



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



Ministry Notes

I love March. Sure, we have a few big snow events, but we also have longer days and hints of warmer weather. I start thinking about the garden; I start imagining what kind of motorcycle trips I might take.

The world seems to come alive. Flowers bloom, sap flows, and the monochrome white slowly turns to green. To me it feels like resurrection. We all have our favorite seasons of the year; mine is spring.

This year Kris and I will take a few days and travel to Seattle. We'll be attending the wedding of a nephew in the same church we were married... Exactly 40 years ago! It will be one of those full circle experiences.

I remember getting married and having a reception in the church basement-- cake and coffee. We were dirt poor. Eventually, we jumped into a borrowed Volkswagen Dasher and headed to the Olympic Peninsula. We stayed at a place called the Sandpiper Resort overlooking the Pacific. Our room looked over the parking lot but at least we were on the coast!

We returned early from the honeymoon. Kris' dad thought that was the funniest thing ever. Truth was, we were eager to get on with life. We wanted to get settled and get the big adventure going. And so, we did! And so, it has been!

Life is an adventure in so many ways.

We've begun the season of Lent. Wednesday evening worship will include the Holden Evening Prayer Service. Guest preachers from the Cannon Falls area will focus on the theme of "Forgiveness." We've participated in this round robin in the past and I find it very meaningful. While you have an opportunity to hear a different voice, I have the opportunity to greet other congregations on your behalf. It's one of the ways we participate in the broader church community.

Lent is traditionally a time of preparation for Holy Week and Easter. A time of self-examination, or a time of discipline to some spiritual practice. Many people give things up for Lent. Some people may devote themselves to being generous or reading the Bible. This year I'm thinking about forgiveness, and wondering about my life.

Is there someone in my family I need to forgive? Is there someone in my family I might have wronged? Do I need to forgive myself for anything? Forgiveness is a big topic and you too may be challenged to exploring it during Lent.

The journey of Lent leads to Holy Week. The story of Jesus being put to death is difficult to hear and experience. It's always good to remember that Easter comes. Resurrection is God's way of healing the truth about our violent hearts. Forgiveness is God's judgment. And with that forgiveness we learn to forgive others; it's a way of life.

I invite you into this journey of Lent, and let's watch God's grace change our hearts. Life is an adventure...

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:
Church Phone: 651-388-3464 ***Cell Phone:*** 651-983-1795
Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

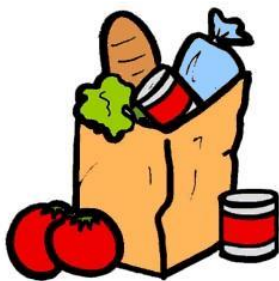
February 2 nd	22
February 9 th	Service Cancelled
February 16 th	24
February 23 rd	15

Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,588	\$3,076	(\$488)

Year to Date	\$2,588	\$3,076	(\$488)
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Minnesota Food Share Campaign



Cannon River is participating in the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. This is a state wide campaign from **March 1-April 12** to restock the food shelves of Minnesota. Our food shelves are so important to our communities. You may be surprised to know that nearly 1 in 11 Minnesotans experience food insecurity. We, at Cannon River, will be collecting food and cash donations. Checks can be made out to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf.

**Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
February 13, 2020**

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met February 13, 2020, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Rick Anderson, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: Sharon Niebur.

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Hartman.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Election of Officers was held. Officers for 2020 are as follows:

President – Bill Bodin

Vice President – Mark Hartman

Secretary – Michelle Sandeen

Treasurer – Rick Anderson

Minutes from the January 16, 2020 meeting were read. Motion made by Shawn Klahr, second by Rick Anderson to approve the January 16, 2020 minutes.

Treasurer's report for the month of January was read. Motion by Mark Hartman, second by Shawn Klahr to approve the January treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- Bill updated the Council on the tree trimming that has been completed and stated that more tree trimming will be done.

New Business:

Bill and Rick informed the Council on the Hope and Harbor program in Red Wing, which is where various churches in Red Wing provide overnight shelter to the homeless from December into March.

The annual benevolence amount was raised to \$15,000 at the Congregational meeting in January. Approximately one-half of the annual amount is designated to certain causes each

year. Motion by Rick Anderson, second by Shawn Klahr to approve the following benevolence amounts for 2020:

- Brian Anderson – varied amounts
- CARE Clinic - \$1,000
- Cannon Falls Food Shelf - \$1,000
- Cannon Valley Senior Center - \$500
- CCIC/Feed My Starving Children - \$500
- Good Samaritan Fund - \$1,000
- HOPE Coalition - \$500
- Hope & Harbor - \$1,000
- Missionary Sponsorship - \$1,000
- Ruth's Kids - \$2,000

The Lenten Supper will be held on March 4th at Cannon River Church. Supper will be at 5:45 p.m. with worship at 7:00 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be will be a joint Council meeting with Cross of Christ on April 14, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Cross of Christ Church.

A motion was made by Rick Anderson, second by Mark Hartman to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Sandeen

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 March 2020

Greeters

March 1 st	Bob & Sandy Luhman
March 8 th	Mary Fjetland
March 15 th	Ann Kulla
March 22 nd	Jean Kehren
March 29 th	Doris Gruber

Readers

March 1 st	Jean Kehren
March 8 th	Paul Hansen
March 15 th	Jim Hill
March 22 nd	Joan Slingsby
March 29 th	Sandy Luhman

Altar

1 st	Cathy Nemcek with helper Ella Briggs
8 th	Cathy Nemeck with helper Graydon Strand

Council Person

Robin Nelson-Williams

Attendance

Kitchen

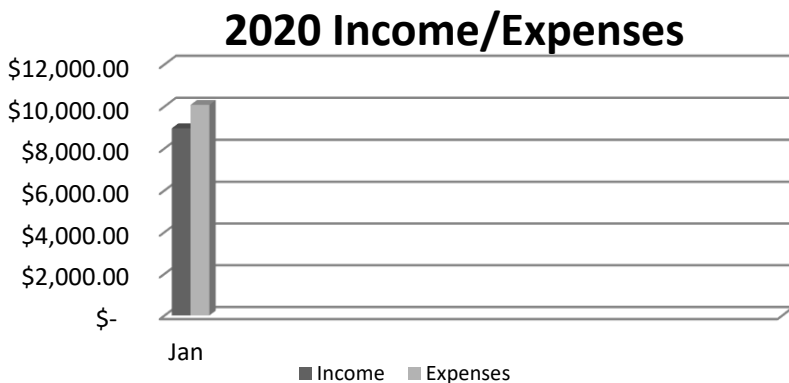
	February 2 nd	64
	February 9 th	32
Doris Gruber	February 16 th	55
	February 23 rd	55

Ushers for March

Jim Gustafson and Kelley Mittelsteadt

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$8,954	\$10,066
Year to Date	\$8,954	\$10,066



Financial News:

Thrivent Members: You can designate the **Thrivent Choice Dollars** that you earned in 2019 now. Please consider designating Cross of Christ as the recipient, as these gifts are much appreciated! Please contact your Thrivent agent for more information, or go to Thrivent.com/thriventchoice. The deadline to designate your 2019 dollars is March 31, 2020. These donations will go to the Building and Grounds fund.

\$6,386.96 was transferred from the Parsonage Expense Fund to the Council Discretionary Fund.

We have provided Deacon Todd with Kwik Trip gas cards to help offset his mileage costs.

The **Kwik Trip card** sales have made a big difference for us. If you frequent Kwik Trip, contact Julie Schriefels at 388-2326 to buy some pre-paid cards. 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 will be **Wed, April 8, 7:00 pm at church**. Finance will not meet in March, but will discuss the financials by e-mail. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

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

Parsonage Repairs/Clean up Needed

Several Council members met for a walk through on the Parsonage, as the current tenants will be moving out at the end of the February.

A list of items has been compiled that need to be fixed/updated prior to the next tenants moving in, which will most likely be around April 1st, as we will need time to "clean up" before it is ready for the new tenants. We are looking for some help with these projects. Please reach out to any Council or maintenance committee member for more details.

Thanks!



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, March 10th** and will be available during church on Sunday, March 15th.

Thank you.

Lent Soup Suppers and Service



Soup supper will be served at 5:30pm and service will start at 7pm. Once again, in an effort to decrease waste, congregational members are

asked to bring their own soup bowls and silverware. Cannon River will host on Wednesday March 4th, all other Wednesday service and suppers will be held at Cross of Christ.

Annual Garage Sale



Cross of Christ will hold its annual

garage sale **April 23-25th**. Start cleaning house and set items aside to donate for the sale. Please **no** electronics. Both helpers and workers will be needed. Any questions please contact Lynette Hanson at 651-388-7378. Thank you!!



WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible study will be held at the Plaza in Red Wing on Tuesday, March 10th. We can carpool at 8:30 am for 9:00-11 study. Deacon Todd will do the lesson. Millie Niebeling will be hostess

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. Remember that only the store receipts are valid; no e-receipts.



*To date, our collection totals
\$104,000!!*

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

March is Minnesota Food Share Month

Once again Cross of Christ will be participating in the Minnesota Food Share. We would like your help in stocking the food shelf in Red Wing. A brochure is attached with suggested donations and



more details. **Please bring your donations to the back of the church, or a monetary donation is greatly appreciated!** Please make your check payable to "Cross of Christ" and write "Minnesota Food Share" in the memo. Thank you!

The Mission Committee

Youth

Sunday School: We will continue with our new curriculum from Sparkhouse Digital we will be using the Whirl Lectionary; the lessons coordinate with the Gospel lessons for the church services.

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School in any way please let Julie Schreifels know.

Activities & Reminders:

March 8 - Sunday School Sings During Worship Service

March 22 – Project for Gabby and Food Drive

Sell Buck-a-Chicks before and after the worship service

March 29 – Sell Buck-a-Chicks before & after service

April 5 – First Communion 5th grade

Palm Sunday Breakfast after church

Mission Projects:



Buck-A-Chick – The Sunday School will be selling “chicks” for \$1.00 before and after church on March 22, March 29, maybe April 5.

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.



Noisy Offering: Each Sunday we pass around a globe for the children to put *coins* in for a “noisy” offering.



Send some coins with the kids for this offering.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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



The next **WELCA meeting** will be **Monday, March 16th 7:00pm**. The agenda will include: Blood Drive review, Salad Lunch, Triennial Gathering fundraising, Days for Girls, other.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next Blood Drive will be **March 12, 2020** from 12:00-6:00. Come and donate blood-Save lives.

Days for Girls Kits: We are continuing to work on this necessary mission project. 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 Eleventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held in Phoenix, AZ July 16-19, 2020. There will be a small group of us going, if you would like to join us talk to Julie Schreifels. The That's My Pan fundraiser will continue, we will put in bulk orders when ten or more items have been ordered. Pie Auction was successful. Those who are going to the Triennial will continue with fundraising activities such as hosting coffee fellowship.

Lenten Soup Supper WELCA will be serving the Soup Supper on March 11th. Let Julie know if you are willing to help with this.



Spring Salad Luncheon: The annual Spring Salad Luncheon will be held on April 18th at 11:00 am. Pr. Kevin Doely – Musical Ventriloquist will be our main presenter. Women from Cross of Christ please bring a large salad for the lunch. Desserts and punch, etc. will be made by the committee. If you have ideas for door prizes or want to help with the decorating/set up. Please contact Julie Schreifels.

New high chairs, one free standing and one that attaches to a chair are set up and ready for use in Dahlen Hall.

Funeral Committee: Doris Gruber, Patti Schaaf, Jackie Martin, Jeanelle Lahr.

Cannon River Conference Spring Gathering “Our Global Neighbors-Brothers & Sisters”

Saturday, April 25, 2020 First Evangelical Lutheran, 8-noon.
Registration, Coffee, Displays 8-9. Program at 9:00 \$12.00 Lunch included. Pre-Registration (for lunch count) preferred.

PRESENTER: Pastor Julie Rogness, Speaking on “Our Global Neighbors-Brothers and Sisters”.

Let Julie Schreifels know if you plan to go. WELCA will pay the registration fee.

Future Events:

Lenten Soup Supper: WELCA will serve the March 11th supper

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

Salad Luncheon: April 18 2020

Cannon River Spring Event: April 25, 2020 First
Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN

11th Triennial Gathering: July 16-19, 2020 Phoenix, Arizona

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

February 11, 2020

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

Before the meeting started a presentation was given by Greg Olson who is a Chief Learning Officer, along with his wife Jeannie. They went over ADA regulations within commercial buildings and also details on controlling the Churches tax exempt status pertaining to the kitchen and bathroom remodel project that is currently being considered. Greg pointed the council to the next steps to take with moving forward.

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

Devotions were given by Deacon Todd.

The agenda was approved and the January meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Todd mentioned some recent things a baptism, funeral and the Newsboys concert. Todd talked a little about the Prairie Island Churches 150th year and with the possibility of honoring that in some way. Todd will be gone March 2nd-10th, John Hesford will be filling in on the 8th. The Church conference that was to be held last Sunday was rescheduled to this coming Sunday, if anyone interested talk with Todd.

***Kitchen-Bathroom**

A brief discussion continued from the earlier presentation. Ron will be in touch with Keith Freisen to complete drawings for the project and move forward from that point.

New Business

***Election**

A motion was made and seconded to elect Ron Hanson as Council President. –Motion passed

A motion was made and seconded to elect Joan Slingsby as Council Vice-President. –Motion passed

A motion was made and seconded to elect Jim Gustafson as Council Secretary. –Motion Passed

***Council Person Sign-up**

A sheet was passed around to sign up for Council Person of the month. Robin will be council person of the month for March.

***Committee Sign-up**

Committee liaison list was reviewed. All standing committees have a council liaison.

Committee Reports

***Finance**

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

***Property Management**

The Sanctuary furnace has been malfunctioning with the last few weeks. Smith Heating was out and repaired what they thought the issue was, unfortunately it was not. The next part they are looking to replace will cost around \$800, a new furnace will be roughly \$6,000. It was discussed wiring the two units together to make do for the next few months.

A motion was made and seconded to have Smith Heating wire the two units together and to use the proceeds from the annual garage sale go towards a new furnace in the near future. –Motion Passed.

The parsonage renters will be out by the end of February. Ron played a message from Dean Dinndorf on some of the repairs or maintenance the parsonage will need. Ron will get together with Oscar and Duke to do a walkthrough of the parsonage and compile a complete list of repairs needed. The parsonage is already being advertised in hopes new renters can be in within the first part of March.

***Worship & Music**

The committee last discussed whole vs white communion bread and the accessibility to it. The next meeting will be held in May.

***Learning & Youth**

The next meeting will be held March 24th. This Sunday a snow event will be held at 1:30PM

***Missions**

The committee sent \$250 to the Australian wild fires, the committee continues to support Karen Anderson, the Valentine's project was completed and the committee will host a coffee fellowship to support Good Earth Village.

Joan provided the list for the Lenten Soup suppers; they are all filled except March 18th. It was decided that the council would take that spot.

Deanna provided last year's Easter advertising with the Eagle Express and the Republican Eagle along with last year's pricing. *A motion was made and seconded to advertise once again for Easter.*

–Motion Passed.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2020 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary



March is Minnesota Food Share Month



Let's join this state-wide campaign to raise money and collect food for our local food shelf. For over 30 years, this effort has made a major difference in relieving hunger in Minnesota.

We would like your help in stocking the food shelf in Red Wing.

Please bring your donations to the back of the church,

Or

A monetary donation is greatly appreciated!

Please make your check payable to "Cross of Christ" and write "Minnesota Food Share" in the memo.

March 1st – cereal, peanut butter and jelly

March 8th – soup and crackers

March 15th – pasta and sauces, boxed dinners

March 22nd – canned fruits and canned vegetables

On March 22nd the Sunday school children will be helping to box up our donations.



Your Mission Committee Thanks You!

Dear Lord, during this campaign to fight hunger, we praise you for the people who have been freed from hunger and ask for your guidance to free more. Amen

EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order flowers to beautify our sanctuary for Easter.

You may choose from:

Easter Lilies	\$10.00
Calla Lilies	\$21.00
Azaleas	\$23.50
Rieger Begonias	\$17.50
Blue Hydrangea	\$22.50
Pink Hydrangea	\$22.50
Mum Plant	\$15.75
Tulip Plants	\$13.50



Please complete this form and leave it in the offering plate or mail it to the church at 24036 County 7 Blvd, Welch, MN 55089 with your check. Order forms must be received by **March 22nd**. You may pick up your plant following the services on Easter.

.....
Name

In Honor of or Memory of (please circle one)

Type of
Plant(s)

Total Amount
Enclosed

Please make checks payable to "Cross of Christ"



SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON
Saturday, April 18 11:00 am
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
24036 County 7 Blvd Welch, Mn (Hwy. 61 & Cty. 7)
Lunch, Program, Door Prizes

We welcome Musical Ventriloquist Kevin Doely to our April gathering. Audiences are laughing out loud at Kevin's life like vent figures and puppets. He is originally from Spring Grove – Minnesota's first Norwegian settlement. Kevin uses a blend of comedy, storytelling, music, and audience participation. Come and enjoy this unique program along with some special guests!

RSVP appreciated to Julie Schreifels
julie.schreifels@gmail.com or leave a
message at the church 651-388-3464

Sponsor: Cross of Christ Women of the ELCA
Free will donation appreciated
Partially funded by a Thrivent Action Grant

