



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



Ministry Notes

Ash Wednesday is February 17th. Marking the beginning of Lent which is a 40-day liturgical season (minus Sundays) that concludes at Easter. Lent is often associated with the disciplines of fasting, charity, and prayer. Lent is intended to be a time of reflection; a time to meditate on our lives.

The name “Ash Wednesday” comes from the practice of placing ashes on the forehead in the shape of a cross. Ashes are referred to in the Old Testament as signs of sorrow, mourning, humility, repentance, and mortality "you are dust, and to dust you shall return" (Genesis 3:19).

The “Imposition of Ashes” began as a liturgical practice before the 12th century. At the time of the reformation, Lutherans began Lent with “Ash Wednesday,” however they did not practice the imposition of ashes. Reformation scholars remain puzzled by this since there is very little written for or against the practice by Luther or his colleagues.

The core of our Lutheran identity is that we are justified by grace through faith. This central insight guides our reading of the bible and our worship. In Christianity, the word “adiaphora” refers to matters or practices that are not regarded as essential to faith. From our Lutheran perspective the imposition of ashes is adiaphora. In other words, the practice of placing ashes on our foreheads may be a nice spiritual practice, but it has nothing to do with our salvation.

Historically, Lutherans have been wary of practices that may lend themselves to being idolized. Consequently, many Lutheran churches did not practice the imposition of ashes. More recently, many Lutheran churches have chosen to participate in this practice, and we remain mindful that it is nice, but not necessary.

This year we will be joining with six other churches in the Cannon Falls area exploring the Prodigal Son. Each Wednesday evening a Pastor from one of the churches will provide a sermon video based on a different character in the parable: an introduction, the younger son, the older son, the father, the mother (who isn't in the story), and the community. Personally, I'm looking forward to hearing from my other colleagues.

We will begin Lent on Ash Wednesday as a worship video. That means, this year we will not practice the imposition of ashes. Now, if you really, really need some ashes, you're certainly welcome to call and I can give you some to use at home! Maybe this year will be an opportunity to reflect on what really is essential...

Please join us for the whole meaningful journey of Lent; and remember, resurrection comes, Easter comes, your sins are forgiven!

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccrchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

January 3 rd	12
January 10 th	14
January 17 th	10
January 24 th	11

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)
August	\$5,143	\$3,427	\$1,715
September	\$1,923	\$4,579	(\$2,656)
October	\$5,070	\$3,262	\$1,807
November	\$2,300	\$2,948	(\$648)
December	\$5,970	\$2,852	\$3,115

Year to Date	\$38,665	\$41,366	(\$2,701)
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Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
January 14, 2021

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met January 14, 2021, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Rick Anderson, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: Shawn Klahr.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the December 10, 2020 meeting were read. Motion made by Rick Anderson, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the December 10, 2020 minutes.

Treasurer report for the month of December was read. An error was noticed in the report; Rick will send a revised treasurer's report. The treasurer's report for the year ending December 31, 2020 was reviewed. Motion by Sharon Niebur, second by Mark Hartman to approve the December treasurer's report with the error being noted, and the treasurer's report for the year-ending December 31, 2020.

Old Business:

- Council is working on the roof replacement for the church and annex building.

New Business:

The Council discussed the agenda and Resolution of Thanksgiving for our upcoming annual meeting on January 31, 2021. Under old business, benevolence will be discussed. Under new business, bringing the general checking account to \$0.00, the 2021 budget and "other" will be discussed.

Sharon emailed the Nominating Committee members regarding seeking a Council member to replace Rick Anderson. The Auditing Committee will be meeting on January 25th after the church service.

Deanna will email the Annual Meeting Notice ten days ahead of time and mail the notice to those who do not have email. Twenty-five Annual Meeting Booklets will be available at church and there will also be a pdf available to review.

Deacon Todd will be taking the first two Sundays off in February (February 7th and 14th). There will be no worship service at Cannon River on those dates. First English Lutheran will be providing the worship services for those two Sundays via email.

There will be Lenten services, but the question remains whether the services will be in person or virtual. There will be no soup supper this year.

Deacon Todd commented that the viewer numbers have been high for the worship videos.

The next Council meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on March 18th, at Cannon River Lutheran.

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 February 2021

Readers

February 7 th	Mary Fjetland
February 14 th	Jim Hill
February 21 st	Joan Slingsby
February 28 th	Sandy Luhman

Council Person

Joan Slingsby

Cross of Christ Return to Worship Service

At the January council meeting, council members set a tentative return to worship service date of Sunday, February 21st, 2021 at 10:30am.



To open safely and keep possible infection rate low, council has suggested to start with a maximum of 25 members worshipping per service. In order to do so, we are requesting members to sign up to worship, in a similar way in person communion has been scheduled. Worship services will be shorter, much like the online version.

Please contact Deanna to sign up for worship on Sunday, February 21st by email at secretary@cccrchurch.com or by phone at 651-380-6323. Sign up will be on a first come first serve basis, for subsequent services, priority will be given to those who have not attended previously.

Council will be discussing current state and county infection rates at the February council meeting, if the rates are too high, council may reschedule the return to worship date.

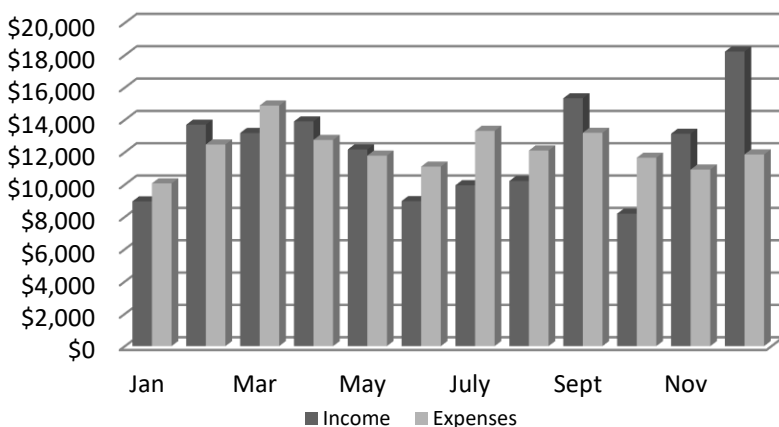
Thank you!

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
August	\$10,212	\$12,100
September	\$15,328	\$13,193
October	\$8,192	\$11,653
November	\$13,136	\$10,920
December	\$18,219	\$11,854

Year to Date **\$145,893** **\$146,094**

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. We finished the year with expenses exceeding income by \$1,195. Last year our income exceeded expenses by \$892, so we are roughly \$2,100 behind where we were at the end of 2019.

Harvest Festival donations have totaled \$4,750, and are going toward operating costs.

Thanksgiving offerings of \$70 went toward operating costs.

Christmas donations totaled \$500 and were split between Red Wing and Hastings food shelves.

Memorials:

\$1,760 in memory of Grace Nelson

\$700 in memory of Agnette Peterson

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

Council voted last year to maintain a balance of \$20,000 in the parsonage expense fund (rent dollars paid to us and used to maintain the parsonage), with remaining funds to be transferred to the Council Discretionary fund (to be used as needed). **This year's transfer will be \$20,360.**

We received a donation of \$195 to go toward **prayer boxes** for the Sunday School kids.

We received our **quarterly American National deposit** in the amount of \$1,219, split between Building and Grounds (1/3), Council Discretionary Fund (1/3), World Hunger (1/6) and Lutheran Social Services (1/6).

Giving statements will be e-mailed or mailed no later than Jan 29. If you do not receive yours shortly thereafter, please contact Rebecca.

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!

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 for more information. At Cross of Christ, these donations go to Building and Grounds maintenance, and we very much appreciate them.

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 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.

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **Wed, Feb 3**, time, place, and format are TBD. 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

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. ***Purchase \$10 gas only cards for the Hope Coalition mission project.*** The **next order** will be put in on **Tuesday, February 9th** and will be available at the church by, February 13th. **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.

Are You a Thrivent Member?

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 for more information, and thank you for considering Cross of Christ as the recipient.



Missions

We will continue our collection of **Aldi and Kwik Trip Gas cards**. If you are able, please purchase these cards in the amount of **\$10 or \$15**. Once purchased, you can drop them off at the Dahlen Hall entrance; there will be a collection box there. Or if you prefer, please mail them to church:



Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
24036 Cty. 7 Blvd.
Welch, MN 55089
Attn: Mission Committee

We've had an amazing response! 59 gas cards and 24 Aldi cards!!

Thank you! This donation will help homeless folks in need of food and transportation. **We will continue this collection through February.**

Family Fare Receipts! We did it – again!!! Thank you for saving your receipts!

Cross of Christ and Cannon River saved \$150,000 in store receipts from the Family Fare stores.

The 1st collection ended in 2015; \$1,000 sent to FMSC.
The 2nd collection ended in 2018; \$1,000 sent to FMSC.



We just completed our 3rd collection! The receipts will be taken to Family Fare and then we'll receive a check for \$1,000, which will be sent to Feed My Starving Children!!

Let's go for a 4th collection!!

\$150,000 in receipts = \$1,000 to Feed My Starving Children

Please bring your receipts to the back of the church, or to the entrance to Dahlen Hall.

Thank you, your Mission Committee

Youth and Learning News

Restart of Sunday School will be determined based on when church services begin in a regular manner, without limited seating.

Families can still access the lessons through Sparkhouse digital. Each family has been given a username (your email address) and password to access the lessons and videos. An email was sent to each family regarding this. If you didn't get an email from me or have any question please feel free to contact me.

Confirmation Classes: Wednesday nights 7:00.
(No Confirmation classes on February 3rd and 10th)

Activities & Reminders: No activities scheduled at this time

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 h. 651-388-2326
c. 507-990-7024

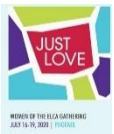


The next WELCA meeting will be determined based on a need to plan or discuss matters.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will Thursday, March 11th from 12-6 pm and Friday, March 12th 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 32 drives totaling 836 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 or the meal for the Red Cross workers on Friday. 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 .

Women's Retreat: We will NOT have a Women's Retreat in 2021. It has been scheduled for weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022 at Cedar Valley Resort.



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.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, March 11 12-6 pm and Friday, March 12 8:30 am – 2:30pm

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, Sandi Petrashek*

Julie Schreifels phone: 651-388-2326 cell: 507-990-7024 email

hjschreif@live.com

Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations

January 12, 2021

Present: President Ron Hanson, Robin Nelson-Williams, Oscar Daley, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Jim Gustafson, Ann Kulla, Jon Peterson, Dana Dinndorf, Deacon Todd Portinga and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff

Absent: Vice-President Joan Slingsby and Duke Bjorklund

The meeting was called to order by President Ron Hanson and the mission statement was read.

Deacon Todd led devotions and prayer.

The agenda was approved. The December meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Confirmation is still going and the students all well engaged into it. A first bible presentation was held this evening for a 3rd grader. Todd is taking the first two weeks off in February, and will use the worship videos from First English with Pastor Phil Rudd for those two Sundays. Lent starts with Ash Wednesday on February 17th, with most likely virtual services.

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

Council briefly talked about the virus vaccination and the possibility of using the Church as a distribution location. Goodhue County is still in the process determining distribution. Council also talked about reopening in person Church worship service. After discussion it was determined to have a tentative reopening date, by appointment for February 21st.

A motion was made and seconded to tentatively set a reopening date of Sunday, February 21st, with a maximum of 25 members

per service and members must reserve their spot. -Motion Passed.

A notice will be in the weekly updates and in the February chronicles. Council will rediscuss the reopening at the February meeting, if the local and state numbers are too high, council will postpone the reopening date.

New Business

*February Council Person- Joan Slingsby

*Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held together with the regular council meeting in February. One new council person will be elected, with another council member running for another term. Annual meeting booklets will still be printed and will be available at church early February. Most of the annual reports have been submitted into the office. Audit committee will meet and review financials late January.

Committee Reports

*Finance

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

*Property Management

A few projects minor were brought up, Oscar will look into them.

*Worship and Music

In Person communion is scheduled for January 17th, both Ann and Kelley will help. Dana will talk with Joan on Lent services.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff

Parish Secretary

Red Cross Blood Drives

Cross of Christ will hold 2 blood drives in March.

Choose to sign up for

Thursday, March 11, 2021

from noon-6pm or Friday,

March 12, 2021 from 8:30am-2:30pm.



If you are looking donate blood, please go to

<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

In person Communion

Cross of Christ will offer in person communion on **Saturday, February 20, 2021.** The first communion time will start at

HOLY

10:30am and will continue in 10 minute time slots. If you know you would like to participate in receiving communion, please let Deanna know by email or by phone at 651-380-6323.



COMMUNION