



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



Ministry Notes

I've had a lot on my mind, lately. Perhaps you have too. We're dealing with a pandemic that has us all on edge. We're also dealing with an election that has us all on edge. People have strong opinions about everything, and people are tired, anxious, confused, angry and fearful. I confess, I am too...

None of us are immune from what is going on. And in fact, we are called to engage the world, not as passive watchers, but as active participants. We are called to be part of the conversation, we are called to learn about the issues, we are called to discern how to vote and we are called to figure out how to deal with this pandemic. As Christians we are salt and light for the world.

It looks as though the election won't be over on November 3rd. And as far as the pandemic is concerned, none of us know how or when it will be over. If your family is like mine, the water is getting a little hot. It seems that interpersonal conflicts will likely become more intense, rather than less.

My prayer is that as the body of Christ in this place at this time, we remain resolute in knowing that Jesus is the unity amongst all our differences. The church is a different kind of organization. When the secular world is enticing us to take a side and fight, fight, fight... We don't do that. We find a way to love one another, and especially in the differences.

This is our witness to our community and for the sake of the world.

As we continue in this contentious time, let us covenant to listen to one another. And listen so hard we are vulnerable to change because of what we hear. We may not change our minds or our opinions, but we **will** deepen our understanding and empathy for one another. Listening may be one of the greatest gifts we can give.

Here's my invitation... If you are feeling anxious, please give me a call, or get connected with a friend. We all need each other. We need to be compassionate and understanding. And in this peculiar time, we all need a lot of grace and forgiveness.

Here's my other invitation... Find a way to be loving, kind or gracious this month. Use your imagination... Bake a casserole for a family. Send a letter to one of our elders. Send a card to someone who was ill. Send an email to someone out of the blue, just to wish them well. Do it with a grateful heart and see what happens. As we sow, so shall we reap.

When the world is turning on each other in anger, let's turn on each other in love. Because they will know we are Christians by our love...

Peace be with you, my friends...

Todd

Contact Information for Todd Portinga:

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

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

October 4 th	13
October 11 th	13
October 18 th	12
October 25 th	19

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)
Year to Date	\$25,325	\$32,299	(\$6,974)

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 November 2020

Greeters

November 1 st	Paul Hansen
November 8 th	Dennis & Jackie Martin
November 15 th	Jim & Sue Hill
November 22 nd	Kelley Mittelsteadt
November 29 th	Dean & Dana Dinndorf Family

Readers

November 1st	Doris Gruber
November 8 th	Jim Gustafson
November 15 th	David Hill
November 22 nd	Joan Slingsby
November 29 th	Mary Fjetland

Council Person

Dana Dinndorf

Kitchen

Jean Kehren

Ushers for November

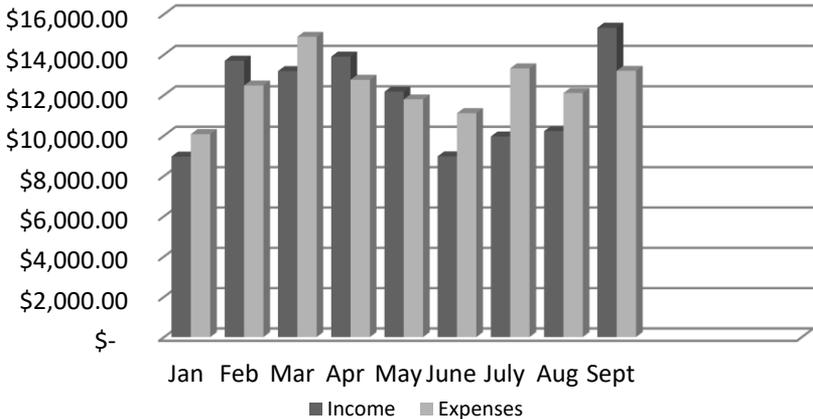
Kelley Mittelsteadt & Jim Gustafson

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

Year to Date \$106,346 \$111,666

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 received our **quarterly interest payment** from the Trust Fund Investment (aka American National) in the amount of \$1,232.56. 1/3 goes to building maintenance, 1/3 to the Council Discretionary fund, 1/6 to world hunger and 1/6 to Lutheran Social Service.

Our Sept **VISA bill** included a charge of \$86 that most likely stemmed from a fraudulent phishing scam. The credit card company has been notified, and they plan to reimburse the \$86. They also cancelled our credit card and are issuing a new one, as an added precaution.

Our commitment of \$1,000 was sent in support of **missionary, Karen Anderson**, in Sept.

Fall insect spraying was done at church and the parsonage, to be split between Maintenance expenses and the Parsonage Expense Fund.

As of Sept. 25, the **PPP loan forgiveness application process is still on hold**. We've been assured that the deadline to apply for forgiveness will be extended in accordance with the date we actually can apply. We're keeping a close eye on it and really hoping to get it forgiven by the end of the year.

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 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, November 4 at 6:00 pm**. 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, November 10th** and will be available at the church by, November 14th. **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.

Adopt-A-Family Christmas Project

Cross of Christ will be participating in the Adopt-a-family Christmas project again this year. More details will be coming in the weekly updates...so stay tuned. Any questions, please contact Lynette Hanson at 651-380-7814.

Missions

Missions at Work:

This is the time of year that you would usually be hearing about the Christmas Shoebox project! I am sorry to say that we will not be putting together shoeboxes this year. Your generosity toward this project has been so appreciated! Hopefully, next year we will be “back to normal” and look forward to working on this project.

In the past we have done the shoeboxes for Hope Coalition in Red Wing. In contacting them this year, we learned that the greatest need that 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 starting 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

Thank you! This donation will help folks in need of food and transportation. We will continue this collection through the winter months.

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 **\$135,728** in receipts, so please keep them coming. There is a bucket to put the receipts in right inside Dahlen Hall.

Hastings Family Service will be receiving \$120 for their **Thanksgiving Meal** Program. This amount comes from the Mission Fund.

Thank you for your continued Mission support!

The Mission Committee

Youth and Learning News

The Learning and Youth Committee will be meeting on Nov. 12th and will be discussing when we will resume Sunday School in person.

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 questions, please feel free to contact me.

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

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: Wednesday nights 7:00, Starting Oct 28th

Activities & Reminders: No activities scheduled at this time.

Learning and Youth Meeting: Thursday, November 12th 6:30 pm Dahlen Hall.

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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



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 **Tuesday, November 3rd 7:00 pm.** The agenda will include: Taste of Welch debriefing, Blood Drive, Pie Sale, Christmas Project, Kitchen Committee, Days for Girls, other.

Taste of Welch THANK YOU! To all who participate in the Taste of Welch. It was a great success despite a couple of cliches.

Red Cross Blood Drive:. **Our next drive will November 5 from 12-6 pm and November 6th 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 28 drives totaling 710 units of blood donated. We could use a couple more volunteers to help with the drives at the drives or providing homemade, individual wrapped snacks for the donors. Contact Julie if you are available.



Pre-order Pie Sale

Order by Nov. 18th

Pick up Nov. 23 5-8 pm

See the attached order form for more details.

Proceeds will go to the Christmas Project and Triennial Gathering Offering.

Let Julie know if you can help make pies.

Kitchen Committee: There is an opening for a new member of the kitchen committee. If you are interested please contact Doris Gruber for more information.

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. 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, November 5 12-6 pm
and Friday, Nov. 6 8:30 am – 2:30pm

Pie Sale Pick-up: Monday, November 23 5-8 pm

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.

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

hjschreif@live.com

**Cross of Christ
Council Minutes Draft**

Faithful through Generations
October 13, 2020

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

Absent: Council Secretary Jim Gustafson and Ann Kulla

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 September meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

*Deacons Report

Todd talked about the recent baptism held on September 11th for Dakota Lee. The Theological Conference on the 8-10th virtually as well as other conference meetings being held virtually.

Confirmation. Passing of Cannon River member Irene Banks.

*Covid Plan

A Phase 1 plan was presented for allowing small groups to meet at the church using Dahlen hall only. The Phase 1 plan was discussed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Phase 1 Covid Plan with changes. -Motion Passed.

A Phase 2 plan was also presented for review, but after discussion it was decided to regroup in two weeks to discuss further on Oct 27.

New Business

*November Council Person-Dana Dinndorf

Committee Reports

*Finance

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

*Worship & Music

In Person Communion is planned for Oct 18th, Kelley and Oscar will help Joan

*Learning & Youth

Families can get access to lessons online by contacting Julie

*Stewardship

A Harvest Festival/Stewardship letter will be put together, Ron will contact Jim on. It was suggested to send out the letter later after the Covid planning meeting on the 27th, along with return envelopes.

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

The next Council Meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 10th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deanna Gehloff
Parish Secretary