



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



## Ministry Notes

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Easter is upon us! And it feels like resurrection is happening right before our very eyes. The trees are budding and grass is turning green. Oh, we'll probably have a snow storm any day now, but it doesn't really seem to matter anymore.

This past year has been a story unto itself. One of the tragedies has been the social isolation, as we stayed home and wore masks and stayed 6 feet apart. I do think we've all become presence deprived. I'm really tired of looking at half a face. It's so hard to communicate and express how I feel.

Resurrection feels more important to me this year, than it has in the recent past. I find myself planning all sorts of new gardening projects, putting more effort into talking with the kids and finding ways to see them this summer.

And the re-opening of worship at Cross of Christ has been a resurrection of sorts. On two different occasions at the beginning of worship, I was so excited to get going, I jumped up and started yammering before the council person had the opportunity to do the announcements. I think I need to chill a little bit.

In the midst of all this new life, my heart is grateful. I give thanks to all of you for staying connected, I give thanks to the councils for their wisdom and leadership, I give thanks for all the resiliency we have demonstrated over the past year. There is still much to do, and yet there is so much to be thankful for.

And I imagine, for each and everyone of you, new life is sprouting, in many and various ways. I invite you to stop and smell the roses. The journey of life is indeed as much about the path as it is about the destination. We are all called into community and we all need one another. We journey together, and I'm grateful for each and every one of you.

My prayer for this season of Easter, is that we pause to see the risen life in our lives and the lives of others, and that we become ever more grateful for everything God has given us.

He has Risen, He has Risen Indeed...

And we believe it, because we've all seen it...

Happy Easter everyone!

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

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	19
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	15
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	16

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## Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$3,575	\$2,835	\$739
Feb	\$1,530	\$3,230	(\$1,700)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$5,105</b>	<b>\$6,065</b>	<b>(\$960)</b>

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Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
March 18, 2021

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met on March 18, 2021, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Bill Bodin, David Fremouw, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: Mark Hartman and Shawn Klahr.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the January 14, 2021 meeting were read. Motion made by Sharon Niebur, second by David Fremouw to approve the January 14, 2021 minutes.

Treasurer reports for the month of January and February were read. Motion by Sharon Niebur, second by David Fremouw to approve the January and February treasurer's report.

### Old Business:

Jon Simon submitted a proposal in the amount of \$27,180 for the roof replacement (shingles) for the church and annex building. The proposed price includes the cost of all permits, labor, material,

supplies, equipment, clean-up, and dumpster estimated for the job. Bill is going to inquire with Jon to see if the shingles will be 25, 30 or 40-year shingles. Discussion was held on shingle versus metal roofs, specifically the cost of a metal roof and the loud noise from a metal roof when it rains (or hails). Council decided to go with shingles for the roof projects. Since Jon's proposal was within the budget estimate of insurance, a motion was made by Bill Bodin and second by Sharon Niebur to accept Jon Simon's proposal of \$27,180 for the roof replacement for the church and annex building. Bill or Rick will notify Jon prior to March 24th regarding the acceptance of the proposal for the roof projects.

Officers will remain the same for 2021 as from the previous year; President - Bill Bodin, Vice-President - Mark Hartman, Secretary - Michelle Sandeen, Treasurer - Rick Anderson.

Sharon mentioned that a thank you note had been received from ELCA Lutheran Disaster Relief for our 2020 benevolence contribution.

The wooden back steps in the southwest corner need to be repaired. Bill will talk to Jon Simon when he is working on the roof projects regarding the wooden steps. It was mentioned that we may want to look at precast steps. Bill also commented that he inspects the wood around the stain glass window yearly looking for any gaps that may have appeared.

**New Business:**

The Council discussed benevolence for 2021. It was decided to disperse money to the area food shelves during the month of March:

- Cannon Falls Food Shelf - \$500.00
- Hasting Food Shelf - \$500.00
- Randolph Food Shelf - \$500.00
- Red Wing Food Shelf - \$500.00

Benevolence funds earmarked for 2021 but not yet dispersed include:

- Missionary Sponsorship - \$1,000.00
- Ruth's Kids - \$2,000.00

Good Samaritan Fund - \$1,000.00  
Feed My Starving Children - \$500.00  
HOPE Coalition - \$500.00  
CARE Clinic - \$1,000.00  
Hope and Harbor - \$1,000.00  
Cannon Valley Senior Center - \$500.00

A motion was made by Michelle Sandeen, second by Bill Bodin to approve the disbursement of \$500.00 each to the Cannon Falls, Hastings, Randolph and Red Wing food shelves, and to earmark benevolence funds to Missionary Sponsorship, Ruth's Kids, Good Samaritan Fund, Feed My Starving Children, HOPE Coalition, CARE Clinic, Hope and Harbor and the Cannon Valley Senior Center for the amounts listed above.

An inquiry was made as to whether there will be a joint Council meeting in April with Cross of Christ. Bill will contact Ron to discuss the possibility of a joint Council meeting.

Maundy Thursday service will be in person at Cannon River Lutheran at 7:00 p.m. on April 1st. The Good Friday service will be in person at Cross of Christ on April 2nd. There will be no worship videos for Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Easter services will be held at Cannon River Lutheran and Cross of Christ. An Easter Sunday worship video will be available for those who are unable to attend the service.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on April 15th, at Cannon River Lutheran.

A motion was made by Sharon Niebur, second by David Fremouw 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 April 2021

#### Readers

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

#### Attendance

#### Council Person

Kelley Mittelsteadt

March 7 <sup>th</sup>	17
March 14 <sup>th</sup>	29
March 21 <sup>st</sup>	17

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### Cemetery Update

Hello Members and Welcome to an early Spring!! We have lots to pick up and clean up in the Cemetery. We had a rather large pine tree come down in a couple of pieces and are hopeful to get it entirely cleaned up within the next couple of weeks. Our by-laws ask that you have all Winter ornaments cleaned up before May 15th, but due to the early start of spring the board would ask that you remove by April 10th, to assist us with our earlier than expected spring and the need to clean up ASAP .

Please let us know if you are considering purchasing a lot and we will be happy to help you. We have 4 grave lots (\$1,100) and 2 grave lots (\$550) available; you can contact Judy Meyer 651-388-4847 or Ann Kulla, 651-497-0007.

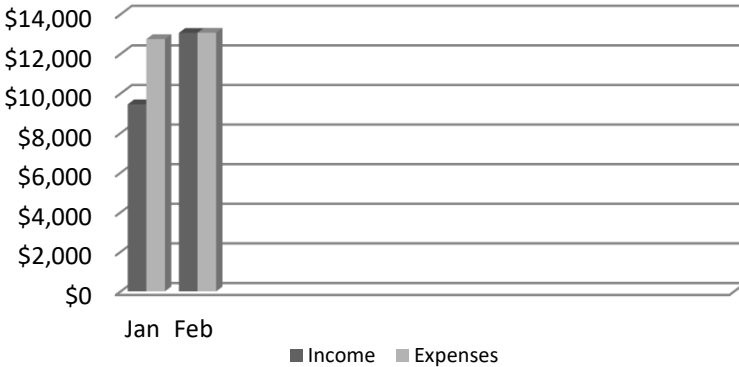
If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact either one of us.

Have a Blessed Spring.

# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$9,448	\$12,740
Feb	\$13,057	\$13,063
Year to Date	\$22,505	\$25,803

## 2021 Income/Expenses



## 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.

**Please consider designating your Thrivent Choice Dollars** to Cross of Christ. You can designate all Choice dollars earned in 2020 now, with a deadline of March 31. Contact your advisor or go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) for more information. At Cross of Christ, these donations go to Building and Grounds maintenance, and we very much appreciate them. In Feb we received \$529, thank you!

The first **PPP loan**, in the amount of \$16,500, has been forgiven, and Cross of Christ's portion of these funds will be reflected in the March reports. Cross of Christ/Cannon River was also approved for a second round loan, in the amount of \$16,527.

**Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter offerings** totaled \$125 at the end of Feb, and will go to Missions (unless otherwise designated by the giver).

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

Finance is looking into **easy giving options** for people who prefer to worship with us online. Watch 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, 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, Apr. 7, time TBD**, in Dahlen Hall, with the option to join remotely via zoom. Contact Rebecca if you'd like more information. 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, April 12<sup>th</sup>** and will be available at the church by, April 17<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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## Service and Witness

The Service and Witness subcommittee plans to Meet April 6th at 6:30 pm at Dahlen Hall. We will discuss how we could reach out to our community, faithfully sharing the Word of God through worship and fellowship. This will be a brainstorming session and the meeting is open to any member.

- Provide a warm and welcoming place of worship for all ages.
- Evermore commit to Christ-centered education, Spirit-filled worship and steadfast prayer.
- Reach out to our neighbors with a caring hand by providing service, loving support and fellowship.
- Actively support and increase our mission efforts near and far.
- Grow in faith and serve God by boldly sharing our spiritual gifts.

The five points are from our vision statement, together let's boldly share our spiritual gifts to our neighborhood. Come to the meeting and share your thoughts.

## **Are You a Thrivent Member?**

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Remember that you can designate your 2020 Choice Dollars now, and the deadline to do so is March 31. At Cross of Christ, these donations go to maintenance of our building and grounds, and are very much appreciated.



Please contact your Thrivent agent or go to [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) for more information, and thank you for considering Cross of Christ as the recipient.

## **Missions**

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### **Minnesota Food Drive Collection**

Thank you from the Mission Committee!

For all the folks who dropped off grocery items, many thanks! It has been another successful year participating in the Minnesota March Food Drive.

It is critical during this time of social distancing, economic difficulty, and food insecurity that we remain attentive to those who need to feel our love and concern. As a congregation, once again we've stepped up to the... plate!

### **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 \$1,119.00*

*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

Instead of our regular Sunday School activities we will be offering a Family Education Hour on April 18<sup>th</sup> 9:30 – 10:20. Come join us for some fun activities and craft. Individually packaged mini breakfast items such as muffins and juice. We will ask families to sign up so we have a good count for food and supplies. Please contact Julie Schreifels [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) 507-990-7024 cell or the church office for more info. And to sign up your family.

\*First Communion – Will be a special service on Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup> 12:00 pm. Participants: Chris Briggs, Adalynn Strand, Dayne Strand, Addison Dorham, Gabe Dorham, Hannah Fox, Beretta Gehloff.

\*Confirmation- May 23<sup>rd</sup> during church. Confirmands: Kiersten Peterson (2020), Ella Briggs, Brooklyn Busse, Graydon Strand.

\*Vacation Bible School- July 25-29 5:30-7:30 Sunday-Thurs.  
Theme: God's Most Wanted  
Robin will do the music. Meals and activities will be planned in the future.

\*Graduate Recognition – May 16<sup>th</sup> during service. Kristina Lincoln & Kailyn Peterson

### Mission Projects:



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 **Monday, April 12 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, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 12-6 pm and Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm.**

Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> The Cross of Christ site has had 34 drives totaling 926 units of blood donated. We could use a couple more volunteers to help with the drives or provide homemade, individual wrapped snacks for the donors. Contact Julie if you are available.

**Days for Girls Kits:** We have established 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:** The retreat has been scheduled for weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022 at Cedar Valley Resort.



**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, with details to be provided in the coming months. Kelley Mittelstadt is a delegate to the convention.

#### **Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 6<sup>th</sup> 12-6 pm and Friday, May 7<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 2:30pm

**Women's Retreat:** Rescheduled of Jan. 21-23, 2022 Cedar

Valley Resort  
**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, Sandi Petrashek  
Julie Schreifels phone: 651-388-2326 cell: 507-990-7024 email  
[hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)*

### **WELCA Bible Study**

WELCA Bible Study will meet on April 13<sup>th</sup> at 9:00AM in Dahlen Hall. Feel free to come if you are comfortable with a group meeting. Deacon Todd will lead Bible study and hand out the lesson before we start. Millie Niebeling will be hostess.



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

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*Faithful through Generations*  
**March 9, 2021**

*Present:* President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Anthony Nemcek, Oscar Daley, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Duke Bjorklund, Ann Kulla, Jon Peterson, 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 February meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Unfinished Business

#### \*Deacons Report

Todd was thankful for getting two weeks off. The Lenten and regular worship videos are going well, a big thanks to Dean, Dana, singers, and everyone involved in making them. Cross of Christ will have in person communion on March 20<sup>th</sup>. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be in person, no worship video will be produced for these two days.

#### \*Virus Talk and Church Re-opening

Council briefly talked about the re-opening of Church and observations made by council members who have attended a church service since returning to worship. It was noted a sign up is no longer needed.

***A motion was made and seconded to remove the capacity limitation, while maintaining the required social distancing and mask wearing during worship service stating immediately. -Motion Passed.***

### New Business

\*April Council Person- Kelley Mittelsteadt

**\*Insurance**

A new company and agent were looking to provide the church a quote for insurance. A short discussion was held. *A motion was made and seconded to keep the current insurance.* -**Motion Passed**

Committee Reports

**\*Finance**

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

Ron noted he was into the bank and the PPP Loan forgiveness application had been submitted, and will take approximately 1 week to 10 days for approval.

**\*Property Management**

Ron talked with Smith Heating, which was looking to schedule the annual maintenance checkups. Ron declined as we just replaced the once furnace, and the heating season is almost complete. Smith will contact us in the fall to complete the checkup.

The kitchen faucet is dripping, Oscar & Ron will look into it.

**\*Worship and Music**

A meeting is scheduled after service on March 14<sup>th</sup>. Kelley & Kris will help with communion on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

**\*Missions**

MN Food shelf campaign is going on. The committee is looking into donating to the Lutheran Disaster Relief for Texas.

Kelley noted the financial report for WELCA in the Annual Booklet was misprinted.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm  
Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff  
Parish Secretary