



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



Ministry Notes

September is traditionally a time of getting ready. Getting ready for school, winter, new schedules and activities. This year there a LOT of getting ready going on. And a large part of that getting ready, is dealing with the complexity of interactions and making contingency plans. Thinking through all the “what ifs.”

This is what I’m tired of. I get exhausted just thinking about confirmation, I can’t imagine what families with school kids are going through right now... Please know that I’m very intentional about holding all of us in prayer during this uncertain?, confusing?, infuriating?, perplexing? time...

I’m also concerned about our community businesses. It would seem that big retailers have done well, but small businesses haven’t. And despite the challenges, I’ve been impressed with the ingenuity of some to keep things going. In fact, it’s rather inspirational. I had lunch with a friend in downtown Hastings last week, the city put up concrete barriers in the street so restaurants can serve people outside and in safety. Great example of people working together and coming up with solutions.

When this pandemic started, I thought it would be an inconvenience for a few weeks and life would go back to normal. Now, almost 6 months into it, and still with much uncertainty, I don’t know what normal is anymore. The ground feels like it shifted...

And yet, and yet... We are people of the resurrection! We fundamentally see things differently... My prayer is that we continue to live into grace and compassion. That we all recognize

many of us might be doing alright, and at the same time, many of us might be sinking into debt and despair.

It's especially in anxious times like these, we remember not to be judgmental. We really don't know what the next person is going through. So, we need a lot of grace and compassion!

And I think I've seen it! I've seen people giving big tips in restaurants... I've seen people going out of their way to do engage a vulnerable business... I've seen families intentionally connecting more... I've seen neighbors helping out other neighbors... I have seen a lot of grace and compassion! And I bet you have too!

And I wonder... Do you suppose that one day we will look back on this time and remember it as a time of heightened grace and compassion? Or will we remember it as a time of hatred and division? In truth, probably a little of both...

One thing is sure. What we see and how we see it, will determine if we are loving, kind and gracious people, or just flat out cranky people. And as I get older day by day, I realize, I want to be remembered and experienced as a loving, kind and gracious person. Maybe that's just aging, I don't know...

Sometimes I sit in the office and just look through the directory. I see faces of so many loving, kind and gracious people. This is who we are—trust it and know it deep in your soul!

Please join with me in a little prayer, “Gracious Father, teach me to count my blessings... Amen”

So, go in peace, and serve the Lord... **Thanks be to God.**

Todd

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

Cannon River News

Attendance

August 2 nd	15
August 9 th	10
August 16 th	15
August 23 rd	20

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)
Year to Date	\$18,259	\$24,292	(\$6,033)

SAVE THE DATE!!



Due to storms in the area on August 8th, Cannon River has rescheduled their outdoor worship service to **Saturday, September 12th**. Worship service begins at **7:00 p.m.** Bring your own chair and snack. There will be a bonfire and music after the service. In case of rain, the service will be held inside on Saturday evening, beginning at 7:00 p.m. There is **NO** potluck this year.

Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
August 13, 2020

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met August 13, 2020, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon

Todd Portinga, Rick Anderson, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the June 18, 2020 meeting were read. Motion made by Sharon Niebur, second by Mark Hartman to approve the June 18, 2020 minutes.

Treasurer reports for the month of June and July were read. Motion by Mark Hartman, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the June and July treasurer reports.

Old Business:

- The check for the chloride treatment for dust control was returned.
- The outdoor worship service scheduled for Saturday, August 8th was cancelled due to storms in the area. The outdoor worship service has been rescheduled for Saturday, September 12th at 7:00 p.m. There will be a bonfire and music after the service. Bring your own chairs and snacks. In case of rain, the service will be held inside on Saturday evening beginning at 7:00 p.m.
- Bill spoke briefly about the weeds in the church lawn. Pestop Pest Control will be contacted to give a bid for removal of the weeds. Mark Niebur will also be contacted.
- The bug spraying for the beetles and flies will be done mid-August. The spraying is being done early to help get rid of the cluster of flies.

New Business:

The Feed My Starving Children event in November has been cancelled for this year. Discussion was held that a donation could

still be made. Council decided to talk about benevolence at our next meeting.

The brush piles will be taken care of in September.

Rick had a lower window at the Church fixed due to a crack in the window.

Todd briefly talked about Confirmation and First Communion for the upcoming year.

Todd will be taking the first week in September off. There will be no worship service on September 6th. The Synod will be providing a virtual service.

Everyone has been happy with how the services have been going, including the change in our communion procedure.

Bill is going to contact Cross of Christ regarding the joint Council meeting in September. If there is a meeting, it will be at Cannon River and possibly held outside if the weather is nice. A potential agenda item for the joint Council meeting will be combining Worker's Comp Insurance for Cross of Christ and Cannon River.

The next Council meeting will be September 10th, at Cannon River Lutheran. Time will be determined.

A motion was made by Sharon Niebur, second by Rick Anderson to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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 September 2020

Greeters

September 6 th	Bob & Sandy Luhman
September 13 th	Mary Fjetland
September 20 th	Ann Kulla
September 27 th	Jean Kehren

Readers

September 6 th	Kailyn Peterson
September 13 th	Paul Hansen
September 20 th	Jim Hill
September 27 th	Joan Slingsby

Council Person

Oscar Daley

Kitchen

Janet Daley

Ushers for September

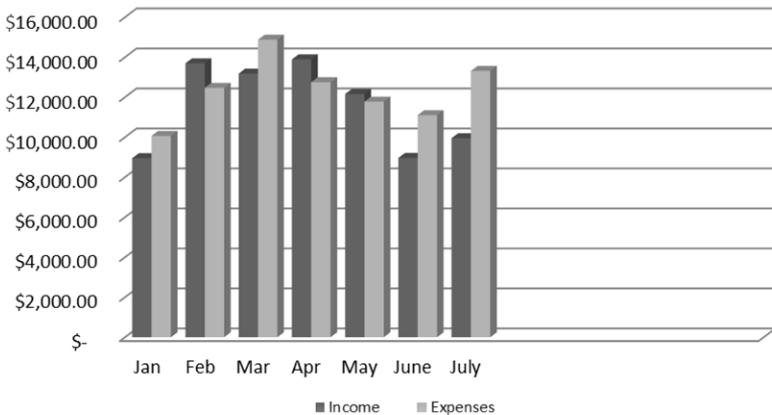
Dean Dinndorf, Dennis Martin, Jim & David Hill

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
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

Year to Date \$80,807 \$86,374

2020 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. Giving has dropped in the summer months, as expected.

We received a quote from American Church Group for **property insurance and workers compensation insurance**. Council voted

to move forward with the company. We will save almost \$600 a year.

Rebecca has started mailing our **quarterly tax filings** by certified mail, which requires a signature on delivery and is trackable.

\$500 was sent to the **Prairie Island Cemetery** to help with maintenance costs.

A laptop and accessories were purchased for Deacon Todd to help with the technical requirements of putting together virtual services. The cost was \$496.

\$400 was donated toward the **furnace** purchase in July.

Portico (Todd's benefit provider) has eliminated part of our monthly **retirement premium**, due to the underfunded account becoming fully funded. This will save us roughly \$25/mo.

Pestop sprayed the church and parsonage this spring at a cost of \$225.

Ron Hanson was reimbursed \$200 from the Council Discretionary fund for **Softball dues**.

We received the **Paycheck Protection loan** on April 22 in the amount of \$16,500. We are currently waiting for more direction from the bank and Small Business Association on how to obtain loan forgiveness. There will be more updates as the process moves forward. These funds are NOT included in the Income/Expense graph.

THANK YOU to everyone who designated their 2019 **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 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, September 2, 7:00 pm**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

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

Community Picnic Cancelled

Do to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Community Picnic has been cancelled. We will all miss getting together, for the potluck, our classic car display, music from the Dave Carpenter band and the games and activities for all ages. In the absence of this event, We invite you to reach out to a neighbor or two within the community to catch up, check in or just to say hello!

-The Picnic Committee

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 15th** and will be available at the 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 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.

A graphic of a torn piece of paper with a red pushpin in the center. The paper has various words and phrases scattered across it, including "Apply", "Clear So", "keep it, PAY", "\$299 per", "aid. FREE S", "FSA-Regis", "100%", "Home Tri", "Clear So", "keep it,", "aid. FF", "Hearing", "ARE Y", "more o", "wage", "audits", "payro", "debt h", "ARE Y", "more o", "DID YOU KNOW that not only", "does newspaper media reach".

HELP WANTED

Sunday School Teachers;
1-3 Grade to teach a short lesson after the opening introduction. Could be a co-taught position Sundays determined by co-teachers.
4-6 Grade to teach or co-teach same as above.
7-8 Grade co-teacher, Dean will mentor.
Contact: Julie Schreifels
507-990-7024 hjschreif@live.com

Missions

Mission Updates:

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. Buckets are located at both Churches for easy drop off. Remember that only the store receipts are valid; no e-receipts.



To date, our collection totals \$129,400!!

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 twice, and are now on our third collection. It's amazing!

Shop, bring your receipts to church and we will support children who are hungry! *Thank you,* the Mission Committee

Blanket Collection

The Missions Committee will be collecting gently used and new blankets and sleeping bags through the month of September. As the weather gets colder, there is a growing need for warm supplies for those folks and families living on the streets, in tents, or in their cars. There is an inner city mission in Saint Paul called "Listening House" asking for donations.



You can check them out at <https://listeninghouse.org/>

The homeless shelters are very challenged right now to follow new regulations for cleanliness and the number of people they can house. These

shelters will quickly run out of beds, forcing more people out on the streets.

The blankets must be in good condition; wash them if possible.

Inspect each item for rips or if there's stuffing coming out! We want to collect them as safely as possible (please don't donate if anyone in your household has been ill).

We have designated a table for drop offs in Dahlen Hall; the area is clearly marked. If preferable, you can leave them inside the door if Todd is at church. Also, Sue Hill is willing to pick donations up at your home. Call her cell at 651-503-4455 to make arrangements. The blankets and sleeping bags will be aired out and delivered to the Listening House. Our collection ends on September 30th.

However you choose to donate it is appreciated! Thank you for contributing to this ministry for people who long to feel the loving warmth of God's people!

Your Mission Committee

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, September 13th** starting at 10:30am.



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

TASTE OF WELCH

Please return raffle packets by October 4th or earlier. Raffle packets will be available shortly. Many are being picked up and others are being mailed out. PLEASE READ NEW TICKET INFORMATION CAREFULLY. If more tickets are needed please let Millie Niebeling know at 651-380-0776.

Julie Schreifels and the Taste of Welch Mission fund raiser committee are working on this. We are raffling a quilt and other items, if you have something you would like to donate, contact Millie Niebeling at 651-380-0776 or Kelley Mittlesteadt at 651-764-9889. We are getting gift cards and certificates like in the past.

Youth and Learning News

Sunday School will begin when in person worship services resume.



We miss seeing and interacting with our Sunday School kids.

No Youth events are scheduled at this time.

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

The Learning and Youth committee suggests families explore the Virtual Village activities through Good Earth Village go to <http://goodearthvillage.org/> then select the Virtual Village tab.

*We will also be offering **Activity Bags** to those families who would like some Christian activities for their children. Contact Julie Schreifels or the church office if you would like one.*

hjschreif@live.com 507-990-7024

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

First Communion for 5th 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 in September. Deacon Todd will be contacting students and their families with more info.

Activities & Reminders:

Mission Projects:



Buck-A-Chick – The Sunday School will be selling “chicks” for \$1.00 throughout the summer months How will we do this?

Copies of the Buck-a-Chick coloring pages will be available near the Buck-A-Chick display for families to pick up. The kids will color them and return them to a basket on the coat rack above the

table just inside the Dahlen Hall door. When people come in, they can purchase one, put their name on it and put the Buck-a-Chick and their donation in the gold box with a star on it.

The Buck-a-Chick fundraiser will provide chicks for families in impoverished areas of the world. They will be purchased through the ELCA Good Gifts program. ELCA World Hunger responds to the root causes of hunger with work in 60 countries around the world, including the United States.



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

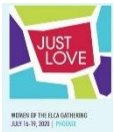
Sunday School Superintendent hjschreif@live.com h. 651-388-2326 c. 507-990-7024



The next **WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, September 2nd 7:00 pm. Please let Julie know via email 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: Blood Drive, Taste of Welch, Days for Girls, other.

Red Cross Blood Drive: The Blood Drive held on July 2, 2020 from 12:00-6:00 was very successful total units collected 34. **Our next drive will be September 3 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 27 drives totaling 671 units of blood donated.

Days for Girls Kits: It was decided that we would establish our own Days for Girls team. There is a \$50 fee the first year then \$25 each year after, this covers liability insurance for sewing groups. Joan will apply for a team with Days for Girls International. Contact Joan Slingsby or Julie Schreifels for more details or go to the web site www.DaysforGirls.org .



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.

Taste of Welch Saturday, October 10 from 9 am to 2 p.m. 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 chicken noodle soup and chili in the same manner. Please be sure to sign up using the attached Taste of Welch Volunteer form or let Julie know how you can help with our mission fundraiser. hjschreif@live.com or 507-990-7024.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, July 2, 2020 12-6 pm

Taste of Welch: October 10, 2020 9-2

11th 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

**Cross of Christ
Council Minutes Draft**

Faithful through Generations

August 11, 2020

The Council members met via Zoom meeting.

Present: President Ron Hanson, Vice-President Joan Slingsby, Robin Nelson-Williams, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Ann Kulla, Duke Bjorklund, Jon Peterson, Jim Gustafson, Oscar Daley, 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 July meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

*Deacons Report

Deacon Todd talked about the upcoming conformation class with approximately 5-6 students and will look into in-person class with the possibility of meeting on Sunday afternoons, with being accommodating as much as possible. Class will begin around

September 20th. Todd will continue to keep the 1st communion students and confirmation student on schedule when services are back in person. Todd has been more active with visitations. Todd will be taking some time off in September and suggested to use the Synod worship video as service for September 6th.

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

Council members discussed the recent phone survey conducted, with praise to all who had a part completing and compiling the information received. The results came in at approximately 60% wanted the church to stay closed and about 40% wanted it open. A condensed version of the results will be in the September Chronicles. ***A motion was made and seconded to discuss the church reopening at the September council meeting. –Motion Passed***

New Business

***September Council Person-Oscar Daley**

***New Insurance**

New Insurance was discussed for the church from Brotherhood Insurance through American Church Group of Minnesota due to workers comp issues within the current policy. Cannon River currently has the same insurance. If Cross of Christ switches to Brotherhood Insurance, Cross of Christ will save approximately \$590 per year, with additional coverage. The church would be covered for \$1.6 million, with the contents covering \$240k, Parsonage covered at \$323k, garage covered at 10k and picnic building covered at \$20k. ***A motion was made and seconded to switch coverage to Brotherhood Insurance. –Motion Passed.***

Rebecca will look into any fees or fines for cancelling other coverage before switching.

***4-H**

Rebecca was looking to hold 4-H meetings once again at the church. The council agreed supporting the 4-H is important and agreed to have in-person 4-H meetings at church using the outdoor facilities as

much as possible, social distancing, wearing face masks and no consumption of food.

Committee Reports

*Finance

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

*Property Management

The L.P. contact has been signed.

Ramsbachers will come and glue the carpet in the sanctuary once the humidity has settled and the carpet has laid flat again.

Oscar has cleaned up and burned the brush pile and leveled a few areas as well.

Two new storm doors have been installed on the parsonage.

Clean-up and organization of the garage will be done.

*Worship & Music

In-Person communion is scheduled for Aug. 16th. Kelly Mittlesteadt and Kris Portinga volunteered to help Joan.

*Missions

The receipt collection is about \$20k away from the goal, keep shopping and saving those receipts to turn in. Another making and collection of masks are underway, anyone can help.

Ron will check with Cannon River to see if a September joint meeting is needed.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff

Parish Secretary

PHONE SURVEY RESULTS

The Cross of Christ Council would like to thank all of you for your participation and heartfelt comments on the phone questionnaire conducted. We greatly appreciate your feedback. We are including a summary of those results below. At this time we are uncertain when in-person services will resume. We will continue with online worship for the time being. Thank you, again, for your interest and involvement. Please feel free to reach out to any Council members during these challenging times of the pandemic.



Cross of Christ Survey Questions - Covid-19 Related
July 23- Aug 8, 2020
(44 households represented)

#3. When do you think the church should open?

Anytime/ASAP - 34%

Not at this time - 66%

#4. Do you have concerns about the church opening?

- Yes, some of the concerns listed below:
Concerned about the elderly and everyone at risk
We are a singing church and we will spread the virus easily.
Concerned about keeping up with the cleaning and sterilization; extra work for staff.
- Mixed concerns, online services are good. Takes some of the pressure off of opening.
- No, open with guidelines; everyone following the guidelines

#5. How do you feel about resuming in-person services, wearing masks, distancing?

- Get procedures in place and let everyone know about the guidelines
- Not safe; would not feel comfortable coming to church right now
- Wearing masks, distancing hesitant; we have pre-existing conditions.

- In favor, but probably would not attend until virus is under control.

#7. Have you watched the online service?

Yes (39)

No (5)

#8. What are your thoughts on the presentation of the online service?

- We love them; pretty good for a small country church.
- They are good. Todd has done a fantastic job; very good to see!
- Watch them every week; I really like them; I feel Todd is giving me the sermon.
- Watch every Sunday; amazed at how good it is, the entire staff has done an amazing job of putting this together.
- They really like them; they feel these should definitely continue in the future; it's a good tool for those that can't get out and still want a service.
- Great job! I appreciate the effort put in to it; and, the flexibility in viewing these services.

#9. Have you attended the communion only services by appt?

Yes (19)

No (23)

#10. What are your thoughts on the format of this type of communion?

- Works very well
- It didn't seem like communion to me; it's so much work to set it up; suggestion to have some music playing - would calm the environment and put me in a worship mode.
- Attended both of them; felt very safe. It went very well and met our needs. Will take in August.
- Very much enjoyed; suggestion to make instructions clearer as to how to enter/exit.
- Attended both of them; many thanks to Todd & Joan; it has worked well and I know

we can make it work for regular services.

- Both of them; enjoyed having communion again, it is a safe format; should continue in this format for those that are not comfortable with in person services

#11. Any other comments, concerns, in general?

- Not at this time; a big thank you to everyone that is working so hard on all of this.
- Should resume in-person services soon; appreciate Todd/Joan for all of their efforts
- Keep safe; continue with videos
- Every family will need to take a look at their own situation and decide on their own if they will come to in-person services.

If you have any questions on the survey, please feel free to contact anyone from the council.

Jon Peterson 651-301-2651
James Gustafson 952-892-1359
Dana Dinndorf 612-382-8025
Oscar Daley 651-212-0518
Duke Bjorklund 651-301-1888
Kelley Mittelsteadt 651-764-9889
Robin Nelson-Williams 651-212-8685
Ann Kulla 651-497-0007
Joan Slingsby 651-442-6725
Ron Hanson 651-303-8387



29th 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, Homemade Chicken Noodle Soup & Chili.

Go to ccchurch.us or <https://www.facebook.com/CrossOfChristLutheranChurch/> to find the order form. Please return the form by **September 26th. Pick up items in church parking lot on Oct. 10th.**

Delivered to your vehicle.

Raffle

Queen-Size Quilt 90" x 90"

Many other items including

Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

Order tickets on bake sale form, purchase ticket 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 10, 2020

10:00 am - 2:00 pm