



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



Ministry Notes

Days are getting shorter; nights are getting cooler. Kids are getting ready for school. I have a picture of my first day of Kindergarten. I'm standing next to my older brother and we are dressed up almost like twins. Same jackets, shoes, hair... He's just a few inches taller.

I don't remember being scared. In the picture I've got a rug under my elbow and I'm holding a shoe box. I have no idea what was in the shoe box, but I do remember the rug was for taking a nap on. I don't know how kindergarten is these days, but in those days, Kindergarten was only half a day—and we still had to take a nap!

I loved school. Lincoln Elementary was a big old brick building. Two floors and a creepy basement (that's where the music lessons happened). I loved the structure of school; I loved my teachers. I was always happy for summer, but I was equally happy when school was starting again. My best friend Danny lived on a farm about half a mile away. We rode the bus together everyday and pretty much did everything together. School meant hanging out with friends.

I loved math because it made sense to me. I didn't like grammar, that didn't make any sense to me. I was never in the fastest reading group. But I was always a straight C student. C meant commendable. Which was better than a U, which meant unsatisfactory.

I have vivid memories of learning multiplication. Once I understood the concept, my brain ran with it and I was happy as a clam to memorize all the multiplication tables. Mrs. Newman had me teaching other kids. There was just something about putting all the dots together and understanding how it all worked. It was energizing! It's like

putting together a puzzle, and seeing the bigger picture. There's an element of surprise... I think learning is essentially fun.

We are all learning all the time. Whether it's in school or on a job, or just figuring out how the phone works! Good grief, we all have a lot of learning to do these days just to keep up with everything!

We know learning can be fun; and learning can also be extremely frustrating. When something just doesn't make any sense, and we're pressured to know it. In my previous call I had to learn how to use an electronic calendar. It was so frustrating...

A good education will teach you a lot; a good education will also teach you how little you know. Seminary was like drinking from a fire hose. They wanted us to learn so much stuff! And every class had a bibliography, meaning "check out these other books we didn't read!" Christianity is a big subject. There is so much to know.

And we can never know everything. Natural curiosity is always a healthy attitude. I love bible studies. I love the men's bible study on Saturday morning and the Welca bible studies. It's always good conversation and it builds community. Always safe places to ask questions and learn from each other.

Sunday School is starting in September. I pray for all the dedicated teachers and the kids. We will have confirmation starting on Wednesday night, October 2nd at Cross of Christ at 7pm.

In the rhythm of the year, this is where we recommit to learning and passing on the faith. I pray this will be a wonderful year of asking questions, looking for answers, and finding God in places we never expected to see.

Blessings Everyone!

Deacon Todd Portinga

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

August 3 rd	35
August 11 th	24
August 18 th	22
August 25 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)
Year to Date	\$19,114	\$24,210	(\$5,096)

Cannon River Council Minutes Draft

The Cannon River Church Council met August 8, 2019. Present were Deacon Todd, Rick Anderson, Bill Bodin, Sharon Niebur.

Meeting was called to order by vice president, Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Secretary's report for the June 13, 2019 council meeting was read.

Rick had heard from the county that they hadn't applied chloride to the road in front of church because work had been done to that area of the road so the chloride wasn't needed. This correction was made to the minutes.

Treasurer's reports for June and July 2019 were read and approved.

Deacon' Report: Deacon Todd discussed the positive comments he had heard about the potluck, outside worship service and bonfire we had on

Aug. 3. It was a good turn-out and everyone seemed to have a great time. We probably want to make it an annual event.

Todd and Chris will be on vacation from Sept. 11-Sept. 30. Fill-in pastors have been set up.

Confirmation will be starting in October.

Old Business:

1. The Cemetery Board has approved the new Cemetery Guidelines. These new guidelines have gone into effect. Copies of the new guidelines will be available at church and discussed at the next annual meeting.
2. Pastor Torgerson's family had contacted Deacon Todd and expressed their wishes to have Pastor Torgerson's cremated remains buried at the Cannon River Cemetery. The plot has been decided upon but no date has been set.

New Business:

1. A motion was made and approved to pay \$1000 towards a large dental bill for Mark Beebe.
2. All are welcome to attend the Installation of Rev. Regina Marie Downing Hassanally as the fourth bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America on Sept. 14 at St. John Lutheran Church in Owatonna, Mn. The invitation is posted on the bulletin board.
3. Bill Bodin reviewed with all in attendance what to do if there is a problem with the lift, such as the lift stopping while a person is inside. It was decided whichever council member is on each week should check the lift to be sure it's in working order.

The next council meeting will be a joint meeting with Cross of Christ at 6:30 on Thursday, Sept. 12.

Meeting adjourned and we closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Niebur

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 September

Greeters

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

Readers

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

Altar

1 st	Cathy Nemcek
8 th	Cathy Nemcek

Council Person

Robin Nelson-Williams

Attendance

Kitchen

Janet Daley

August 4 th	50
August 11 th	55
August 18 th	46
August 25 th	44

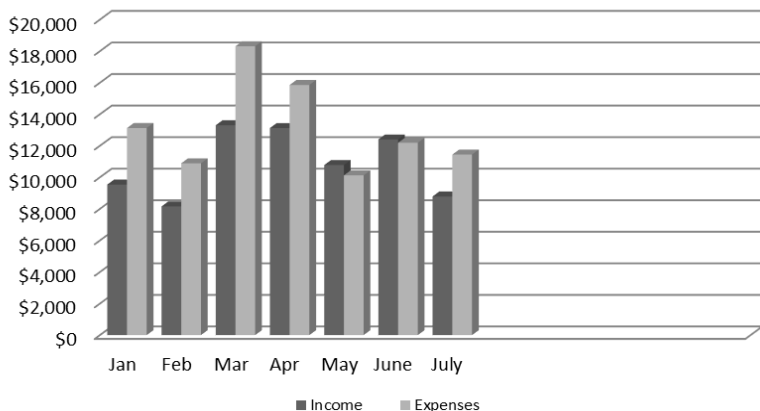
Ushers for September

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
Year to Date	\$76,101	\$91,949

2019 Income/Expenses



Financial News

Missions: Between June and July, \$170 was spent on community suppers. In July, we gave \$200 to Karen Anderson for her mission in Chile, and \$200 to Pastor Wal Reat for his South Sudan mission.

Memorials: In July and August, we received \$4,500 in memory of Carl and Bernice Gustafson for the new air conditioners.

In July we received \$10,000 in memory of Vayda Kaiser for the new

windows in Dahlen Hall.

The bill for the A/C units came to \$10,265, and has been paid. Roughly half of that has been covered by donations, memorials and a \$400 rebate from Dakota Electric.

Cannon River donated \$500 to the Dahlen Hall remodel.

We gave a \$1,000 scholarship to Kelsey Dinndorf in July.
We received a donation of \$150 to offset the cost of the youth Paddleboat outing.

We sold the church's old lawn mower for \$3,000, which went into the Building and Grounds fund.

Prairie Island Cemetery was paid \$500 for maintenance for the year, from the maintenance expense fund.

We received our quarterly deposit from our American National account in June, totaling \$1235.95.

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.

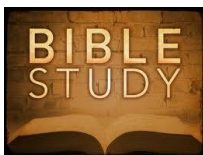
The next Finance meeting will be **Wed, September 4, 7:00 pm at church**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer

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, September 10th** and will be available during church on Sunday, September 15th. Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.



WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study will meet Sept. 10th at 9am at Cross of Christ. Pastor Todd will lead bible lesson. Yvonne Nelson is hostess

Community Meal



Community Meal Cross of Christ will be serving the Community Meal at the Methodist Church in Red Wing on September 22nd. Set up time starts at 3:45 in the church basement, meal follows at 5:00 with clean up after the meal. If you can help please contact

Joan Slingsby at 507-263-3715 or jslin@frontiernet.net.

Worship and Music Committee

Worship and Music Committee The Worship and Music Committee will be meeting on September 22nd after the morning service. We will meet in Dahlen Hall. Joan Slingsby



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 \$81,000!!

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

SAVE THE DATE

Women's WELCA retreat dates January 24 - 26/ 2020

We already have reservations set for Cedar Valley Resort in Lanesboro Mn. Pastor Karna Marks has graciously agreed to be our facilitator once again! 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. Many more details to come. Don't miss out, add this to your calendars now!

Youth

Sunday School: We will start the new Sunday School year (2019-2020) with Rally Sunday September 15th. We invite and strongly encourage **parents/guardians to join us on Rally Sunday.** The adults will gather in the downstairs fellowship hall to meet the teachers and conversation while the kids are in music. Julie will lead the group lesson for that Sunday. Then the kids will join the adults for a light breakfast and some activities. Staff will be installed

during the church service and there will be coffee fellowship after church.

We have a 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:

September 15: Rally Sunday-

September 22: Church Jam will perform during the contemporary service & practice after church

October 6: Third graders receive their Bibles during the church service

Confirmation for youth in 7th and 8th grade will begin on Wednesday, October 2nd at 7 pm at Cross of Christ. Deacon Todd would like the parents to attend with the kids. They will plan the schedule, including dates and locations, and talk about the curriculum.

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.

The Church Council approved the new Guidelines for Youth Camps/Trips

Guidelines for Youth Camps/Trips

****Financial hardship should never deter youth from participating in church events. Finances are available to help pay for youth to participate if this is an issue.**

Confirmation Camp

Confirmation camp should no longer be a requirement to be confirmed. Good Earth Village (GEV) offers Confirmation camp as an extension (sometimes in place of) a church's own Confirmation program. Todd can easily cover everything he wants to during confirmation classes.

However, we do want to encourage our youth to attend GEV. The church will contribute up to \$250/child to their camp experience from the Education Fund. Costs above \$250 will be the camper's family's responsibility.

Youth Outings

The church will pay 50%-75% of the cost of normal (1 day) youth outings, not to exceed \$20/youth. The amount the youth will be asked to pay will be at the Pastor's discretion.

Each youth may bring one friend, whose cost will be the same as the member's. The 2nd, 3rd, 4th, etc. friend will be expected to pay the full cost.

Adults (members and non-members) will be expected to pay full price for any outings with the youth. Adults who volunteer to chaperone youth members will be reimbursed for mileage.

The camp scholarship form has been reworded to reflect these changes.

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



The next **WELCA meeting** will be **Wednesday, September 11th 7:00pm**. The agenda will include: TOW, Blood Drive, SEMN SWO Convention, Triennial Gathering fundraising, 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**

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next Blood Drive will be September 5th 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** .

Guidelines for Church Use: The Guidelines for Church use have been approved by the Church Council. They will be posted on the church web site..

Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 12, 2019 9am-2pm TOW tickets will be available for sale starting Sunday September 8th. Get your crafty side going to create some items for the craft sale. Contact Kelley M. or Millie N. regarding items for the raffle. We will also need items for the bake sale and lunch and of course workers. Ideas for improving our annual mission fundraiser are welcome. The different committees were discussed:

Bake and craft sale: Yvonne Nelson, Jean Kehren, Joan Slingsby.

Lunch: Julie, Doris will help.

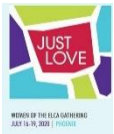
Publicity: Julie and Millie.

Raffle: Millie and Kelley

Grant and Business Donations: Julie (Thrivent Action Grant has been received)

SE Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization Convention:

September 21, 2019 Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna. See the poster on the bulletin board for more details and registration form. The *Love Offering* will go to Rachel's Light a homeless shelter for women and children in Owatonna. There is a basket in the back of the sanctuary for donations of: bathroom items such as soap, toilet paper, Kleenex, lotions, shampoo, body wash even shower curtains and/or gift cards to Target, Walmart, Kwik Trip, and Hy-Vee. WELCA will pay the \$25 registration fee for women from Cross of Christ. Julie Schreifels will be the voting member.



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 and possibly other fundraisers will help with expenses.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, September 5, 2019 12-6 pm

SE Minnesota Synodical Women's Organization

Convention: September 21, 2019 Trinity Lutheran Church, Owatonna

Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 12, 2019 9am-2pm

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

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

Officers: President: Julie Schreifels Vice- President: Tracy Harth

Secretary: Charlotte Leurquin Treasurer: Jean Kehren

Kitchen Committee: Doris Gruber, Joan Slingsby, Jean Kehren, Janet Daley & 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

August 13, 2019

Present: President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Duke Bjorklund, Ann Kula, Jim Gustafson, Jean Kehren, Deacon Todd Portinga, Rhonda Meyer and Jon Peterson

Absent: Dana Dinndorf and Robin Nelson-Williams

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 June meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacon's Report**

Todd updated the council on a constitutional change voted on at the churchwide assembly in Milwaukee. Word and service deacons are now ordained instead of consecrated. Deacon Todd is now an ordained deacon.

Nick and Mary Brandvold were received into membership August 11th. Their daughter Noel will be baptized October 13th.

Deacon Todd will be on leave September 11th – 30th.

A nonmember wedding is scheduled for November 2nd.

***Dahlen Hall Windows**

Windows have been installed. A piece of window trim will be replaced this coming week.

***Dahlen Hall Kitchen/Bathroom Remodeling**

Julie Schreifels gave a project update. One bid has been received. Council will seek at least one more additional bid.

New Business

***September Council Person – Robin Nelson-Williams**

***Kitchen Guidelines**

Guidelines have been updated. Updates were made to nonchurch function use by members and nonmembers. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the updated kitchen guidelines. -Motion Passed***

***Youth Guidelines**

Financial guidelines for youth and learning activities were reviewed by Julie Schreifels. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the guidelines as presented by the Youth & Learning Committee. -Motion Passed***

***Dahlen Hall Windows**

Council discussed thank yous for Dahlen Hall window donations. It was noted that between the two garage sales, member donations and a memorial gift the cost of the window project was covered without having to use building and grounds maintenance funds.

***Sound System**

Ron Hanson brought up the availability of portable sound systems for Sunday worshipers. It was decided to publish the availability in the Chronicles and Sunday bulletins.

***L.P. Contract**

Joan Slingsby reported that Ag Partners has bid \$1.13 for the 2019-20 heating season ending March 31th. Last heating season we used 4,751 gallons. It was decided to contract for 4,250 gallons based on the severity of last winter and the new windows in Dahlen Hall.

***Blinds**

Joan Slingsby shared information on solar window shades for the new windows. She will gather further information on price for council consideration.

***Plants**

Bob and Sandy Luhman have offered to donate stonecrop perennials to be placed at the front entrance to replace the dying shrubs which were removed last year. Ron will give them the go ahead to proceed.

***Fire Department Donation**

A donation to the Miesville Fire Department was discussed. It was decided to donate \$500 from the Undesignated Trust Fund Investment Church Growth Fund.

Committee Reports

***Finance**

It was decided to reimburse the church custodian \$50 on a one-time basis for heavy rain clean up in the old church basement in May. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial secretary's reports for June and July as written.*** – **Motion passed**

***Property Management**

New sanctuary light bulbs will be installed in the fall.

Recent sewer backup was due to a toilet left running.

Church lawn mover has been sold for \$3,000. Proceeds were deposited in the building and grounds fund.

Loose shingle on church sanctuary has been repaired.

Joan & Ken Slingsby donated two handicapped toilet stools for the basement bathrooms. Steve Schaaf installed them.

Window wells for church basement were replaced/repared by Steve Schaaf.

Dahlen Hall rain gutters have been repaired.

***Worship & Music**

Joan reported that the pew pad has been redesigned. There will be a committee meeting on September 22nd.

***Learning & Youth**

Julie reported that 30 children, including helpers, attended the recent Vacation Bible School. The curriculum has been received for the upcoming Sunday School year. A Learning & Youth Committee meeting is scheduled for August 29th.

***Personnel**

Visits with staff members have been completed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

The next meeting will follow the Cannon River and Cross of Christ joint council meeting on Thursday, September 12th.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jim Gustafson
Council Secretary



A pop-up Community Bulletin Board will be available at the Welch Community Picnic. Bring flyers or announcements of any kind for any events happening this year in our surrounding area to be posted and shared with our neighborhood.

Thanks,
Janet