



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



## Ministry Notes

---

I was just looking at my new calendar and it hardly seems possible. I remember 2000 like it was yesterday, but 2020! My goodness...

Time seems to go faster the older I get. People have tried to explain this to me, but I'm still not sure I understand. One person said it has to do with the experience of time in relation to the total. For instance, the year 2019 was just one-sixtieth of my life, or 1.7 %. Compared to when I was ten, when it was 10% percent. Consequently, we experience the years to go faster? I don't know... I'm not sure I buy it.

I'm more inclined to think time just goes faster when you're having fun, and at my age, life is good. I'm not as anxious about things as I used to be.

Perhaps you have an explanation too, and I would love to hear it. All I know is that time keeps ticking along; the clock only goes in one direction.

When I visit with older adults, I sometimes ask, "If you could turn the clock back to a previous time in your life, would you do it?" People usually say "Absolutely not!"

When we look back over the years and remember the things we've done and experiences we had, we often see it as complete and whole. It's as if the life story itself is remarkable and amazing and we want it preserved just like it is. In other words, it's unique and special.

As I get older, I'm starting to appreciate how my life turned out. I look back, and I'm just simply grateful.

In my teenage years, there were so many questions about what I was going to do with my life. So many questions that needed to get figured out, or lived into... What was my life going to be about? What was I going to do for a job? What might I study? Where might I go to school? Who were going to be my friends? Where was I going to live? Who was I going to marry? So many questions, it was almost overwhelming.

And of course, it's still the same way. Young kids are still figuring it all out. And I wonder if their choices are the same as when I was young, or if they are more complicated. I really don't know. But at any rate, we always need to give our kids a lot of space and love and encouragement. And they will indeed live into these questions and figure things out. We all did, and they will too.

It also seems that the older I get, the more I pray for kids. I pray for my kids, and the church kids, and it's joyful to watch them grow up. I'm always amazed, as it says in the song, ***Born*** ***Cry***, to see their lives unfold.

My prayer as we enter another year, is that it will be full of meaning and love. And may our kids be blessed and may we all be blessed by the years and life we share together...

Happy New Year, Everyone!

Todd

---

***Contact Information for Todd Portinga:***

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

***Email:*** [pastor@cccchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccchurch.com)

---

---

# Cannon River News

---

## Attendance

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	12
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	20
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	30
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	14
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	48

---

## 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)
November	\$2,144	\$2,809	(\$665)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$29,601</b>	<b>\$39,398</b>	<b>(\$9,797)</b>

---

Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
December 18, 2019

The Cannon River Church Council met December 18, 2019. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Rick Anderson, Shawn Klahr, Michelle Sandeen and Sharon Niebur. Absent were Bill Bodin and Mark Hartman

Meeting was called to order by vice president, Michelle Sandeen.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

The minutes from the November 14, 2019 council meeting were read. Motion made by Shawn Klahr, second by Rick Anderson to approve the November 14, 2019 minutes.

Treasurer's report for the month of November was read. Motion by Sharon Niebur, second by Shawn Klahr to approve the November treasurer's report.

### **Old Business:**

- The heat tape has been applied to the roof area around the air conditioner and appears to be doing a good job. It's effectiveness will continue to be monitored.

### **New Business:**

- A 2% increase to staff salary has been proposed.
- A motion was made by Michelle Sandeen, seconded by Shawn Klahr to approve the proposed 2020 budget draft of \$46, 167.47
- A motion was made by Rick Anderson, seconded by Michelle Sandeen to send the December benevolence to the following:  
\$325 to the Care Clinic  
\$325 to the Hope Coalition  
\$325 to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf  
\$325 to the Good Samaritan Fund

The next council meeting will be on Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at Cannon River.

Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Niebur

---

## **Annual Meeting**

Cannon River will hold its annual meeting on **Sunday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020** immediately following worship. Treasurers need to turn in their reports to the church office as soon as possible. Booklets will be available on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Thanks!

---

# 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 January 2020

### **Greeters**

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Oscar & Janet Daley
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ken & Joan Slingsby
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Meyer
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Hansen

### **Readers**

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Hansen
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	Dean Dinndorf

### **Altar**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren with helper Kiersten Peterson
12 <sup>th</sup>	Yvonne Nelson with helper Brooklyn Busse

### **Council Person**

Ron Hanson

### **Attendance**

### **Kitchen**

Joan Slingsby

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	66
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	75
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	91
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	52
December 24 <sup>th</sup>	139

### **Ushers for January**

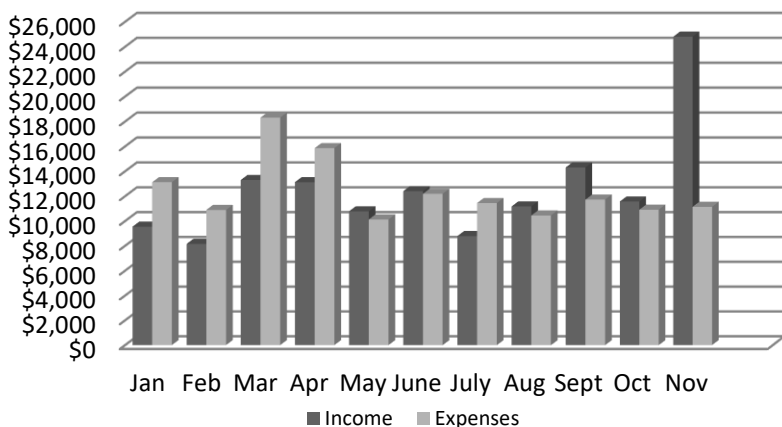
Dean Dinndorf, Dennis Martin, Jim & David Hill

## 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
Nov	\$24,806	\$11,141

**Year to Date**   **\$137,966**   **\$136,165**

### 2019 Income/Expenses



### Financial News

**2020 offering envelopes** are available in the back of the sanctuary, 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.

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 go to the Building and Grounds fund.

**Missions:** \$20 was sent to the South Sudan Mission. \$1,000 was sent to support missionary Karen Anderson in Chile.

**Harvest Festival donations** totaled \$9,918 and went into the Operating Fund.

We received \$6,100 **in memory of Carl and Bernice Gustafson**, which went to the operating fund.

**Christmas offerings totaled \$2,043** and will be split between the Accessibility Fund and Habit for Humanity.

We cancelled our Amazon Prime account due to lack of use.

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, January 8, 7:00 pm at church**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer 651-301-2652

[crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.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 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 10% for non-fuel purchases made with the cards. Contact Julie Schreifels to purchase at [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) or 651-388-2326. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, January 14th** and will be available during church on Sunday, January 19th. Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

---



## WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study Group will meet Tuesday **January 14th** at 8:30am at Church to Carpool to the Red Wing Plaza. Todd will do bible study. Millie Niebeling is Hostess.

---



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

Julie Schreifels. Thank you!!

---

## Worship & Music Committee Meeting



The Worship and Music Committee will meet in Dahlen Hall on January 12 after morning service.



---

## 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 \$94,800!!*

**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 Shoeboxes

The Mission Committee would like to thank everyone who prepared a Christmas shoebox. We received a generous donation of items that are much needed for men this year, along with other items that you were willing to share to make up even more shoeboxes!!

Our boxes will be taken to Hope Coalition in Red Wing to help people who are homeless. Because of your kindness, we will hopefully make Christmas a little brighter for people who need our thoughts and prayers.

Thank you for your support!

---

### Adopt-a-family Project

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Adopt a family Christmas project. Once again YOUR generosity has made Christmas possible for families in need.

Thank you!!

---

## Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting for Cross of Christ will be held in Dahlen Hall immediately after church service on **Feb 9**. A light lunch will be served. Please plan on attending.

---

## 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.

**Thank you to all who made our Christmas Program a wonderful event.** A special thank you to Robin Nelson-Williams our music director!

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

### Activities & Reminders:

Dec. 29- No Sunday School

Jan. 5 – Sunday School Resumes

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

Jan. 12 - Sunday School Sings During the Worship Service

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

### Mission Projects:

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.**

***News Boys United concert, Grace Church in Eagan. Thursday, February 6, 7:00 pm.*** 15 Tickets have been purchased. Youth will pay \$10.00 adults \$25.00. Youth, please let Deacon Todd know if the cost would be a hardship. Contact Rebecca Peterson if you are interested in attending.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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

---



The next **WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm.** The agenda will include: Blood Drive, Triennial Gathering fundraising, Women's Retreat, Salad Lunch, 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](http://www.thatsmypan.biz/WELCA2019)** ***If you are still interested in ordering items for something other than Christmas you still can.*** Julie will send the bulk order when there are at least 10 items ordered.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Our next Blood Drive will be January, 2, 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. Contact Joan Slingsby or Julie Schreifels for more details or go to the web site **[www.DaysforGirls.org](http://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

**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 16 confirmed participants, 25 beds available. Please let Julie know soon if you and/or your friends plan to attend. Pr. Marks would like a headcount by Jan 1 to order materials. \$125 for a shared room, \$150 for a private room.

#### **Future Events:**

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

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

**Salad Luncheon:** April 18 2020

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

**11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)**

---

## **Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft**

---

*Faithful through Generations*

**December 10, 2019**

*Present:* President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Jean Kehren, Robin Nelson Williams, Dana Dinndorf, Rhonda Meyer, Duke Bjorklund, Jon Peterson, Jim Gustafson, Deacon Todd Portinga and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff *Absent:* Ann Kulla

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

Devotions were given by Deacon Todd Portinga.

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

### Unfinished Business

#### **\*Deacons Report**

Todd will be attending a meeting for the Cannon Falls Church Community next week that will be talking about combining ministries within the community and other options. Christmas caroling will be on Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> and will focus in Red Wing, meet at the church by 6:30pm for carpooling. Todd has a doctor's appointment this Thursday and in preparation he has decided to cancel Wednesday's confirmation class.

#### **\*Kitchen-Bathroom**

Ron handed out materials for the bid that was provided by Wooddoc. Joe Tousignant from JTS is in completion of his bid and will provide that when it is available. Discussion was held in regards to funding the project, WELCA is funding the dishwasher and stainless steel shelving in the remodeled kitchen.

## New Business

\*January Council Person-Ron Hanson

\* Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting date is set for February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Dana will contact last year's audit committee members to see if they would like to do again. Rhonda will contact the nominating committee so they can start as well. The annual meeting booklet reports need to be into the office by January 19<sup>th</sup>, with financials in much sooner so the audit committee can review before the next council meeting on January 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Committee Reports

\*Finance

***A motion was made and seconded to split the Christmas offerings 50/50 to go towards the Accessibility fund and the Goodhue County Habitat for Humanity. –Motion Passed***

A preliminary budget for 2020 was reviewed by the council.

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

It was decided to cancel Amazon Prime that costs \$119/year since it was only used to place 6 orders this year.

\*Worship & Music

A meeting is scheduled for January 12<sup>th</sup>

\*Learning & Youth

Children' program is scheduled for this Sunday. Julie ordered 10 new costumes for \$110

\*Missions

Shoe Box project is completed, Adopt-a-Family has been completed as well.

\*Stewardship

A meeting is scheduled for December 29<sup>th</sup>, Joan and Ken will serve lunch after service this day as well.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 14th 2020 at 6:30pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff  
Parish Secretary

---

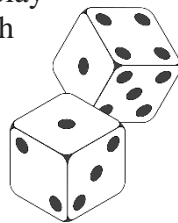
Please join me for a party for Nick Mittelsteadt to see him off to his new duty station on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at the American Legion in Red Wing. Thank you Kelley Mittelsteadt

---



## INSIDE WINTER FUN

Let's share a meal and play Bunco together during the dull winter months. Bunco is an easy dice game for all ages to play with plenty of time to visit. Let's roll into spring with some winter fun and maybe win a prize!



## GAME NIGHT



**JANUARY 11, 2020**  
**5:30 P.M.**



**Play Bunco!**  
**All Ages**  
**Welcome!**

*Free! Fellowship! Fun for All!*