



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



---

## Ministry Notes

---

A new year... A New Year... A NEW YEAR!!!

I saw a meme the other day that said, “When January 1<sup>st</sup> gets here, hindsight will be 2020.” I thought there was some humor in that, but also a lot of wisdom! To me it means that the suffering of 2020 will give us all some clarity. And perhaps that clarity will be some insight about what really matters...

One of the things that matters to me, and especially after celebrating Christmas, is presence. I’m not going to take that for granted anymore. For the new year, my biggest hope is to be together, with my family, with my friends, with our congregations. I want so badly to shake hands, to hug, to see smiles, to feel pats on the back, to be among people...

Let’s keep that hope alive. Let’s pray for it; let’s do what we can to get this pandemic behind us.

I also hope to explore what living through 2020 can bring us for the healing of our country. We’ve lived through a tumultuous election, and I’m concerned that the fabric of our society is tearing apart. The Body of Christ is the common bond that keeps us all together and especially in the midst of our differences.

That means church is not only relevant, it is of paramount importance! Perhaps the only place in our society where we hear that we all have something in common. Whether we are Republicans or Democrats, or Fox News people or CNN people,

and that something we all have in common is Jesus. And this really matters!

I hope for a second coming of sorts... Perhaps a time of civility for our country... Perhaps a time of respect for one another. As division increases, the Body of Christ becomes ever more important.

And to be truthful, for me this means I need to listen. And listen so deeply I might change because of what I hear. And the change is not always a matter of the head, as much as it is a matter of the heart. To listen means to open and to love.

This is something our society desperately needs. Let's model that, and let's hope our country can find a way to heal. Let's keep that hope alive, as well.

Blessings to all of you, Brothers and Sisters, and may this New Year bring us all Peace and Joy!

Todd

***Contact Information for Todd Portinga:***

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

***Email: [pastor@cccchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccchurch.com)***

---

# Cannon River News

---

## Attendance

No in person worship service held in December.

---

## 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)

---

**Year to Date    \$32,695        \$38,511        (\$5,816)**

---

## Church Update

The Cannon River church council met at the church on December 10. It was decided to continue the pause of in person worship until January 3 2021. There is a Christmas Eve service video being put together by members from Cannon River and Cross of Christ for everyone to view. It will be available to view on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. We are all looking forward to restart in person worship. Bill Bodin

---

## Cannon River Annual Meeting

Cannon River will hold their Annual meeting on Sunday, January 31, 2021 after Church service. Committee reports need to be into the office no later than Friday, January 15<sup>th</sup>.

---

---

Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
December 10, 2020

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met December 10, 2020, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Rick Anderson, Bill Bodin, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr, Sharon Niebur and Michelle Sandeen (via phone).

Meeting was called to order by President Bill Bodin.

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the November 12, 2020 meeting were read. Bill mentioned under Old Business that he did not have a “bill” versus “bid” from Mark Niebur for spraying weeds. Motion made by Rick Anderson, second by Mark Hartman to approve the November 12, 2020 minutes with the correction noted.

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

Old Business:

Council is still seeking roofing estimates for both the church and annex building due to hail damage earlier this fall.

New Business:

Council reviewed the proposed 2021 budget. A few changes may need to be made and Rick will notify Council via email.

Discussion was held regarding the annual meeting. It was decided that the annual meeting will be held on January 31, 2021 after the church service. Those in attendance will spread out upstairs in the church. The meeting will be brief and there will be no food.

The 2021 annual meeting agenda was reviewed. The auditing and nominee committee members will need to be updated as well as the

letter to the congregation. Rick Anderson's Council term will end and a new member will be sought.

Motion by Shawn Klahr, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the following benevolences:

Cannon Falls Food Shelf - \$500.00

Hastings Food Shelf - \$500.00

Randolph Food Shelf - \$500.00

Red Wing Food Shelf - \$500.00

Lutheran Disaster - \$1,000.00

Jennifer Zingler - \$250.00 – Her daughter Jojo is doing a toy drive for her FCCLA project thru Randolph High School.

Toys for Tots Red Wing - \$250.00

As of now, church services at Cannon River will start-up again on January 3, 2021. Cross of Christ is creating a YouTube production for the Christmas service. They will be collaborating with Cannon River. The December 27<sup>th</sup> service will be presented by the synod.

The next Council meeting will be 7:00 p.m. on January 14th, at Cannon River Lutheran.

A motion was made by Rick Anderson, second by Sharon Niebur 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 January 2021**

#### **Readers**

January 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Jim Gustafson
January 10 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
January 17 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Hansen
January 24 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
January 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dean Dinndorf

#### **Council Person**

Ron Hanson

#### **Kitchen**

Joan Slingsby

#### **Attendance**

No in person worship service held in December.

---

### **Cross of Christ Annual Meeting**

Due to the ongoing Covid19 restrictions and regulations, Cross of Christ will not hold an in person Annual Meeting. The Church Council will be reviewing annual reports and approving nominations. A notice will be sent out to all members with more information in the coming month.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact a Council Member.

Thank you!

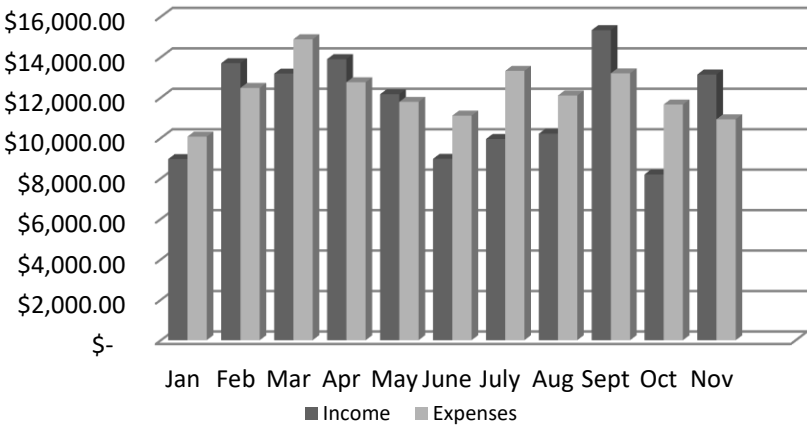
---

# 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

**Year to Date \$127,674 \$134,239**

## 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.

**Harvest Festival** donations have totaled \$2,375 so far, and are going toward operating costs.

**Thanksgiving offerings** of \$70 went toward operating costs.

**Christmas donations** will be split between Red Wing and Hastings food shelves.

**2021 Offering envelopes** are available in Dahlen Hall or by request. Let Rebecca know to mail or deliver – contact info below.

Council voted to **increase all staff salaries by 2%**. The proposed 2021 budget will be available no later than Jan. 6.

**Please consider designating your 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](http://www.thrivent.com) for more information. These donations go to Building and Grounds maintenance.

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, 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, Jan 6**, 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, January 12<sup>th</sup>** and will be available at the church by, January 17<sup>th</sup>. **If you would like to order cards and are not on the regular order list please email [hjschreif@live.com](mailto: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.

---

### **Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project**



Cross of Christ had an awesome turn out this year and we were able to help 6 families. Thank you!! Lynette Hanson

# Missions

---

## Missions at Work:

In contacting Hope Coalition this year, we learned that the greatest need they have for their homeless folks is Aldi and gas cards. We feel it's important to listen to the need that is out there so we are **continuing a donation of Aldi and Gas cards (gas only please)**. 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 the winter months.

**Thank you for your continued Mission support!**

The Mission Committee

### **Family Fare Receipts!**



We are getting close to collecting \$150,000 in receipts. Once we have this amount, we will receive a check for \$1,000 for Feed My Starving Children. We currently have **\$138,422** in receipts, so please keep them coming. There is a bucket to put the receipts in right inside Dahlen Hall.

---

## Youth and Learning News

---

**Thank you to all who helped with the Christmas Video!!** A special thank you to Dean Dinndorf and Emma for the many hours they worked on the video.

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

In the meantime, families will be able 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 and email from me or have any question please feel free to contact me.

**Confirmation Classes:** Wednesday nights 7:00.

**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, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 12-6 pm and Friday, January 8<sup>th</sup> 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 30 drives totaling 767 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. 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](http://www.DaysforGirls.org) .

**Women's Retreat:** We will NOT have a Women's Retreat in 2021. The deposit will carry over to the weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022.

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, January 7 12-6 pm and Friday, January 8 8:30 am – 2:30pm

**11<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)**

---

## **Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft**

---

*Faithful through Generations*  
**December 8, 2020**

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

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 November meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Unfinished Business

#### *\*Deacons Report*

Todd talked about a baptism that was held on Sunday, along with an upcoming baptism at Cannon River this Sunday. Saturday, Todd will present 3<sup>rd</sup> grade bible to a Sunday school student. Worship videos have been consistent with 80 views per video. Todd continues calls and visitations to members.

#### *\*Covid Plan, Virus Talk, Church Re-opening*

Council briefly went over the second round of calls made to members; however, results are not accurate with only 6 of the 10 council members reporting. Council members mentioned how nice church members are responding to council contacting them.

### New Business

#### *\*January Council Person- Ron Hanson*

#### *\*Annual Meeting*

With Covid restrictions in force, a in person annual meeting will not take place. Council will get the committees going, Ron will contact the nominating committee and Duke will be in contact with the

committee's council liaisons. Council will review committee reports and nominees at the January meeting. A notice will go out in the chronicles. Ann Kulla noted she will run for a second term on the Church Council.

### Committee Reports

#### \*Finance

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

*A motion was made and seconded to split Christmas offerings between the Red Wing & Hastings Food Shelves. -Motion Passed.*

*A motion was made and seconded to put the \$70 received in Thanksgiving donations into the operating fund. -Motion Passed.*

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the finance recommendation of a 2% raise for all employees. -Motion Passed.*

*A motion was made and seconded to continue having Thrivent Choice dollars go into the Building and Grounds Fund. -Motion Passed.*

#### \*Worship and Music

The Synod worship video will be used for the December 27<sup>th</sup> service. In person communion will be on Sunday, December 20<sup>th</sup>. Todd and others are working on a worship video for Christmas Eve service.

\*Missions- Coalition gift card donation collection continues. Ann will talk with Sue on getting reports into council.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 12th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff  
Parish Secretary

---

## **Need Nominees for Cross of Christ Elected Offices**

While we're not quite sure how the Annual Meeting will be conducted this year, we do need nominees for positions. Please see the information below. If you would accept a nomination to any of these, please contact Jim Hill at [joscarhill@gmail.com](mailto:joscarhill@gmail.com), or another member of the Nominating Committee. **Please reply by Sunday Jan 3.**

Sincerely,

The Nominating Committee:

- Dennis Martin
- Kellie Dahling
- Rhonda Meyer
- Jim Hill
- Jean Kehren

COUNCIL MEMBERS - Need 2 to 3 persons for three year term.  
Ann Kulla has accepted a nomination

2020 Council members who will serve 2021: Joan Slingsby, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Oscar Daley, Duke Bjorklund, Dana Dinndorf, Jon Peterson, Ron Hanson

CROSS OF CHRIST CEMETERY BOARD Need 2 persons for three year term

2020 Board members who will serve 2021: Bob Luhman, Wayne Munson, Judy Meyer, Scott Bjornson

PRAIRIE ISLAND CEMETERY BOARD Ron Hanson accepted nomination to serve another term. Nomination is still open to interested others for three year term

2020 Board members who will serve 2021: Anna Amy, Darwin Fox

GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS REPRESENTATIVES - Need Nominee  
for Delegate and Alternate

2020 Delegate Ross Nelson

2020 Alternate Adam Nelson

SE MN SYNOD ASSEMBLY - Need Nominee. Those with most  
votes would be Delegates, with the next two as alternates

2020 Delegate Kris Portinga

2020 Delegate Janet Daley

2020 Alternate Joel and Tracy Harth

---

## **Red Cross Blood Drives**

Cross of Christ will hold 2  
blood drives in January.

Choose to sign up for

Thursday, January 7, 2021

from noon-6pm or Friday,

January 8, 2021 from 8:30am-2:30pm.



If you are looking donate blood, please go to  
<https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

---