

CROSSVIEW CLARION

October 2020



"Even though we are physically dispersed and distanced, we are socially and spiritually present!" -Pastor Toby Schmidt

Stability in the Storm

by Toby Schmidt, Associate Pastor

I miss you. I mourn with you what we are missing together. So much time has passed since March. I don't know what happened to all of it. If you're like me, it seems like everything has been a slow slog and yet a blur of activity: updates, guessing, preparing, and waiting. Throw in with the pandemic and economy: racial issues, social unrest, schools and education, then fires and hurricanes, and now a political season...ugh.

You are missed. The body of Christ has been physically dispersed and distanced but we are socially and spiritually present. Christ is alive and active...in

you, around you, and through you.

I want to remind you that you are His. God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit claimed you. He wrote His name on you in Baptism. He is Emmanuel (Isaiah 7 & 8, Mt 1) – God with us. He is Jehovah Jireh (Genesis 22) – God who provides. He is Jesus (Matthew 1:21, Acts 4:12) – God who saves.

God is active! God's kingdom has been going and growing! For example, we've had a number of baptisms since the start of COVID-19: Carly Z., Grace B., Brooks R., Judith A., Gus R., Peyton B., and Landon M.

◀ We are physically dispersed and distant, but you are a part of these celebrations socially and, even more importantly, spiritually. These people have been brought into God's family. They are now a part of your, our, Cross View family. I want to tell you about one of them.

It was September 13, 2020. It was a beautiful Sunday afternoon. You and I saw each other earlier at worship or the fellowship time as we kicked off our year of ministry together. But at about 2:45 PM I pulled up to a little blue two-story house. The lawn was recently cut. There was a fenced-in yard in the back and a black SUV in the driveway. I knocked on the door with my mask on. The door opened and I was greeted by a house full of people. Grandma was holding a sleeping baby boy. Momma, and big sister Daisy, led me to the backyard. We chitchatted about kids jumping off the back deck and this beautiful sunny day God gave us. Dad finished setting up an impromptu baptismal font. In was beautiful. Split wood for the fire was stacked up log-cabin style to about your waist. Light and dark blue ribbon were tucked in here and there. A large earthen ware basin set on top.

Once everyone got there, the informal gathering got started. "Daisy, tell me where does the rain come from?" "What does it do to the grass?" "Well, just like the water comes from heaven to give life to the grass, God is going to take this water, add to it His powerful Word, and give life, eternal life, to Gus Gus." We talked about faith and the faith family Gus was being baptized into. We talked about the responsibility of raising children in the faith. "We need parents, godparents, and everybody here to be involved in that." It's a family thing we do together. Not just a Cross View

family thing, but a family of God thing. So, we all confessed our common family faith together using the Apostles' Creed, "I believe in God..."

We quizzed each other on Gus's first name Clarence (what it means and where it comes from). We read John 1:1-5 and Matthew 5:14-16 together. Then came the big moment. God's sign was traced on Gus's head and heart, symbolizing what God was about to do through water and His Word. "Gus, I baptize you in the name of Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

"This little light represents God's light in you, Gus." And that was it. We took pictures for posterity, to remember the day Gus was welcomed into an

even bigger family, God's family, your family. And then two big sisters, Daisy and Bea, pointed out that it was now time to celebrate our new brother in Christ, Gus, with punch, cake, and ice cream.

I don't want you to miss out. You are God's. He put His name on you and His spirit in you just as He did Gus. Even though we are physically dispersed and distanced, we are socially and spiritually present! We are a part of His family and ministry is still happening! God is active! The family is still growing and going!

Through baptism, God added Gus to His family to declare the wonderful deeds of our God who is with us, provides for us, and saves us; who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light!

So, church. So, Cross View family. Say it with me, "Gus, we welcome you into the Lord's family. We receive you as a fellow member of the body of Christ, a child of the same heavenly Father, to work with us in His kingdom."

"Go in peace! Serve the Lord! Thanks be to God!"



Financial Update

YEAR-TO-DATE RESULTS

- Utilities continue to run lower than projected.
- We had some boiler repair work that needed to be completed.
- Increased expense in food for ECC due to higher enrollment.

Cross View			
August 31, 2020	2020 Actual YTD	2020 Budget YTD	Actual Better/(Worse) vs. Budget
Total Income	\$752,823	\$856,738	(\$103,915)
Total Expense	\$775,754	\$880,564	\$104,810
Net Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$22,931)	(\$23,826)	\$895
\$169K expected PPP forgiveness by 12/31/20			

Provision in the Storm

By Pastor Steve Wheeler

You probably know by now that the theme for the 2020-2021 year in ministry is *Hope in the Storm* based on Mark 4:35-41. As we reflect upon the last several months that have been stormy indeed, we begin to see something that is beautifully clear. God is generously providing all and more than we could ask or imagine during these challenging times.

God's provision in the storm comes in various ways. His provision comes to us as He brings us to faith and keeps our eyes focused on Jesus in stormy gales. His provision comes to us through His Word and sacraments that light our way through the storm, providing us rich grace for the journey. His provision comes to us as He daily and richly provides all that we need to support our body and life. Ultimately, His provision comes to us through His many and varied expressions of love. His provision then is forwarded through our expressions of love to others.

In John 15:16, we are reminded that Jesus has chosen us and appointed us to bear fruit that lasts. The fruit that lasts is His love. Even as God is generous and provides for us in the storm, he calls us to do the same for one another. The love that He lavishes upon us...gifts of time, ability and resources, He causes to overflow in ways that equip us as individuals and as a congregation to help others through the storms of life.

Perhaps never before has it been more important for our congregation to generously reach out and to ramp up our efforts and our ministry to impact the people of our community and our world with the hope of Jesus Christ. In the year ahead, we will be using everything at our disposal to bring the hope of Jesus Christ to our stormy world.

On September 27, we will begin a four-week sermon series entitled *Provision in the Storm*. In light of COVID-19 and the fact that many of our members are still at home, the four-week devotional book – *Whole-Life Generosity Devotional – Living in Relationship, Gratitude, and Release* will be made available to the membership beginning September 20. This devotional will get us thinking about Whole-Life Generosity. God has richly provided for us in the storm and now we have the opportunity bring the hope of Jesus to others. The book will also enable members to participate from home throughout the week. Special thanks to Thrivent for the generous donation that made these devotionals available to our congregation.

We sincerely encourage the Cross View Family to engage in this four-week study at home September 20 – October 18. In early October, you will receive a mailing with the *Provision in the Storm* logo. Please read through it, considering how you can generously invest the time, abilities, and resources that God has entrusted to you to support the mission and ministry of Cross View in 2021. 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 18 as we celebrate God's Provision in the Storm. If you are unable to attend in-person on October 18, please return or mail your completed materials to the church office as soon as possible.

In the midst of the storm, God is generously providing for our congregation. As we generously partner together in the year ahead, may God use our mission and ministry to bring hope in the storm to our community and world in a most powerful way!



Christian Education

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

Children's education classes are happening at home with kids and parents.

Families with students age 2 to 2nd grade are "Walking With Jesus" as they follow the life of Christ. Lesson packets for the month of October are available. If you haven't picked up the packet for your family or need to be added to the list, please contact Christine Eid at the church office or at christine@crossview.net.

Families with students in 3rd to 6th grades have the opportunity to join Pastor Steve in a study based off of the C.S. Lewis' book, "The Lion, The Witch and the Wardrobe." Prior to each week's class, families are asked to read one or two chapters of the book. During the education hour, through ZOOM, there is discussion and activities based off the chapter, identifying a theme from the Bible. Families wishing to join the class can contact Christine Eid to receive the ZOOM link.

THIRD GRADE "INTRODUCTION TO THE BIBLE" CLASS

Third graders and their parents will begin a three-week class via ZOOM at 6:30 PM on Wednesday evenings starting Wednesday, October 7th. Communication has been sent out to families about the class. To be added to the list, please contact Christine Eid at the church office, or at christine@crossview.net.

LOOKING AHEAD TO CHRISTMAS

It's only October, but plans are in the works for the children's Christmas program. Because students are not meeting in person, this year's program will be recorded to allow kids to be a part of it in a safe way. Emails were sent out to parents last month. If you have not received communications, please contact Christine Eid at church.

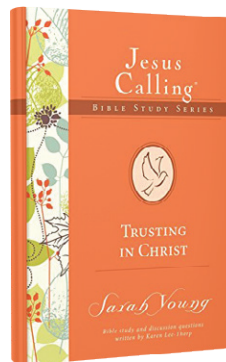
VIRTUAL WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY – JESUS CALLING: TRUSTING IN CHRIST

Meeting Tuesday evenings via ZOOM starting Tuesday, October 6th, this study, based off of Sarah Young's Jesus Calling devotions, examines what the Bible says about relying on God for all your needs. As you push back the demands of the day, give your cares to Him, and encounter Him personally through His Word, you will discover the truth of Paul's words when he wrote, "My God will meet all of your needs according the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:19) You will see that God loves you, cares for you, and provides the strength you need to get through life's situations.

The eight-week class will meet at 7:30-8:45 PM Tuesdays. For the class, you will need to purchase the book from the Jesus Calling Bible Study Series, "Trusting in Christ." It is available through Amazon, Christian Book Distributors, and most book sellers.

Prior to the first class, you will receive an email with the ZOOM invitation to participate.

Sign up at CV Connect in the Event Registrations. Questions? Contact Christine Eid at christine@crossview.net.



Can you See It? A Celebration of God's Creation

When you look at the stars or examine a beautiful flower, or hold a newborn baby, Can you see it? Can you see God's creative hand at work? On October 11, we will see it. Cross View will celebrate God's creation at both the 8:15 AM and 10:45 AM worship services.

We are honored to have Dr. Oleg Voskresensky, an international evangelist from Faith Search International. He has truly seen it both in Russia and in the United States. He will share his story of growing up in a godless communist country. He has seen what happens when the creator is removed from the culture. Our celebration of creation will also include Cross View's virtual children's choir, original artwork from several of Cross View's students, and inspirational music for all. You can see it...on October 11! Join us for this unforgettable celebration.

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.

Thanks to you Cross View Voices has already had over 900 downloads including France and South America. They're so grateful for the listeners and those who support this effort. New episodes come out one to two times a month on Thursday mornings.

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>.

Youth Ministries

CONFIRMATION

The 2020-2021 confirmation is underway! They started on September 16th and are taking an in-depth walk through *The Story* — Going cover to cover in scripture to see how God's story of salvation plays out and is carried out throughout so many of the familiar stories. This year, because of COVID, Cross View is offering the class both in person and online. The staff is blessed to be able to offer this so that confirmation can continue no matter what comes our way this fall.

YOUTH MINISTRY

This fall youth ministry is back every Sunday night. The schedule is every other week onsite and the opposite weeks meet via Zoom so that connection can be made with those who are at home. In person meetings have occurred a couple of times. They have been able to utilize the parking lot for many outdoor activities. Any questions about the schedule please contact Jonathan.

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 if we're 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 home. The youth ask for a donation of \$5 per bag raked, however, that is not mandatory. We 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.

New Director of Music and Fine Arts

Cross View welcomes Sue Quist to our Church family. Sue assumed Director of Music and Fine Arts duties September 15th. She professes a "strong faith and commitment to music ministry." Experience directing traditional music as well as blended and contemporary worship styles provide a unique skill set.

Sue has 19 years of experience in directing traditional choirs, hand bells, playing and directing contemporary praise groups,

guiding theater performances, and passing on a love of dance. She strives to "offer musical choices that engage church members of all ages in making music to glorify God." Sue's high energy level, heartfelt interpersonal skills, and self-motivation will serve as valuable tools to expand Cross View's excellent music and fine arts programs.

Please welcome Sue. We thank God for bringing Sue to lead our music and fine arts programs.



Early Childhood Center

ECC THANKS VOLUNTEERS

The ECC would like to thank all the volunteers who have helped in the Early Childhood Center. They would especially like to thank the following: Denny Schepmann and Dick Rostal who do general repairs and maintenance, and Darlene and Cal Senechal who continue to donate medical paper that is used for our diapering areas. They would also like to thank all who donate toys, school supplies, and books.

Items we need if you would like to donate to Cross View ECC (these items are hard to find during the pandemic):

- Disinfecting wipes
- Company letterhead paper that would be recycled at a place of business (can be used in art areas or as diaper paper)
- Hand soap
- Antibacterial hand gel
- Dawn dish soap
- Bleach

GROWING LOVING FOLLOWERS

Each Wednesday, the ECC has chapel together. The time is led by Pastor Steve, Pastor Toby, and Christine or Jonathan, the children and youth ministry leaders. It is a worship experience with 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 the ECC mission statement states — *Cross View Early Childhood Center is growing loving followers of Jesus Christ through early care and education.*



Outreach & Missions

TENWEK UPDATE

Great news to share from the Clavin's most recent trip to Tenwek Hospital in Kenya in January 2020.

We are pleased to report that the dental equipment is fully installed and operational at the new dental clinic building at Tenwek!

The dental clinic now has 5 operatories (individual spaces with dental chair and equipment to provide dental care), a laboratory, a sterilization room and a new Panorex machine which provides state of the art X-ray imaging. There is a brand new computer system which runs through the clinic allowing for storage of images and records. In the old clinic, there were only 2 chairs which were nonfunctional and unsafe.

Previously they were able to see about 16 patients a day. Now they can see more than 40 patients a day.

We left from our last trip in January 2020 very encouraged by the initiatives taken by the dentists, and oral health officers and technicians in putting the equipment to good use. They have taken the gifts and run with them.

Milka, a community oral health officer, told us how she was blessed by the quality of the new chairs. In the past, she used to take up to one month a year for sick time to deal with back pain related to the bending and uncomfortable positions required with the old equipment. She reports

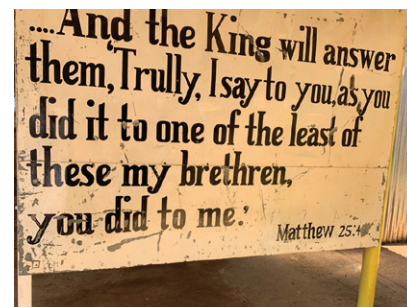
what a blessing it is to not have the back pain limiting her work.

Our family is thankful for blessings received during our mission to Tenwek — learning to slow down and to laugh and to love. We are honored to have witnessed the working of the Holy Spirit through:

- the generous gifts of Cross View through Redeeming Christmas 2015,
- the planning, purchasing and packaging of dental equipment,
- the safe transport of the equipment across the world, and
- the patience, perseverance, teamwork and ingenuity required to install all of the equipment and become fully operational.

We pray that the gifts of Redeeming Christmas 2015 continue to bless the people who are served at the Tenwek Dental Clinic in the name of Jesus.

To His Glory,
Tim, Janiece and Emma Clavin



HOW COULD THIS BE POSSIBLE? FUNG LO MINISTRY UPDATE

UPDATE 1: BAPTISMS

We continued developing written materials for the Hmong pastors to help teach the Word of God. Fung did online teaching six days, 10 hours per day, with fifteen Hmong church leaders in Vietnam on the foundation of Christianity. This included topics like Law and Gospel, baptism, the Lord's Supper and worship. It was a fruitful teaching because two of the attendees received their baptisms at the end of the training. Aside from the blessed training sessions, we had the opportunities to minister to four families that suffered from persecution for their faith in Christ.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says, "Blessed are

those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 5:10) Everyone wants to go to heaven, but no one wants to be persecuted. When persecution comes to those who put their trust in Christ, they don't feel blessed, but cursed. Yet, Jesus says, "Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness." How could this be possible? Furthermore, in Romans, the Apostle Paul says, "Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse." (Romans 12:14) How could this be possible? Well, the Apostle Paul continues, "We know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (Romans 8:28) The four persecuted families cried



out to the Lord and He blessed them with many blessings through you.

Your prayers and financial support made it possible for our Hmong pastors to travel and witness the Gospel to many individuals. In August, 239 individuals received catechism instructions, 14 people accepted Christ as their Savior, and 24 baptisms were received. We pray that as more people hear the word of God, there will be more baptisms in September. Please keep our Hmong pastors and evangelists in your prayers as they are ministering to their members and traveling to witness to the people in places that may not be safe for them to share the Gospel.

UPDATE 2: PERSECUTION VICTIM'S HOUSING UPDATE

We give thanks to those of you who provided the funds for helping to build a house for Nou and Leng's families. The house is completed. I have a short video showing how your love and generosity had blessed the two families, you can find them at my video log on Vimeo at: <https://vimeo.com/user80426098>. **Feel free to watch but please do not post them online.** Thank you for all your prayers and financial support.



UPDATE 3: A SPECIAL NEED

Currently, we are raising funds to help build a house church for Kouaxay to start a new ministry in his village in northeast of Vietnam. There is no Christian church in Kouaxay's village. Kouaxay and his mother had been severely persecuted for their faith, but all they wanted is a church to be planted in their village. Therefore, we are praying for **\$4,000** to help Kouaxay start a house church in his village. Please pray and consider how the Lord is leading you to respond to help in building this house church. Your missionaries — Fung, Kalia, and Mercy Lo. We can be reached via lolegacy@gmail.com

Women's Ministries

WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB

The book selection for October's book club is "This Tender Land" by William Kent Krueger. The group will meet via Zoom at 1:00 PM on Monday, October 19, 2020. Please contact Marcy at mpnordhus@gmail.com if you are interested in joining.



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

Kickoff Sunday Social Hour

Although this year's Fall Kickoff was unlike any other, it was wonderful to share outdoor social time together between services.





CROSS VIEW

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

6645 McCauley Trail West
Edina, MN, 55439-1076

952-941-1094 (Office)
952-941-5513 (FAX)
952-941-0009 (ECC)



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