



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



## Ministry Notes

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Greetings my friends and neighbors,

As the harvest season gathers steam, let's be mindful of all our farmers working long hours and let's pray for abundant crops and fair markets.

Farming is one of those professions that require a lot of different skills and aptitudes. You have to know how to rebuild everything and how to fix it on the fly... You have to know what the markets are doing. You have to guess the weather. And unfortunately, you can do everything right, and still have a bad year. Farming takes faith. As I drive around and look at the fields and watch what my neighbors are up to, I have a grateful heart for all their work. Farming is indeed, everyone's bread and butter...

I pretty much finished harvesting everything in my garden last week. While it was a disappointing year for tomatoes and peppers, it was a banner year for onions, beans, beets and carrots. And of course-- zucchini! Always some success and a few failures.

I canned a lot of quarts of dilly beans. I not only like them, I love to look at them in the pantry! There's just something about having the work done and safely stored away.

Viktor Frankl was a psychiatrist who said that human beings are creatures that are willed to meaning. In other words, the reason why we get out of bed in the morning is to experience meaning in our lives. He said we experience meaning in the things we accomplish,

the relationships we have, and the attitudes we adopt toward the suffering we endure.

He also said that when we experience meaning, that meaning is safely stored away, and for-ever. He used the term “granaries” of safely stored meanings. I like to imagine great grain bins, full of life-giving memories. Grain bins that are bursting at the seams. And where no moth, or no rust can consume.

When I talk with older adults, I sometimes ask if they would like to go back and relive a part of their life, they usually say “no-way.” I think that’s because their lives have been so meaningful, and those granaries of meaning are safely stored away and precious.

As we live through different seasons of our lives, we are mindful of how unique they are. With different seasons, come change. And we all adapt to change differently. But we all know that the only thing that doesn’t change is change itself.

We’ve had a year to remember, and it’s not over. It’s certainly different, and I certainly want it to be done and over with. Eventually we’ll get there...

Here’s the invitation... What can we harvest from this experience? Amidst all the angst and anxiety, there are still some lessons that have been learned. Let’s look for the silver linings. Let’s remember the lessons and safely put the harvest away. Perhaps we can find continued strength and courage.

Be well, and take good care,

Todd

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

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

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

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# Cannon River News

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## Attendance

September 6 <sup>th</sup>	Online Service Only
September 12 <sup>th</sup>	15
September 20 <sup>th</sup>	19
September 27 <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)
March	\$1,670	\$4,451	(\$2,781)
April	\$1,630	\$2,967	(\$1,337)
May	\$2,830	\$3,029	(\$199)
June	\$4,508	\$4,095	\$412
July	\$2,568	\$3,127	(\$559)
August	\$5,143	\$3,427	\$1,715
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$23,402</b>	<b>\$27,720</b>	<b>(\$4,318)</b>

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Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
September 10, 2020

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met September 10, 2020, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: Rick Anderson and Sharon Niebur.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the August 13, 2020 meeting were read. Motion made by Shawn Klahr, second by Mark Hartman to approve the August 13, 2020 minutes.

Treasurer report for the month of August was read. Motion by Michelle Sandeen, second by Mark Hartman to approve the August treasurer report.

Old Business:

- Bill does not have a bid yet from Pestop Pest Control or Mark Niebur.
- The brush pile will be moved on Friday or Saturday.
- The church has been sprayed for flies.
- At this time, there will not be a joint Council Meeting with Cross of Christ and Cannon River Lutheran churches. Rick will have discussion with Cross of Christ regarding combining Workers' Comp insurance for both churches and will get back to the Council.

New Business:

Discussion was held on benevolence and it was decided that we would discuss this at our next meeting. An inquiry was made as to whether Hope and Harbor (overnight homeless shelter that rotates between various churches in Red Wing) will be operating this year due to COVID19. Bill will contact Rick to get a phone number to inquire about the status of Hope and Harbor.

Protocol for COVID19 was discussed. If an attendee of a worship service tests positive the following week, others in attendance will be notified and the next worship service will be cancelled. If no one else tests positive, worship will resume normally after the cancelled service. If others do test positive, the next two worship services will be cancelled.

The outdoor worship service is scheduled for Saturday, September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. There will be a bonfire and music after the service. Bring your own chair and snack. The worship service will be held inside in case of rain.

The next Council meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on October 22nd, at Cannon River Lutheran.

A motion was made by Mark Hartman, second by Shawn Klahr to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Michelle Sandeen

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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 October 2020

### **Greeters**

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Jim Gustafson
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Deanna Gehloff and Family
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff & Kim Chandler Family

### **Readers**

October 4 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Rhonda Meyer
October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Carl Peterson
October 25 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Kulla

### **Council Person**

Jim Gustafson

### **Kitchen**

Joan Slingsby

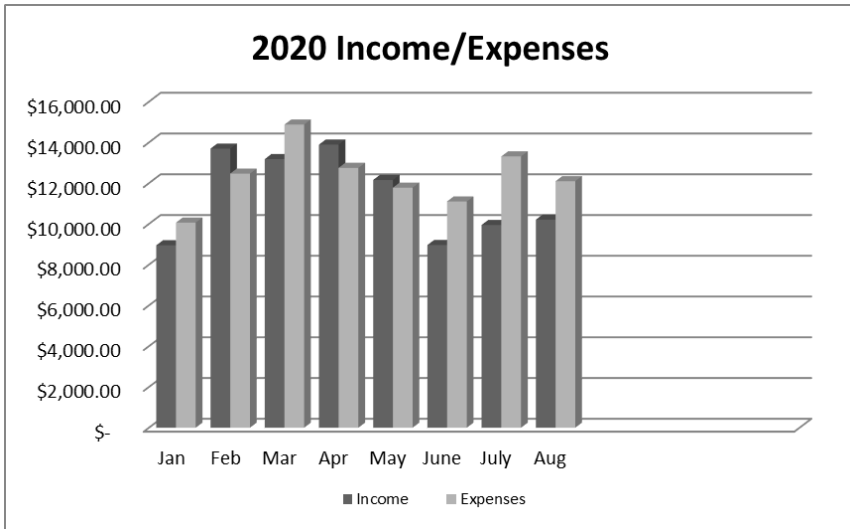
### **Ushers for October**

Wayne Munson and Jeff Meyer

# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	<b>Income</b>	<b>Expenses</b>
Jan	\$8,954	\$10,066
Feb	\$13,695	\$12,471
Mar	\$13,181	\$14,880
April	\$13,896	\$12,753
May	\$12,162	\$11,782
June	\$8,968	\$11,104
July	\$9,949	\$13,317
August	\$10,212	\$12,100

**Year to Date \$91,019    \$98,473**



## Financial News:

**Thank you for your continued financial support** during this time! We know that many of you have added stress, expenses and maybe a decrease or loss of income right now, which makes your gifts even more meaningful.

**Thanks to our very conscientious and generous membership**, we are very close financially where we were at this time last year. However, that means our expenditures have exceeded donations (apples to apples) by roughly \$11,000. Up until now, we had actually been doing better this year, but we're now at the point where we are falling behind last year. In the past, we've relied on last minute year-end givers to make ends meet. This year, we are hoping for the PPP loan forgiveness (see below). But neither are a guarantee.

As of Sept. 25, the **PPP loan forgiveness application process is still on hold**. We've been assured that the deadline to apply for forgiveness will be extended in accordance with the date we actually can apply. We're keeping a close eye on it and really hoping to get it forgiven by the end of the year.

Our Worker's Compensation policy with **Lutheran Brotherhood** began Aug. 24, which will be paid yearly (\$781/yr), and our Property Insurance began Sept. 14, which we will continue to pay monthly for the time being (\$422/mo).

Our **Dakota Electric bill** for the period 6/18-7/20 was quite high, \$326. Rebecca spoke with Dakota Electric, who agreed our usage is quite high, averaging 45 KWH/day, odd since no one is there! For the time being, Dakota Electric agreed to move us to the Small Business rate tier to see if it helps. Our bill for the following period (ending 8/9) was \$217. Anyone interested in investigating our electricity usage is welcome to do so, we'd welcome some insight.

**Please consider designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Cross of Christ. You can designate Choice dollars earned so far in 2020 at any time. Contact your advisor or go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) for more information.

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.

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, October 7, 7:00 pm**. 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, October 13<sup>th</sup>** and will be available at the church by, October 17th. **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 651-388-2326. We can discuss how you would like to receive and pay for your cards.** Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.



## **Cross of Christ Readers and Greeters**

Have you wanted to be a greeter at church welcoming people to church, or would you like to read the lessons for the service? Contact Deanna and let her know what you would like to do. If there is a certain time that you can't greet or read please inform Deanna. Your help is appreciated.

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## **In Person Communion**

Once again we will be scheduling in person communion in August. Each family will have a 10 minute period of time to come in the church and have Communion at Cross of Christ Church on **Sunday, October 18th** starting at 10:30am.



If you know you would like to participate in communion, please contact the parish secretary at [secretary@cccrchurch.com](mailto:secretary@cccrchurch.com) or by phone at 651-388-3464, or cell 651-380-6323.

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## **Cemetery**

Per cemetery guidelines all ornamentals need to be removed as of October 1st. We will try to keep the Cemetery beautiful through the Taste of Welch, and then put the yard to rest for the season. We still have lots for purchase, please contact Ann Kulla at [aekulla@embarqmail.com](mailto:aekulla@embarqmail.com).

Thank you.  
Ann

## **Missions**

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### **Mission Updates:**

The Mission Committee is made up of Sue Hill, Ann Kulla, Rhonda Meyer, Kris Portinga and Deacon Todd Portinga. If you ever have any questions about Mission outreach, please contact one of us!

The donation of sleeping bags and blankets is amazing! **We do thank you!** This collection will end on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>; we plan to bring the items to the Listening House to be given to folks who need warmth in the cooler weather. As shelters reach capacity many folks will need to move outdoors to sleep. We are so thankful that we'll be able to help them stay warm.

**Attention all Sunday school children and youth!** We need your help to let Gabby know that we are thinking of her. Will you write her a note or color a picture for her? **Thank you!** We thought it would be fun to **“Gab” with “Gabby”!** Please use light weight paper, like notebook paper or computer paper and bring your note to church. You'll find a box to leave it in right inside of Dahlen Hall. **Please leave your notes by Friday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>!** Just as a reminder, we sponsor Gabby through the Tanzanian Children's Fund. Gabby Gilessa lives at the Rift Valley Children's Village in Tanzania Africa. She will be 15 on December 11<sup>th</sup> and she has just started her second year of high school. Gabby likes to sing and she likes sports! Please feel free to send her a birthday or Christmas note. We are unable to pack a birthday and Christmas package for her, so instead we will order a gift and it will be purchased for her right in Tanzania. On behalf of the Sunday school, we are purchasing a tablet for her for her birthday and Christmas gift.

We continue to collect **Family Fare** store receipts; our total to date is \$134,274. When we reach \$150,000 we will receive a \$1,000 check payable to Feed My Starving Children. So, please

save your receipts. Bring them to the bucket right inside of Dahlen Hall.

We have learned that there will not be a food pack this year for **Feed My Starving Children**. We will send \$100 to FMSC out of the Mission funds. If you wish to send a donation, please make out your check to “FMSC” and mail it to:

Val Docketor  
CCIC/FMSC  
206 Ridgecrest Dr.  
Cannon Falls, MN 55009

We will also send \$200 to **Lutheran Disaster Response** to aid in the wildfire relief in the United States.

**Thank you for all the support you give to Missions!**

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## Youth and Learning News

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**Sunday School will begin when in person worship services resume.**

In the meantime families will be able access the lessons through Sparkhouse digital. Each family will be given a username (your email address) and password to access the lessons and videos. I am working on this, but will need updated email addresses. **Please send me ([hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)) an email with the email address you would like me to use and password** unless you want me to make one up for you. I will then set you up and send you directions along with your username and password. We are using the Whirl Lectionary Year A Fall which follows the Gospel Lessons for the church services.

The VBS 2019 kids decorated quilt squares. The quilt is on display on the downstairs bulletin board.



**Confirmation** – Kiersten Peterson Confirmation service will be held after services are allowed to resume in the sanctuary.

**First Communion** for 5<sup>th</sup> graders and other children whose families feel they are ready will take place after church services are allowed to resume in the sanctuary.

**Confirmation Classes will resume soon.** Deacon Todd will be contacting students and their families with more info.

**Activities & Reminders:** No activities scheduled at this time.

**Mission Projects:**

**“Gab with Gabby”** Write a letter, draw a picture, send a note to Gabby. There is a "Gab with Gabby" box in the table in the Dahlen Hall entrance to put the letters/pictures/notes in. The letter collection

will end October 15th. For further directions read the “Gab with Gabby” item from the Mission Committee.



Weekly offering will be used towards the assistance of Gabby, a child in Tanzania. She still needs to be supported so ....



**If you stop by the church**  
**put some coins in the**  
**globe for Gabby**

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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



The next **WELCA meeting** will be **Wednesday, November 4<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm.** *Please let Julie know via email [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) if you plan to attend.* We will have the meeting in person if there are 10 or less planning to attend otherwise I will set up a Zoom meeting. The agenda will include: Taste of Welch review, Blood Drive, Taste of Welch, Days for Girls, other.

**Taste of Welch** Saturday, October 10 from 9 am to 2 p.m. This is our annual mission fundraiser.

We will have the raffle (members selling tickets), a bake sale (customers would order items and pick them up on Oct. 10). We will also sell quarts of homemade chicken noodle soup and chili in the same manner. I have received many orders so far! 😊 *If you still have Bake Sale order forms or wish to order anything please get them to me at [julie.schreifels@gmail.com](mailto:julie.schreifels@gmail.com) or leave them in my mailbox at the church ASAP* Return your Raffle Ticket packets to Millie by Oct. 4. You can put them in the box marked Raffle Tickets in the Sunday School office. Thank you to all who are helping with the Taste of Welch! Those who have volunteered to make items will

be contacted by October 7<sup>th</sup> to give you information on how many orders there are for your item(s) and make arrangements to get them to the church.

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive is November 5 from 12-6 pm.** Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> The Cross of Christ site has had 28 drives totaling 710 units of blood donated.

**Days for Girls Kits:** It was decided that we would establish our own Days for Girls team. Contact Joan Slingsby or Julie Schreifels for more details or go to the web site [www.DaysforGirls.org](http://www.DaysforGirls.org) .

**Women's Retreat:** A cabin was reserved last January for our 2021 retreat. We are trying to determine if we should have a retreat this year or cancel and resume in 2022 (assuming the Covid-19 pandemic will be over by then). Please contact me with your thoughts on this. I will be sending out a survey to past participants soon. Thanks.



The Eleventh Triennial Gathering of the Women of the ELCA will be held in Phoenix, AZ will now be held August 5-8 2021. Those of us who were registered for the July 2020 date have automatically been registered for the August 2021 gathering and we all plan to attend.

#### **Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, November 5, 2020 12-6 pm

**Taste of Welch:** October 10, 2020 10-2

**11<sup>th</sup> Triennial Gathering:** August 5-8, 2021 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)**

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

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*Faithful through Generations*  
**September 8, 2020**

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

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

Deacon Todd led devotions and prayer.

The agenda was approved. The August meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Unfinished Business

#### \*Deacons Report

Deacon Todd has been making in person visits with members or phone visits. In person communion is scheduled for this coming Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>. A baptism is scheduled for September 20<sup>th</sup>. Confirmation is set to start around September 20<sup>th</sup>.

#### \*Church Re-Opening/Virus Talk

Ron Hanson led the discussion about events, meetings or other activities at church. Ron talked with the Synod office and discussed having a proper Covid-19 plan in place before allowing activities within the church. Joan, Duke, Jon and Ron will put together a plan to present to the rest of council. A notice will be sent out in the weekly update notifying all members no activities are allowed until a plan has been put in place and distributed to all members.

New Business

\*October Council Person-Jim Gustafson

\*New Insurance

New Insurance from Brotherhood Insurance will go in affect later in the month.

Committee Reports

\*Finance

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

\*Property Management

The brush pile has been cleaned up, it has been asked not to pile up brush anymore.

\*Learning & Youth

Sunday school will resume when in person worship does. A few Sunday school teachers are needed.

\*Missions

The next meeting is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>. The blanket collection is still underway.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff

Parish Secretary

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