



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



Ministry Notes

As I write, it is dry... Brown patches are appearing in lawns, gravel roads are like dust storms, and some parts of my garden the soil is like concrete. Remarkably, the corn and soybeans looked stressed, but not damaged beyond repair – not yet anyway!

I have kept the garden watered; thank goodness for my well!

A month ago, or so, I preached a sermon and told a hypothetical story about a primitive community that was suffering from a drought. You might remember that the community started to look for scapegoats... They thought God was unhappy with someone and thought perhaps God would be appeased if they got rid of that person.

And when they killed the foreigner amongst them, it started to rain. In that hypothetical situation, the human community experienced that God could be appeased by getting rid of the offender. We then had the conditions for what scholars call the beginnings of sacrificial theology.

When we read about these sacrificial practices in the bible (particularly Leviticus), we tend to ignore them because they are so baffling to us. They certainly do not reflect our experience with God! But they are a clue into the theological dynamics of early human communities. And interestingly, almost universally around the world, most early human communities engaged in some forms of sacrificial practices.

Jesus changed all that! Since the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus, we have experienced that God is merciful and forgiving, not angry and wrathful. Jesus is the end of sacrificial practices, once and for all! Thank goodness...

So, instead of trying to resolve a drought by scapegoating, we've learned to look to other solutions. Some scholars have come to believe that science itself was possible, because theologically we moved past scapegoating. And indeed, the human enlightenment started around 1500, almost simultaneously with the reformation.

Today, when it has not rained for a good long time, instead of wondering who to blame, we start to watch the weather forecasts. I love watching the radar, thanks to satellite technology and long-range forecasting models. We have come a long way. Oh, believe me, I still pray for rain! And then I watch the weather!

I like to think that science and religion are compatible. The God we worship is the creator of everything that is... Science is the endeavor of learning about what God first created. And doesn't it seem, in fact, a noble, or respectful thing to do?

We are emerging from a pandemic, largely because of vaccines developed by scientists. And through them, God has blessed us richly.

Todd

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

Cannon River News

Attendance

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| June 6 th | 19 |
| June 13 th | 38 |
| June 20 th | 11 |
| June 27 th | 20 |

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 |
| Year to Date | \$15,234 | \$17,126 | (\$1,892) |

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. 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.

**Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
June 8, 2021**

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met on June 8, 2021, at Cross of Christ Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: David Fremouw and Shawn Klahr.

Discussion was held on the outdoor service. The service will be held on Saturday, August 7th. Potluck will be at 6:00 p.m., worship service at 7:00 p.m., followed by music and a bonfire. Event will be held inside if raining. All are welcome.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin at 7:40 p.m.

Minutes from the May 13, 2021 meeting were read. Motion made by Mark Hartman, second by Bill Bodin to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes.

A motion was made and second to reimburse Ellen Hartman \$500.00 for paying for Brian Anderson's summer camp expenses.

Treasurer reports for the month of April and May were read. Motion by Mark Hartman, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the April and May treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Discussion was held regarding the screen door on the annex building. A new door should be put on, one that swings out so it doesn't hit the concrete floor inside the annex building. If a steel door is purchased, there would be no need for a screen door. The door that is purchased would have to look nice with the double hung windows. Estimated cost on sale for a pre-painted steel door would be around \$470.00. Prefinished colors include blue, red and white. Bill and Mark are going to take measurements for a new door. A motion was made by Sharon Niebur, second by Michelle Sandeen to

purchase a new pre-painted white steel door that opens to the south for the annex building.

New Business:

Bill mentioned that one set of lights on each side of the church are not working. The breaker keeps tripping. We need to find out which light fixture is faulted. Mark asked where the wires ran for the lighting. Mark inquired whether anyone might have any electrical plans. It was mentioned that possibly Mitch Jackson may have some plans. The lighting issue is going to have to be taken care of. Bill and Mark are going to call a few electricians in the area to see who can come and look at the lighting issue. A motion was made by Mark Hartman, second by Sharon Niebur to approve an electrician to come in and investigate the fault in the lighting.

The steps in the southwest corner will have the top step replaced and a railing built. This will be done at the same time the door is replaced on the annex building.

A motion was made by Sharon Niebur, second by Mark Hartman to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Sandeen

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 July 2021

Readers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| July 4 th | Jim Gustafson |
| July 11 th | Jean Kehren |
| July 18 th | Paul Hansen |
| July 25 th | Doris Gruber |

Greeters

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| July 4 th | Mary Fjetland |
| July 11 th | Oscar & Janet Daley |
| July 18 th | Ken & Joan Slingsby |
| July 25 th | Judy Meyer |

Altar

July 4th and 11th Jean Kehren

Attendance

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----|
| Council Person Ann Kulla | June 6 th | 40 |
| | June 13 th | 38 |
| | June 20 th | 36 |

July Ushers

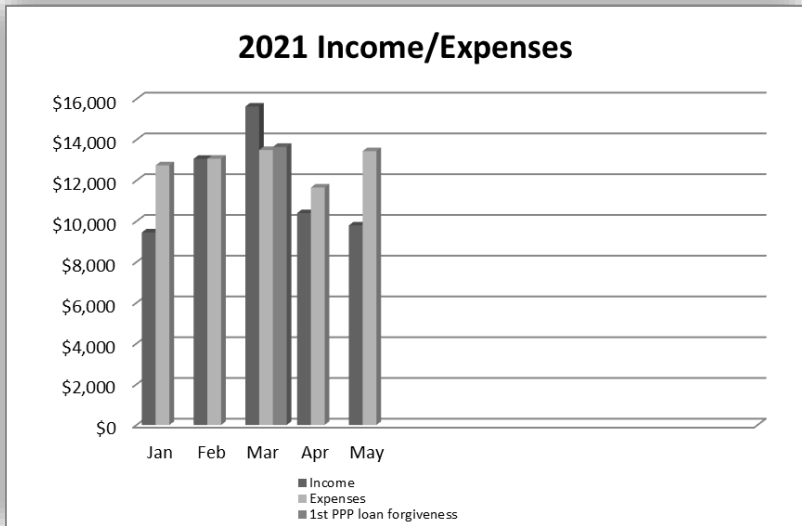
Kelley Mittelsteadt & Jim Gustafson

Kitchen Person

Cathy Nemcek

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 | |
| Year to Date | \$48,526 | \$50,944 | |



Financial News:

Missions: In May, we sent \$400 to MN Foodshare, \$400 to Red Wing Food Shelves, \$400 to Hastings Family Services, and \$500 to Lutheran Disaster Response. These donations included the Mission designated Lent and Easter offerings.

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. Your commitment has made a world of difference, especially this past year.

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. In Feb. we received \$46.71, thank you!

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.

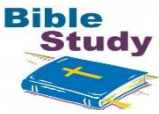
Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer
crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com 651-301-2652

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, July 13th** and will be available at the church by, July 18th. **If you would like to order cards and are not on the regular order list please email 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.

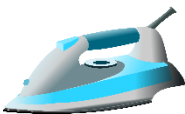
WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, July 13th at Cross of Christ at 9:00am in Dahlen Hall. Deacon Todd will lead Bible Study and will pass out the lesson. All ladies are welcome to attend.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The Days For Girls are going to meet again on July 22 and 26th 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.

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 \$23,000.00

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

Youth and Learning News

Sunday School will resume on September 12th 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 two great opportunities to help with Sunday School, teaching the 7th and 8th grade class and teaching the 4th-6th grade class. Co-teaching is a good option.** Please contact Julie if interested. Cell: 507-990-7024 email hjschreif live.com.

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

Vacation Bible School: Sunday July 25 – Thursday July 29 from 5:30-7:30 pm.

We will serve supper from 5:30-6:00

Our mission project will be collecting money to help Gabby who lives in Tanzania.

If you would like to help with the meals contact Jamie or Becky Fox.

To help with crafts, games or skits or just help in general please contact Julie Schreifels.

Please get you VBS forms in right away. It is attached. Contact Julie if you are unable to get the attachment to work.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

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



The next **WELCA** meeting will be at **7:00 pm** on **Wednesday, August 4th**.

On the Agenda : Red Cross Blood Drive, Taste of Welch planning, Days for Girls, Women's Retreat, Other

Red Cross Blood Drive: We will have two drives one on Thursday, July 1 12-6 pm and one on Friday, July 2 8:30 am-2:30 pm. We are still in need of donors and helpers on Friday. The next drive will be September 2nd and 3rd. Thanks to all who help and/or gave blood.

Annual Taste of Welch: October 9th 9-2 : Our plan at this time is to resume as in the past with lunch, bake sale, raffle and some crafts. We will be asking for donations of baked goods, beef roasts and craft items. We will also need help setting up and working the event. Also if you have items for the raffle let Millie or Kelley know ASAP. They will make the tickets the end of August.

Days for Girls: Joan has organized a wonderful group to sew, cut out and put kits together. The group meets at the Cannon Falls Senior Center. Dates for July meeting will be announced soon. Contact Joan Slingsby or more information 507-263-3715

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Sept.2 12-6pm and Sept. 3 8:30 am to 2:30 pm

Annual Taste of Welch: October 9th 9:00 – 2:00

Women's Retreat: January 21-23, 2022 Cedar Valley Resort

Twelfth Triennial Gathering: Week of September 18, 2023
Phoenix, AZ <http://www.welcatg.org/>

*God go with you! Your sister in Christ,
Julie Schreifels*

Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations

June 8, 2021

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

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, with the addition of Bathroom/Kitchen Project review under new business. The May meeting minutes were approved with a correction under virus talk/church regarding the social distancing requirement.

Unfinished Business

*Deacons Report

Todd talked about confirmation held on the 23rd of May and Joan was thanked for organizing it all. The kids did very well under the circumstances in the last year. Todd is almost caught up with visitations. Men's bible study is being held virtually and women's in person. Todd gathered in person with the text study group for the first time, and it was great to see everyone. Changes to the communion liturgy will take affect on the 13th, with more changes happening within the bulletins for July. July's worship videos and moving forward will become compressed and will be put together by Emma Dinndorf.

*Virus Talk and Church

A very brief discussion was held on this topic. Joan has signed up for a webinar on the 14th.

New Business

*July Council Person- Joan Slingsby August-Jon Peterson

***Kitchen and Bath Project**

It was discussed whether or not the Daheln Hall kitchen and bath project should be put back on the agenda for discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to move the Daheln Hall kitchen and bath project back on the agenda for discussion. -Motion Passed with 1 person opposing.

Committee Reports

***Finance**

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

***Property Management**

A outlet in Dahlen Hall was replaced. Joan will be contacting Rhamsbackers on the sanctuary carpet bubbling issue. Joan mentioned getting the carpets cleaned in Dahlen Hall, she will get bids.

A motion was made and seconded to approve getting the carpet cleaned in Dahlen Hall. -Motion Passed.

***Worship and Music**

Todd mentioned the changes to the bulletins and online services earlier. The pew pads are going away, using the check in list method only. Ushers and greeters will return in July. Joan thanked everyone for helping, making everything as smooth as possible during covid. The council returned thanks for Joan's leadership and organization throughout these transitions and constant changes with the guidelines.

***Service and Witness**

It was suggested a possible letter sent out to members. Kelley will contact the committee.

The meeting was adjourned, and the Lord's Prayer was said.

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 10th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary

**Cross of Christ and Cannon River
Join Council Meeting Minutes Draft**

June 8, 2021

Present: Mark Hartman, Ron Hanson, Bill Bodin, Sharon Niebur, Michelle Sandeen, Joan Slingsby, Oscar Daley, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Jon Peterson, Dana Dinndorf, Deacon Todd Portinga and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff *Absent:* Dave Fremouw & Shawn Klahr

The meeting was called to order by Ron Hanson.
Deanna Gehloff was appointed secretary for the meeting.

Deacon Todd led devotions and prayer.

Bill Bodin read out loud the secretary's report.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the secretary's report. -Motion Passed.

Deacon's Report-

Todd has been so grateful that both churches have been so open and flexible with all the different changes and schedules of each church with reopening and just being loving, kind and gracious throughout this past year and a half.

Old Business

Bill Bodin on behalf of Cannon River thanked Cross of Christ and whomever was all involved with the worship videos, bulletins and so forth.

New Business

Harvest Festivals were discussed. Cannon River will hold their Harvest Festival tentatively on October 24 and Cross of Christ will tentatively hold theirs on November 7th.

The meeting was adjourned, and the Lord's Prayer was said.

The next Join Council Meeting will be held on Thursday, September 9th at 7pm at Cannon River.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary

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.

