

2016

UPCOMING SERMON SERIES PG. 2

"THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?" | JAN. 3 & 10
"SHIFT" | JAN. 17-FEB. 21

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ANSWERED AND
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UPCOMING SERMON SERIES

THE GREATEST COMMANDMENT?

Jan. 3 & 10

As we begin a new year, we want to set our sights on what is most important. In Matthew 22, Jesus tells us it is simply all about loving God and loving others. Make sure to join us for the first two weeks of 2016, and start your year with the right focus!

SHIFT

Jan. 17-Feb. 21

The Bible calls followers of Jesus to a lifelong journey of being transformed into His image, but do we truly understand what it means to live like Jesus? This six-week series will invite you to shift your perspective on your relationship with God, on how He sees the world, and on how He can use you to bring the Good News to others.

"Shift" Adult Next Step Class: Jan. 24-Feb. 28 (9:00-10:00am)

If you would like to dig deeper into the "Shift" sermon series topics, sign up for the "Shift" Next Step Class. Using the "Shift" discipleship curriculum, each week we will discuss a new area where we need to shift our view of the world, our commitment to Jesus, and our understanding of the Bible. (Discussions will be based on the previous week's sermon.) Sign up at the Welcome Desk beginning Dec. 27.

CROSSVIEW
COVENANT CHURCH

2000 Howard Drive W, North Mankato, MN 56003
(507) 387-5606 | church@crossviewcov.org | crossviewcovenant.org

Our Mission: To honor God by reaching out and building a community of disciples for Jesus Christ.



A Prayer Answered and A Purpose Found

by Libby Englehorn, Pastoral Care Associate

Many times at Crossview we talk about the importance of serving and the value of intergenerational connections. Recently I came across a story that was so encouraging to both people involved that I wanted to share it with you.

LaVonne McGowan, a longtime member of Crossview, was feeling very discouraged and useless about a year and a half ago. She would lie in bed and question whether it was worth getting up. What was the point? One day, she prayed a prayer that God would give her a purpose...something important she needed to do.

A few days later she was approached at church by a junior high student named Kiera, who was looking for a confirmation mentor. LaVonne and Kiera's family had been neighbors in a townhome when Kiera and her siblings were babies (Kiera's only memory of that townhome was when a cat got caught in the wall and Kiera's dad had to drill holes in the wall to rescue it). LaVonne was taken aback, but realized it was her answer to prayer. She agreed to be Kiera's mentor.

Throughout the last year, Kiera and LaVonne met weekly to complete the confirmation book. It was the highlight of LaVonne's week!

It was so refreshing for LaVonne to see the Bible from a child's point of view; it reminded her of many of God's truths, and encouraged her in her own faith. They laughed together a lot, and even though they often got off on "rabbit trails" (in LaVonne's words), Kiera appreciated the way LaVonne could put Biblical concepts into terms she understood. LaVonne even suggested Kiera could call her any time because she "isn't a great sleeper anyhow." "Many times when I had problems I would talk to Vonnie," Kiera shared, "and she would make me feel better."

LaVonne and Kiera became very close during their time together. When the official mentoring relationship was over, they were sad, so they still make an effort to get together. God continues to provide LaVonne with more opportunities to help others in unique ways. For LaVonne, this experience was truly a prayer answered and a purpose found!



The Next Generation

By Covenant Trust Company
www.covenanttrust.com

What is a millennial? The definition varies a bit but generally speaking, a millennial is a person born between 1980 and 2000. It was believed that the generation of children born during this period would be drastically different than the generation before them – Generation X. Simply calling this new generation “Generation Y” seemed inadequate, and so the designation “millennial” was coined in 1991, partly inspired by the new millennium that was only a few years away.

The term helps us identify a large group of people who are facing financial issues that other generations haven't had in the past – at least, not on the same scale. Lule Demmissie, Managing Director at TD Ameritrade, summarizes those financial issues succinctly:

“Millennials are...earning less, their median net worth is down, and many face decades of student loan payments. Pair that with the uncertainty surrounding their retirement, and they appear to be facing a less-than-bright future. Not to mention that one in five millennials is also providing financial support to aging parents to the tune of \$18,250 a year...It's no wonder they're pushing off having families, starting businesses, or buying houses.”

Considering all this, it's not too surprising that a recent survey by howmuch.net revealed that over 50% of millennials have less than \$1,000 in savings, or that a Nerd Wallet survey showed 90% of millennials don't believe they'll have enough money for retirement.

So what can we do to help millennials? Covenant Trust Company is invested in the financial education of millennials and future generations. We keep a personal finance blog and are now producing our own videos and podcasts to edify people of all ages. But studies show that young adults, teens, and children learn about money from their families. According to a survey by Mint, they want to learn how banks, credit cards, and investing work; how to manage money; and know more about their family's financial situation.

If you have a millennial or younger person in your life, talk to them about money: find out what they want to know, tell them your financial story, and share whatever wisdom you can pass along. If you would like resources, contact Steve Allison, our local Financial Services Representative (1-877-768-1766 or srallison@covenanttrust.com). We would be happy to be part of that conversation.

January Annual Meeting & Potluck: Sunday, Jan. 31 (4:45-6:30pm)

If you consider Crossview your church home, please plan to attend our Annual Meeting & Potluck! The meeting will include updates from church leadership and celebrations of what God has done in and through our congregation in 2015. Everyone will enjoy a potluck dinner together beginning at 4:45pm, then professional entertainer Randy Christensen will provide fun activities for children during the annual meeting. Randy is an accomplished juggler, illusionist, stiltwalker, puppeteer, physical comedian, ventriloquist, clown, storyteller, musician, and comic mime!

Thanks to everyone who filled out our Annual Meeting survey! The results are in, and Crossview's favorite potluck food is...tator tot hotdish (followed by scalloped potatoes and Special K bars).

AVA (Advocacy for Victims of Abuse): Ministry Update

AVA is a ministry of Crossview that provides resources for victims of abuse, and education on the topic of domestic violence. Our team is on a journey, and we need your help. The Lord is connecting us to people in the community who have the shared goal of keeping women and children safe, and of healing families. We don't know the "end" of the story, but God has made it clear that He is the one leading. Please pray for discernment as we continue to walk through the doors He is opening. Contact us if you desire to be a part of this blessed journey.

If you or someone you know needs help, Crossview AVA team members are available to answer questions or to offer confidential listening and prayer. Connect with an AVA team member at avasmn@wmnwc.org or by calling 507-387-5606.

Team World Vision-Crossview 2016

For the past two years, Crossview has partnered with Team World Vision and invited people to complete one of the Mankato Marathon races as a fundraiser for clean water projects in Africa. Since 2014, 125+ people have been a part of *Team World Vision-Crossview* and raised over \$160,000, bringing clean, safe water to more than 3,200 people!

The 2016 Mankato Marathon is set for Sunday, Oct. 16, 2016. If one of your New Year's resolutions is to change your life, grow in your faith, or make a difference in the world, consider joining Crossview's 2016 team! (Note: most new team members have never even run a 5K, and go on to complete a half-marathon!) Learn more, or sign up at: www.teamworldvision.org/team/crossview2016

"Every mile you run, every person you meet, every dollar sweet people donate, changes you forever. I felt like a missionary, without having to leave home." - Linda Holman, 2015 Half Marathoner

Christian Community News

Red Cross Blood Drive: Friday, Jan. 22 (11:00am-4:00pm) at Crossview Covenant Church

To make an appointment, contact Joe at 507-351-4704 or sign-up online at www.redcrossblood.org (sponsor code: CROSSVIEWNOKATO).



Adult Community News & Events

New Winter Small Groups

Sign up for winter small groups will be on Sunday, Jan. 17 & 24 in the Lobby. If you are not in a small group, consider joining one. We'll have multiple options, with different affinities, time frames, and topics of study. We're still looking for leaders for couples groups and empty-nester groups. For more details, contact Lori Roos (loriroos@crossviewcov.org).

Looking for Curriculum?

- ▶ Log on to rightnowmedia.org, where you'll find thousands of Bible Study videos and resources.
- ▶ Check out the "Small Group Resources" section in Crossview's Media Center.



Resources on rightnowmedia.org

Be Prepared: Equipping Kids to Face Today's World

Essentials of Parenting: Be Prepared presents practical plans for dealing with dangers including internet porn, alcohol, drugs, eating disorders, and more. You'll see how to resist the impulse to overprotect your child- and gain insights to help you prepare him or her for the world of today and tomorrow.

RightNow Media is Crossview's new digital library, with over 10,000 Bible study videos and an enormous library of Bible-based content just for kids. Email church@crossviewcov.org for an email invitation to RightNow Media.



Need of the Month (Opportunities to meet needs in our community)

Each month we'll highlight a need from an organization in our community. You can help others in our local area with items that we take for granted and they desperately need!

January Need: The REACH Drop-In Center needs new full size shampoo/conditioner bottles, deodorant, and feminine hygiene products. Donations may be dropped off by the church office starting Jan. 3. For questions, contact Darla Makela (507-995-7923 or darlamakela@yahoo.com).

Upcoming Events

Newcomer Meet & Greet

Sunday, Jan. 17 (10:00 & 11:30am)

If you're newer to Crossview, join us for a few minutes after either service. Meet a few of our staff, ask questions, and learn more about Crossview's ministries. Contact Lori Roos: (loriroos@crossviewcov.org or 507-387-5606).

Prayer & Praise Gathering

Wednesdays, Jan. 6 & 20 (6:30-7:30pm)

Come for an hour of prayer and praise time in the Worship Center, hosted by Prayer Ministry volunteers. Open to all adults.

Usher Appreciation Breakfast

Sunday, Jan. 10 (10:00 & 11:30am)

Whether you've been a long-time usher, or are interested in serving in this ministry, we want you there! Come for breakfast after either service, and join in a discussion led by Dave Newell. RSVP to Lori Roos: (loriroos@crossviewcov.org or 507-387-5606).

Project Days

Thursday, Jan. 14 (9:00-11:30am)

Projects include: tie blankets, greeting cards, "pillowcase" dresses and more. All are welcome.

Friendship Builders Seniors Group Events

Thursday, Jan. 21 (1:30pm)

Special guest: historian Arn Kind. Refreshments will be provided. RSVP to Eleanor Kottke (507-388-5472).

Thursday, Jan. 28 (1:30pm)

Birthday Party for Otis Olson. RSVP to Eleanor Kottke (507-388-5472).

Missionary Prayer Group

Sunday, Jan. 24 (9:00-10:00am)

Join us in the church office to pray for our missionaries. Using missionary update letters and a list of short-term missions coming up in the next year, we're systematically covering the world in prayer.

IF:Gathering Friday, Feb. 5-Saturday, Feb. 6

SAVE THE DATE:

The IF:Gathering is coming to Crossview!

Women, you won't want to miss this event. We are coming together with other women all over the world to see what could happen IF we all lived like Jesus. This isn't about hearing from a certain speaker, but about being a part of a community of women across denominations, generations, and cultures.

The IF:Gathering seeks to gather, equip, and unleash this generation of women to live out God's calling on their lives. This will be a great opportunity to invite others. More details are coming soon. Contact Lori Roos (loriroos@crossviewcov.org) if you are interested in helping with this event.





pre-k - 5th grade

Crossview Kids | Wednesday

Jan. 6, 13, 20 & 27 (6:15-7:30pm)

Jan. 6: Family Pizza Dinner (5:45-6:15pm)

Crossview Kids | Wednesday is off to a great start! It's so fun to see kids excited to learn more about Jesus each week. We have a group of amazing volunteers who are investing their time each week, and we couldn't do it without them. We would love to have you join our team. If you'd like to get involved, please contact Bethany Carver (bethanycarver@crossviewcov.org).

Crossview Kids | Sunday

Sundays @ 9:00 & 10:30am

Families start together in the Worship Center. During the announcements, children are invited to leave the Worship Center and join their peers for smaller community in an age-appropriate learning environment. **There will be no programming on Dec. 27. "Crossview Kids Sunday" resumes on Jan. 3.**

JANUARY THEMES

Preschool

K-5th Grade



RELATIONSHIPS
IDEAS
ABILITIES
PERSPECTIVES
ACTIONS

moms

Moms & Muffins

Monday, Jan. 11 (9:30-11:00am)

Moms of nursery-age children (newborn-36 months) are invited to meet for muffins, coffee or juice, and playtime. Enjoy our great nursery space while connecting with other moms. No RSVP needed. For more info, contact Johanna Galles (johannagalles@crossviewcov.org).

preschool

Fantastic Fridays

Friday, Jan. 15 (6:00-7:30pm)

Fantastic Fridays is an open play night for families of preschoolers. Get to know other parents while the children ride trikes, tumble on mats and more (older siblings welcome too). No RSVP needed.

parents

Baby Blessings Class

Wednesday, Jan. 13 (6:30-7:30pm)

This class is for families who would like to have their children baptized or dedicated at Crossview. We'll talk about the differences between baptism and dedication, and share practical tools to help you influence your baby's spiritual life. Childcare provided. For more details or to RSVP, contact Johanna Galles (johannagalles@crossviewcov.org).

4th & 5th grade

C.H.A.O.S.

Friday, Jan. 8 (6:00-7:30pm)

Imagine entering a perfect creation. What would you expect? How would the Creator interact with His children? What games would you play? How does sin change everything?

Join us as we explore the early chapters of Genesis. In spite of the fall, God is still asking us, as 4th and 5th graders, to trust Him. Want more info? Grab a friend or two and meet at Crossview on Jan. 8.

volunteers

RECHARGE

Saturday, Jan. 9

Children's Ministries volunteers are invited to attend RECHARGE, a one day multi-denominational children's and youth ministry conference that aims to inspire and equip church staff and volunteers.

A key part of Recharge is the wide variety of workshops available. You will be equipped, inspired and energized by these relevant, practical workshops. Experienced ministry leaders share useful and motivational ideas to help you be ready for the challenges of leadership and working with kids.

Interested? Contact DeAnna Petersen (dpetersen@crossviewcov.org) for more information.

families

Family Fun Night

Friday, Jan. 29 (6:00-8:30pm)

Come in out of the cold and enjoy a FREE fun family night together filled with worship, games, crafts and more! No RSVP needed. Friends are welcome!

fathers & sons

Father/Son Retreat

Friday, Feb. 5-Sunday, Feb. 7 @ Camp Shamineau

This weekend is designed to give fathers and sons the opportunity to strengthen their relationships together and grow closer to God, while having a whole lot of fun. Chapel sessions combine fun and games, great worship times and messages from gifted speakers.

Additional activities include: trail rides, high ropes course, indoor climbing wall, craft projects, campfire donut making, sports, playing games at the snack shop and more! What a great time to enjoy hanging out, worshiping together and being challenged by God. Cost is \$109 per person ages 13-adult, and \$89 per child ages 5-12. For more details, contact Dan Englehorn (denglehorn@gmail.com).

CROSSVIEW STUDENTS

GRADES 6-12

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday Night Youth Gatherings

Middle School (Grades 6-8) // 6:15-7:30pm

High School (Grades 9-12) // 7:30-8:45pm

Join us in Crossview's Lobby for a cafe, ping pong, Xbox, and spaces to connect with your friends. We'll also spend time digging into God's Word together and building close friendships in small groups. No pre-registration is necessary; students can register themselves when they arrive. ***Due to Christmas Break, we will not be meeting on Dec. 30. We will resume again on Jan 6.***

Confirmation Gathering

Sunday, Jan. 10 // 5:30-6:30pm

Students and mentors- join us for pizza, large group teaching, a Q&A with some of our pastors, and a look forward to the last half of your Confirmation year!

TeenServe High School Mission Trip

July 9-16, 2016 - Cost: \$400

Want to be a part of something amazing? During this mission trip to Fairmont, IL, you'll join together with 200-400 teens and adult leaders to serve people in need (through painting, minor construction, and home repair projects). You'll also experience life-changing evening programs featuring an amazing nationwide youth speaker and an awesome worship band! This trip is open to students who are currently in grades 9-12. Reserve your spot with a \$50 deposit (due Sunday, Jan. 10). For more info and registration materials, visit www.crossviewstudents.org/teenserve

RECAP: PLANET WISDOM (Dec. 4-5)

By Mikey Bechtold, Youth Pastor

Eighteen students and leaders from Crossview recently attended PlanetWisdom, a two-day youth conference that digs deep into Scripture and applies it to the life of middle and high school students. We heard from Mark Matlock, Heather Flies, and the Skit Guys, all of whom did an outstanding job sharing stories and leading students through this year's theme - "Quest" - which asked our students to consider four questions: (1) Who am I? (2) Where do I fit in? (3) Does my life matter? (4) Can I change?

Many of the students said that this weekend was a huge eye-opener to how many of their decisions are influenced by their image, fears, or anxiety. One student had this to say: *"This weekend challenged me by digging deeper into God's word and by breaking down scripture. Some things that encouraged me: God loves you no matter what you do or what you have done, God is forgiving, compassionate, and He never stops loving you, and Jesus took the blame for us on the cross. To continue growing in my faith with Jesus, I will learn to show God's love to everyone. I have learned that I am accepted in Christ. I had an uplifting experience at PlanetWisdom!"* - Genesis J.

To see photos from our PlanetWisdom trip, go to: www.facebook.com/cvstudentmin

FIND A PLACE TO VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR!

One of the best and easiest ways to get connected at Crossview is by serving in one of our ministries, and we need more volunteers! Consider some of the serving options below:

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Contact: Bethany Carver
bethanycarver@crossviewcov.org

Wednesday Night Game Helper:

Assist game leader, encourage participation, and build excitement for the activities.

Wednesday Night Subs:

Fill in as needed for Wednesday night small group leaders and helpers.

GUEST CONNECTIONS

Contact: Lori Roos
loriroos@crossviewcov.org

Membership Class Meals:

Help set up and serve catered meals for our Sunday afternoon membership class (4x/year).

Sunday Hospitality Team Member:

Serve coffee and refreshments as part of a hospitality team (6x/year from 8am-12pm).

STUDENT MINISTRIES

Contact: Mikey Bechtold
mbechtold@crossviewcov.org

30 Hour Famine (Apr. 22-23):

Help lead, setup, and/or work with students participating in the famine.

TeenServe Mission Trip (July 9-16):

Help lead and chaperone our high school mission trip to Fairmont, IL

MUUUCE Youth Trip (Aug. 4-6):

Help lead and chaperone our middle school summer trip to Woodbury, MN.

COMMUNICATIONS

Contact: Lisa Putrah
lputrah@crossviewcov.org

Ministry Photographers:

Use your camera to help us capture and share the story of what God is doing at Crossview!



MICHAEL W. SMITH THE SOVEREIGN TOUR

**Friday, March 18, 2016 - 7:00pm
at Crossview Covenant Church**

**Tickets: \$25 general admission
and \$35 VIP****

***VIP includes an exclusive poster, early access to venue for prime seating, and a pre-show Q&A. Please arrive for VIP at 5:15pm, Q&A will go from 5:30-6:00pm (No special seating for VIP guaranteed after 6:00pm).*

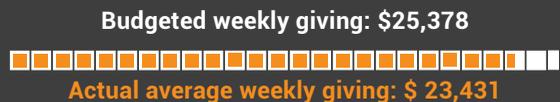
**To purchase tickets, go to:
www.echoconcerts.com/concert/430**

CROSSVIEW COVENANT CHURCH

General Fund Financial Report (July 1-Nov. 30, 2015)

*Our Fiscal Year runs from
July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016*

Expected Income	\$550,785
Actual Income	\$492,052
Actual Expenses	\$519,107
Actual Shortage/Excess	- \$ 27,055



Year-End Gifts: As we look towards 2016 with anticipation, we're excited about the ministry opportunities God is preparing for our congregation. Your financial gifts help us to reach our community and world with the love of Christ! In order for contributions to be deductible for 2015, they must:

- (Online) Be completed by Dec. 31, 2015, 11:59pm CST.
Make a one-time donation using your personal checking account, credit or debit card at:
www.crossviewcovenant.org/givenow
- (By Mail) Be postmarked on or before Dec. 31, 2015. Mail to:
Crossview Covenant Church, 2000 Howard Drive W, North Mankato, MN 56003