



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



Ministry Notes

We recently celebrated the confirmation of four wonderful kids! For the past two years the kids and I gathered (with careful covid protocols), and talked about life and faith. Content and learning are important, and for me it's mainly about relationships and integrating. Where the rubber hits the road! We kept saying, "The stuff we talk about in here, it all about making a difference out there."

Every week we talked about what was going on at school. In the confirmation class, there were students from four different school districts, each on a different and evolving schedule. We would "check-in" and say prayers for the kids. It felt so good to share our stories and experiences. Myself included!

It is my prayer that these kids always remember our time together, as a time of wonder, mystery, connection and inclusion. I also pray that what has been planted in their hearts will flourish and produce an abundance of love for the world...

And that's really what life is all about. Being the church, is all about making a difference for the sake of the world. We gather to worship; we are then sent to "Go in Peace and Serve the Lord..."

This past year we have weathered tremendous challenges. And the remarkable thing has not only been our resiliency, but I've also sensed a renewed mission. It's as if, we've had to be the church in such different ways, and through all that struggle, we

discovered an appreciation of why we're here in the first place! Our mission statement seems more poignant to me.

I've had numerous conversations with people about how good it feels to be back in church. I've also had numerous conversations with people about the worship videos. We had neighbors watching the worship videos, neighbors who belong to other churches... We had our members send the links to others around the country, and in one case, around the world...

As we emerge from this covid conundrum, and get back to some kind of normal, I wonder how that "normal" will look?

I imagine worship will slowly go back to normal. And maybe we've learned that shorter is alright... And for some people, even preferred! And we've also learned, that for some people, connecting with the congregation through watching a worship video also works.

We might have accidentally discovered new ways of worship that are welcoming, inviting and meaningful. I imagine this will continue to be discussed in the upcoming months. And something we should prayerfully consider.

And I welcome your input. Please feel free to tell me what you think, and how you have experienced "church" this past year. We are, very much, in a unique position as we move forward. And guided by the Spirit, we will be a new creation. However, that happens...

Todd

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

Cannon River News

Attendance

May 2 nd	15
May 9 th	19
May 16 th	19
May 23 rd	18

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

Year to Date	\$12,320	\$14,292	(\$1,971)
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Congratulations to our Graduates!

We will be recognizing our 2021 High School Graduates on Sunday, June 13.



Gracie Fremouw- Graduated from Cannon Falls High School
Elizabeth Klahr- Graduated from Randolph, will be attending Hamline University

Ann Sandeen- Graduated from Randolph High School, graduated with Associate Degree from Inver Hills College. Will be attending MSU-Moorhead

Mary Sandeen- Graduated from Randolph High School, graduated with Associate Degree from Inver Hills College. Will be attending MSU-Moorhead

Baptism

Cameron Kukacka, infant son of Dani and Jason Kukacka, will be baptized at Cannon River on Sunday, June 13.



**Cannon River Lutheran Church
Council Meeting
May 13, 2021**

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met on May 13, 2021, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Deacon Todd Portinga, Bill Bodin, David Fremouw, Mark Hartman, Shawn Klahr and Sharon Niebur. Absent: Michelle Sandeen

Meeting was called to order by President, Bill Bodin

Deacon Todd led us in devotions.

Minutes from the March 18, 2021 were read. Motion made by David Fremouw, second by Mark Hartman to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes.

Treasurer's report for the month of March was read. Motion by Mark Hartman, second by David Fremouw to approve the March treasurer's report. The April treasurer's report was not available at this meeting, so will be reviewed at a later time.

Old Business:

All in attendance agreed that the new shingles on the church building and dining hall look great.

Simon Construction did an outstanding job. The Building Inspector says all looks good. The inspection fee was \$186.

Bill has inspected the frames around the stained glass windows. He feels they will probably need to be caulked in the near future to keep them in good condition. We will be looking into the possibility of some type of maintenance free frames.

Our discussion continued about the replacement of the wooden steps on the southwest corner of the church. Precast cement steps were discussed as a possible good solution. No decisions were made.

A donation of \$833 was made to the Cannon Falls Food Shelf at the completion of the March Food Share Campaign.

Sargent's Nursery was hired to clean out and refresh the mulch in our garden this spring. We all agreed they did a nice job.

New Business:

Because Governor Walz has ended his state mask mandate, it was decided to not require that masks be worn in our church building. It was also decided to have communion and offering go back to the pre-covid format. All changes will be based on the new guidelines. Deacon Todd will be calling some of his colleagues to see how they are handling singing in their congregations.

The goal is to slowly resume normal worship. Deacon Todd feels that our on-line worship has filled the gap that appeared when we weren't able to have in-person worship. It was found to extend the reach of worship beyond our community. He is anticipating during the summer the on-line worship video will become smaller and more concise.

June 13th will be our Graduation Recognition. We will be recognizing four graduates.

Gracie Fremouw-Cannon Falls

Elizabeth Klahr-Randolph

Ann Sandeen-Randolph

Mary Sandeen-Randolph

Bill Bodin and Polly Lewis will be decorating the graves of the Veterans in our cemetery with stars and flags before Memorial Day.

The screen door on the dining hall was inspected and decided it needs to be replaced. Mark and Bill will be looking into this.

A discussion was held on the importance of getting information from Cannon River to Deanna for the Chronicles.

The next council meeting will be a joint meeting with Cross of Christ on June 8.

A motion was made by Mark Hartman, second by David Fremouw to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

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 June 2021

Readers

June 6 th	Dean Dinndorf
June 13 th	Sandy Luhman
June 20 th	Kailyn Peterson
June 27 th	Cathy Nemcek

Alter

June 6 th	Yvonne Nelson
June 13 th	Millie Niebeling

Kitchen

Janet Daley

Attendance

Council Person

Ann Kulla

May 2 nd	38
May 9 th	35
May 16 th	32
May 23 rd	55

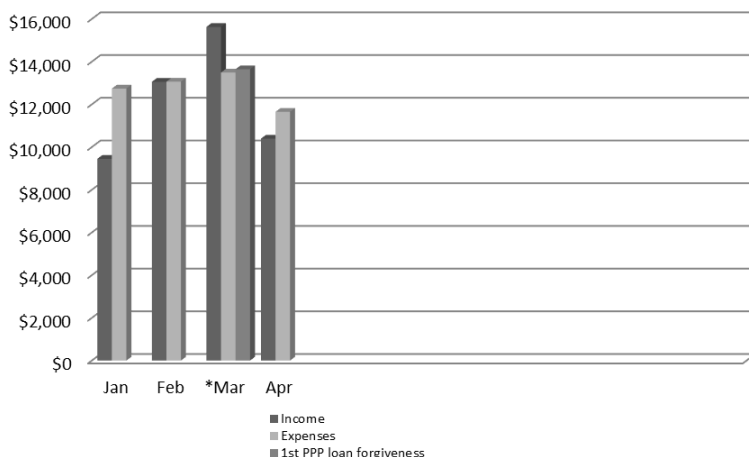
*Greeters

Greeters are currently not active due to the pandemic; however this may change soon in the coming months.

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	
Year to Date	\$48,526	\$50,944	

2021 Income/Expenses



Financial News:

We sent our \$1,000 commitment to **missionary Karen Anderson** in April.

Rebecca will compile a list of suggested funds for **memorial donations** to be kept in the Memorial book and updated with special projects.

Members who wish to gift **Required Minimum Distributions** from their IRA to Cross of Christ are encouraged to speak with their financial advisor or agent to set it up.

We have received a **second round PPP loan**, (based on the decline in giving in the 4th quarter of 2020) in the amount of \$16,527. We will apply for forgiveness mid-late summer.

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

Thrivent Choice dollar donations in April totaled \$434. Thank you!

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 past 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. In Feb. we received \$46.71, thank you!

The next Finance meeting is scheduled for **Wed, June 2, 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, June 8th** and will be available at the church by, June 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.

Days for Girls

Are you tired of being home?

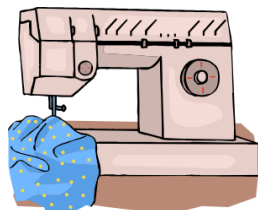
Join us for 2 days of Days For Girls in June.

We will be meeting on June 24th & 28th at

9:00 to 11:00 at the Cannon Falls Senior

Center. It is on Highway 19 in the middle of town connected to the Stone House.

We will be sewing, cutting and getting kits ready. It doesn't matter if you don't have a sewing machine. There are plenty of jobs that need



to be done.

Hope to see you there.

If you have questions contact me.

Joan Slingsby 507-263-3715 or jslin@frontiernet.net

WELCA Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study will meet on Tuesday, June 8th at Cross of Christ at 9:00am in Dahlen Hall.

Deacon Todd will lead Bible Study. All ladies are welcome to attend.



Missions

Mission at Work

The Sunday school children and youth reached out to Gabby during the Family Education hour. They signed a big card for her and also put their names around a 5 x 7 picture of the Sunday school group. The mission committee will make sure this gets mailed to Gabby. It's so nice to let her know that we are thinking of her!



Family Fare Store Receipt Collection

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. Remember that only the store receipts are valid; no e-receipts.



To date, our collection totals \$23,000.00

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 three times, and are now on our fourth collection.

It's amazing what a little shopping can do!

Shop, bring your receipts to church and we will support children who are hungry!

Thank you, the Mission Committee



A special thank you to Joan S. Ron H. Deacon Todd, Duke B. Jon P. and Deanna G. for all your time and efforts in putting together the CoVid plan for our church to re-open. The planning, implementation, and continuation of being willing to update as needed to create a safe environment to worship.

-All Members of Cross of Christ Church

Cemetery Update

The Cemetery Board has completed the Spring clean up and will continue to keep the cemetery in good condition throughout the summer months.

We do have plots for sale and if you are interested, please contact: Ann Kulla at aeKulla@embarqmail.com



Worship and Music Committee

The Worship and Music Committee will have a meeting following worship service on June 6th. Please meet in Dahlen Hall.

Thank you!

Youth and Learning News

Thank you to those who participated in our Family Fun Hours!!
We are expecting to resume Sunday School in September.

****VBS planning meeting: Tuesday, June 8th 6:30 pm in the Fellowship Hall downstairs. We will also address any other Learning and Youth items that need to be taken care of.*

- ❖ Vacation Bible School- July 25-29 5:30-7:30 Sunday-Thurs. Theme: God's Most Wanted
Robin will do the music. Meals and activities will be planned in the future. Registration and an opportunity to volunteer to help are attached.

We will need volunteers to help with/provided the following:

***Pony rides and picture taking on Tuesday, July 26th
Hayride on Thursday, July 28th***

Please let me know soon in you are willing/able to provide either. I would like to add these activities to the VBS flyer. Cell 507-990-7024 email hjschreif@live.com

Good Earth Village will be offering day camps, no overnights except maybe family camps.
<http://goodearthvillage.org>

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



The next **WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, June 9th 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.

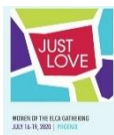
Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will Thursday, July 1 from 12-6 pm and Friday, July 2nd from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/>

Days for Girls Kits: We have established our own Days for Girls team. Joan has arranged for a group of women **to get together on June 24th & 28th 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 discussing, if it will be held in person with lunch, raffle & bake sale or preorder bake sale and raffle as we did last year at the June 9th meeting. The time will depend on which way we do it.

Women's Retreat: The retreat has been scheduled for weekend of Jan. 21-23, 2022 at Cedar Valley Resort. Julie will be sending out information soon to those who have attended in the past. If you are interested and would like more information contact Julie.

Women of the ELCA Gathering postponed until September 2023



The Eleventh Triennial Convention of Women of the ELCA, originally scheduled for July 14-16, 2020, has been postponed and rescheduled for August 3-5, 2021, due to the global coronavirus pandemic. The rescheduled convention will be held digitally, with details to be provided in the coming months. Kelley Mittelsteadt is a delegate to the convention.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, July 1st 12-6 pm and Friday, July 2nd 8:30 am – 2:30pm

Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 9 time to be determined

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

12th Triennial Gathering: Week of September 18 2023

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 Petrashek

Julie Schreifels phone: 651-388-2326 cell: 507-990-7024 email hjschreif@live.com

Cross of Christ Council Minutes Draft

Faithful through Generations

May 11, 2021

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

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, with the addition of Synod Assembly review under new business. The April meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

***Deacons Report**

Todd had 7 kids within 5 families participate in their First Communion in April. Todd has been doing more visitations now that the restrictions have been lightened more. Confirmation banquet will be held on the 19th, with confirmation Sunday on the 23rd. The Synod assembly held virtually was held on Saturday, Janet joined. Todd talked about transitioning back to the regular bulletins before the pandemic, in which the worship and music committee will need to discuss.

***Virus Talk and Church**

The CDC and State guidelines are changing once again, no social distancing will be required, but masks must still be wore. Kelley mentioned the Taste of Welch in hopes they can have an in-person event for that day. Both items will be discussed further at the next meeting.

New Business

*June Council Person- Ann Kulla

*Church League Soft Ball

Ron is charge of the Church Soft Ball League once again and asks for the Church to cover the \$275 league fee.

A motion was made and seconded to pay the \$275 soft ball league fee out of the church discretionary fund. -Motion Passed

*Synod Assembly Review-Janet Daley

Janet talked about the virtual assembly that was held on Saturday and pinpointed a few of the highlights. Both Janet and Todd attended the virtual assembly. Todd was recognized for a 15-year milestone of being ordained.

Committee Reports

*Finance

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

It was brought up on whether the PPP Loan should be reflected as *Other Income* or as *Operating Income*.

A motion was made and seconded to leave the PPP Loan reflection as previously voted on at the April meeting. -Motion Passed

*Property Management

A outlet in Dahlen Hall needs replacing and a toilet in the women's upstairs bathroom needs looking at. Oscar will work on cleaning up the line fence and continue mowing the south side of the property.

*Worship and Music

Will schedule an upcoming meeting in June.

*Service and Witness

The committee meet in April and had ordered banners; these will be put out at the highway and entrance of the church to welcome everyone. Janet will work with Deanna in applying for a grant though the ELCA to help promote "Open Doors", this funding if for a specific and actionable idea for how its ministry might meet new people while we consider this time of transition and regather

in community as COVID-19 considerations allow. It was suggested to use the monies, if granted, for a camera for the Church and the banners that were already purchased. Janet was thinking of planning an open house come fall to welcome current and possible new members into the church, in which the funding can help with that as well.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 8th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary

**God's Most
Wanted**

**Vacation
Bible
School**

**Invite Your
friends
to join us!**

**Sunday – Thursday
July 25 -29 5:30-7:30 pm**

The nightly schedule will be:

5:30-6:00 Supper: Jamie & Becky Fox will coordinate 651-388-2248 /beckyfox31@msn.com

6:00 – 6:30 Singing, Bible Story, Prayer

6:30-7:00 Crafts or Activities:

7:00-7:30 Games, Skits, Closing

Name(s): _____

Birthdate(s): _____

Grade(s) completed: _____

T-Shirt Size(s) _____

Parent's Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number Home: _____

Cell: _____ Email: _____

Emergency Contact: _____ Number: _____

Allergies/Medical Info: _____

How can you help with VBS? Help where needed __ Help with:

Crafts __ Games __ Skits __

Prepare a meal on: Sun. ____ Mon. ____ Tues. ____

Wed. ____ Thurs. ____

Questions/Concerns contact: Julie Schreifels 507-990-7024
hjschreif@live.com

Return this form to the church office, or Julie Schreifels by July 1st
to help us with planning.

2021 SE Synod Assembly Recap

The theme was Leading Together and Everlasting Faithfulness. Last year's Synod Assembly was cancelled due to COVID-19. Deacon Todd and Janet Daley attended with 350 people on Saturday May 8th by Zoom.

As an assembly of congregations, we gathered together to worship, learn, and participate in the decision-making business of the church. Bishop Regina Hassanally (from St. Luke's in Goodhue) was the MC.

There was the typical election of council, boards & committees with no additional nominations from the floor. All names on the ballot were unanimously voted in. Just like what happens at our annual meeting! All resolutions were passed via Zoom voting.

CHURCH + HOLY SPIRIT = TRANSFORMED WORLD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 167 congregations and six Synod Authorized Worshipping Communities, as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is one of 65 synods that make up the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota. The synod is divided into five conferences, each one named after rivers in the area.

- 1 - Root River Conference
- 2 - Zumbro River Conference
- 3 - Blue Earth River Conference
- 4 - Minnesota River Conference
- 5 - Cannon River Conference

The Office of the Bishop is located in Assisi Heights, Rochester, Minnesota. You are always welcome to visit!

Judith Roberts, Sr. Director for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion for the ELCA was the keynote speaker.

There were no breakout sessions which typically brought opportunities for relationship-building that come with face-to-face interactions.

Words from Bishop Regina Hassanally:

Yet despite the challenges and losses we have all experienced this past year, God has shown us new ways to create and maintain God's beloved community – reaching out with compassion and sharing the love of Jesus. Perhaps most of all we have seen God's faithfulness through the tireless commitment of others within our church and our communities, all of them essential workers in God's kingdom. This has been a year of challenges few of us had the ability to imagine just two years ago. Through each difficulty, restriction and point of tension Jesus has remained a constant presence, the Spirit has continued to breathe inspiration, God has sustained us faithfully. We can scarcely begin to imagine what the next year might bring. Yet, we move forward knowing full well the faithfulness of God is everlasting.

Submitted by: Janet Daley