



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



Ministry Notes:

I love spring. I love when the grass turns green and the buds on the trees swell and burst into leaves. It feels like the whole world is re-awakening. New life is exciting!

I'm not so crazy about fall. To me it feels like a time to take care of things. Time to check the furnace, clean out the garage and put all the "outdoor things" away... Time to batten the hatches! Days are getting shorter and the lower temps hint of what's to come.

Fall and winter are not my favorite seasons, but they are part and parcel of the rhythm of life. As the seasons come and go, so do the seasons of life.

I talked with an old friend from Austin last week, I hadn't seen him in over three years. His daughter drove him to Welch just so we could visit. We used to go out for beer and pizza and talk about how meaningful life is when you're involved with projects in the community. Last week we talked about how he couldn't do that anymore. It's a hard change to make... One of the seasons in life is making a transition from human doing to human being.

As I retire, I'm mindful that seasons will come and seasons will bring change. I hope and pray that whatever the seasons bring,

like my friend, I find the resources to be loving, kind and gracious.

When I look back at my life, there have been many different seasons. And curiously, I'm thankful for all of them. It's like they are all meaningful in their own way, and safely stored away... Every season is amazingly unique, there will never be another like it.

When my old friend and I hugged to say goodbye, there were smiles and tears. When you dare to love someone, it changes your heart.

My heart has forever been changed because of my season with you. It has been an absolute privilege and honor to be here. As I take my leave, my season with you is complete. I will cherish it, it was meaningful and unique, and it will be safely stored away in my memory, and I trust yours as well.

I pray that whatever the seasons bring, for you and for me, God's love and promises will always fill our hearts with gratitude, joy and peace.

In Christ's love,

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccrchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

September 5 th	12
September 12 th	15
September 19 th	23
September 26 th	20

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
August	\$2,448	\$3,412	(\$964)
Year to Date	\$24,887	\$29,423	(\$4,536)

Harvest Festival



The Cannon River Harvest Festival will be Sunday, October 24th immediately following worship. Please bring a dish to share for potluck. Beverages will be provided.

Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
September 9, 2021

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met on September 9, 2021, at Cannon River Church. Present were Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen. Absent: David Fremouw.

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin at 8:40 p.m.

Minutes from the August 12, 2021 meeting were read. Motion made by Mark Hartman, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the August 12, 2021 minutes.

Treasurer's report for the month of August was read. Motion by Sharon Niebur, second by Shawn Klahr to approve the August treasurer's report.

Old Business:

Bill mentioned that he replaced a switch and that didn't change anything with the set of lights not working. Bill called Ringeisen Electric, but hasn't heard back from them. Bill will follow-up with Ringeisen Electric the week of September 19th. It looks like an electrician is going to have to go thru each light. Scaffolding will be needed. Bill inquired that since an electrician has the scaffolding in place, do we want to replace the light fixtures? Michelle and Sharon stated that they liked the current fixtures. Possibly replace the light fixtures only if the electrician sees something that looks bad. Mark stated that Mitch Jackson might have blue prints that would show where the electric wires start. Sharon asked if there were any blue prints at church. Bill, Mark and Rick will install the door in the annex building.

Bill stated that Pest Stop Control must have sprayed for flies. Bill will call Mark Niebur for a grub and broadleaf application on the lawn.

New Business:

Benevolence: A motion was made by Shawn Klahr, second by Sharon Niebur to donate \$1,000.00 to the Lutheran Disaster Fund. Michelle will notify Rick of the donation.

Discussion was held on checking the church constitution to see how many members are eligible to be on the call committee.

Sharon is going to present Todd's gift at the brunch scheduled for Sunday, September 26th at 8:00 a.m.

Sharon mentioned that the clock is missing, and we should replace it. Mark will get a new clock.

The next scheduled meeting will be October 14th, 7:00 p.m. at Cannon River Lutheran Church.

A motion was made by Mark Hartman, second by Sharon Niebur to adjourn the meeting at 9:27 p.m.

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 October 2021

Readers

October 3 rd	Jean Kehren
October 10 th	Rhonda Meyer
October 17 th	Carl Peterson
October 24 th	Ann Kulla
October 31 st	Doris Gruber

Greeters

October 3 rd	Doris Gruber
October 10 th	Sunday School Children
October 17 th	Gehloff Family
October 24 th	Jeff & Kim Chandler
October 31 st	Paul Hansen

Altar

October: Millie Niebeling, Jean Kehren, Yvonne Nelson, Joan Slingsby and Cathy Nemcek

Attendance

Council Person

Dana Dinndorf

September 5 th	21
September 12 th	50
September 19 th	39

October Ushers

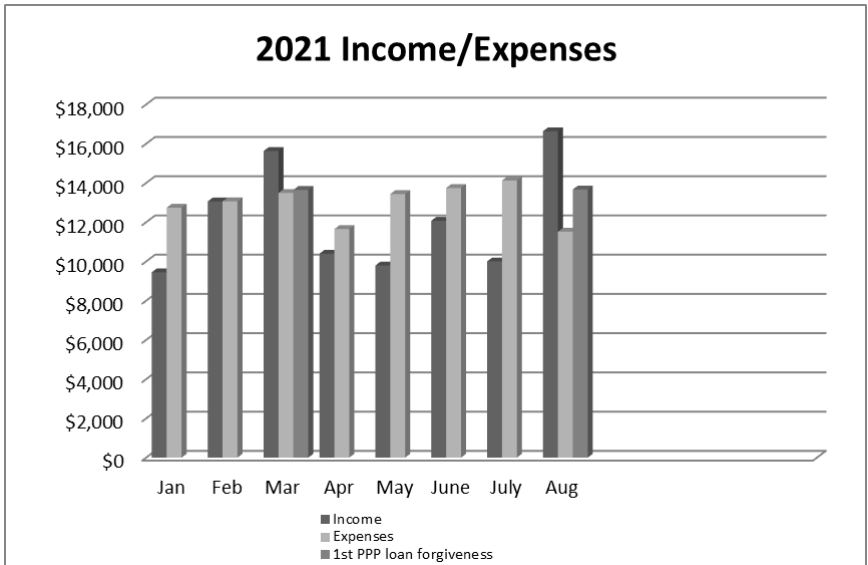
Wayne Munson, Jeff Meyer

Kitchen Person

Joan Slingsby

Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	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	
August	\$16,635	\$11,516	\$13,667
Year to Date	\$97,023	\$103,765	



Financial News:

We have received forgiveness of our **2nd PPP loan** in the amount of \$16,527, after sharing with Cannon River our portion was \$13,667. These funds have been used to help cover payroll expenses during the pandemic, and are reflected in the **3rd** column of the graph for the month of August.

Memorial: In August we received \$3,000 in memory of Carl and Bernice Gustafson, designated for operating costs.

The **Memorial Book** is back in its rightful place at the back of the church. The designations listed are the ones at the time of the gift. If family members would like to designate undesignated gifts, please contact Rebecca Peterson with that information, if you haven't already.

Our **property insurance** bills will increase roughly 10% for the coming year, which is a widespread phenomenon, based mainly on the increased cost of materials needed to fill claims.

Prepaid **Kwik Trip cards** are 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.

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. We received \$25.63 in August.

Thrivent members, please remember that you can designate choice dollars earned so far this year at any time. Contact your agent for more information. Cross of Christ greatly appreciates these gifts, which go to Building and Grounds maintenance.

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **Wed, Oct 6, at 7 pm at church**. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer

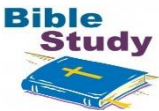
crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com 651-301-2652

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, October 5th** and will be available at church by, October 10th. **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, October 12th at Cross of Christ at 9:00am in Dahlen Hall. Millie Niebeling will be hostess. All ladies are welcome to attend.

DAYS FOR GIRLS



The Days For Girls women have been busy putting kits together. We made 123 kits which were sent to Utah.

We are going to meet again on October 21st and/or October 25th 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.

Choir Practice

Join is for choir practice after worship service on Sunday, October 3rd, 17th and 31st. All voices are welcome!!



Missions

Missions at Work

Some call it Mission work . . .it's also called "Loving Others"

We have been collecting donations for the people of Haiti in the aftermath of the August earthquake. Through Lutheran Disaster Response, we are able to offer our support to the people still in need of food, water, medical supplies and shelter.

Your donations, along with \$500 from the Mission Fund, will be sent to Lutheran Disaster Response as they continue their work in Haiti.

Our congregation always seems to find a way to reach out and help others.

We do thank you!!



**Lutheran Disaster
Response**

Your Mission Committee

Thanksgiving Food Collection

Starting on October 10th, we will be collecting food items suitable for a Thanksgiving meal. Our collection will be taken to Hastings Family Service. We have this opportunity to show our love and concern for those who need assistance with a Thanksgiving meal.

The Sunday school children will also be helping with this collection!

Please place your items on the table in the back of the church.

Some ideas for a Thanksgiving meal are:

boxed mashed potatoes

boxed stuffing

jars or cans of gravy/packets of gravy mix

cans of corn, cranberries, green beans

cream of mushroom soup, fried onions

packages of jello, jars of pickles and olives

cans of fruit cocktail



Or, you can make a monetary donation by writing your check to “Cross of Christ” and put “Thanksgiving” in the memo.

The collection will end on November 7th

Thank you!!

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.



Youth and Learning News

Sunday School has resumed in person. 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 is teaching 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 the second Sunday of every month.

The Sunday school children will be greeters for church on Sunday, October 10th.

Confirmation: Confirmation classes begin on Wednesday, September 29th at 7:00pm. and will continue Wednesdays.

***note:** due to Deacon Todd retiring, after the initial meeting on Sept. 29th, a break may occur until a interim pastor is in place to teach the class.

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. The Learning and Youth Committee has suggested that this may be discussed and planned during coffee fellowship when it resumes.

Peace,

Julie Schreifels

Sunday School Superintendent Cell 507-990-7024

email hjschreif@live.com



The next WELCA meeting will be Wednesday October 13th 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, November 4th from 12-6 pm and Friday, November 5th 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: The Days for Girls team sent 123 kits to Utah for distribution. Join the group of women who get together to work on this great project. **We will gather next on October 21 & 25 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 as soon as possible, if you haven't already done so. 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.

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 October 21 & 25 9:00 -11:00 am
Cannon Falls Senior Center

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, Nov. 4th 12-6 pm and
Friday, Nov. 5th 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, **October**

10th, following church service. The meeting will be kept short, and handouts will be available. Thank you!

Cross of Christ and Cannon River
Joint Council Meeting Minutes Draft
September 9, 2021

Present: Mark Hartman, Ron Hanson, Bill Bodin, Sharon Niebur, Michelle Sandeen, Joan Slingsby, Oscar Daley, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Duke Bjorklund, Anthony Nemcek, Jon Peterson, and Parish Secretary Deanna Gehloff *Also Present:* Pr. Barb Streed

Absent: Dana Dinndorf, Ann Kulla and Dan Fremouw

The meeting was called to order by Ron Hanson.
Deanna Gehloff was appointed secretary for the meeting.

Pr. Barb led us in prayer.

Deanna Gehloff read out loud the secretary's report.
A motion was made and seconded to approve the secretary's report. -Motion Passed.

Old Business

Both Cannon River and Cross of Christ confirmed their selected dates for the Harvest Festivals.

New Business

Todd's Retirement:

Cannon River will host a retirement breakfast before worship service at 8:00AM on Sunday, September 26. Cross of Christ will host a retirement luncheon after worship on the same day. Both churches have selected retirement gifts and will present them during their retirement celebrations.

A brief discussion was held regarding Todd's unused vacation pay. Of the four weeks, Todd only used up one week. ***A motion was made and seconded to pay Todd for one and a half weeks of unused vacation pay. -Motion Passed.***

Pr. Barb Streed from the Synod office presented a packet (call process manual) with the next steps for our congregations. Pr. Barb briefly went over the packet and suggested lining up at least the first few Sundays for pulpit supply. Surprisingly she already has been in contact with a candidate, from Lake City, whom would possibly be interested in becoming our interim pastor. Pr. Barb will get things rolling and be in contact with both council presidents from each church.

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

The next Joint Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2022, at 6:30pm at Cross of Christ.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary

Cross of Christ Council Meeting Minutes
Faithful Through Generations
September 9, 2021

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

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

The agenda was approved, and the August meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

*Deacon Todd's Retirement

A brief discussion was held in continuation from the joint meeting. Both Ron and Joan have volunteered to be interviewers for the interim pastor.

The council discussed planning a celebration for Todd. It was decided it was best to have it following his last Sunday he leads worship service on September 26th. Joan will order food. A retirement gift was discussed, and Joan will purchase.

New Business

*October Council Person- Dana Dinndorf

Committee Reports

*Finance

The second PPP loan has been forgiven and will reflect in the August financials. A \$3,000 donation to the operating fund was received from the Gustafson's. Property insurance increased 10%.

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

***Property Management**

New window well covers were purchased and installed. Oscar is looking to install a gutter to prevent water getting into the basement. The carpet is being replaced this coming week in the sanctuary on all three isles. Sargent's work on the shrubs have started and they will return to finish up.

***Worship and Music**

A meeting is scheduled for the 12th. The committee will be selecting hymns through November.

***Learning & Youth**

Rally Sunday is September 12th and the kids will be singing during service. Confirmation informational meeting night is scheduled for September 29th at 7pm.

***Missions**

Hatti relief collection will go through the end of September.

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

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary



30th Annual Taste of Welch *WELCA Mission Fundraiser*

Bake Sale

Bake sale order forms were due September 25th. If you have not returned yours, please contact a WELCA member ASAP!

Pick up items in church parking lot on Oct. 9th. Delivered to your vehicle.

Raffle

Raffle tickets will still be available for sale until Sunday, October 3rd during church or by contacting a WELCA member. Please return all raffle ticket packets by then.



Tickets will be available to purchase when you pick up your order too!

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

