

Cross View's Third Decade

1989-1998

A Spirit of Service



In each issue of the Clarion from October to February, we will look back at Cross View's journey from our humble beginnings to our development and growth into the Church we are today.



Top to Bottom: New Platform Construction (1992), Building Addition Construction (1993), New Pipe Organ (1993), Installation of Christian Bode (1996), Installation of Gerry Coleman (1998).

Cross View's congregation remained a close-knit group throughout the church's first 20 years. A spirit of service to others unified the congregation. By 1989, there were 551 confirmed members of the church, and whether it involved building homes in Minneapolis or restoring churches in Appalachia, members focused on myriad ways to serve others. On Palm Sunday of that year, 19 Stephen ministers were commissioned, marking the conclusion of their training as lay care givers. Pastor Nadasdy led an evangelism conference in Portland, Oregon, and several members joined him for the week.

In 1991, Cross View families celebrated a Festival of Marriage Renewal, which included a service of renewal at the church, followed by a reception (with a wedding renewal cake), dinner and a dance at a nearby hotel. 1992 marked the first Thanksgiving Dinner event at Trinity First Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. The event was a blessing for all involved, and it remains one of the most anticipated events on the church calendar more than 25 years later.

Faced with insufficient space to meet the needs of a growing church, Pastor Nadasdy and the congregation began a capital campaign in 1992. It was called "Building on Blessings", and just as we had done before, the members of Cross View put their trust in God and answered the call with enough pledges to proceed with the expansion project. A groundbreaking for a new educational wing and pipe organ took place in May 1993. By the end of the year, the building was completed and the organ was in place, with the St. Olaf College Cantorei, 80 voices strong, on hand for a stirring musical dedication. More than 700 confirmed members attended Christmas worship services in 1994.

Cross View began a three-year ministry campaign in 1995 called Advancing the Mission. As part of the Interfaith Hospitality Network, 60 volunteers gathered at Cross View to host the homeless inside the church for a week in April, September and December. Importantly, air conditioning was installed for the first time in July 1995. Hallelujah! Cross View's spirit of service was evident even on New Year's Eve, when members of the congregation joined Community Emergency Services to serve dinner to the needy in Minneapolis.

In 1996, Pastor and Susie Nadasdy led 37 people on a trip to Eastern Europe as the 450th anniversary of Luther's death is observed in Germany. In June of that year, Christian Bode was ordained into the Holy Ministry and installed as Cross View's first Assistant Pastor.

After 16 years of service, Pastor Dean Nadasdy stepped down as Cross View's pastor in 1997 as he accepted a call to become Professor of Theology at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. A decade and a half of solid pastoral leadership was coming to an end, but Cross View was now a large, thriving congregation. As the year drew to a close, the congregation was preparing to meet with Pastors from Minnesota, Kansas and Washington, resulting in the call to Rev. Gerald (Gerry) Coleman in May, 1998. Important decisions lay ahead, but even amidst the transition, members gathered at the church to host the homeless and provide meals to needy families in Minneapolis. The spirit of service was alive and well.