



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



Ministry Notes

So, the news is out and everyone is wondering, “What’s next?”

I wish I had a crystal ball that could tell the future, but I don’t. What I do know, is that this is God’s church and we are God’s people. We have been blessed beyond imagination. And those blessings will continue...

Cross of Christ and Cannon River Lutheran Churches are located in one the most beautiful places on earth! Between the hills and valleys, fields and forests, lakes and rivers, we are a destination for many people to ski, tube, ride bike or you name it...

We don’t always appreciate the air we breathe because we take it for granted. But consider how a Pastor serving West Central Minnesota (where I was born!) would feel about coming here... Believe me, it would feel like winning the super bowl and going to Disneyland!

And not only are we in a beautiful location, we are also close to the twin cities. Many Pastors are looking for employment opportunities for their spouse. From here employment opportunities are endless.

Many Pastors will love to come here. And not only because of location, location, location; but because of who you are! Sure, we’re sinners of all stripes, but we are also loving, kind and gracious people. It has been a privilege to serve here and give witness to all the ways we love and support one another.

One of the reasons I feel confident about your future, is exactly because of who you are and location, location, location! Stand tall in remembering all of God's blessings!

One of the reasons I decided to step aside, is because the pandemic has changed how we do church. All across our country, churches are experimenting and trying to find a balance between in-person attendance, and internet presence.

Consider, although we were closed for months at a time, viewership of our videos was way beyond what we would have had for attendance. And that happened despite many of us having poor internet or not even any internet. And that has continued even after we've been fully open! And even during the summer!

I really feel God is at work recreating church as we've known it. And it's both exciting and scary...

I feel good about what we've accomplished together. In fact, I feel downright proud of what we've done. But I know time has come to let someone else take the next step. God is indeed calling Cross of Christ and Cannon River into a new future, and believe me, I'll be watching and cheering you on!

Leaving is a grieving process for me... I will miss this community more than you can possibly imagine. And I will appreciate your prayers for this upcoming month and years ahead, as I will keep you in mine...

And always remember, God loves you!

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccrchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

August 14 th	61
August 22 nd	23

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)
July	\$5,275	\$4,446	\$828
Year to Date	\$22,439	\$26,011	(\$3,572)

Outdoor Worship Recap

We had a perfect summer evening for our outside worship service, potluck and bonfire! Besides having outside worship, it was a great time to catch up with friends, enjoy good food and sing along to fun music. Let's do it again next year!

August Baptism

Welcome to Graham Alan Grems! Graham was baptized at Cannon River on August 14. Graham is the infant son of Carly Grems and Trevor Grems.

Deacon Todd's Retirement Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast at 8:00 am before our worship service on Sunday, September 26. This will be Todd and Kris's last day at Cannon River. Food will be provided. Hope to see you there!



Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 12, 2021

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met August 12, 2021 at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Todd Portinga, Bill Bodin, David Fremouw, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr and Sharon Niebur. Absent: Michelle Sandeen.

The meeting was called to order by President, Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd lead us in devotions. We all discussed how much we will miss him as our deacon. We all could relate to his desire to retire. We're sure he and Kris will enjoy having more time to visit their children and do things they enjoy. Todd reviewed with us the requirement that once he was retired he would not be able to talk about church related topics with members of either congregation. He and Kris would not be attending either Cross of Christ or Cannon River. Sept. 26, 2021 will be Deacon Todd's last day at Cannon River.

The minutes from the June 8th council meeting were read by Shawn Klahr. One correction was made. The date of the Potluck, Outside Worship and Bonfire had been changed from August 7 to August 14. A motion was made by David Fremouw, seconded by Mark Hartman to approve the council meeting minutes with the correction.

The Treasurer's reports for June and July were reviewed. A motion was made by Sharon Niebur, seconded by Mark Hartman to approve the June and July treasure's reports.

Old Business:

Benevolence: It was decided to increase our contributions to Feed My Starving Children from \$500 to \$1000 and the Cannon Valley

Senior Center from \$500 to \$1000. A \$500 donation towards medical expenses will be made to Myron Nappers, who was seriously hurt in a motorcycle accident.

A new door for the annex has been bought and is ready to install.

Bill has looked into the problem with one set of lights on each side of the inside of the church that do not work. He has disconnected the lights and the breaker continues to trip. The breaker is turned off. A suggestion was made to check the switch. Bill will check the switch and continue to look into other causes.

LeRoy Peterson and Bill have cut down and cleaned up two dead cedars in the old cemetery.

New Business:

Bill and Ron Hanson, council president at Cross of Christ, have discussed Deacon Todd's retirement announcement. They will be contacting the synod representative who assists churches during the time of their interim pastor and the eventual hiring of a new pastor.

It was decided to have a Retirement Brunch for Deacon Todd and Kris before church at 8:00 am on his last Sunday with us, Sept. 26, 2021.

We will be having a joint church council meeting at Cannon River at 7:00 pm on Sept. 9, 2021.

Our Harvest Festival pot-luck dinner is scheduled for Oct. 24, 2021.

A motion was made by Mark Hartman, seconded by David Fremouw to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Niebur

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 September 2021

Readers

September 5 th	Kris Portinga
September 12 th	Paul Hansen
September 19 th	Jim Hill
September 26 th	Joan Slingsby

Greeters

September 5 th	Bob & Sandy Luhman
September 12 th	Mary Fjetland
September 19 th	Ann Kulla
September 26 th	Jean Kehren

Altar

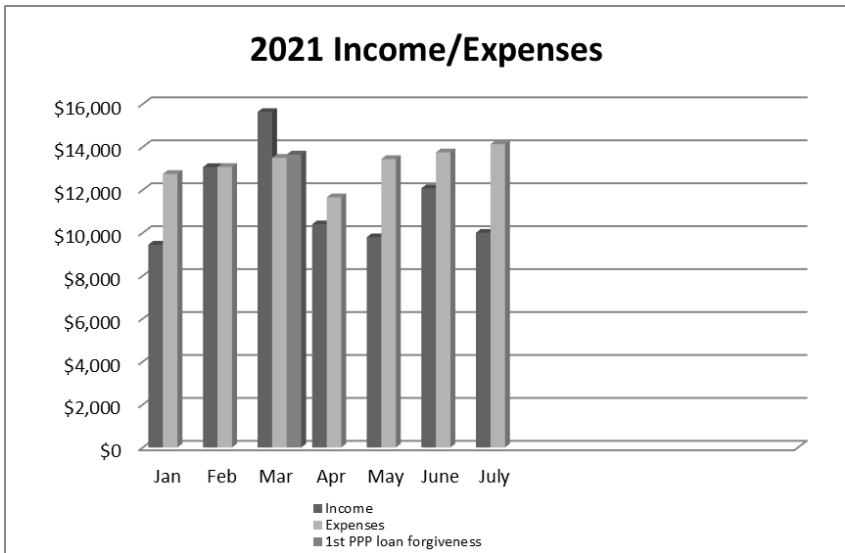
September: Jean Kehren and Millie Niebeling

	Attendance
Council Person	August 1 st 42
Oscar Daley	August 8 th 36
	August 15 th 33
	August 22 nd 39
September Ushers	August 29 th 29
Dean Dinndorf, Dennis Martin	
Jim Hill, David Hill	
Kitchen Person	
Janet Daley	

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	
July	\$10,000	\$14,125	

Year to Date **\$80,388** **\$92,249**



Financial News:

We have applied for and received forgiveness of our **2nd PPP loan** in the amount of \$16,527, to be split with Cannon River. These funds have been used to help cover payroll expenses during the pandemic.

Missions: We sent \$407.45 to Lutheran Social Services and received a \$100 donation.

The cost of the new “**Welcome**” banners has been covered by a donation. Thank you!

We increased the speed of our **internet service** to facilitate video uploads, which also increased the monthly cost slightly.

The cleaning of the **Dahlen Hall carpet** totaled \$432.

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.

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, Sept 8, at 7 pm at church**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

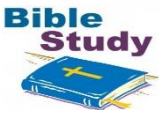
Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer
crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com
651-301-2652

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, September 14th** and will be available at church by, September 19th. **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.

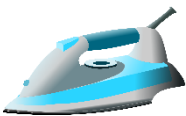
WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, September 14th at Cross of Christ at 9:00am in Dahlen Hall. Deacon Todd will lead bible study. All ladies are welcome to attend.

DAYS FOR GIRLS

The Days For Girls are going to meet again on September 23rd and/or September 27th 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.

Worship & Music Meeting and Communion Notice

Worship and Music Committee will meet in Dahlen Hall on Sunday, September 12th after morning service.

Notice: The Worship and Music Committee decided to have

HOLY



COMMUNION

Communion every Sunday in the month of September. At present during the virus, we will continue with the walk by Communion. Please join us.

Choir Practice

Choir Practice will once again resume after worship service starting on Sunday, September 19th. All voices are welcome!!



Missions

Missions at Work

The Mission Committee is made up of Deanna Gehloff, 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! We welcome anyone who would like to join us in reaching out to people who need assistance!

Family Fare Store Receipt Collection

We continue to collect **Family Fare** store receipts; our total to date is \$33,973. 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 church.



Lutheran Disaster Response – Haiti

A devastating 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck southwest Haiti on August 14th. Over 1,400 people were killed, and that number is expected to increase as search-and-rescue efforts continue. Blocked roads are delaying the delivery of vital supplies to hospitals, which are overwhelmed with more than 6,900 injured people. At least 26,000 homes were damaged or destroyed, but the full extent of damage is still unknown. Haiti was hit by Tropical Storm Grace on August 16th, which caused severe flooding in communities already damaged by the earthquake.

For over two decades, the ELCA has maintained a presence in southern Haiti through support for agricultural and sustainable development work. To continue engagement with those communities, Lutheran Disaster Response is collaborating with partner organizations in the communities to meet relief needs, including food, water, medical supplies and temporary shelter. We also stand with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Haiti as it assesses damage and impacts on churches and church life.

As part of Cross of Christ Mission work, we invite you to stand by our neighbors in Haiti during this time. Gifts to Lutheran Disaster Response designated for “Haiti Response” will be used entirely (100 percent) for this disaster response. Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. The Mission Committee has also designated funds to send to the Haiti Response.

**Please make your check payable to *Cross of Christ*.
Write “*Haiti Response*” in the memo line.**

We will collect donations through September.

Thank you for your support!
-The Mission Committee



**Lutheran Disaster
Response**

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. We are changing the format for Pre-K – 6th grades. The kids will start with music as always, then we will have large group opening the split into smaller groups for discussion and/or crafts. We will all be in the Fellowship Hall the entire time except for music in the Sanctuary. Jamie Fox will be taking over the 7th and 8th grade class, they will meet in their classroom. **Masks will be worn to be consistent with local public-school guidelines.** *We are in need of helpers for the Pre-school to 6th grade group. Anyone past confirmation age who would like to help is encouraged to contact Julie. I will be making a Google doc schedule for people to sign-up on.* Please contact Julie if you have any questions/concerns regarding Sunday School. Cell: 507-990-7024 email hjschreif@live.com.

The Pre-K – 6th grade group will be singing during the worship service on Rally Sunday 9/12. Also, on the second Sunday of the months to follow.

Confirmation: Confirmation classes will start on Wednesday, September 29 at 7:00. Parents, please join your child/children for this informational meeting.

Mission: The Sunday School will continue to support Gabby, from Tanzania this year. We made coin banks in VBS. They will be available during Sunday School and in the back of the Sanctuary. Turn in your bank on Sunday, November 21st. Sue Hill will be joining the Sunday School kids to talk about our mission with Gabby and do some related activities on October 10th.

**ELCA Youth Gathering Boundless: God Beyond Measure,
July 24-28, 2022 in Minneapolis.**

ELCA Youth Gathering Overview

Every three years, 30,000 high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

An important part of the Gathering's ministry are the two pre-events, the Multicultural Youth Leadership Event (MYLE), a faith formation and leadership development event primarily for youth of color, and the tAble, a gathering that brings together, blesses and empowers youth with disabilities.

Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration (Fall 2021) are eligible to attend.

To explore this event, go to

<https://www.elca.org/YouthGathering>

There will be an informational meeting for those interested in September. Watch for date and time.

**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.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

Sunday School Superintendent Cell 507-990-7024

email hjschreif@live.com



The next WELCA meeting will be **Wednesday, September 8th 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 2nd from 12-6 pm and Friday, September 3rd 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 September 23 & 27 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 9th. We will be taking orders for the bake sale, items to be picked up between 10 am and 2 pm on the 9th. Please have your order in by September 25th. The order form is attached to the Chronicles. Raffle tickets can be purchased from a WELCA member or added to your order form. If you are willing to help with this, please contact Julie Schreifels or Joan Slingsby. Joan will also be calling to ask for volunteers to help.

Women's Retreat: The retreat has been scheduled for weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022 at Cedar Valley Resort. We will be doing the "I Am She" program from the Women of the ELCA website. Some of the attendees will be presenting the sessions. If you are interested and would like more information on the program or the retreat contact Julie. Note: We may need to cancel again depending on the pandemic.

Future Events:

Days for Girls Group September 23 & 27 9:00 -11:00 am
Cannon Falls Senior Center

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, Sept. 2nd 12-6 pm and
Friday, Sept. 3rd 8:30 am – 2:30pm

Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 9 10:00 am to 2:00 pm
for order pick-up

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

12th Triennial Gathering: Week of September 18 2023
Phoenix, Arizona

*Officers: President: Julie Schreifels 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

COC Food Safety Update/Refresher Meeting



If COC members were unable to attend the Food Safety Refresher Meeting on August 15th, please plan to attend a meeting on Sunday, **September 26th, following church service.** The meeting will be kept short, and handouts will be available.

Coffee Hour

Coffee fellowship that was scheduled for September will be postponed until later in the year. Consider signing up to be a host in the future.



Cross of Christ Council Meeting Minutes
Faithful Through Generations
August 10, 2021

Present: President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Anthony Nemcek, Duke Bjorklund, Ann Kulla, Oscar Daley, Kelley Mittelsteadt, 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, and the June meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

*Deacons Report

Todd talked about his decision to retire. Todd has a 1st communion at Cannon River and a graveside service at Cross of Christ on the schedule.

New Business

*September Council Person- Oscar Daley

*Sargent's Trimming Estimate

A bid was presented to trim and weed landscaping at the church and parsonage in the amount of \$895.27. It was questioned if the bid included the rock area between Dahlen hall and the church building. Joan will look into it and email council for an emailed decision.

*Kitchen and Bath Project

A brief discussion was held regarding the timing and cost of the kitchen and bath project.

A motion was made and seconded to table the kitchen and bath project until a later date. -Motion Passed.

*Deacon Todd Retirement

Todd talked about the next steps the church should take, which would be to contact the Synod. Ron will be in contact with Barb from the Synod office.

Deacon Todd excused himself from the meeting so council could discuss further.

A brief discussion was held. More will be discussed at the September Joint Council meeting.

Committee Reports

*Finance

A brief discussion was held regarding the 2nd PPP Loan forgiveness.

A motion was made and seconded to apply for the loan forgiveness with the month of August and show the loan forgiveness the same way as last loan on the reports. -Motion Passed.

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

*Property Management

A new stove was purchased and put into Parsonage. Oscar and Janet replaced the broken swing seats on the playground. Joan had the lock in price of \$1.49/gal, she will check on the usage of last year before locking in on price. Joan supplied a bid from Malmquist to replace the bubbling carpet in the sanctuary, in the amount of \$4,627.25. This will replace the carpet on the 3 isles.

A motion was made and seconded to move forward with the bid from Malmquist, using funds from the church council discretionary account. -Motion Passed.

*Worship and Music

The committee meet on the 8th and discussed the virtual services, Emma Dinndorf has been putting them together and will continue to do so. The committee discussed having communion every Sunday, they decided to do a trial in September as see how that goes.

***Service and Witness**

The community picnic is scheduled at noon on August 29th. The picnic will be held with the Willing Welcher's 4H club.

***Missions**

A meeting is scheduled for August 18th.

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

The next meeting will be held jointly with Cannon River on Thursday, September 9th at 7pm, at Cannon River. Regular council meeting will follow.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary



30th Annual Taste of Welch *WELCA Mission Fundraiser*

Bake Sale

This year we will not have our usual in-person event. Instead, we will be taking pre-orders for the bake sale: Cookies, Bars, Breads, Sweet Breads, Chicken Noodle Soup & Chili. Go to cchurch.us or <https://www.facebook.com/CrossOfChristLutheranChurch/> to find the order form. Please return the form by September 25th. Pick up items in church parking lot on Oct. 9th. Delivered to your vehicle.

Raffle

Queen-Size Quilt 98" x 82"
Many other items including
Gift Cards and Gift Certificates



Order tickets on bake sale form, purchase tickets when you pick up your order, or from a WELCA member.

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd. – Welch, MN

Saturday, October 9, 2021

10:00 am - 2:00 pm order pick-up

