



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



Ministry Notes

I don't know where to begin. I'd love to talk about in-person worship. But as I write, I don't know when that will be. I'd love to talk about first communion and confirmation, but I don't know when those will be scheduled. I'd love to talk about Pentecost coming up at the end of the month. But my heart doesn't seem to be in it. I don't know about you, but I'm feeling tired. This new reality is wearing me down.

I'm in contact with a lot of pastors on Facebook and other colleague groups. One pastor recently said she felt like her job was to be a cheerleader. I certainly believe there is a time for that. I'm not so sure this is the right time...

One of the things I love about our Lutheran heritage, is that we tell the truth about what's going on. We tell the truth about what we're feeling.

Perhaps now, more than ever, we need to be open and honest about what we are experiencing and feeling. This past week an acquaintance, Pastor Craig Breimhorst passed away due to the Covid-19 virus. I'm sad. I'm still in a little shock, and it's hard to believe.

I spent a weekend sitting next to Craig at a theological conference a couple years ago. He was full of wisdom and shenanigans. I loved getting to know him!

Grief experts say that grieving is an important thing to do. Because, if we ignore it or sweep it under a rug, we will never

make a healthy adjustment. I wonder if, “Cheerleading” is a little like sweeping grief under the rug.

I know a lot of you are also experiencing grief, different things and in different ways. Maybe the grief of not seeing family. Maybe the grief of a lost job or business. This past week another acquaintance posted that they wouldn’t be reopening their restaurant. Along with the notice was a thank-you to all the people who had been their customers. That was a heart-ache!

Along with all the grief is worry and fear-- now what? It’s hard to know what awaits us around the corner.

Amidst all this uncertainty, is a promise. It’s a promise I hold onto, dearly. As Paul writes in Romans 8:38-39 ***For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.***

God promises to love us. And that’s all I need, for now. During this time of grief and uncertainty, let’s tell the truth about what we are experiencing and feeling. Let us hold onto God’s promises. And let us hold on to one another. We are stronger together. And all together we will love, support, encourage, connect and include.

This is what we do as the Body of Christ, and we’ve been doing it! And every time I see it, it makes my heart sing...

Be 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

April

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)

Year to Date	\$6,723	\$11,072	(\$4,349)
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Red Wing Pottery Urns and Stands for sale

If you are in need of a cemetery planter urn and/or stand, please give Judy Meyer a call at 651-353-4025. Judy has 5 urns and stands available. 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 May 2020

Greeters

May 3 rd	Dennis & Jackie Martin
May 10 th	Jim & Sue Hill Family
May 17 th	Kelley Mittelsteadt Family
May 24 th	Dean & Dana Dinndorf Family
May 31 st	Doris Gruber

Readers

May 3 rd	Jim Gustafson
May 10 th	David Hill
May 17 th	Joan Slingsby
May 24 th	Mary Fjetland
May 31 st	Dean Dinndorf

Altar

3 rd	No Service
10 th	Millie Niebeling with helper

Council Person

Joan Slingsby

Attendance

April-No service
was held

Kitchen

Cathy Nemcek

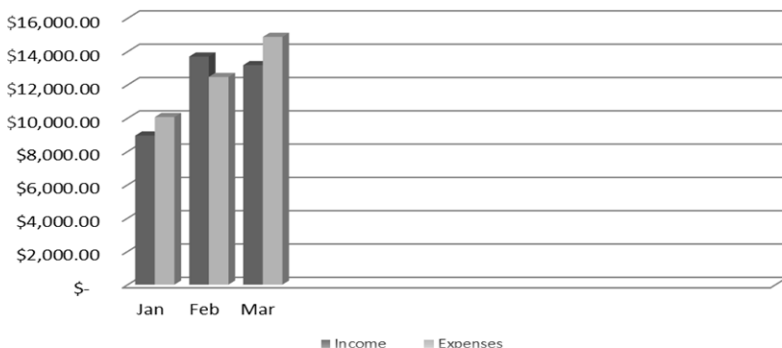
Ushers for May

Dean D, Dennis M, Jim & David Hill

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$8,954	\$10,066
Feb	\$13,695	\$12,471
Mar	\$13,181	\$14,880
Year to Date	\$35,832	\$37,418

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.

Thank you to Ron Hanson and Rick Anderson for their assistance in applying for and receiving the **Paycheck Protection Program loan**. In a nutshell, we received a loan for \$16,500 (to be shared with Cannon River) to encourage us to maintain our staff at current employment levels during this time. After 8 weeks, when we show that we spent these funds on payroll, the loan will be forgiven. This will help with our expenses during this time.

THANK YOU to everyone who designated their 2019 **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Cross of Christ. We received \$1,024 in March and April. These donations will go to the Building and Grounds fund.

The estimate for the **new furnace** is \$5,950. Council designated Ash Wednesday and Lent donations to go toward the new furnace. As of mid-April, donations for the furnace total \$1,815.50, including Ash Wednesday and Lent offerings.

Easter offerings will go toward operating costs. As of mid-April, Easter offerings total \$660.

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, May 6, 7:00 pm**. It is probable that we will have to meet remotely. If you are interested in attending, please let Rebecca know. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

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

Red Cross Blood Drive



Our next Blood Drive will be **May 7**, 2020 from 12:00-6:00. Come and donate blood-Save lives. If you are interested in helping or donating blood, please contact Julie Schreifels at 651-388-2326.

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, May 12th** and will be available on Sunday, May 17th. Thank you.



WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible study will not meet in May.

Community Meal



The Community Meal will be at United Methodist Church on May 10th. The meal starts at 5:00 but preparation will begin at 3:30.

If you can help please contact Joan Slingsby at 507-263-3715 or

jslin@frontiernet.net

Thank you,
Joan

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
\$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

Special Report from the Mission Committee:

In the past two months (and as we go forward) we have expanded our committee membership to include all of you! As we've come to realize like never before, the church is not only a building; it's all of us. We all know how to continue reaching near and far to be of loving service to our neighbors.

There are many more examples than mentioned here, but as the Mission Committee here are some of the stories we've heard:

- *Many, many phone calls to check in on our fellow church members
- *Delivery of groceries and meals
- *Easter flower deliveries

- *Easter cards sent by the hundreds
- *Staying home, shrinking our social circles, washing our hands to slow the spread of disease
- *Sewing and sharing face mask supplies with church members, neighbors, and health care workers locally and internationally
- *Financial contributions to food shelves
- *Virtual visits, drive-by processions, and window visits to show how much we care.

As always, we are staying involved through our relationships through the SEMN Synod, Lutheran Disaster Response, and Lutheran World Relief. Also, we want to express a special note of thanks to our church leadership and other members who have stepped forward in this challenging time of worship, finances, building maintenance, and stewardship.

We hope you continue being creative, connected, and caring. We applaud each and every one of you! If you are in need of a phone call, supplies, or other support... we want to hear from you.

Kris, Sue, Rhonda, Ann, and Deacon Todd (651-983-1795)

“May the world see Hope when it looks at God’s people.
May the world see the church as not a building or a steeple.
May the world find Faith in Jesus’ death and resurrection.
May the world find Joy in a time of dejection.
May 2020 be known as the year of survival...
But not only that-
Let it start a revival!”

Poem segment taken from: “How the Virus Stole Easter”, by
Kristi Bother

Youth and Learning News

Sunday School has been suspended until the Fall as the governor has closed schools for the rest of the school year.

We miss seeing and interacting with our Sunday School kids.

Sunday School Activity Bags: There are white canvas bags with Sunday School activities in them under the table in the Dahlen Hall entrance.

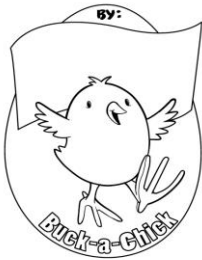
Activities & Reminders:

Virtual Learning and Youth Meeting: May 12 6:30 pm Julie will set up a Google meeting

Vacation Bible School – August 2-6 more information to come.

Mission Projects:

Buck-A-Chick – The Sunday School will be selling “chicks” for \$1.00 throughout the month of May.



How will we do this?

I will put copies of the Buck-a-Chick coloring pages in the Sunday School Activity Bags. The kids will color them and return them to a basket on 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 to 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: If you are planning to attend a 4-year Christian college in 2020-21 fill out and return the scholarship form and return it to the church (secretary@cccrchurch.com) before May 12th. If you are already receiving a scholarship it will be reviewed for renewal at the May L&Y meeting.

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.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

Sunday School Superintendent hjschreif@live.com h. 651-388-2326

c. 507-990-7024



The next **WELCA meeting** will be determined based on the **Stay at Home order** so the **Wednesday, May 6th** meeting will be **postponed**. The agenda will include: Blood Drive, Taste of Welch, Triennial Gathering update, Days for Girls, other.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next Blood Drive will be **May 7, 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 Convention scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, in Phoenix, Arizona, is being rescheduled for **August 3-5, 2021**.

The 2020 “Just Love” Gathering, scheduled for July 16-19, 2020, is being rescheduled for **August 5-8, 2021**.

Taste of Welch Saturday, October 10 from 9 am to 2 p.m

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, May 7, 2020 12-6 pm

11th Triennial Gathering: August 3-5, 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

No in-person meeting was held due to the Covid-19 order in place. A recap of business since the last meeting is below.

Unfinished Business

***Parsonage**

All maintenance and repairs have been completed and new tenants are now renting at the Parsonage as of April 1st. A big thanks to all who participated in a short turnaround time.

***Furnace**

Oscar Daley has been working with Smith Heating in preparation of the new furnace unit to be installed.

New Business

***May council person- Joan Slingsby**

Committee Reports

***Finance**

A unanimous email vote determined the go ahead on the application for CARES act (a forgivable loan for staff salaries). Both Rebecca and Rick from Cannon River are working with the bank to get the application completed. With this application it will help keep our staff on the payroll.

Finance recommendations are as follows:

1. That we pay property insurance monthly for the time being, to be reassessed on a monthly basis.
2. That we drop our monthly withdrawal from the Thrivent

Mutual Fund from the current \$200, back down to the original \$85, to be reassessed in a year.

Both finance recommendations were passed by an email vote.

***Worship & Music**

The next meeting will be held in May.

***Stewardship**

The next meeting will be held in May.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, May 12th, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff

Parish Secretary

Scholarship Selection Committee: Three or more people will be appointed to serve on the scholarship selection committee each year. It is recommended that one person from the Church Council and two from the Learning and Youth Committee be considered. No family member of a scholarship candidate shall serve on the Scholarship Selection Committee.

Guidelines: Scholarships will be awarded on an annual basis and disbursed in equal payments in August and December payable to the institution being attended. Students must continue to attend classes and maintain at least a 2.75 grade-point average (or equivalent).

Scholarship amounts will be recommended by the scholarship selection committee to be approved by the church council at their first meeting following the recommendation by the scholarship selection committee. Students shall provide copies of their fall semester grade point average to the Selection Committee to continue to qualify for the December payment.

Amount: Each annual scholarship award will be based on funds available in the Cross of Christ Christian Scholarship Program and will be no more than \$1000 per student per school year.

Deadline: The application deadline is **May 15th**. The deadline is the date after which applications will no longer be accepted unless an exception is granted in advance by the scholarship selection committee.

Renewal process: Students are automatically considered for subsequent years' scholarships up to a maximum of 8 semesters (4 years) with evidence of attendance and a 2.75 grade-point average. Preference shall be given to first-year applicants over students who are renewing their application, if the fund will not support both.