a ministry to provide food for students in need for the weekend. Cross View partners with The Sheridan Story and Creek Valley Elementary for volunteers to put bags of food into backpacks. Volunteers meet at church on Friday at 12:30 PM and



go together to the school. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we make an impact not only on the children of the community, but also build relationships with the staff at Creek Valley.

LOOKING AHEAD – SERVICE SUNDAY ON OCTOBER 27

This fall we will continue to have service Sundays, but they will be at times that fit with our education schedule. Our first service Sunday will be Sunday, October 27. This week we will not have regular education classes, and instead will have a variety of projects available for families to work on together. These include, but are not limited to:

- Preparing materials for a number of Christmas outreach projects
- Making table decorations for Trinity First Thanksgiving
- College Care Packages
- Separating school supplies for Trinity First Thanksgiving
- Decorating bags for Trinity First
- Making bookmarks for The Dwelling Place

Mark your calendar to join us on October 27 for an opportunity to serve members of Cross View, as well as the community around us. Do you have an idea for a project? Contact Christine Eid at <u>christine@crossview.net</u> with your thoughts! We would love to hear from you!

TRINITY FIRST THANKSGIVING!

Thanksgiving Dinner at Trinity First Lutheran School will be Saturday, November 23, from 5:00-6:00 PM (the Saturday before Thanksgiving). Trinity First Lutheran School serves lowincome families in the Phillips neighborhood. We seek to encourage and show appreciation for the staff and families by providing an opportunity to share together in thanksgiving to our God.

Plan to sign up in October on the Cross View website and participate in this night of blessings. This is a great opportunity for families to serve together and a great way to earn Confirmation service hours. So, look ahead and include this event in your holiday planning and join us for dinner. When you sign up early, it helps your planning and ours! So again, sign up in October on the Cross View website. Don't delay and reserve your favorite way to serve! If you have any questions or need further information, please contact Edie McGurgan, at <u>egm1999@msn.com</u>.

COINS 4 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.

ANNUAL CHRISTIAN ARTS FESTIVAL SKIPS A YEAR, PLANS UNDERWAY FOR 2021



The annual Cross View Christian Arts Festival will skip a year this spring while the building expansion takes place. We're already planning for our 2021 arts festival beginning April 18, 2021,

with the theme, "Holy Places: Where God Speaks to You."

We've started to organize a new Art Mission Action Team, headed by Barb Janisch. We're looking for new team members! Anyone interested, please call or email Barb at 612-834-9879 or janischstudio@aol.com. No experience is necessary!

POBLO (PEOPLE OF THE BOOK LUTHERAN OUTREACH)

As Jesus' followers, as His disciples, we are called to "go and make disciples of all nations." (Mt. 28:19).

Previously, waves of American Christians were trained and sent to mission fields around the globe. But it's no longer necessary for us to step outside our own country to fulfill this call. Did you know Muslims are the largest unreached people group in the world, and their number is growing rapidly in the U.S. There are an estimated 7 million American Muslims. There also is an estimated 45.8 million immigrants live in the US– more than 13% of the total population.

So as Jesus' disciples called to bring the Gospel to the nations, what better place to accomplish the mission than right here in the U.S.?

POBLO International is a Christian organization working to transform the way missions is done in the United States by responding to the changing demographics that have brought the mission field to our own front yard. They serve immigrants and refugees. They train and educate churches on how to engage in cross-cultural outreach. They share the Gospel message. They love people.

Are you one of Jesus' disciples who loves people, too? Join Nader and Georgette Alaraj (and their growing family), our POBLO missionaries in Bloomington, by being a part of this dynamic and growing ministry. Love and serve people while helping them: become acclimated to Minnesota and American culture, learn your native tongue of English, become a citizen, learn to sew or cook. Other ways to help are giving or coordinating rides for students and supporting POBLO financially. There are as many ways as there are stars in the heavens to reach the lost with love of Christ.

There are always ways to give of yourself, your time, talents, and resources through POBLO. When you do, you will be blessed in ways you never thought imaginable. Got questions? Want to help or serve but don't know how? Talk to Pastor Steve or Pastor Toby. Talk to Nader or Georgette (Nader: <u>nader@poblo.org</u>).



Free classes are offered through POBLO.





Cross View members volunteer during a cooking class.





Join other Cross View members to support the POBLO International mission right here in the U.S.

Welcome Beth White, Field Work Student at Cross View

Hi, Cross View! I am so excited to have the opportunity to meet and work with you this year! My name is Beth White and I am a senior at Concordia



University, Saint Paul studying to be a Director of Christian Education. During my studies I get to work with local churches and their staff to be better prepared for my future work as a DCE.

To get a head start on meeting you all, here's some background on who I am. I lived most of my life in a suburb of Kansas City, Kansas, where my dad was called to be the pastor of a church plant. I have spent a majority of my time in the church and decided that working in the church wasn't for me. Once I finished high school, instead of heading right to college, I decided to join a traveling music ministry team through an organization called Youth Encounter. In my two years of volunteering with them, God grew me more than I could have ever imagined. Despite my desire to work outside of the church, visiting churches all over the country and meeting passionate Jesus followers led me to know that He was calling me to pursue that very vocation, which is what has brought me to you! Since doing Youth Encounter, I started my education at CSP, got married to the love of my life, Sam, who you will also see around Cross View, and spent my summers hanging out with kids and families at Mount Carmel Family Camp in Alexandria, MN. Are there other important things you need to know? Well, I love pizza to no end. Board games are one of my ways to spend time with people. I absolutely love music: playing it, listening to it, seeing it live. That's me; I'm so excited to get to know you!

Blessings, Beth

Welcome Harrison Lawrence – Interim Bell Choir Director!

Cross View welcomes Harrison Lawrence as our Interim Bell Choir Director. Harrison comes to us as a graduate of St. Olaf's College in Northfield, MN. He was graduated with a Bachelor of Music in Organ Performance and Church Music with an Organ Emphasis. Harrison's academic program gave him extensive experience with accompanying a variety of ensembles, including handbell choirs, soloists, a variety of instruments, full bands, and large and small choirs. Off campus, he interned at All Saints Lutheran Church in Minnetonka and at St. James Lutheran Church in West St. Paul.

If you have recently attended the early service at Cross View or the one of the Wednesday evening services, you have already seen Harrison in action on the piano. Simply stated...he is a blessing to our congregation and to our music ministry! Now we'll also be blessed see him leading our bell choir. And the best is yet to come! You're going to be amazed when we get back into the sanctuary and you hear him play his favorite instrument...the organ! Please welcome Harrison with a warm embrace as he expands his role among us as our interim bell choir director.



Twelve21

Twelve21 is currently working through Cold Case Christianity on RightNow Media. Our October meetings are the 8th at Unmapped Brewing in Minnetonka and October 22nd at Wooden Hill Brewing in Edina. If you need access to RightNow Media or want to be added to the Facebook group or Email Routing list, please email Jonathan at jonathan@crossview.net.

Cards & Games

Friday, October 11 at 7:00 pm Cross View, Fellowship A

RSVP to Hosts Carla Schumacher 952-949-9349 or Ann Weber 952-831-7670

Cross View Cards and Games meet the 2nd Friday of each month from September through May. Connect with Cross View members and friends (adults of all ages) for several hours of fun and fellowship by participating in cards and games of your choice. New participants are welcome!

Thanksgiving Services

Moved to Wednesday Evening November 27, 7 PM

Fruitful Discipleship Commitment Sunday

October 27th during worship. Please return your financial commitment card & complete the Spiritual Gifts Survey.



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

Rev. Steve Wheeler, Senior Pastor ext 203, <u>steve@crossview.net</u>

Rev. Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor ext 206, <u>toby@crossview.net</u>

Christine Eid, Children's Ministry ext 215, children's Ministry

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

Stacey LaMere, Early Childhood Center ext 222, <u>stacey@crossview.net</u>

Renee Kirchner, Church Administration ext 204, <u>renee@crossview.net</u>

Margaret Garrison, Administrative Assistant ext 200, <u>margaret@crossview.net</u>

> Alyssa Meger, Finance Specialist ext 205, <u>alyssa@crossview.net</u>

Claire Oie, Administrative Assistant ext 200, <u>claire@crossview.net</u>

Harrison Lawrence, Interim Organist <u>music@crossview.net</u>

Ben Henschel, Interim Choir Director <u>ben@crossview.net</u>

Lynn Pahl, President

Nadar & Georgette Alaraj, POBLO

Todd & Kim Roeske, Evangelistic Missionaries in Alaska

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

GROW WITH CROSS VIEW

SUNDAY WORSHIP 8:15 AM Traditional 10:45 AM Contemporary

SUNDAY EDUCATION 9:30 AM

ROUND TABLE WORSHIP Wed., 6:00 - 6:50 рм

OFFICE HOURS Tues.-Fri., 9:00 ам - 4:30 рм Closed Monday

CALENDAR

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

CONNECT WITH CROSS VIEW

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