



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



Ministry Notes

April showers bring May Flowers... I'm looking forward to this month. I started some tomato seedlings in my basement toward the end of February. I've already transplanted them into bigger containers and they are getting very "leggy." I can't wait to get them in the ground.

We have so many deer in the neighborhood, years ago I built a garden wall out of cattle panels to keep them out. I also built a cute little gate at the front of the garden so I could easily get in. And unfortunately, a couple weeks ago the wind blew the posts and gate completely over. So, the first job this year was to dig the old posts out, tamp in some new ones and reinstall the gate. Everything looks good!

I've got a container where we've been throwing organic waste over the past year. Right now, it is really rich compost. Eventually I'll spread it around and incorporate it into the soil. I love building the soil, it makes me feel like I'm closing a loop—putting back a portion of what I've taken.

Every year I change things up a little. I'll plant the tomatoes in a different place, and put the onions on the other side. It's truly remarkable, how that little plot of dirt can produce so much food. Every year I put seeds in the ground and wonder if anything will come up. And every year I'm amazed.

Some years I get a lot of beans, some years a lot of tomatoes, some years a ton of Jalapeno peppers (which often go to waste!).

It's hard to know how it's all going to turn out. But every year, I do it. I plant tomatoes, peppers, onions, cucumbers, beets, carrots, beans, zucchini. Some years I experiment with different things.

In the rhythm of gardening, there are different seasons. This is the season of hope. We put stuff in the ground and hope it comes up.

And so, it is with our lives of faith. We plant seeds of hope in the form of Sunday school, confirmation, VBS... We plant seeds of hope in our proclamation of abundant and eternal life. We plant seeds of hope in the form of healing as we love and support one another.

We plant seeds of hope in the form of confession and forgiveness as we reconcile with one another... We plant seeds of hope in the form of communion, receiving the body and blood of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, experiencing His forgiveness.

We plant seeds of hope in the form of fellowship, connecting, including, and supporting one another.

As the parable of the sower demonstrates, our God is planting seeds everywhere. The harvest will come, in its own time, in its own way. In this season of spring, we've been faithful in planting, and we watch eagerly to see what will sprout. And it is indeed God's work and our hands.

Blessings, my fellow gardeners...

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

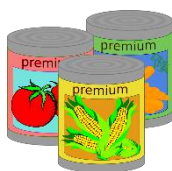
Attendance

April 1 st	18
April 4 th	26
April 11 th	18
April 18 th	14

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)
Year to Date	\$7,360	\$10,716	(\$3,356)

Congratulations to Avery Klippen, who received her First Communion with her family at Cannon River on Saturday, April 10th. May you always remember how special you are and how much Jesus loves you!



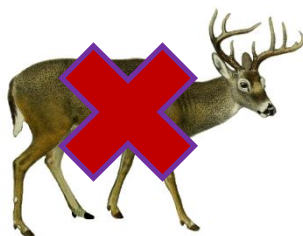
A BIG THANK YOU to everyone who contributed to our March Food Share campaign. Your food and monetary donations were given to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf. You came through in a big way to help members in our community who are struggling.

As you drive up to church take a moment to admire the new shingled roofs on our church and the dining hall. Both roofs were damaged during a storm last summer. Thank you to John Simon and his crew for a great job!



We all know Cannon River is a welcoming community but apparently the abundant deer population likes Cannon River, too!

Last year the deer seemed to enjoy the flowers in our cemetery more than ever. I decided to do some research to find out if there are some flowers that our deer friends would not want to eat. I found out that deer do not like flowers that have fuzzy, hairy, leathery, prickly, or fibrous foliage. They do not like the feel against their tongue. They also do not like flowers that are heavily fragranced.



According to the internet, here are some annuals that are not supposed to appeal to deer.

Snapdragons- come in many colors

Angelonia- nonstop bloomers from late spring through autumn

Lantana- favorite of hummingbirds, butterflies and bees.

Marigolds

Sweet alyssum

Nasturtium

Annual Black Eyed Susans

Cleome (Spider Flower)

Wax and Dragon Wing Begonia

Dusty Miller

Salvia

In my research I found out deer supposedly don't like the smell of Irish Spring soap. Who would have guessed that! I think I'm going to tuck a bar in among my flowers to try this tip out. There are also different repellants on the market and other home remedies on the internet.

Good luck!

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 May 2021

Readers

May 2 nd	Doris Gruber
May 9 th	Jim Gustafson
May 16 th	David Hill
May 23 rd	Joan Slingsby
May 30 th	Mary Fjetland

Attendance

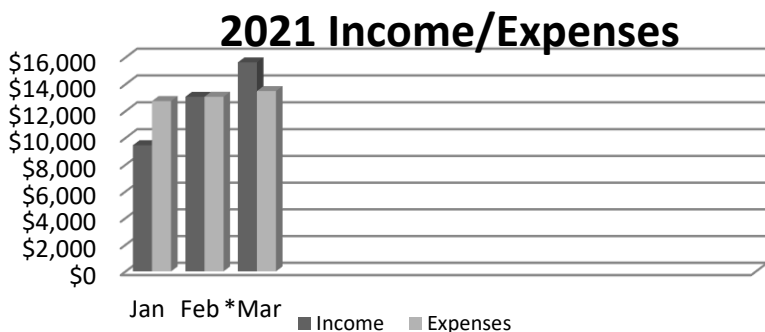
Council Person

Anthony Nemcek

April 2 nd	26
April 4 th	42
April 11 th	30
April 18 th	29
April 25 th	38

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$9,448	\$12,740
Feb	\$13,057	\$13,063
*Mar	\$15,626	\$13,490
Year to Date	\$38,131	\$39,293



* does not include PPP loan forgiveness

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.

*The first **PPP loan** has been forgiven, but Cross of Christ's portion of this amount (\$13,645) is not reflected in the chart. These funds are considered "other income" and their inclusion in the chart would not only throw off the whole year, but ignore the fact that they were already spent on staff salaries last year, as was their intent. A brief year-to- year comparison is below, including the forgiven loan.

	Apr 2019- Mar 2020	Apr 2020- Mar 2021
Total Income	\$115,833	\$100,754
Total Expenses	-\$104,836	-\$105,086
PPP loan		\$13,645
Net profit/loss	\$10,997	\$9,313

We were also approved for a second-round loan, (based on the decline in giving in the 4th quarter of 2020) in the amount of \$16,527, that will be split similarly between COC and CR when forgiven.

Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter offerings totaled \$881 as of Apr. 11, and will go to Missions (unless otherwise designated).

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

Thrivent mistakenly sent us almost \$400 in Choice Dollars in March, then said, just keep it. Thank you, Thrivent, and Thrivent givers!

The **Kwik Trip cards** are still available through Julie Schreifels 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, May 5, at 7 pm in the downstairs hall**. 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, May 11th** and will be available at the church by, May 16th. **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.

Red Cross Blood Drive

Thank you to everyone who helped us become an American Red Cross Premier Blood Partner!



Come give blood during our drive:

Thursday, May 6 from 12-6 pm

Friday, May 7 from 8:30am to 2:30pm

Please call 1-800-733-2767 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: welchmn to schedule an appointment.

WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, May 11th 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.

Missions

Some call it mission work . . .
It can also be called
loving our neighbors.

*Thank
You*

Your generosity through the Lenten season is greatly appreciated! Through your donations and the money available in the mission fund, we were able to support Lutheran Disaster Response with a \$500 donation to those in need in Texas. We were also able to send \$400 to the following: MN Food Share, the Red Wing Area Food Shelves and Hasting Family Service.

As a congregation, together we are blessed to be able to do this important outreach.

Our thanks to you!
The Mission Committee

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 \$17,131.00

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

Thank you to those who participated in our first Family Fun Hour. We will be offering another Family Fun Hour on **May 9th 9:30 – 10:20**. Come join us for some fun activities and making Mother's Day cards and potting plants. 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 507-990-7024 cell for more info. and to sign up your family.



Confirmation- May 23rd during church. Confirmands:
Kiersten Peterson (2020), Ella Briggs, Brooklyn Busse,
Graydon Strand.

Graduate Recognition – May 16th during service.
Kristina Lincoln & Kailyn Peterson



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. Registration and an opportunity to volunteer to help will be available at the May 9th Family Fun event.

Good Earth Village will be offering day camps, no overnights except maybe family camps.

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



The next **WELCA meeting** will be **Tuesday, May 4 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 6th from 12-6 pm and Friday, April 7th 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.

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 .

Taste of Welch: It has been decided to hold the Taste of Welch on Saturday, October 9th. We will determine closer to October, if it will be held in person with lunch, raffle & bake sale or preorder bake sale and raffle as we did last year. The time will be depend on which way we do it.

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 Mittelsteadt is a delegate to the convention.

Future Events:

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

Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 9 time to be determined

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

12th 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 phone: 651-388-2326 cell: 507-990-7024 email
hjschreif@live.com

Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations

April 13, 2021

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

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 March meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Todd reflected a bit on the Lenten season and Easter-both were managed quite well. WELCA Bible study was held today and it gave a sense of somewhat being back to normal. Cross of Christ will have 1st communion on April 24th for 7 children/ 5 different families. Todd will be doing a nursing home service in Cannon Falls on May 2nd. The Synod Assembly will be on May 8th, held virtually, Todd and Janet will participate.

***Virus Talk and Church**

Joan talked about the MN Department of Health and the Faith Based Group. Welch currently has 156 virus cases, which has gone up. It is still recommended services be held at 50% capacity, 6 ft distancing and mask wearing.

New Business

***May Council Person- Anthony Nemcek**

***Willing Welchers 4-H**

The 4-H group is looking to return to using the Church for their

activities, especially for a service project in May. ***A motion was made and seconded to allow the Willing Welchers 4-H group return to using Dahlen Hall for their 4-H activities. -Motion Passed***

***Meetings and Hall usages**

It was discussed to start using the basement hall for meetings since the Finance Committee, WELCA and Confirmation are all on Wednesdays and double up on a few of them.

A motion was made and seconded to resume using the basement hall with the same rules as Dahlen hall for meetings, Finance will meet the first Wednesday and WELCA will meet the second Wednesday. -Motion Passed.

Committee Reports

***Finance**

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

The first round of the PPP Loan has been forgiven and will reflect in the last 12 months in the operating fund. It was discussed if it should be on the graph that is provided in the chronicles or not.

A motion was made and seconded to include a side note in the chronicles about the loan forgiveness, but will not show in the bar graph. -Motion Passed.

***Property Management**

The kitchen faucet has been repaired, the cemetery has been cleaned up and the wall in the sanctuary has been fixed, but needs to be spackled yet. Oscar noted the main church door will need adjustment once the weather is nicer.

***Worship and Music**

April 25th contemporary service will have communion. We have been back to service for the last 7 weeks and everything seems to be going well.

***Learning & Youth**

April 18th the Sunday school will have a family event. 1st communion is on the 24th. May 16th is graduate recognition and

May 23rd is confirmation.

*Missions

The MN Food donations were delivered to the Red Wing food shelf. Communications with Gabby, whom the Church sponsors, has opened back up. The mission committee will stop in with the kids on Sunday to have them write letters/notes to Gabby.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, May 11th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary
