



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



Ministry Notes

Before I started to write anything, I went back and re-read what I had written for the Country Chronicles last March. I was talking about spring and how the world comes alive. The grass turns green, the leaves sprout, the weather warms... So much optimism and excitement!

And ohh, how things have changed...

Don't get me wrong, we really did have a nice spring with green grass and leaves and all that... Unfortunately, it also came with a novel coronavirus. We weren't sure what to expect and we were pretty much expecting the worst. So, schools closed, restaurants closed, churches closed...

And if there was any silver lining at all, at least we all felt like we were in this thing together. It felt like there was some social agreement on what to do. But now, even that is pretty much gone.

Then we had the death of George Floyd. What was already a cranky situation exploded in ways we could never have imagined. Spawning still more violence and destruction and who knows what... If you're like me, you're wondering, "What's going on with the world?"

As I write, the virus continues to spread... Over 140,000 people have died, hospitals in parts of Florida and Texas have maxed out their ICUs. Researchers have better information, but depending

on where you get your news, it's either really, really bad-- or not a problem.

And of course, we're in an election year, so all manner of spinning is happening. So, we're not only fearful, we don't know who to listen to.

It feels like danger and chaos is everywhere. I go through periods when I can't watch the news. It not only makes me cynical; it makes me paralyzed. There's so much badness out there! And that's certainly no way to live...

On August ninth, our gospel reading will be about Jesus walking on water. In biblical stories, water is often associated with danger and chaos. We have Noah and the flood, we have the Israelites crossing through the Red Sea on dry land (it didn't turn out well for the Egyptians!), we have Jonah and the whale, and even in the New Testament we have the story of Apostle Paul being shipwrecked.

When Jesus walks on water, he is not only walking on water, he's walking across all the danger and chaos that humanity can possibly muster—and that gives me comfort. Jesus is the master of our disaster.

So, especially when the seas of danger and chaos rage and foam, take the hand of Jesus and you can walk over anything.

Take good care, 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

July 5 th	12
July 12 th	39
July 19 th	31

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)
May	\$2,830	\$3,029	(\$199)
June	\$4,508	\$4,095	\$412

Year to Date	\$15,691	\$21,165	(\$5,474)
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The Feed My Starving Children Mobile Pack committee met and the November 2020 event in Cannon Falls has been canceled due to Covid19. We hope to continue our efforts for a 2021 event. Please continue to save your grocery receipts! We appreciate your support!

SAVE THE DATE!!



Cannon River will hold a bonfire worship service on **Saturday, August 8th at 7:00 P.M.** Please bring your own lawn chair. Two important notes - There is **NO** potluck this year, but feel free to bring your own personal drink or snack to enjoy during the evening. Also, ***no Sunday worship on August 9th.*** Come to the bonfire instead!

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 August 2020

Greeters

August 2 nd	Jean Kehren
August 9 th	Darwin & Cheryl Fox
August 16 th	Jeff & Rhonda Meyer
August 23 rd	Wayne & Sonja Munson
August 30 th	Deanna Gehloff

Readers

August 2 nd	Mary Fjetland
August 9 th	Jim Hill
August 16 th	Joan Slingsby
August 23 rd	Sandy Luhman
August 30 th	Carl Peterson

Council Person

Jon Peterson

Kitchen

Sandy Luhman

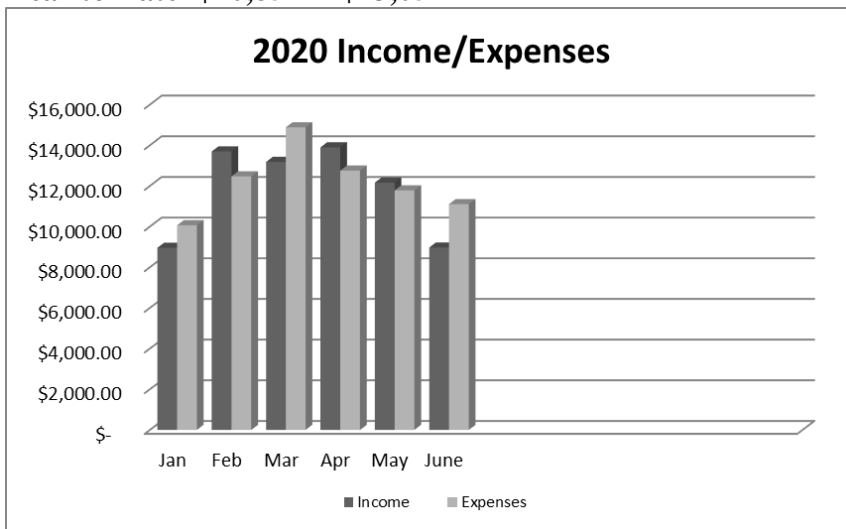
Ushers for August

Paul Hansen, Jeff Busse, Jim Chester

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
May	\$12,162	\$11,782
June	\$8,968	\$11,104

Year to Date \$70,857 \$73,057



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. Giving has dropped in the summer months, as expected.

We received the **Paycheck Protection loan** on April 22 in the amount of \$16,500. We are currently waiting for more direction

from the bank and Small Business Association on how to obtain loan forgiveness. There will be more updates as the process moves forward. These funds are NOT included in the Income/Expense graph.

THANK YOU to everyone who designated their 2019 **Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Cross of Christ. You can designate Choice dollars earned so far in 2020 at any time. Contact your advisor or go to www.thrivent.com for more information.

We're in the process of getting a quote for **Workers compensation insurance** for Brotherhood Mutual.

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, August 5, 7:00 pm**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

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

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 and car washes to anything else they sell. 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 another 10% for non-fuel purchases made with the cards. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, August 11th** and will be available at the church by, August 16th. **If you would like to order cards and are not on the regular order list please email**

hjschreif@live.com or 651-388-2326. **We can discuss how you**

would like to receive and pay for your cards. Thank you to those

who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

A graphic of a torn piece of newspaper with a red star in the center. The star has the word "WANTED" written on it. The newspaper text is partially visible around the star and in a central box.

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HELP WANTED

Sunday School Teachers;
1-3 Grade to teach a short lesson
after the opening introduction.
Could be a co-taught position
Sundays determined by co-teachers.
4-6 Grade to teach or co-teach same
as above.
7-8 Grade co-teacher, Dean will
mentor.
Contact: Julie Schreifels
507-990-7024 hjschreif@live.com

DID YOU KNOW that not only
does newspaper media reach

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 \$129,400!!

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

Hello CoC mask makers!

I've heard there is more interest in making masks. Awesome! The Mission Committee will be glad to continue to collect and prepare them for shipping. The website below will give you more info if you are interested in where and when they are shipped overseas. As of this writing, Lutheran World Relief reports collecting more than 117 thousand masks to ship around the world!

<https://lwr.org/masks#8457>

Their website shows making masks with the ties, which is great. As an alternative, Sandy Luhman has an easy way to make them with ear loops; feel free to contact her if you want her instructions. Last time, it worked beautifully to drop the masks off at church where we

packed them in groups of 25 and brought them to the warehouse for shipping.

I deeply care about this organization and have seen firsthand the life changing effects of their work in other countries. Historically, LWR is known for their quilts and kits. I encourage you to explore their website. Over the years at CoC, we have assembled school kits and baby care kits; other organizations assemble personal care kits, etc. Shall we assemble some sewing/fabric kits? This consists of cutting fabric to certain dimensions and packing it with two spools of thread. The kits are distributed and used for vocational training. Contact me if you are willing to participate and we'll arrange to get you a sheet of instructions. The Mission Committee is willing to purchase fabric and other supplies.

Again, thank you so much for participating in this ministry. I know we are starting to get busy with Taste of Welch so let's collect masks through the end of September. We can re-evaluate the Sewing Kit collection depending on how many of us want to participate.

Kris Portinga
651-442-5527

In Person Communion

Once again we will be scheduling in person communion in August. Each family will have a 10 minute period of time to come in the church and have Communion at Cross of Christ Church on **Sunday, August 16th** starting at 10:30am.



If you know you would like to participate in communion, please contact the parish secretary at secretary@cccrchurch.com or by phone at 651-388-3464, or cell 651-380-6323.

TASTE OF WELCH

We are going ahead with the fundraiser for **October 10th**. There are changes. Packets of info will be sent out to sellers with raffle tickets and orders for the bake sale items. These will be sent at the end of August. Julie Schreifels and the Taste of Welch Mission fund raiser committee are working on this. We are raffling a quilt and other items, if you have something you would like to donate, contact Millie Niebeling at 651-380-0776 or Kelley Mittlesteadt at 651-764-9889. We are getting gift cards and certificates like in the past. See Julie Schreifels information in the WELCA news. Millie will be calling sellers about raffle packets. Thanks, Millie

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 or some hybrid of the two. Also, if we have in person worship services.

We miss seeing and interacting with our Sunday School kids.

No Youth events are scheduled at this time. No Eve

Vacation Bible School – VBS has been canceled for 2020 do to safety concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Learning and Youth committee suggests families explore the Virtual Village activities through Good Earth Village go to <http://goodearthvillage.org/> then select the Virtual Village tab.

*We will also be offering **Activity Bags** to those families who would like some Christian activities for their children. Contact Julie Schreifels or the church office if you would like one.*

hjschreif@live.com 507-990-7024

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.

Activities & Reminders:



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 to be supported so



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

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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



The next **WELCA** meeting will be **Wednesday, August 5th 7:00 pm.** *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, Days for Girls, other.

Red Cross Blood Drive: The Blood Drive held on July 2, 2020 from 12:00-6:00 was very successful total units collected 34. **Our next drive will be September 3 from 12-6 pm.** Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> The Cross of Christ site has had 27 drives totaling 671 units of blood donated.

Days for Girls Kits: It was decided that we would establish our own Days for Girls team. There is a \$50 fee the first year then \$25 each year after, this covers liability insurance for sewing groups. Joan will apply for a team with Days for Girls International. 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 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 have the raffle (members selling tickets), a bake sale (customers would order items and pick them up on Oct. 10). We will also sell quarts of chicken noodle soup and chili in the same manner. Please be sure to sign up using the attached Taste of Welch Volunteer form or let Julie know how you can help with our mission fundraiser. hjschreif@live.com or 507-990-7024.

Future Events:

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

Taste of Welch: October 10, 2020 9-2

11th Triennial Gathering: August 5-8, 2021 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

CEMETERY BOARD

The Cemetery Board would once again like you to consider your final wishes for being buried in our beautiful cemetery.

If you have any questions please contact Ann

Kulla aequilla@embarqmail.com

Church Softball Games

Come out and support the Church Softball team. We just had a double hitter, but unfortunately we lost both games...so we need you to come and cheer us on.

Games are played at the AP Anderson softball fields. Our next games are as follows

August 3rd at 6:30pm against Cannon Falls
United

August **10th** at 6:30pm against St Joes

August **20th** at 6:30pm against Covenant

Playoffs will be held August **22nd** all day

Any questions contact Ron Hanson



Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations
July 14, 2020

The Council members met 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 and Deacon Todd Portinga.

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

Deacon Todd led devotions and prayer.

The agenda was approved. A motion was made to approve the June meeting as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Deacon Todd thanked Joan Slingsby, Ann Kulla, and Deanna Gehloff for their support of the recent in person communion. He is grateful for the new laptop computer. In person worship is going well at Cannon River. He is making a few member visits in accordance with their wishes. Deacon Todd also thanked everyone who helped to make the worship videos a success.

***Kitchen-Bathroom**

No update.

New Business

***August council person – Jon Peterson**

***Church Reopening**

Joan has started work on a COVID-19 plan. Council members shared their views and ideas on reopening the church to in person

worship services. Consensus was for council members to do a telephone survey to gather members' input on church reopening and the Sunday video services.

*Church League Softball. Ron contacted all players. The team has won two games so far with five more to go.

A motion was made and seconded to pay the \$200 league fee out of the Church Council Discretionary Fund.

Committee Reports

*Finance

Rebecca gave the financial secretary's report. Giving was down in June.

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

*Property Management

Joan will confirm the LP gallon amount and send the card back to Ag Partners when it comes in August to lock in our price for the upcoming heating season.

Joan updated the council on the center aisle carpeting in the sanctuary. Ramsbacher will charge \$200 to cut a seam and reglue the carpet to eliminate bubbling in humid weather.

The Dahlen Hall dehumidifier will be monitored for possible replacement next spring.

Replacement of three parsonage storm doors was discussed.

*Worship & Music

A Zoom meeting will be held on Sunday, July 19th. Committee members will be discussing the licensing fees for hymns used in worship services and in video streaming.

*Learning & Youth

The committee met last week. Youth cemetery clean up is scheduled for July 16th. Dates for VBS are August 2nd – 6th.

*Missions

A video was sent to Gabby and her Tanzanian community. It was well received.

Kelley updated council members on Taste of Welch plans for this fall.

Also, the Welch Township picnic will not be held this year.

The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jim Gustafson
Council Secretary

PHONE SURVEY

The Cross of Christ Church Council will be making phone visits with all members regarding their thoughts and concerns of resuming in-person services.

The phone call should only take about ten minutes or as long as it takes for you to make your concerns noted. The Council will address the results from the phone survey at their August 11th meeting.



If you have any questions or concerns regarding this survey, please contact Ann Kulla, aekulla@embarqmail.com