



Country Chronicles  
August 2021  
Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA



## Ministry Notes

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One of the prayers I recently said in worship was about the contributions of people that go unnoticed. In every church, there are people who make significant contributions that go under the radar screen. They don't do it for recognition, or credit; they do it because their hearts are in it. And every church has people like this!

In my former church there was Bev, and she had been a school teacher. She never married or had any kids of her own, so the school kids and the church kids were her kids! One year for confirmation, Bev decided that the confirmation robes were too old. And she was right, many of them were fraying at the seams. I had an inkling she was up to something...

Unbeknownst to anyone, one day a shipment of new confirmation robes appeared! No one knew who had given them. The business administrator tried to find out, but the company refused to give the information.

I remember the confirmation class that year, everyone looked so nice, with those beautiful new robes. And it seemed to me that Bev was particularly curious to see them!

Bev was always in church, answering the phone and helping any way she could. She had a servant heart, always giving, and shunning any recognition.

I'll never know if Bev gave the confirmation robes, but to my way of thinking, she did. And just like she wanted, no one would ever know... And in her heart, she radiated love and generosity. She was a close friend and a Saint I will always remember.

There was also Bud. He was a handy man and could make virtually anything out of wood. He put his mind to making baptismal boxes, which we gave out to every child that was baptized. The last time I heard, he had made over five hundred of them!

I went over to his house one day to help. His whole garage was turned into a baptismal box making factory! There were patterns for cutting, jigs for assembling, he even had a branding iron where he could put the name of the church on the lid of each box. They were all professionally crafted.

Bud then brought me into the house and showed me a picture album of all the projects he had built for the church. I couldn't believe it! Everything from lecterns to bulletin boards, from office shelves to pew holders, you name it, he had built it! And over the years the projects kept coming in and he just kept building, and with a grateful heart! Bud was simply a servant leader...

I noticed that Bud recently passed away at 101. He was a close friend and a Saint I will always remember.

Here at Cross of Christ and Cannon River, we have Saints exactly like that, too. Hard working, behind the scenes, not drawing any attention to themselves... You know who they are... And we are all blessed because of them, and I thank God for their ministry!

Todd

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

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# Cannon River News

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## Attendance

July 4 <sup>th</sup>	14
July 11 <sup>th</sup>	18
July 18 <sup>th</sup>	11

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## Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$3,575	\$2,835	\$739
Feb	\$1,530	\$3,230	(\$1,700)
Mar	\$2,255	\$4,650	(\$2,395)
April	\$4,960	\$3,575	\$1,385
May	\$2,914	\$2,834	\$78
June	\$1,930	\$4,437	(\$2,507)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$17,164</b>	<b>\$21,564</b>	<b>(\$4,400)</b>

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## 3rd Annual Potluck and Bonfire

**Mark your calendars!** You're not going to want to miss this! We're going to have our 3rd. annual potluck and bonfire on Saturday, August 14th. The potluck will start at 6pm, followed by an outside church service and a bonfire. Bring your own lawn chair. Deacon Todd will have his guitar at the bonfire so bring your requests and sing along! It will be a great time to enjoy a summer evening with your friends.



If it happens to be a rainy evening, worship service will be held inside instead. There won't be a Sunday worship service at Cannon River on August 15th.

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# Cross of Christ News

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*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*

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## Assistants for August 2021

### Readers

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Mary Fjetland
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Hill
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Slingsby
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Dean Dinndorf
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Carl Peterson

### Greeters

August 1 <sup>st</sup>	Paul Hansen
August 8 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
August 15 <sup>th</sup>	Darwin & Cheryl Fox
August 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Jeff & Rhonda Meyer
August 29 <sup>th</sup>	Wayne & Sonja Munson

### Altar

August 1<sup>st</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> Cathy Nemcek

### Attendance

	July 4 <sup>th</sup>	47
<b>Council Person</b>	July 11 <sup>th</sup>	25
Jon Peterson	July 19 <sup>th</sup>	31
	July 25 <sup>th</sup>	24

### August Ushers

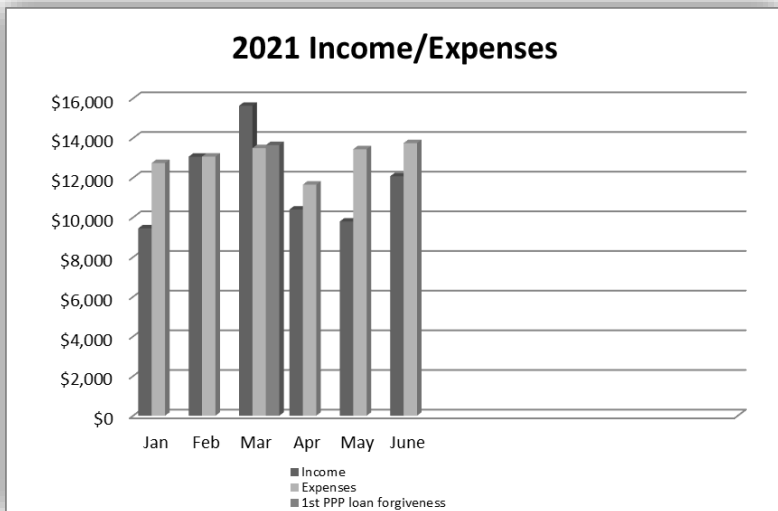
Paul Hansen and Jeff Busse

### Kitchen Person

Sandi Petrashek

# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	1st PPP loan forgiveness
Jan	\$9,448	\$12,740	
Feb	\$13,057	\$13,063	
*Mar	\$15,626	\$13,490	\$13,645
April	\$10,395	\$11,650	
May	\$9,791	\$13,436	
June	\$12,072	\$13,744	
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$70,389</b>	<b>\$78,124</b>	



## Financial News:

In June, our **church attendance** for 2021 (665) surpassed our total 2020 attendance (648).

**Memorials:** In June we received \$965 in memory of Grace Nelson, \$100 of which was designated for music, and \$865 for Building and Grounds maintenance.

We received our quarterly **American National deposit** of \$1,235.96. We also received a donation of \$10,000 to the kitchen fund.

We are eligible to apply for forgiveness of our **2<sup>nd</sup> PPP loan**. Finance, council and Merchants bank are discussing the best way and time to proceed.

If you would like **2021 offering envelopes**, please let Rebecca know.

The **Kwik Trip cards** are still available through Julie Schriefels at 388-2326. A portion of your purchase price comes directly to Cross of Christ. It is a very easy way to support your church!

The **Simply Giving Program** allows you to have your church offering automatically deducted from your checking or savings account, biweekly or monthly. Please contact Rebecca Peterson for help with setting up scheduled donations through Simply Giving, your bank, or other financial institution. **THANK YOU** to everyone who has scheduled giving to Cross of Christ, whether it be through Simply Giving, your bank, or other organization.

If you make any purchase on **Amazon.com**, you can designate .5% of your order to come to Cross of Christ by using **smile.amazon.com** instead, and designating us as the recipient.

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **Wed, August 4, at 7 pm at church**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

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

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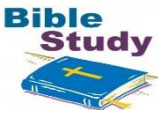
## Kwik Trip Cards



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 and car washes to anything else they sell. Available in **\$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100**. You pay the amount of the card being purchased; the church makes 5% of the sales and another 10% for non-fuel purchases made with the cards. The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** and will be available at the church by, August 15<sup>th</sup>. **If you would like to order cards and are not on the regular order list please email [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) or 507-990-7024. We can discuss how you would like to receive and pay for your cards.** Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

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## WELCA Bible Study

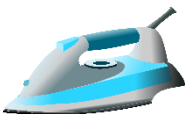


WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, August 10th at Cross of Christ at 9:00am in Dahlen Hall. Sonja Munson will be hostess. All ladies are welcome to attend.

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## DAYS FOR GIRLS

The Days For Girls are going to meet again on August 26<sup>th</sup> and/or August 30<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 - 11:00 at the Senior Center in Cannon Falls.



Come join us for 2 hours of sewing and visiting. Contact Joan Slingsby (507-263-3715) for more details.



## **Taste of Welch**

If anyone has something they would like to put on the Taste of Welch for the Raffle please call Millie Niebeling at 651-380-0776. We will be preparing packets in August. Please do by August 15<sup>th</sup>.

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## **Worship & Music Meeting**

The Worship and Music committee will meet following worship service in Dahlen Hall on Sunday, August 8<sup>th</sup>. Thank you!

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## **Missions**

### **Family Fare Store Receipt Collection**

*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 \$32,375.00*

*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 three times, and are now on our fourth collection. It's amazing what a little shopping can do!

*Shop, bring your receipts to church* and we will support children who are hungry!

*Thank you,* the Mission Committee

**The Mission Committee will have a meeting on  
Wednesday, August 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm at Church.**



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## Youth and Learning News

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Thank you to those who participated in Vacation Bible School. Our theme was God's Most Wanted. We had 9 VBS age kids and 7 helpers along with 10 adults for a total of 26 people involved in our VBS program. The western theme was a big hit. We explored the life of David. Daily themes included: Faithfulness, Specialness, Friends, Protection, and Home. The kids also made a craft item each day and engaged in some fun activities including picture taking on a real saddle holding the reins (thanks to Jean Kehren for loaning us the saddle) ending with a hayride provided by Oscar Daley.

**Sunday School** will resume on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 9:30 am. Rally Sunday will be a great time to get back together with our Sunday School families. We will continue to use the Sparkhouse digital curriculum. **There are several great opportunities to help with Sunday School, teaching or co-teaching the Pre-School – Kindergarten, 1<sup>st</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade or 4th-6th grade classes.** Please contact Julie if interested. Cell: 507-990-7024 email [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com).

The Youth and Learning Committee will have a meeting on **Tuesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.**

**ELCA Youth Gathering will be next summer 2022 in Minneapolis.** More information will be given in the future.

\*\*It has been suggested that a group could be started that focuses more on the issues that younger women are interested in. If this sounds like something you would like to be a part of, please let Julie know. The Learning and Youth Committee will be discussing this further.

Peace,  
Julie Schreifels  
Sunday School Superintendent [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) h. 651-388-2326 c. 507-990-7024

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The next WELCA meeting will be **Wednesday, August 4<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will discuss the Taste of Welch 2021, Blood Drives and other things that people feel need to be discussed.

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will Thursday, September 2<sup>nd</sup> from 12-6 pm and Friday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.** Come and donate blood-Save lives.

You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> Let Julie know if you can help with the blood drive.

**Days for Girls Kits:** We have established our own Days for Girls team. Join the group of women who get together to work on this great project. **We will gather next on August 26<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. at the Senior Center in Cannon Falls** Contact Joan Slingsby (507-263-3715) for more details.

**Taste of Welch:** October 9<sup>th</sup>. At this point we are planning to hold an in-person event with lunch, raffle & bake sale. If you are willing to help with this please contact Julie Schreifels.



**Women's Retreat:** The retreat has been scheduled for weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022 at Cedar Valley Resort. Julie will be sending out information soon to those who have attended in the past. If you are interested and would like more information contact Julie.

**Women of the ELCA Gathering postponed until September 2023**

The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, originally scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, has been postponed and rescheduled for **August 3-5, 2021**, due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The rescheduled convention will be held digitally. Join us in the Fellowship Hall to discover how decision are made for our international organization. Kelley Mittelsteadt is a delegate to the convention.

**Future Events:**

**Days for Girls Group** August 26 and 30 9:00 -11:00 am  
Cannon Falls Senior Center

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> 12-6 pm and  
Friday, July 2<sup>nd</sup> 8:30 am – 2:30pm

**Taste of Welch:** Saturday, October 9 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

**Women's Retreat:** Jan. 21-23, 2022 Cedar Valley Resort

**11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Convention:** on-line August 3-5, 2021

**12<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering:** Week of September 18 2023

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 Petrashek*

*Julie Schreifels cell phone: 507-990-7024 email [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)*

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**COC Food Safety Update/Refresher Meeting**

As COC members, some members will recall attending a Food Safety Meeting in Dahlen Hall some years back conducted by Jean Kehren and Doris Gruber, which was a follow-up meeting after Jean and Doris attended a training conducted by Minnesota Public Health Services regarding food safety. To adhere to state guidelines and with our church reopening its activities, we are **STRONGLY RECOMMENDING** anyone (male or female) who uses or could use the kitchen(s) or is involved with food (including youth), **to attend a refresher meeting, Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> following worship service.** Meeting will be kept as brief as possible and handout information will be available.

**Heads up!** Coffee Fellowship will return, on or before Rally Sunday September 19th (as CDC guidelines allow). Same place - - - different time. Coffee hour will be from 9:15 to 10:15 in Dahlen Hall for all church members to pop in.

**Why?** To welcome back our Sunday School children and parents. Our church family desires to have an intergenerational focus. All members can reconnect over a cup of coffee and snack.



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### **Welch Community Picnic**

Save the Date - August 29 at noon, socialize in person outside under a shady park tree.

This year we are partnering with the Willing Welchers 4-H club.



Come to church and stay for BBQ lunch. Read more picnic details on the attached flyer invitation. Share the invitation with a neighbor or give the invitation to someone, It's a great opportunity to share a Warm Welch Welcome to others.