



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



## Ministry Notes

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As I write this, things continue changing. It remains a difficult time. And we all wonder where it's going. Truth is, we don't know and it's causing a lot of fear. There are two ways we can be affected by fear. We can be motivated to action, or we can be paralyzed to do nothing.

In the small catechism, Luther begins the explanation of each of the Ten Commandments by saying "We are to fear and love God." When Luther uses the word, "fear," he is talking about respect. Like the respect for a teacher or a coach. This kind of respect is given to someone because of an interpersonal relationship of trust and reverence.

This kind of fear is motivating, because we wish to do our best for a particular person. When we fear God, we not only have respect and reverence for God, we are motivated to do our best by loving God and loving our neighbor.

A second kind of fear is paralyzing. This has nothing to do with relationship and respect, but rather danger and mistrust. Rather than learning about something, we try to run away as fast as possible, only to experience our legs are like cement. This kind of fear causes us to curl-up on ourselves and consequently it makes matters worse.

As we deal with this Covid-19 virus, let's use our fear in a healthy way. Let's respect the leaders who are the experts, and let's learn about it... And when you think about it, that is exactly what we've

been doing. We've been learning about flattening the curve of infection through social distancing. And so, this healthy fear and respect have brought us to a place of taking action and for the purpose of loving our neighbor.

As we deal with this Covid-19 virus, let us resolve not to be so afraid that we become turned in on ourselves. Perhaps more than ever, we need to talk with each other and finds ways to listen and comfort one another. And I've been hearing stories of so many of you checking in with each other and helping one another out. This is a healthy response to fear; and it warms my heart to hear about it.

Easter is coming; resurrection is coming. It's exactly in times like these, that we need to be reminded of resurrection. Through the resurrection, we experience that, forgiveness is God's judgment. Resurrection is God's way of healing death and fear. And with that healing we learn to love and forgive others; it's a way of life.

Sure, we've been dealing with a lot in our country and community. Most of us have never seen anything like this. And yet, God is still in charge. The God we worship knows exactly what we're going through. The God we worship knows exactly what it's like to live in our skin. The God we worship knows what it's like to be afraid.

God never promised us an easy life; God promises to be with us through all things. And so, this too will pass. And I wonder how this experience will change us. Truthfully, I believe we will be stronger than ever. And thanks be to God.

My friends, stay connected and stay in touch,

Todd

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***Contact Information for Todd Portinga:***  
***Church Phone:*** 651-388-3464 ***Cell Phone:*** 651-983-1795  
***Email:*** pastor@cccchurch.com

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# Cannon River News

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## Attendance

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	11
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	18
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	15

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## Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,588	\$3,076	(\$488)
Feb	\$2,465	\$3,544	(\$1,079)

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<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$5,053</b>	<b>\$6,620</b>	<b>(\$1,567)</b>
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## Minnesota Food Share Campaign



Cannon River is participating in the Minnesota Food Share Campaign. This is a state wide campaign from **March 1- April 12** to restock the food shelves of Minnesota. Our food shelves are so important to our communities. You may be surprised to know that

nearly 1 in 11 Minnesotans experience food insecurity. We, at Cannon River, will be collecting food and cash donations. Checks can be made out to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf.

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## FMSC Mobile Pack Update:

The food that was packed in November in Cannon Falls went to Haiti to an organization called Food for the Poor. It links the church of the First World with the church of the Third World in a manner that helps both the materially poor and the poor in spirit. FFTP has distributed FMSC meals through its extensive network of partner organizations in the Caribbean, Central America and South America. For more information, please see

<https://www.fmsc.org/the-feed/from-the-field/2017/september/who-are-the-adults>

Also we donate 10% to local food shelves every year. We were able to donate \$3,019.12 locally in March!

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# 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 April 2020

### **Greeters**

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Gustafson
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Deanna Gehloff
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff & Kim Chandler Family
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Hansen

### **Readers**

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Rhonda Meyer
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	Carl Peterson
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Kulla
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber

### **Altar**

5 <sup>th</sup>	Yvonne Nelson with helper
12 <sup>th</sup>	Alter Committee with helper
26 <sup>th</sup>	Alter Committee with helper

### **Council Person**

Kelley Mittelsteadt

### **Attendance**

### **Kitchen**

Sandy Luhman

March 1 <sup>st</sup>	47
March 8 <sup>th</sup>	38
March 15 <sup>th</sup>	57

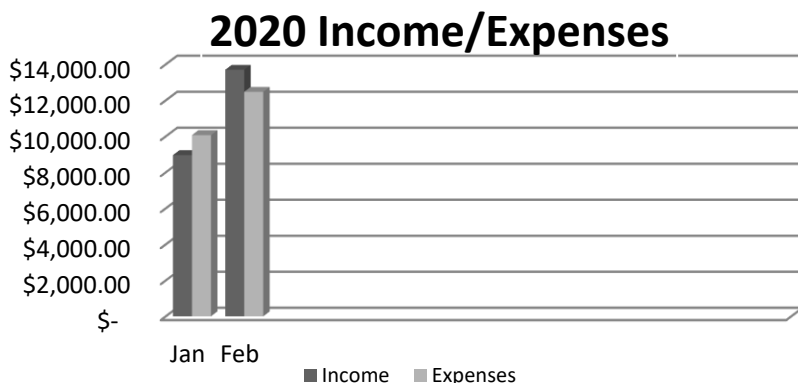
### **Ushers for April**

Paul Hansen, Jeff Busse, Jim Chester

## Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$8,954	\$10,066
Feb	\$13,695	\$12,471

Year to Date \$22,650 \$22,538



### Financial News:

Unsurprisingly, donations to Cross of Christ have dropped significantly in the last few weeks. Please see the section titled **“Ways to Give to Cross of Christ”** in this newsletter for more information on how to make a donation. Also, **THANK YOU to the Simply Givers**, who never missed a beat, and whose donations are so valuable in times like these.

**The deadline to designate your 2019 Thrivent Choice Dollars has NOT been extended**, it is still Tuesday, March 31. Please consider designating Cross of Christ as the recipient, as these gifts are much appreciated, especially now! Please contact your Thrivent agent for more information, or go to [Thrivent.com/thriventchoice](https://www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice). These donations will go to the Building and Grounds fund.

The estimate for the **new furnace** is \$5,950. Council voted that Ash Wednesday and Lent donations will go toward that cost.

**Easter offerings** will go toward operating costs.

Merchants Bank again changed their **online banking system**. Rebecca is learning and troubleshooting the new system. Anyone who received electronic funds transfers in the past as reimbursement for expenses will need to resubmit their account information to Rebecca if they would like to continue being reimbursed in that way.

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. There is an authorization form in this month's Chronicles. 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, April 8, 7:00 pm at church**. It may have to be cancelled; we will know more as that time approaches. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer  
[crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com)  
651-301-2652

## **Ways to Give to Cross of Christ**

These are challenging times for many of us. I know some of you would like to donate to the church but aren't sure how. Here are some options for you. Please remember to always include your name and any specific fund (e.g, Operating, Building and Grounds, etc.) with your donation. Donations with no specific fund listed will be considered 'Undesignated' with 14% going to the synod, 5% to our Building and Grounds, 3% to our Missions, and the remainder to our operating fund.

### **Mail a Check**

You can always mail a check to church, I will continue to check the mail and make regular deposits. Our mailing address is:

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church

Attn: Treasurer

24036 County 7 Blvd.

Welch, MN 55089

### **Drop off**

If Todd's little white car is in the lot, the door is unlocked and he'd be happy to chat with you (at a safe distance) and accept any donations. There will also be an offering plate at the top of the stairs by Dahlen Hall if you'd prefer to give and run!

### **PayPal**

If you use PayPal, you can easily send a donation to church. Here's how:

- Log in to your account.
- Click "Send."
- Under "Send Money," type in [crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com), then click "Next."
- Type in the amount you would like to donate.
- **\*Important\*** Where it says "Paying for an item or service," Click "Change," and select "Sending to a friend." This lets us avoid any service fees.
- In the "Notes" section, please type your name and any specific fund you'd like. Click "Continue."

- Select the account or card you'd like to use (if you have more than one). Click "Next."
- Review the information for accuracy, and click "Send Payment Now."

### **Simply Giving**

If you'd like to give recurring gifts, even temporarily, I recommend signing up for Simply Giving, the form is attached to the chronicles or by requesting one from me. You can set it up with end dates, for example, you could give \$10 a week through April 30, and then the payments would stop. Please fill out the form and mail it to church at the address above. You could also scan it (and a voided check) and e-mail it to [crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com).

### **\*NEW\* Online Giving through Vanco**

Go to our church website at [ccchurch.us](http://ccchurch.us). Click on the menu in the top right corner, and select "Links." Click on the link under "Giving Options," and follow the prompts. It will ask for your routing and account numbers. Although the following pages do not refer to Cross of Christ, the link is specific to our church and donations made through it WILL come to us. You will need to set up an account to make recurring donations, but you do not need to in order to make a one-time donation.

### **Mobile App Giving**

There are MANY mobile apps you can use to send money. We are already set up for GivePlus (by Vanco Payment Solutions) and Zelle (by Early Warning Services, LLC). If you would like to use one of these, or any of the many other options, I'd be happy to work with you to set them up. The church e-mail address to use is [crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com).

### **Need Help?**

Please contact me if you have questions or trouble with any of these options. I am NOT a technical expert but will do my best to help. Thank you for remembering Cross of Christ during this difficult time.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer, Cross of Christ Church  
651-301-2652, [crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com)



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## 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](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) or 651-388-2326. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, April 14th** and will be available during church on Sunday, April 19th. Thank you.

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## Annual Garage Sale



Cross of Christ no longer hold the annual sale that was scheduled in April. The garage sale committee will meet again and possible discuss a fall sale. Thank you!!

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## WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible study will not meet in April.

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## Community Meal



All community meals at the Red Wing Methodist Church for April have been cancelled. The next meal Cross of Christ is scheduled to serve is on **May 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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The Cemetery Board is still accessible for those that maybe thinking of a burial site for themselves or family. Please contact Ann Kulla [aequilla@embarqmail.com](mailto:aequilla@embarqmail.com) or 651-497-0007. We are looking forward to your support.

Thanks, Ann

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## Missions

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### 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  
**\$114,831!!***

**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

### Minnesota Food Share Month

**Our thanks to you . . . the Mission Committee** would like to thank everyone who donated food, or gave a monetary donation to support Minnesota Food Share. These food items, totaling **50 lbs.** were brought to the Red Wing food shelf! Your monetary donations will also go to Red Wing.



This is a significant and direct way of caring for families in our community. Just one way we can share the love of God and help those in need.

Thank you for being so generous!

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The next **WELCA meeting** will be **Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 7:00pm.** The agenda will include: Blood Drive, 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. This may change depending on what happens with the COVID-19 situation.

**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](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, pie auction, New Year meal and coffee fellowships have raised enough money to pay the registration fees of those attending plus additional money. We will determine what to do with the extra money in the future.

**Lenten Soup Supper** WELCA served the Soup Supper on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The money raised went to help pay for the new furnace.

**Spring Salad Luncheon:** The annual Spring Salad Luncheon scheduled on April 18<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am has been **CANCELED** due to the COVID-19 situation. It was decided to use the Thrivent Action Grant to purchase food for the local food shelf.

**Cannon River Conference Spring Gathering HAS BEEN CANCELED** due to the COVID-19 situation.

**Future Events:**

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

**11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering:** July 16-19, 2020 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](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)***

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

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***Faithful through Generations***

**March 10, 2020**

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

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

The agenda was approved with one addition under new business and the February meeting minutes were approved as written.

### **Unfinished Business**

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

A brief discussion continued from last month's council meeting. To continue moving forward prints will need to get made.

Unfortunately, Keith Freisen from Arrow Building cannot do the prints. It was decided then to go with Greg and Jeanie Olson. Ron

will touch base with them to get pricing on prints for the full scope of the project.

**\*Furnace**

An earlier email vote determined to move forward with a replacement furnace for the sanctuary. Smith Heating will order and install a new furnace towards the end of March and/or into the first week in April. The cost of the furnace will be \$5,950.

New Business

**\*April council person- Kelley Mittelsteadt**

**\*Easter Offerings/Lent**

It was suggested to have the Wednesday Lenten offerings be put towards the new furnace.

***A motion was made and seconded to have Easter offerings go towards the general operating fund. –Motion Passed***

Committee Reports

**\*Finance**

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

**\*Property Management**

Sandy Luhman has been taking care of the plants at the front of the Church and would like to pass this along to someone else. Ann will contact the gal who trimmed the bushes and plants in the fall to get pricing and will move forward after that.

The parsonage projects are moving forward. Steve Schaff is working on the projects and will hopefully be ready for early April move in for new tenants.

**\*Worship & Music**

The next meeting will be held in May.

**\*Learning & Youth**

The next meeting will be held March 24<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Service & Witness**

The council will serve the soup supper on Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Stewardship**

The next meeting will be held in May.

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

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 14th, 2020 at 6:30pm  
and will be joint meeting with Cannon River.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff  
Parish Secretary

## Do You Know Your Hymns?

Dentist's Hymn	. . .	Crown Him with Many Crowns.
Weatherman's Hymn	. . .	There Shall Be Showers of Blessings.
Contractor's Hymn	. . .	The Church's One Foundation.
Tailor's Hymn	. . .	Holy, Holy, Holy.
Golfer's Hymn	. . .	There's a Green Hill Far Away.
Politician's Hymn	. . .	Standing on the Promises!
Optometrist's Hymn.	. . .	Open My Eyes That I Might See.
IRS Agent's Hymn	. . .	I Surrender All.
Gossip's Hymn	. . .	Pass It On.
Electrician's Hymn	. . .	Send The Light..
Shopper's Hymn	. . .	Sweet Bye and Bye.
Realtor's Hymn	. . .	I've Got a Mansion, Just Over the Hilltop.
Massage Therapist's Hymn.		He Touched Me.

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

55 mph	. . .	God Will Take Care of You
75 mph	. . .	Nearer My God To Thee
85 mph	. . .	This World Is Not My Home
95 mph	. . .	Lord, I'm Coming Home
100 mph	. . .	Precious Memories

Give me a sense of humor, Lord, Give me the grace to see a joke,  
To get some humor out of life, And pass it on to other folks.

**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.



**Thank you to those who  
purchased flowers or plants this  
Easter.**

Ann Kulla in memory of Wendell Munson

Gilmore Lee in memory of Margeret Lee

Gilmore Lee in memory of Mr & Mr Gilbert Lee

Bob & Sandy Luhman in memory of Harry & Donna Luhman

Bob & Sandy Luhman in memory of Russ & Dorthy Knoblauch

Steve & Patti Schaaf in honor of parents.

Hans and Julie Schreifels in memory of Orvil & Gloria  
Frederickson, Hans Brautigam, Donald Schreifels Jr & Sr.

Hans and Julie Schreifels in honor of M'Lynn and Vinny

Jean Kehren and family in memory of Karl Kehren

Gustafson Family in memory of Carl & Bernice Gustafson, Mary  
Gustafson and Richard Safe

Gustafson Family in memory of William & Nellie Gustafson

Ken & Joan Slingsby

Ron & Lynette Hanson in memory of Maynard & Donna Vieths,  
Jim & Ben Hanson

Jim & Sue Hill in honor of our families

Tracy & Joel Harth in memory of Veronica Bender

Tracy & Joel Harth in memory of Cleo Taft

Tracy & Joel Harth in memory of Steve Sandford

## How to make a face mask

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Orders for standard/disposable masks are on long back-orders, due to both demand and supply chain issues. Other hospitals across the country are reporting the same supply concerns.



**While fabric masks are not to be used in the care of COVID-19 patients, according to the CDC, fabric masks are a crisis response option when other supplies have been exhausted. Fabric masks can also be helpful in other areas of patient care as supplies of PPE are depleted.**

So the hospital is running VERY low on N95 masks. In the past, we would use one mask per every patient we took care of. We are now using one mask for as long as we can, sometimes multiple shifts!

So in order for us to protect our N95 masks, we are using simple surgical masks and wearing them over our N95 masks. We are basically “double masking.” If each employee has a mask that we can reuse to cover our N95, we can hopefully continue to keep ourselves safe.

Here is one link that has a video and some written instructions on how to make them. The material needs to be tightly woven cotton and able to be washed in HOT water. There are lots of different options out there. Since it’s only protecting our other mask, it doesn’t technically need a filter.

<https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask>

If you have masks to deliver, let me know and I'll get them there! Thanks!

## How can your church family help you in this challenging time?

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Our church is a family, and we care a lot about each other. If you or someone you know would appreciate a call or card, please let us know. If you have other needs, (like yardwork, grocery or prescription pick-up), please let us know. Anything else? We will help in whatever way we can. Contact Deacon Todd Portinga ([pastor@cccchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccchurch.com)) or Rebecca Peterson ([buckieep@gmail.com](mailto:buckieep@gmail.com), 651-301-2652) for more information.

### **Volunteers needed!**

Are you willing to call, email or send cards to other members of your church family? Are you willing to run errands, deliver groceries or make meals? Whatever you can do, let us know, so we can work together!

Hospitals are in need of face masks, and we have a few nurses in our church. If you sew, here is a link to what they need:

<https://www.deaconess.com/How-to-make-a-Face-Mask> Adult size only, for now!

If you have other thoughts on how we can help our members and community, please share. This is new to all of us and we're looking for ways to support each other in the safest way possible.

Please contact Todd Portinga ([pastor@cccchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccchurch.com)) or Rebecca Peterson ([buckieep@gmail.com](mailto:buckieep@gmail.com), 651-301-2652) to volunteer in any capacity! Thank you!