

IT TAKES A CHURCH to Raise a Child



By Pastor Mike Bechtold

Dave was a small group leader in the youth group. He was funny, creative, techy, and loved staying up till three in the morning playing video games (which was cool because he was a grown up!). While playing games on the Xbox, he was really good at asking students, "How's it going with you and God lately? Where have you seen Him at work in your life? What have you been doing to pursue Him this last week?" Dave knew how to find places to connect and engage well with students.

Glen was a member of the congregation. He had a kid in the youth group, so students would see him at a lot of sporting events, and he and his wife would invite the youth over to their house during the summer months. When Glen asked you how you were doing, he wanted to know how you were *really* doing. He expected something more than the typical "one word" answer. He always knew your name, and you could count on him wanting to chat the next time you saw him.



Mikey and Bruce (Dad)

Bruce was a father who loved God, and he wanted his children to love God just as much, if not more. So he had spiritual conversations with his kids, made fellowship with other believers a priority, and was spiritually invested in his own soul. He didn't try to be perfect, but he tried his hardest to raise his children to know Jesus.

There is something that all three had in common... they're among the people who were part of my "sticky web" when I was in middle and high school. We've been talking about "Sticky Faith" for awhile (that our kids would find a faith which sticks with them when they go off to college). One of the biggest factors leading to a sticky faith is a child's connection to trusted adults in their life, who care about them and love Jesus (their "sticky web"). These are adults to whom the student would go with questions about life and faith.

We all have the potential to be part of a student's sticky web. There's an old African proverb which
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says, "It takes a village to raise a child." Lately I've been hearing this proverb quoted with one nuanced change: "It takes a church to raise a child."

Last year we made a huge shift in our confirmation program to help students intentionally recognize and develop their sticky web. Students have been meeting on a regular basis with a mentor to dig deeper into the building blocks of our faith. Marti (a mentor) and Sam (a confirmation student) shared about their experience

Marti: *The mentor relationship I have been a part of so far this year has been very rewarding. Being able to spend one on one time with Sam has afforded me the opportunity to really get to know him, answer questions about what he is learning and share the work that God has done and continues to do in my life. I am not sure that these types of conversations would happen in another setting. Sam and I dig into the Word together and ask critical questions beyond the questions asked in the confirmation journal/lessons. We pray together and for one another. This*

setup has the potential to be a true discipleship relationship. For us, I would say it is becoming so.

Sam: *My mentor relationship is full of deep care and emotions that ultimately lead to going deeper with the Lord. Every Sunday I am excited to see my mentor because, as I have gone through that [week's] session, I will have questions. Having that mentor there gives me this freeing feeling, which opens me up completely, and it is totally out of my comfort zone, but that helps me get in-depth with God. That's why I am excited every Sunday morning. The biggest impact he has had on me is my relationship with Jesus. I can't do this faith journey on my own; having my mentor keeps me on the right road and shows me new roads, new insights. Having this mentor is so emotional, so amazing, so strengthening.*

Even though parents are the primary faith influencers, our church community is important to the spiritual development of our children. Every time we bless a child, recognize a confirmand, or celebrate a baptism...the pastor turns to the congregation and asks, "Will you?"

Will you help raise a child in the faith, supporting and encouraging these youth as their journey with Jesus begins? Will you be a part of their sticky web?



MUUCE: Aug. 6-8, 2015

MUUCE is an unforgettable, spiritual, high-energy three days, when 800+ Covenant middle schoolers gather for a weekend with an awesome speaker, live music, messy games, and events like a day at ValleyFair! MUUCE is open to students currently in grades 6-8. Connect with other students from Crossview, get to know some of our volunteers, and have shared experiences with new friends! You don't want to miss out! Find more details at www.crossviewstudents.org/trips

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.



Compassion, Mercy & Justice at The Reach Drop-In Center

By Sherri & Cole Hupp

As part of the Confirmation program this year, the students were required to complete a Compassion, Mercy and Justice project. Cole and I chose to volunteer at The Reach, the local homeless drop-in center for youth up to age 21.

The Reach just recently moved into their new space, which was a former daycare. We met with Tasha, one of the directors of The Reach. She gave us a tour of the facilities, which includes an art room, quiet room, hang-out room, kitchen, laundry facilities, showers, and a large room containing donated clothing, housewares, blankets, etc. While there, we helped by mopping floors, cleaning windows, and painting on the mural in the art room.

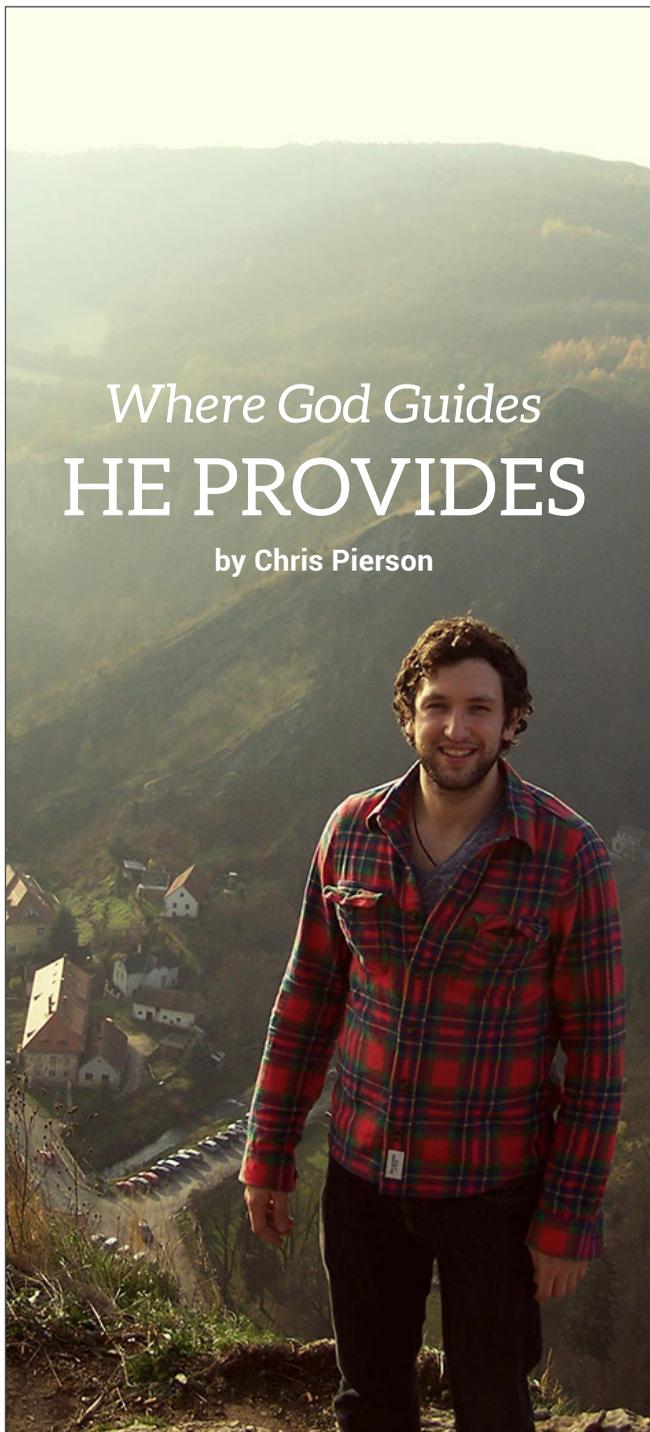
While we were doing some painting, we got to meet a young man (19) who was fairly new to the center. In order to obtain grants and funding, the center must gather and submit certain information about each of their clients. "John" allowed us to listen to his intake story. Basically, he has been homeless off and on since age 12, both with his mother and on his own. He was born in Minnesota, but moved to Southern California. After being homeless in Southern California and in Las Vegas, he came back to the Midwest to live with his grandparents in Wisconsin. Eventually he was told he had to leave because they had to take care of his alcoholic uncle. He made his way to Mankato, has found a job here, and is living with various friends – couch hopping. It is difficult for him to be able to get a place of his

own, since he makes only minimum wage. "John" didn't graduate from high school, so he would like to work toward his GED.

We also talked at length with Tasha. She told us that it is not uncommon to see someone Cole's age (14) using the center. They have helped youth as young as 12 at the center. The Reach is not a homeless shelter, so they cannot provide a place for the youth to stay. They work with the youth, connecting them with resources available to help them find a place to stay and live. Sometimes though, the only thing they can do for someone is to provide them with a meal, warm clothing and blankets, and send them on their way. The center has one youth who currently sleeps in hallways of local apartment buildings, and even though he has been arrested for doing just that, he doesn't have any other options that are safe. Tasha said it can be very heartbreaking. One of the things they want people to take away from volunteering there is how grateful we should be for what we have.

When we left the center, Cole commented, "this is one day I will never forget." We returned to The Reach a couple of weeks later to deliver Easter baskets, and we're already planning to go back this summer. As important as it is to study God's Word, it's also important to be His hands and feet. I hope all of the confirmation students had unforgettable experiences as well.





Where God Guides **HE PROVIDES**

by Chris Pierson

I recently moved back from the Czech Republic, where I had been living the past three years doing tent-making style of missions. I had spent a few summers there as an intern doing English camps, and I felt a calling to be a missionary. I graduated from Crossroads College, a Bible college in Rochester, contacted a Czech friend who was working with the youth of a church in Prague, and asked if it would be possible to work with their youth group. The church agreed, so I enrolled in a TEFL course (teaching English as a foreign language) and bought a plane ticket.

My plane landed in January, and I was a bit overwhelmed. I had my faith, a blue duffle bag, and a handful of friends who lived in Prague. I remember going to a church service a day and half later and thinking that I didn't even know how to get around. Over the next couple of days, I began to doubt; these doubts multiplied and intensified. I doubted whether or not God called me here. I doubted my abilities. I doubted my worth. I was overwhelmed with doubt. I felt like Peter sinking in the water before Jesus reached out and grabbed him. I was drowning in doubt and hopelessness, and then God provided... and it was amazing!

I was temporarily staying in an apartment owned by the youth pastor while I was doing my TEFL course, and was looking for a place to live, but I didn't know where to start. Then God provided a place to live! Through the youth pastor, I got a call about some guy looking for a roommate; this was pretty neat because the owner of the apartment was in a worship band that did an outreach ministry. I became the drummer of their band the day I met him (I had brought my drumsticks, hoping to put them to use).

God also used past relationships, as well as new people, to help me get into a public school. I wanted to connect the youth group with lost high school kids who were in that public school.

The Czech Republic is one of the most atheistic countries in the world (about 1 in 300 are born-again believers), but in this school I was able to talk with the students about the Gospel, even though this technically wasn't allowed. Easter, Christmas, school activities, and questions from the students gave me windows to talk about Jesus. I was also able to invite students to different events where they could hear the Gospel.

Adela was one of my students who came to a winter English camp. She almost didn't come because her mom did not trust churches, thinking that they try to brainwash people. At camp, we were all snowboarding, and Adela fell pretty hard on her wrist and thought she broke it, so we took her into a hospital to get an X-Ray. It wasn't broken, but severely sprained, and her arm was put in a cast. The next night, I presented the Gospel during an evening program



and encouraged the students to pray, even if they had doubts. Adela was unable to fall asleep because of the pain in her wrist, so she decided to pray to God. She told me that God took her pain away immediately, which surprised her, but then she felt as if somebody was holding her hand. That was

the moment she became a believer. She was baptized last summer, and she is leading in the youth group. She has also talking with her friends about God and will be joining the leadership team for English camp. Her parents came to her baptism, and her dad has also come to church a few times.

Through my experience, I have learned that where God guides, He provides, regardless of my weaknesses or strengths. We serve an amazing God, and when He moves, people are changed. If you want to hear more about the Czech Republic or my future there, feel free to come talk to me.

Christian Community News

KJLY Christian Radio 6th Annual - A Day for Women

Saturday, May 16 (8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) at Crossview Covenant Church

With Special Guest Kim Gavel, stories by Joni Neiman, and music by Amy Goins. Cost: \$30 per person. Space is limited! Register online at kjly.com.

Reel Faith Outdoors presents "Minnesota Fishing Event for Life" A Fundraiser for MN Adult & Teen Challenge and Young Life

Saturday, June 6 - Madison Lake, MN

\$100.00 entry fee guarantees your team a spot in this event, Friday night dinner, special awards, trophies and prizes and allows you to fish for all species. Top fundraising teams win fishing trips with professional anglers James Lindner, Brainerd Area, Glenn Vinton, Mississippi River, and Tom Davis - Co-founder of Reel Faith Outdoors, water of your choice. Trolling Motors, Sonar/GPS units and many other quality prizes will be awarded. Our professionals donating the fishing trips have asked that all teams should try to raise at least \$400.00 if they can; there is no maximum. Entries accepted on a first-come, first entered basis (maximum of 50 teams). For entry forms, event rules and more information call 507-317-3071 or email reelfaithoutdoors@hotmail.com.



VOLUNTEER

FIND A PLACE TO SERVE

GUEST CONNECTIONS TEAM

Greeters: Do you enjoy meeting new people? Can you put others at ease with your words and demeanor, and take initiative to meet the needs of Crossview's guests? We'd love to have you serving as a greeter! Families can serve together as greeters.

Guest Connections/Community Life Desks: Are you energized by being in community, helping people find answers, and problem solving? If you're passionate about guests and visitors having a positive experience at Crossview, we need warm, friendly, conversational people at the Guest Connections and Community Life desks.

Sunday Morning Hospitality: If you have the gift of hospitality, are warm, friendly, detail-oriented, and like connecting with new people, consider joining one of the Hospitality Teams and serving coffee and refreshments on Sunday morning! Team members serve once every eight weeks from 8 a.m. to noon.

Special Event Hospitality: Hospitality volunteers are also needed for special events like Next Step Lunches and Newcomer Classes.

Contact Lori at loriroos@crossviewcov.org

WORSHIP ARTS MINISTRY

Worship Team Instrumentalists: Are you an experienced bass, electric or acoustic guitar player? Contact us to learn more about serving opportunities in Worship Arts!

Contact Jill at jilljones@crossviewcov.org.

NEXTGEN: CHILDREN

Nursery Caregiver Subs: Join our nursery team of "on call" substitute caregivers. This position offers the ultimate flexibility with your schedule, while providing much-needed support.

Contact Michelle at mmoosey@crossviewcov.org

Summer Preschool Flipside Volunteer: Show the love of Jesus to 3-5 year olds through Bible stories, music, games and crafts.

VBS Volunteers: Are you ready for a crazy good time? Join us for an exciting week as we help kids discover the extraordinary love of Jesus!

Contact DeAnna at dpetersen@crossviewcov.org

STEVEN CURTIS CHAPMAN CONCERT

**Volunteers needed on Saturday May 9, 2015.
No experience necessary...we will provide training!**

Load-In/Load-Out Team: Unload the tour equipment before the concert and bring it into the Worship Center. Reload tour equipment after the concert.

Merchandise Volunteers: Staff the merchandise tables before and after the concert.

Ticket Team: Welcome guests and collect tickets as people arrive.

Contact Chris at cwillard@crossviewcov.org



Professional Women's Small Group

Wednesdays, 7:00-8:30 p.m. (May 6, 13, 20 & 27) @ The Neighborhood Thrift Store (lower N. Mankato)

Leaders: Ruth Koestler & Amy Long

No prep or homework necessary, just bring your Bible! Our discussion and study will be on a new scripture passage each week. Drop-ins are welcome! Sign up at the Community Life desk.

Men's Connection Small Group

Mondays, 7:00-8:00 p.m. (June 1, 8, 15 & 29) @ Crossview

Leader: Mark Esch

Get connected with other men of faith at Crossview as we meet for discussion and fellowship. Each week we'll dig into and discuss 1-2 chapters of Scripture. Sign up at the Community Life desk.

Have you considered leading a small group?

We're looking for leaders of all life stages and ages. Contact Guest Connections & Small Groups Coordinator Lori Roos at 507-387-5606, ext. 103 or loriroos@crossviewcov.org

Join us on The Table at crossviewcov.table.org



The Table is a resource that helps us to live out a Christ-centered, gospel-centered life in the context of the Crossview community. It's a private social network, just for Crossview. The Table makes it easier for you to connect, pray for and serve with others in your church family. Here are a few special features:



Prayer Wall: When you post a prayer request, an email alert goes out to everyone in your church who has asked to receive prayer updates. Every time someone clicks the "pray now" button and prays for you, you can get an email letting you know. It's instant encouragement in your time of need.



Serve App: Not just for finding ways to volunteer, the Serve app is also about asking for help, offering your skills, and sharing your belongings with others in our church community.



Classifieds App: Have something you're selling, a home to rent, or want to find a babysitter? The Classifieds app makes it easy to browse, search and post items and services to the Table.



People Directory: Here's an easy way to connect with others at Crossview. Learn names, search for interests and skills, and even send "quicknotes" to each other, faster than you can dig out the church directory.

Sign up for The Table at crossviewcov.table.org (if you have received an email inviting you to be a part of a Table group, use the link in that email to register).

Children's Ministries at Crossview

C.H.A.O.S. One Day Retreat

Saturday, June 20 (8:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.)
4th grade & 5th grade just completed

We're headed up to Camp Shamineau in Motley, MN for a day of fun team-building activities. Get outside of your comfort zone, because that's where real change happens! Activities will include a climbing wall and high ropes course, so please dress appropriately. Parents: plan to drop off and pick up at Crossview. Cost: \$25 per child (make checks out to Crossview). Pack a sack lunch and bring a water bottle (dinner provided). Friends are welcome, but pre-registration is REQUIRED. Contact DeAnna (dpetersen@crossviewcov.org) for more details. Download a registration form at www.crossviewcovenant.org/children

Flipside Sunday School

We're almost at the end of our Flipside Sunday School "school-year" schedule! Check out the dates below to see Sunday morning programming options.

May 10 & May 17

Nursery (birth-36 months) and Flipside Sunday School (preschool-5th grade) are available during both the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. services.

May 24 (Memorial Day Weekend)

Nursery (birth-36 months) is available during both the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. services. Flipside Sunday School (**for preschool only**) is available during the 9:00 a.m. service.

May 31 - Sunday, Aug 30

Nursery (birth-36 months) is available during both the 9:00 & 10:30 a.m. services. Flipside Sunday School (preschool-5th grade) is available during the 9:00 a.m. service.

5Cs Preschool

5Cs Preschool still has openings for Fall 2015 in a few classes: **M-F mornings (ages 4 & 5)**, **M/W/F afternoons (ages 3, 4 & 5)**, and **W/F Little C's (ages 24m-3 years)**. 5Cs provides opportunities for children to learn and grow socially, emotionally, physically, mentally and spiritually in God's grace! Registration forms with more information are available at the NextGen check-in desk, online at www.crossviewcovenant.org/5cs-preschool, or by calling 507-388-2222.

"We cannot believe how much [our son] has learned and how he has grown in just those few short hours 3 times a week. Family members have commented how much they can see he has developed since starting school!"



- Email from a 5Cs Parent



Mark Your Calendar!



Vacation Bible School June 8-11 (5:30-7:30 p.m.) 4 years old-4th grade (completed)

Each day children will learn about people who **MOVED** - people whose lives changed direction once they encountered Jesus. Join us for real life applications of Bible teaching, amazing crafts and energetic games. A family style dinner will be served each night from 5:00-5:30 p.m.

(free will offering). VBS is **FREE!**

Register online at:

www.crossviewcovenant.org/vbs

Lake Beauty Bible Camp Long Prairie, MN



Where can your child experience a week of awesome chapel services, fun crafts, activities such as horse trail rides and mountain boarding, good food and lasting friendships? Lake Beauty Bible Camp! Dates for LBBC are based on the grade your child is in right now (the grade they'll complete by summer):

- Junior High Camp (6th-8th Grade): June 21-26
- Frontier Kids Camp (1st-3rd Grade): July 9-11
- Trailblazers Camp (3rd-5th Grade): July 12-16
- Senior High Camp (9th-12th Grade): Aug. 2-7

Registration forms are available at the NextGen Check-In desk, or at lbbc.com. If you want to know more, contact DeAnna (dpetersen@crossviewcov.org).

NOTE: Would you consider being a LBBC Shepherd for some of our special needs boys who would love to go to camp, but need a male to join them for the week? Contact DeAnna for more details.

Stay & Play Sundays July 26 & Aug. 16 (12:00-2:00 p.m.)

Families are invited to stay and play after the worship service. We'll have yard games, lunch and open the parking lot for skating or roller blading. All children must have a parent or guardian present.

Crossview Day Camp Aug. 10-13 (9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) K-4th grade (completed)

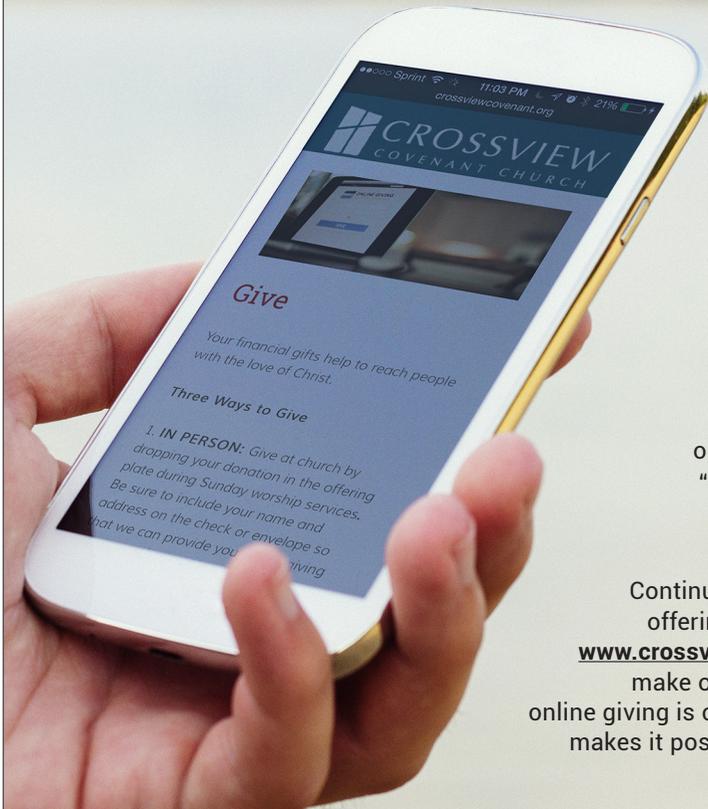
Camp Shamineau is providing a camp experience without the overnight! Children will experience Biblical teaching, worship, games, small group discussions, activities and crafts. Cost: \$60 per child. Download a registration form at:

www.crossviewcovenant.org/daycamp

NOTE: Host homes are needed for Camp Shamineau staff from Aug. 9-13.

Stay Connected this Summer!

Summer is the perfect time to get away and reconnect with friends & family. Whether you're in town or away from home, you can stay connected to Crossview online.



Stay up-to-date

Sign up for our weekly email newsletter:
www.crossviewcovenant.org/weekly-emails

Like Crossview's page on Facebook:
www.facebook.com/crossviewcovenant

Join The Table (see pg. 7):
crossviewcov.table.org

Listen

Each week's sermons are available at:
www.crossviewcovenant.org/sermon-audio
or you can subscribe to our podcast (search for "Crossview Covenant" in your podcasting app).

Give

Continue supporting Crossview with your tithes and offerings by setting up an online giving account at www.crossviewcovenant.org/give. Whether you prefer to make one-time gifts or set up scheduled donations, online giving is convenient and easy! Your faithful generosity makes it possible for us to follow God's calling and reach our community for Christ. Thank you!

CROSSVIEW COVENANT CHURCH General Fund Financial Report (July 1, 2014-Mar. 31, 2015)

Our Fiscal Year runs from
July 1, 2014 through June 30, 2015

Expected Income	\$989,737
Actual Income	\$1,036,958
Actual Expenses	\$958,964
Actual Shortage/Excess	\$ 77,994



UPCOMING EVENTS

crossviewcovenant.org/events

GENERAL

Project Days

Thursday, May 14 (9:00-11:30 a.m.)

You're invited to a time of fellowship as we strive to help those less fortunate. Projects include: tie blankets, receiving blankets, and recycling greeting cards for missionaries & shut-ins. All are welcome - come for as little or as long as you are able.

Congregational Business Meeting

Sunday, May 31 (11:35 a.m.)

The meeting will include leadership updates, a vote to approve our 2015-16 General Fund budget, and a special election for the open position on the Church Council. Childcare available for ages 0 - 5th grade. The meeting agenda & copies of items requiring a vote will be available at the Community Life desk on May 17.

[WWW.THETABLETOUR.COM](http://www.thetabletour.com)
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FEED THE CHILDREN

THE TABLE TOUR

A NIGHT OF MUSIC, STORIES AND COMMUNITY—WHERE EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

SATURDAY, MAY 9, 2015 - 7:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$25 general admission and \$40 VIP (VIP includes early access, pre-show Q&A, and exclusive poster). **Tickets available at the Community Life desk and in the church office.**

echo ministries



Team World Vision Sunday

Sunday, June 7, 2015

Guest speaker Bradley Hofbauer from Team World Vision will be back at Crossview to share the incredible story of how God is using ordinary people like us to bring life-changing water, sanitation & hygiene programs to children and families in Africa. Make sure to invite all of your runner (and non-runner) friends & neighbors to join us on June 7! For more details, stop by the Community Life desk, contact Lisa Putrah at lputrah@crossviewcov.org, or go to: www.crossviewcovenant.org/teamworldvision

Join Team World Vision, run a race, and change lives around the world.

TEAM WORLD VISION | MANKATO 2015

Run for Water Run for Life.



ALL-CHURCH PICNIC & 5CS 5K

SUNDAY, JUNE 14 @ CROSSVIEW

8:30AM - 5K FUN RUN/WALK

10:30AM - WORSHIP SERVICE

12:00PM - PICNIC & KIDS' ACTIVITIES

5K FUN RUN/WALK: \$15 PER PERSON

PICNIC: \$5 PER PERSON (OR \$20 PER FAMILY)

Menu: pulled pork sandwiches, beans, salad, chips, & potluck desserts.

5K Registration forms & picnic tickets available at the Community Life desk.

5Cs 5K FUN RUN/WALK - REGISTRATION FORM

First & Last Name _____ Age: _____ Gender: M F

Street _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Date of Birth: _____ T-Shirt Size: Adult: XS S M L XL XXL Youth: S M L

(Forms must be received by Sunday, June 1, 2015 to guarantee a T-Shirt size)

5K proceeds will go to support the 5Cs Preschool ministry at Crossview by helping to maintain a program of excellence with affordable tuition rates, qualified staff and low teacher-child ratios.

5K Registration: \$ 15.00
I would like to make a donation to 5Cs Preschool (optional – this amount is tax-deductible) + \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

Please make checks to "Crossview Covenant Church" with "5Cs 5K" on the memo line.

ACCIDENT WAIVER/RELEASE, HOLD HARMLESS, AND COVENANT NOT TO SUE: I understand that participating in this event is potentially hazardous, and that I should not enter and participate unless I am medically able and properly trained. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I assume full and complete responsibility for any injury or accident which may occur while I am traveling to or from the event, during the event, or while I am on the premises of the event. I also am aware of and assume all risks associated with participating in this event, including but not limited to falls, contact with other participants, effect of weather, traffic, and conditions of the road. I, for myself and my heirs and executors, agree to release, hold harmless and covenant not to sue Crossview Covenant Church, the Evangelical Covenant Church, their employees, agents, assigns or any volunteer, participant, sponsor, promoter or spectator for any claim of ordinary negligence arising out of my participation in the 5Cs 5K Fun Run/Walk. I understand that this release, hold harmless, and covenant not to sue is limited to claims for ordinary negligence and in no way shall be construed to release claims for conduct that constitutes greater than ordinary negligence, conduct that constitutes reckless or grossly negligent conduct, or willful, wanton or intentional acts.

I hereby certify that I have read this document and I understand its content.

Participant Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature (if under 18) _____ Date _____