



Country Chronicles
December 2019
Cannon River and
Cross of Christ Lutheran
Parish, ELCA



Ministry Notes

Christmas is just around the corner... As I get older I have so many memories of family get-togethers.

I remember being a young child and going to Grandma and Grandpa Johnson's. It was a small home and we were packed in like sardines. We sat in a circle in the living room and opened presents.

Grandma Johnson was a knitter. Every year my brothers and I would get a new sweater and the three of us would be look a-likes. Same color and style... We knew how much Grandma had worked on them and they were special. Christmas wouldn't be Christmas without a new sweater. We were full, of love and lutefisk.

As our family left that evening, snow was falling gently and, under the yard light, it was a magical sight. My dad stopped in his tracks and had us all look up. We were wearing heavy jackets with floppy hats and mittens and we had Christmas gifts under our arms. It was but a moment; but a moment etched in my mind. The world seemed to be perfect.

I remember another Christmas when Jo and Jon were little. My brothers and sister all had kids about the same age. We gathered at my parents' home in Willmar. All the little cousins were running and laughing, playing games and generally being squirrely. They loved being a gang.

There were so many people that opening presents was a major operation. Instead of giving practical gifts we had resorted to

drawing names and giving prank gifts. That year I had drawn my older brother's name. Dr. Portinga enjoyed his nose-hair trimmer!

Another Christmas when I was in Austin, Kris and I were both working. Johanna was home from college and she and Jon came to Austin to surprise me. I came home that afternoon and they had strung lights in the house and thought we could spend time together. Unfortunately, I was busy. I had four services that evening and a radio service the next morning!

Literally, there was nothing to eat in the house. Late Christmas morning we drove all over town looking for a grocery store, a convenience store, or even a gas station that was open. NOTHING... We spent Christmas eating a frozen pizza. (That might have been my favorite Christmas. And Jo will never let me forget it!)

Life is life and unfortunately, not all Christmas memories are celebrations. There was a Christmas shortly after Kris and I had gotten married. Her parents had both passed away. We gathered in Seattle with her two sisters, one brother and one dog. We took a picture of the six of us. On the outside we were smiling; on the inside we were crying. It was important to be together... We needed to be...

We all come to Christmas in our own unique circumstances. Let's be mindful of everyone and grateful for the Christ child born amongst us. And May God Bless us all,

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

November 3 rd	21
November 10 th	15
November 17 th	22
November 24 th	17

Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,481	\$1,661	\$819
Feb	\$2,132	\$4,679	(\$2,547)
Mar	\$3,420	\$4,613	(\$1,193)
Apr	\$2,602	\$2,956	(\$354)
May	\$2,098	\$3,648	(\$1,550)
June	\$4,114	\$3,241	\$872
July	\$2,267	\$3,409	(\$1,142)
August	\$2,300	\$4,347	(\$2,047)
September	\$2,963	\$4,769	(\$1,806)
October	\$3,080	\$3,262	(\$182)
Year to Date	\$27,457	\$36,589	(\$9,132)

Ruth's Boys

Cannon River will be sharing the Christmas spirit with Ruth's Boys again this year. These are two young men with disabilities who work very hard to live independently. We originally heard about these two fellows through a church member, Ruth Murphy many years ago. Because neither young man has parents or siblings in their lives, Cannon River has "taken them under their wing", so to speak, over the years. There will be a Christmas tree in the entry of church with tags of gift ideas for them. Please return the wrapped gift to church by Sunday, Dec. 22 for delivery.



Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
November 14, 2019

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met November 14, 2019, 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.

Minutes from the September 12, 2019 were read with one correction made. The Harvest Festival worship service began at 8:30 verses 8:00 as listed in the minutes. Motion by Rick Anderson, second by Bill Bodin to approve the September 12, 2019 minutes.

Treasurer's report for September and October 2019 were read. Motion by Bill Bodin, second by Shawn Klahr to approve the September and October 2019 treasurer's report.

Old Business:

- Spraying will have to be done next August to take care of the flies. The flies are almost gone now.
- Harvest Festival had a good turnout. An early worship service on Harvest Festival works out well.
- Heat tape will be added to the roof area above the air conditioner to help alleviate icicle buildup.

New Business:

A motion was made by Rick Anderson, second by Bill Bodin to send benevolence to the following:

- \$500.00 to Hunter Miner, 21 year-old from Winona, who is suffering from kidney failure;
- \$500.00 to the Cords family in Rushford, MN, victims of a house fire in October;

- \$500.00 to the family of Ocean Christofferson, who passed away in a house fire in Red Wing in November;
- \$500.00 to the Senior Center in Cannon Falls. \$250.00 is earmarked for the Thanksgiving Meal and \$250.00 is for the Senior Center.

The next Council meeting will be December 18, 2019, at 6:30 p.m. at Cross of Christ Church. Items to be discussed will be benevolence and the 2020 budget.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sandeen

SEMNSYNOD Theological Conference



It was an honor for Todd to be the liturgist for Bishop Regina Hassanally's first worship service with rostered leaders in the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. The Fall Theological Conference was held on November 3-5 in New Ulm, MN and the topic was *Embodied Leadership*

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 December 2019

Greeters

December 1 st	Doris Gruber
December 8 th	Jim Gustafson
December 15 th	Dennis & Jackie Martin
December 22 nd	Bob & Shirley Watsi
December 29 th	Mary Fjetland

Readers

December 1 st	Dean Dinndorf
December 8 th	Sandy Luhman
December 15 th	Kailyn Peterson
December 22 nd	Cathy Nemcek
December 29 th	Jim Gustafson

Altar

1 st	Millie Niebeling with a Confirmation helper
8 th	Millie Niebeling with a Confirmation helper

Council Person

Jon Peterson

Attendance

Kitchen

Doris Gruber

November 3 rd	76
November 10 th	71
November 17 th	39
November 24 th	56

Ushers for December

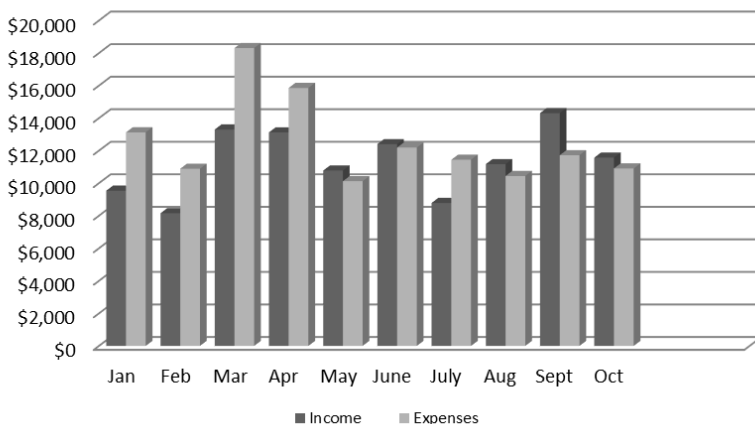
Paul Hansen, Jeff Busse, Jim Chester

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$9,543	\$13,128
Feb	\$8,159	\$10,890
Mar	\$13,302	\$18,310
Apr	\$13,126	\$15,858
May	\$10,780	\$10,125
June	\$12,402	\$12,192
July	\$8,788	\$11,447
Aug	\$11,174	\$10,444
Sept	\$14,309	\$11,723
Oct	\$11,575	\$10,908

Year to Date \$113,159 \$125,025

2019 Income/Expenses



Financial News

Thrivent Members: You can designate the **Thrivent Choice Dollars** that you have earned so far in 2019 at any time. Please consider designating Cross of Christ as the recipient, as these gifts are much appreciated! Please contact your Thrivent agent

for more information. These donations will continue to go to the Building and Grounds fund.

Missions: \$370 was sent to Hastings Family Services for their Thanksgiving Meal. \$225 was sent to Feed My Starving Children.

Harvest Festival donations totaled \$9,918 and will go toward operating costs. This amount (received in Nov.) is not reflected in the graph, which only goes through Oct.

The interest from our **Core Bond Investment Fund** continues to be over \$200/month. As long as this is the case, we will continue to take \$200/month out for the education fund, with the remainder reinvested.

2020 offering envelopes will be available in December, but you can ask for envelopes any time of the year. If you have received envelopes in the past and no longer wish to, OR if you'd like to start using them, just let Rebecca know.

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, December 4, 7:00 pm at church**. 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. Contact Julie Schreifels to purchase at hjschreif@live.com or 651-388-2326. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, December 10th and** will be available during church on Sunday, December 15th. Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.



WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study Group will meet Tuesday December 10th at 8:30 at Church to Carpool to Red Wing for breakfast at Liberty Restaurant at 9:00 AM- Bring some food for the Food shelf

That's My Pan sale

Personalized pans and many other items. Great for bringing items to events. They also make fantastic presents: weddings, showers, birthdays, other special events and of course Christmas!! *Take orders from friends and family* either using the Fundraiser Order



Form or Better have them go to our web site www.thatsmypan.biz/WELCA2019
We will send in a bulk order on Dec. 3



The next Red Cross Blood drive will be held on Thursday **January 2nd, 2020** from Noon-6:00PM. If you are interested in helping or donating blood, please contact

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



To date, our collection totals \$93,300!!

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

Christmas Shoebox Project for Hope Coalition

Helping families in crisis rebuild their lives.

Please join our Sunday School children in remembering others this Christmas!



The mission committee is sponsoring our annual Christmas Shoebox Project for Hope Coalition.

Hope Coalition provides assistance to individuals and families who are homeless or struggling with housing. This

holiday season we are going to help people in Red Wing find a little happiness on Christmas.

Please help them by filling a Christmas shoebox and reminding them that there are people who care for them. **(The greatest need this year is for men.)**

There is a display in the back of the church with forms that you can use, or if you receive this electronically, you can print the form. The instructions are on it!! Feel free to take a plastic container for your shoebox, or you can cover a shoebox with wrapping paper, if you wish.

**Please return your shoebox and place it in the back of the church
by December 8th!**

Thank you for sharing your love on Christmas!!

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. Robin is preparing the Christmas Program and we will begin practicing songs and program parts

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

Activities & Reminders:

Dec. 1 - Turn in Gabby banks

Dec. 8 – Shoe Box Project

Dec. 14- Saturday Program Practice 10 am-12 pm Lunch after

Dec. 15 – Christmas Program 10:30 am final rehearsal starts at 9:00 am

Dec. 15 – 6:30 pm Caroling meet at the church

Dec. 22- No Sunday School

Dec. 29- No Sunday School

Jan. 7 – Tuesday Learning and Youth meeting 6:30 pm

February 6, 7:00 pm News Boys United, Grace Church

Mission Projects:

Bring in the Banks for Gabby on December 1st.

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.

Christmas Program – Hurry! Listen! Jesus is Born

Dress Rehearsal Saturday, December 14th 10:00am-12:00 pm.

We need a couple of volunteers to provide lunch for the participants.

December 15 -Christmas Program 10:30 am. **Sunday School: final rehearsal at 9:00 am**

Coffee fellowship after church- We need a couple of volunteers to take care of the coffee fellowship. Please let me know if you can help with either of these.

News Boys United concert, Grace Church in Eagan. Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm. 15 Tickets have been purchased. Youth will pay \$5.00 adults \$20.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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



The next **WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, December 4th 7:00pm.** The agenda will include: Blood Drive, Triennial Gathering fundraising, Women's Retreat, Salad Lunch, High chairs, other.

That's My Pan sale. Personalized pans and many other items. Great for bringing items to events. They also make fantastic presents: weddings, showers, birthdays, other special events and of course Christmas!! *Take orders from friends and family* either using the Fundraiser Order Form or Better have them go to **our** web site **www.thatsmypan.biz/WELCA2019** ***Orders will be placed on the following dates, if we have at least 10 new items ordered: Dec. 3.***

Red Cross Blood Drive: The November 7th drive was a great success, 34 units collected! A record for us. Our next Blood Drive will be January, 2, 2020 from 12:00-6:00. Come and donate blood-Save lives. The lunch is covered. We need helpers for the 3-6 shift and maybe one more for the 12-3 shift. Let Julie know if you can help.

Days for Girls Kits: We are continuing to work on this necessary mission project. Contact Joan Slingsby or Julie Schreifels for more

details or go to the web site www.DaysforGirls.org .

Taste of Welch: We will be distributing \$1,600 to various mission and charitable organizations.



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, Pie Auction and possibly other fundraisers will help with expenses.

Thank you to all who helped make the Pie Auction a great success!

2020 Women's Retreat: January 24-26, 2020 Cedar Valley Resort, Whalen, MN (near Lanesboro). Come join us for a fun, relaxing, inspiring weekend. Pastor Karna Marks will once again be leading our program. *This year's study topic will be centered around Brene Brown's book "Rising Strong". "Rising Strong" is the Easter story of our lives - how we rise again and again -new every morning.* See the attached registration form for more details or contact Julie Schreifels or Mary Fjetland. We have 14 confirmed participants, 25 beds available. Please let Julie know soon if you and/or your friends plan to attend. \$125 for a shared room, \$150 for a private room.

Future Events:

Christmas Smorgasbord: Sunday, December 8 5:30pm

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

2020 Women's Retreat: January 24-26, 2020 Cedar Valley Resort, Whalen, 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

November 12, 2019

Present: President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Jean Kehren, Ann Kulla, Duke Bjorklund, Jon Peterson, Jim Gustafson, Deacon Todd Portinga and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff

Absent: Robin Nelson Williams, Dana Dinndorf and Rhonda Meyer

Also Present: Darwin Fox and Bob Luhman

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

Devotions were given by Deacon Todd Portinga.

Darwin Fox, and later in the meeting Bob Luhman, gave an update on the septic. The tank (1,000gal fiberglass) and a new drainage field of approximately 75 feet was installed on a two day process that took place on November 7th and 8th. The church will receive a bill for pumping out the old tank. Thanks to Bob Luhman, Ron Hanson, Darwin Fox, Oscar Daley and with the use of equipment and time from Luhman's Construction to see this major project get completed.

The new tank should be pumped out every 4-5 years to keep the tank lasting another 60+ years.

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

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Todd talked briefly about the Fall Theological Conference that he was the liturgist for Bishop Regina Hassanally's first worship service. The Conference was held on Nov 3-5. Feed My Starving

Children mobile packing event is coming up on the 23rd. Todd is looking to take some time off come March for a family wedding and to celebrate his 40th wedding anniversary.

***Kitchen-Bathroom**

Joe Tousignant from JTS was in on Wednesday, Nov 6th to take necessary measurements in order to provide a bid for the projected project.

*** Sign**

A new replacement sign was installed by Signworx off from Hwy 61 and looks nice.

New Business

***November Council Person-Jon Peterson**

*** Community Picnic**

Both Joan and Ron were approached by members of the picnic committee in need of extra financial support. After discussion, it was decided the picnic is not a church function and therefore will not be put as item on the budget.

A motion was made and seconded to have a picnic committee member ask for a donation, but not put as a line item on the yearly budget, they can also explore other financial options within the community. –Motion Passed

***Re-Keyed Door**

The main Church doors have been re-keyed to be able to unlock with the same key as used in the Dahlen Hall door.

***Christmas advertising**

A handout was reviewed along with pricing to advertise for Christmas services. The investment would be \$204 and will be included in the Republican Eagle on 12/18 and Eagle Express on 12/21 along with online advertisement with a direct link to our website.

A motion was made and seconded to advertise for Christmas

service for both Cannon River and Cross of Christ Churches. –
Motion Passed

Committee Reports

***Finance**

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

***Property Management**

Ann said the bushes have been trimmed and a bill in the amount of \$240 should have been received from Shirley Jonas.

A brief discussion was held in regards to estate planning. Ann will work on something for the December chronicles notifying members council can help in directing them to the appropriate representative.

***Missions**

Shoe Box project, turn in date of Dec 8th. FMSC will be on Nov 23rd

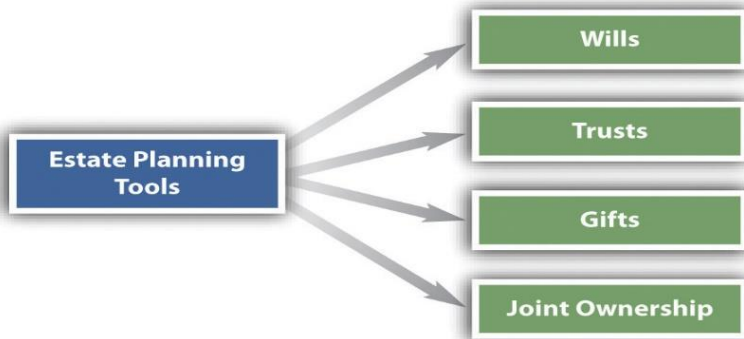
The meeting was adjourned and the Lord's Prayer was recited.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday December 10th, 2019 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary

The Cross of Christ Church Council would like to inform any members that we are very willing to help anyone interested in their estate planning that want to include the Church when planning their estate.



Please feel to reach out to any Council member and we can assist you. Thank you!

Please join me for a party for Nick Mittelsteadt to see him off to his new duty station on Friday, January 10th at 6:30 pm at the American Legion in Red Wing. Thank you Kelley Mittelsteadt



Christmas Smorgasbord

Come and Celebrate the Season!



Our annual Christmas Smorgasbord will be held on Sunday, December 8th, in Dahlen Hall. Please arrive at 5:30pm and bring a dish to pass; beverages and tableware will be provided. Lynette and Ron Hanson will once again prepare the Lutefisk!!

After dinner, we will celebrate the season! We'd like to share your many talents during a program after dinner. **Please let Sue or Jackie know if you have a talent that you're willing to share – children and adults!** We'd love to hear from you! **What is your best Christmas present?** Please tell us about this gift and the story behind it!

We'll also play a game and you have a chance to win a prize!

So, bring the whole family, invite a friend, and enjoy a wonderful evening of holiday celebration.

Sue Hill and Jackie Martin



Christmas Project

Once again Cross of Christ will be participating in the Adopt-A-Family Christmas Program.



A Christmas tree will be displayed in the back of the church with tags. Please take a tag and buy the gift listed on it for the Adopt-a-Family Christmas Project.

Please return the gifts unwrapped, by **Sunday December 8th**. Any questions please contact Lynette Hanson at (651) 380-7814

Thank you!!

BUNCO GAMES 2020

Bunco is a social dice game involving 100% luck and no skill (there are no decisions to be made), scoring and a set of rules are simple. All ages are encouraged to play. We are looking for people to host a game in January, Febuary and March. Hostess provide a simple meal and two prizes. Contact Janet Daley at 651-388-4556.

