



Country Chronicles
June 2020
Cannon River and
Cross of Christ Lutheran
Parish, ELCA



Ministry Notes

There was a meme that was floating around on Facebook a while back, it pictured Tom Hanks as Forrest Gump, sitting on a park bench. The caption said, “And just like that, all the Lutheran Pastors became televangelists.” It made me giggle...

I’ve been doing a lot of reflecting on what “church” means these days. Cross of Christ and Cannon River churches are literally planted in our communities; we are rooted in this soil and we always will be. We are a physical presence and when we are gathered as the body of Christ, we are the Communion of Saints. A community in union... So, gathering is important and it always will be, as far as I’m concerned. And I miss it tremendously...

And I’ve also started to notice that going to church is one thing, and being the church is another. Although we are congregations rooted in this soil, we are also people rooted in God. In this sense, the Body of Christ is all of us, living our faith in our everyday lives.

We trust that God creates new things in the midst of, perhaps even especially in, chaos. Perhaps this pandemic has opened our eyes a little bit about how we think about and experience church...

A former colleague and pastor recently said, “Being church in this day and age, is like being a little storefront wondering where all the customers are, when everyone is shopping on-line.” I’m afraid there might be some truth to that. While the worship videos are a far cry from being together in person, there have been some interesting things going on...

I recently looked at some “analytics” specific to our YouTube worship videos. Several of our worship videos have been viewed more than 200 times! I mentioned that number recently to one person who said, “And my family of 5 watch it all together, so the real number has to be more than that!” But while the number of people watching is high, the average length of time it is watched is about half.

I’ve heard comments from others about how they love that they can watch the worship video on their own schedule. One person said they work on Sunday mornings, and this way they can watch it and feel connected to the community. One person said they like it because it’s short!

And some of our neighbors’ who aren’t members, have also been watching. My mom loves it!

I don’t know what all these things mean, and I think it’s too early to make any conclusions. But as churches in this time and place in the midst of this pandemic, we’ve been dwelling in God’s Word, and loving our neighbors. And people have noticed...

Many pastors I’ve talked with are convinced that going forward, even when things get back to normal, we will all continue with some forms of worship or church videos. This might be part of a new normal... “And just like that, all the Lutheran Pastors became televangelists.”

While in-person worship can never be replaced, our experience has been that we’ve reached a lot people with our worship videos. We’ll have to do some thinking about all this... Definitely something to pray about!

Stay well, my friends, Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

Church Phone: 651-388-3464 ***Cell Phone:*** 651-983-1795

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

May

No service was held

Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,588	\$3,076	(\$488)
Feb	\$2,465	\$3,544	(\$1,079)
March	\$1,670	\$4,451	(\$2,781)
April	\$1,630	\$2,967	(\$1,337)

Year to Date	\$8,353	\$14,039	(\$5,686)
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Updating Contact Information-Let's Stay Connected

The Worship & Music Committee along with the Church



Secretary are in the process of updating our contact information to ensure we are emailing the virtual services each week to our members and those interested. Please contact Deanna with an updated email address if you are not receiving the weekly service via email or if you or someone you know would like to be added to our distribution list, please have that individual/household

reach out to Deanna with an email address.

Thank you!

Deanna's email address: secretary@cccchurch.com

Thank you!!

Cross of Christ News

*We are called by the Spirit to be a lasting presence in our community,
faithfully sharing the Word of God through worship, fellowship and
service to our neighbors.*

Faithful through Generations

Assistants for June 2020

Greeters

June 7 th	Oscar & Janet Daley
June 14 th	Dennis & Jackie Martin
June 21 st	Bob & Shirley Watsi
June 28 th	Mary Fjetland

Readers

June 7 th	Sandy Luhman
June 14 th	Kailyn Peterson
June 21 st	Cathy Nemcek
June 28 th	Jim Gustafson

Altar

14th Joan Slingsby

Council Person

Duke Bjorklund

Kitchen

Janet Daley

Ushers for June

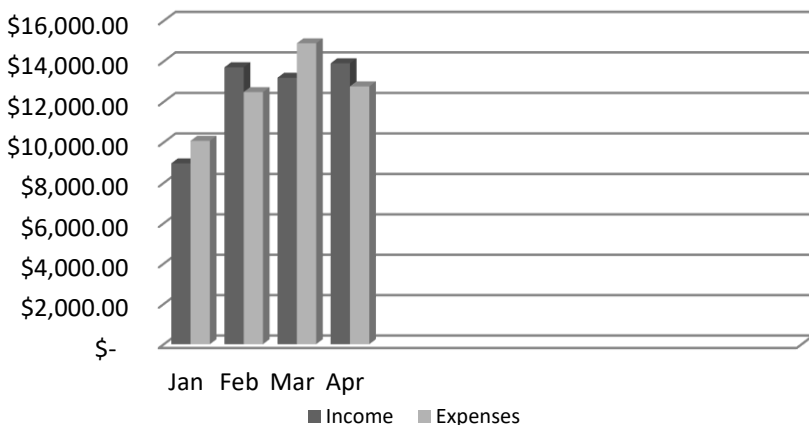
Wayne Munson, Jeff Meyer

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$8,954	\$10,066
Feb	\$13,695	\$12,471
Mar	\$13,181	\$14,880
April	\$13,896	\$12,753

Year to Date **\$49,728** **\$50,171**

2020 Income/Expenses



Financial News:

Thank you for your continued financial support during this time! We know that many of you have added stress, expenses and maybe a decrease or loss of income right now, which makes your gifts even more meaningful. Thank you.

We received the **Paycheck Protection loan** on April 22 in the amount of \$16,500. This loan is to enable Cross of Christ and Cannon River keep employees on staff through mid-June. When we show this is what the money was spent on, the loan will be forgiven.

THANK YOU to everyone who designated their 2019 **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Cross of Christ. We received \$882 in April. These donations will go to the Building and Grounds fund.

Missions – Members donated \$350 to go to MN Foodshare, which was sent in April.

Our monthly withdrawal from the Thrivent Mutual Fund to go to our education fund has been changed from \$200 back to \$85, effective in May.

The **new furnace** has been installed and paid for, at \$5,950. Donations for the furnace total \$1,815.50, the remainder was paid out of the Building and Grounds fund.

In the past few years, we have been paying our **property insurance** in a lump sum in the spring to avoid billing fees. Council voted in March to pay by the month for the time being, in order to better access our financial situation when we come out of the other side of the pandemic. As such, our monthly expenses will be roughly \$500 higher, although our year-to-date expenses right now will appear much lower than last year.

The **Kwik Trip cards** are still available through Julie Schriefels at 388-2326. A portion of your purchase price comes directly to Cross of Christ. It is a very easy way to support your church!

The **Simply Giving Program** allows you to have your church offering automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, biweekly or monthly. Please contact Rebecca Peterson for help with setting up scheduled donations through Simply Giving.

If you make any purchase on **Amazon.com**, you can designate .5% of your order to come to Cross of Christ by using **smile.amazon.com** instead, and designating us as the recipient.

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **Wed, June 3, 7:00 pm**. It is yet to be determined if this will be a zoom meeting, or held at church. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com
651-301-2652

Cemetery Update

Many Thanks to all the members who have planted and made their loved ones gravesites so beautiful this spring.



We do have the new rules and regulations posted on the board in the Cemetery if you have any questions.

Please feel free to contact Judy Meyer or myself if you are interested in purchasing a lot.

Stay safe and healthy, God Bless

Ann Kulla, aekulla@embarqmail.com

Kwik Trip Cards



– Help support our Building Maintenance Fund by buying Kwik Trip cards. The cards can be used to purchase anything at Kwik Trip from gas, groceries, car washes ect. Available in **\$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100**. You pay the amount of the card being purchased;

the church makes 5% of the sales and 10% for non-fuel purchases made with the cards. Contact Julie Schreifels to purchase at hjschreif@live.com or 651-388-2326. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, June 9th** and will be available on Sunday, June 14th. Thank you.

Missions

Mission Updates:

Please continue to save your Family Fare store receipts! Both Cross of Christ and Cannon River churches are collecting receipts and participating in this great mission outreach. Buckets are located at both Churches for easy drop off. Remember that only the store receipts are valid; no e-receipts.



*To date, our collection totals
\$115,983!!*

When the receipts total \$150,000,
we will receive a check for \$1,000

which will go to Feed My Starving Children.

We have already reached this goal twice, and are now on our third collection. It's amazing!

Shop, bring your receipts to church and we will support children who are hungry! *Thank you,* the Mission Committee

LWR Mask Making

It has been wonderful to see the basket at the church door already overflowing with a colorful collection of face masks to send to Lutheran World Relief.

Please read this encouraging update from the LWR website:

"Reach neighbors in need without leaving home. The masks you sew in your living room will provide love and protection to a neighbor in need halfway around the world. Our generous LWR community reached our first goal of 75,000 masks in record time. Let's make 75,000 *More!*"



Isn't it amazing to be part of something that will help others around the world and let them know we are thinking of them? Thank you to all our local seamstresses! We'll box them up the first week of June and have the final tally in next month's newsletter. If you have some masks to contribute, don't hesitate to call if you'd rather have us pick them up from you.
(Kris 651-442-5527)

In Person Communion



After much discussion about In Person Communion, we have come up with a plan that Communion can be offered. We will be scheduling each family a 15 minute period of time to come in the church and have Communion at Cross of Christ Church. Deanna will be calling each family and assign a time, and give each family instructions on what to do.

Deacon Todd has set the date to be **Sunday, June 14th** so a call will made the week before the 14th to arrange the time for each family to take Communion.

Joan Slingsby

Youth and Learning News

Sunday School will begin in the Fall based on whether or not schools are open or continue with the current distance learning.

We miss seeing and interacting with our Sunday School kids.

1. Events

July 12-18 Youth mission trip with First & United Canceled but Might be local projects

July 16th 1:00 Clean up cemetery

August 2-6 – VBS - Zoom into VBS

Vacation Bible School – August 2-6 more information to come. VBS is still in the planning stages. Some ideas include: Activity Bag for each family, Zoom meeting – Story telling – Music, and outdoor activities with proper social distancing. More information and registration will be coming in late June/early July.

If you have any ideas or would like to help in any way with VBS (I'm sure we have some great story tellers out there) please contact a member of the Learning and Youth committee. Julie Schreifels, Todd Portinga, Jamie Fox, Emma Dinndorf, Deanna Gehloff, Rebecca Peterson, Robin Nelson-Williams, Dean and Dana Dinndorf.

Confirmation – Kiersten Peterson Confirmation service will be held after services are allowed to resume in the sanctuary.

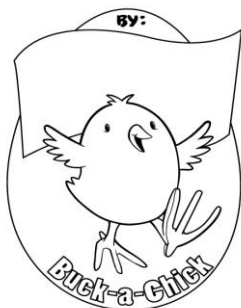
First Communion for 5th graders and other children whose families feel they are ready will take place after church services are allowed to resume in the sanctuary.

Graduate Recognition- Congratulations to Kyle Lincoln! A card & small gift will be sent to him.

Activities & Reminders:

Learning and Youth Meeting: Tuesday, July 7 6:30 pm.

Mission Projects:



Buck-A-Chick – The Sunday School will be selling “chicks” for \$1.00 throughout the summer months How will we do this?

Copies of the Buck-a-Chick coloring pages will be available near the Buck-A-Chick display for families to pick up. The kids will color them and return them to a basket on the coat rack above the table just inside the Dahlen Hall door. When people come

in, they can purchase one, put their name on it and put the Buck-a-Chick and their donation in the gold box with a star on it.

The Buck-a-Chick fundraiser will provide chicks for families in impoverished areas of the world. They will be purchased through the ELCA Good Gifts program. ELCA World Hunger responds to the root causes of hunger with work in 60 countries around the world, including the United States.



Weekly offering will be used towards the assistance of Gabby, a child in Tanzania. She still needs o be supported so



**If you stop by the church put
some coins in the globe for
Gabby**

The Cross of Christ Christian College Scholarship

Program: Kelsey Dinndorf’s scholarship was renewed for the 2020-21 school year. There were no new applications this year.

Christian Summer Camp/Trip Scholarship Form: Youth who have registered for summer camp at Good Earth Village or another Christian summer camp or youth trip are eligible to apply for this scholarship. Good Earth Village will not be holding regular summer

camps this year. See their web site for virtual camps.
<http://goodearthvillage.org/>

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

Sunday School Superintendent hjschreif@live.com h. 651-388-2326
c. 507-990-7024



The next **WELCA** meeting will be **Wednesday, June 10th**. *Please let Julie know via email hjschreif@live.com if you plan to attend.*

We will have the meeting in person if there are 10 or less planning to attend otherwise I will set up a Zoom meeting. The agenda will include: Blood Drive, Taste of Welch, Triennial Gathering update, Days for Girls, other.



Red Cross Blood Drive: Our May 7th Blood Drive was a big success! We registered 37 total donors and collected 38 pints of blood (some donors gave double reds which counts as 2 pints). We had 7 first-time donors. We were completely booked before the drive started so ended up turning away about five potential donors, walk-ins.

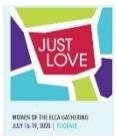
THANK YOU to all the donors and helpers who provided the worker's meals, donated individually wrapped snacks, made homemade masks as a thank you to our donors and especially to those who worked during the drive.

Our next Blood Drive will be **July 2, 2020** from 12:00-6:00. Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Days for Girls Kits: This program has been put on hold for the time being. Our seamstresses have been busy making masks. We will be continuing to work on this necessary mission project in the future. Joan has been in discussion with a group from Cannon Falls about

working together on this. Contact Joan Slingsby or Julie Schreifels for more details or go to the web site www.DaysforGirls.org .

The Thrivent grant money that had not already been spent for Spring Salad Luncheon supplies was used to purchase supplies for making masks. Masks were given to health care workers known by us and distributed to others in need of a mask. Masks are now being made for Lutheran World Relief until May 31st. Julie gave many to school personnel and others she knows. Many of these people donated money to her. That money \$300 will be donated to the Red Wing Food Shelf.



The Eleventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held in Phoenix, AZ will now be held August 5-8 2021. Those of us who were registered for the July 2020 date have automatically been registered for the August 2021 gathering and we all plan to attend.

Taste of Welch Saturday, October 10 from 9 am to 2 p.m We will be discussing options for TOW at the June meeting.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12-6 pm

11th Triennial Gathering: August 5-8, 2021 Phoenix, Arizona

Taste of Welch: October 10, 2020 9-2

Officers: President: Julie Schreifels Vice- President: Tracy Harth

Secretary: Joan Slingsby Treasurer: Jean Kehren

Kitchen Committee: Doris Gruber, Joan Slingsby, Jean Kehren, Janet Daley, Cathy Nemcek & Sandy Luhman.

God go with you! Your sister in Christ,

Julie Schreifels phone: 651-388-2326 cell: 507-990-7024 email

hjschreif@live.com

Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations
April 14, 2020

The Council members meet via Zoom meeting.

Present: President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Robin Nelson-Williams, Kelley Mittelsteadt , Ann Kulla, Duke Bjorklund, Jon Peterson, Jim Gustafson, Oscar Daley, Dana Dinndorf, Deacon Todd Portinga and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Hanson and the mission statement was acknowledged.

Devotions were given by Deacon Todd.

The agenda was approved with one addition under new business and the April meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Todd thanked the Dinndorf's for their continued help with the weekly online worship services.

A private baptism will be held at Cross of Christ on Thursday, May 21st.

A member of Cross of Christ passed away, burial service will be at a later date.

Ron thanked Todd for all his work during this time.

***Kitchen-Bathroom**

Ron attempted to contact the drafter and contractor. The contractor finally returned call and will get in contact with the drafter to keep the project moving forward.

***Furnace**

Oscar gave a brief update on the furnace installation. The furnace has been installed and had to do a little troubleshooting to make both furnaces run together “twinning”, so if one quits working for some reason, the other will still provide heat for both. The bill was received today in the amount of \$5,950 as quoted.

New Business

*June council person- Duke Bjorklund

*Church Reopening and or Virus Talk

Todd talked a bit about what it will be like when we get to come together again to worship. The possibility of outdoor worship opportunities was discussed or other to keep people out of box like environment to prevent the spread or contraction of the virus. The worship and music committee will meet this coming Sunday and will be discussing more on this.

Minnesota still continues to spike. Cannon Falls has a confirmed case at the Garden’s Nursing home. At this time it was agreed to continue our online worship until the Governor moves the dial on this situation.

*PestStop

Rebecca received a call about spraying the Church and Parsonage for bugs. It was suggested to do both, with the cost for the Parsonage coming out of the Parsonage expense account. Rebecca will give them a call to schedule.

Committee Reports

*Finance

Rebecca gave brief overview on the PPP Loan.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial secretary’s reports as written. –Motion Passed

*Property Management

The Parsonage has been rented.

Bob Luhman completed the grading/landscaping around the new

sewer.

Mark Neibur continues to do the mowing for the Church and was mowed for the first time last week. Ann said they will put down an application to prevent moles in the cemetery. Ann contacted Jonas on the shrub/weeding maintenance and she declined it, Ann will take it upon herself to maintain. Ann also cleaned up the cemetery and other areas of sticks/debris.

***Worship & Music**

The next meeting will be held via Zoom on May 17th at 11:30am

***Learning & Youth**

The next meeting will be held via Google meeting on May 13th at 6:30pm, conducted by Julie

***Missions**

Joan mentioned the LWR face mask project, anyone who knows how to sew a mask can donate them to the Church, a shipment will be sent out at the end of May.

***Stewardship**

Everyone thanked Jim for the great job on the latest Stewardship letter.

It was noted the Blood Drive had 41 people sign up, which has been the most they have ever had.

The meeting was adjourned and the Lord's Prayer was recited.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, June 9th, 2020 at 6:30pm and will possibly be another Zoom meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary
