

Cross View's Fifth Decade 2009-2018

This is the final piece in our Clarion series looking back on Cross View's journey from our humble beginnings to our development and growth into the Church we are today.



Top: 2012 Music Camp.

Middle and Bottom: July 2012 Family mission trip to West Virginia.

As Cross View entered its fifth decade, the congregation continued to focus on ways to connect, grow and serve. In the fall of 2009, 26 people joined the congregation, and Craig McCourt was installed as Dir. Of Youth & Adult Ministries. For the annual Thanksgiving dinner event at Trinity First Lutheran in Minneapolis, Cross View members served 340 meals in person and another 40 for take home.

On Ash Wednesday 2010, Pastor Wheeler shared a 40-day Bible reading guide with the congregation. In May, members packed meals for the people of Haiti who had survived a devastating earthquake. Missionaries Todd and Kim Roeske led several Bible studies which included updates on their work for Alaska Missions for Christ. In December 2010, the annual children's Christmas program "Angels We Have Heard" had to be canceled after 17 inches of snow fell in the hours preceding the program. A week later, Cross View's choir presented pieces from Handel's Messiah to overflow crowds at both services.

New lighting was installed in the sanctuary in 2011. Jason Paulson joined Cross View as the Director of Contemporary Music. Members served through Urban Homeworks to clean up parts of north Minneapolis damaged by a tornado. Seventeen new members joined the congregation.

The annual Christian Art Festival opened with a striking collection of Biblical scenes from acclaimed Japanese printmaker Sadao Watanabe. Later in the year, another 25 new members joined the congregation. In December, Interim Pastor Jim Gimbel accepted a call to become President of Concordia Lutheran Seminary in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada. The Rev. Don Taylor stepped in as interim assistant pastor.

In 2014, several town hall meetings were organized to discuss changes to church governance. The measures were overwhelmingly approved by a congregation-wide vote. The changes in governance are credited with transforming how church leaders and the congregation could plan for and carry out the mission of the church through ministry. That same year, Jonathan Zellar accepted Cross View's call to become Director of Youth and Young Adults. Twenty-seven new members joined the congregation.

In the summer of 2015, 16 Cross View members took part in a family mission trip to the Crow Agency in Montana, where they led a sports camp and housing repairs during a week-long visit. About 20 members and friends joined Pastor Wheeler on a pilgrimage to Israel. During the fall and winter, the congregation raised money through a variety

of giving and fundraising activities organized by members of all ages as part of Redeeming Christmas, a church-wide effort through which money was raised to purchase equipment for a dental clinic in Tenwek, Kenya. The clinic is the site where Cross View member Dr. Tim Clavin continues to carry out medical mission trips.

The congregation in 2016 voted overwhelmingly to call Toby Schmidt as associate pastor. Three adults and 8 kids from the youth ministry led by Jonathan Zellar traveled to the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. That fall meetings began to discuss a potential building expansion at Cross View. There was record participation in the annual drive for Christmas gifts for veterans. After serving at Cross View for more than three decades, Jan Stockman-Sater accepted a call to work in the children's ministry at Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church in Plymouth. Planning meetings about a potential church expansion project continued.

In the fall of 2017, Stacey LaMere was installed as the new Director of the Early Childhood Center. Hundreds of members and neighbors from the community turned out to celebrate Oktoberfest in Cross View's parking lot for an afternoon of lively music, food, and fellowship. As planning began in 2018 for events to celebrate the church's 50th anniversary, several years of prayerful planning and pledging toward an exciting new building expansion project called "Cross View 4.0 – Building for Generations" culminated in a near-unanimous vote by the congregation to proceed with the project.

Since our inception, Cross View has always desired to share the Gospel with others and make a difference beyond the walls of the church. In the last 10 years, though, the congregation has taken that mindset to a new level. Cross View has added more mission trips and created church-wide service projects that are being led by members of all ages. We've established a growing video streaming ministry and started Ministry Action Teams to plan for Cross View's future for generations to come.

"It's incredible to see how God has blessed this congregation over our first 50 years," Pastor Wheeler said recently. "But that's just the beginning. With such a strong mission and so many great people in our congregation stepping up to lead Cross View into the future, I am incredibly excited to see what God has in store for our church over our next 50 years."

Below: In March 2017, Cross View hires The Timothy Group to conduct a feasibility study for a building expansion. By the end of 2018, plans are in place and the congregation approves a loan to begin construction.



Top and Middle Left: Redeeming Christmas raised over \$100,000 for Tenwek Dental Clinic in Kenya in 2015.

Bottom Left: July 2016: Toby Schmidt ordained and installed as Associate Pastor in July 2016.

Top Middle: 5th Sunday Service Day begin in October 2016.

Bottom Middle: Jan Stockman leaves Cross View's ECC in February 2017.

Top Right: 2017 Oktoberfest neighborhood party.