



Country Chronicles  
April 2022  
Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA



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**Reflections: From Your Interim Pastor Dan**

When can we sing the “hymn of praise” again? During the season of Lent we omit the “Hymn of Praise” from our order of worship. It isn’t until Easter Sunday that we sing the “Hymn of Praise” once again. The resurrection turns our grief and the passion of our Lord’s death into a season of praise. Christ’s victory will have the final word and death has been overcome by life!

As we watch the horror of the war in Ukraine, we ask “why?” Why all this needless killing? How can we be so cruel to our fellow human family? As the bombs and missiles destroy buildings and life indiscriminately, there isn’t a hymn of praise to be sung. When will the song of praise return for the suffering in Ukraine?

As a people of faith we hold tight to the promise that the resurrection of Christ will ultimately have the final word for all of our suffering and even death itself. The fulfillment of this Easter victory cannot come soon enough for our brothers and sisters in Ukraine. Without knowing how or when it will come, we are bound to believe that God’s gracious will must prevail. And so we wait and earnestly pray! Come Risen Christ, come with the peace only you the Prince of Peace can bring and let the hymn of praise return to this warring world!

Thanks for your generous gifts to the Ukraine Refugee crisis. We are sending these generous checks to Lutheran Disaster Relief as fast as we receive them. Please continue to pray and GIVE generously for this urgent need. Thanks!

Our Call Committee is up and running. They have a schedule of dates to hear your wishes and insights into our congregational life

and into the kind of pastor that would serve Cannon River and Cross of Christ most effectively. Please note the scheduled opportunities for you to communicate your insights with the Call Committee. Your input is very important. Thanks for your participation in the call process.

There is a pastor waiting to accept the letter of call we will be extending. Pray for this unknown pastor as well as the call committee as they follow the Spirit's leading.

My prayer is that you will have a meaningful Lenten journey to the cross this season. Please place the Holy Week schedule on your calendar. Palm Sunday will be the "First Communion" for a number of our youth. The Maunday Thursday worship (at Cannon River) and the Tenebrae Good Friday service (at Cross of Christ) will prepare us for the much anticipated celebration of Christ's victory over death on Easter Sunday. Holy week is like one long story unfolding in each of the worship services. Try to keep the entire enactment of Christ's passion as well his resurrection in your worship life during Holy Week.

Yes we will sing the "Hymn of Praise" once again! May the sound of praise also return to Ukraine and all troubled parts of our world. May it come SOON!

Blessings of the risen Christ hold your heart and mind with the hope of New Beginnings here and everywhere!

Pastor Dan

**Contact Information for Interim Pastor Dan Nordin:**  
**Church Phone:** 651-388-3464 **Cell Phone:** 763-458-5066  
**Email:** pastor@cccchurch.com

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# **Cannon River News**

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## **Attendance**

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	11
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	13
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	

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## **Financial Report**

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,435	\$3,638	(\$1,203)
Feb	\$2,445	\$3,853	(\$1,408)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$4,880</b>	<b>\$7,491</b>	<b>(\$2,611)</b>

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## **Cannon River Council Rotation for April**

**April 3<sup>rd</sup> Michelle**  
**April 10<sup>th</sup> Mark**  
**April 14<sup>th</sup> (Maundy Thursday) Bill**  
**April 17<sup>th</sup> Sharon**  
**April 24<sup>th</sup> David**

## **Meet your Call Committee**

Cannon River:

Ellen Hartman (overall Chairperson)

John Neibur

Bruce Brage

Polly Valade

Cross of Christ:

Jim Gustafson (Chair of the Cross of Christ team)

Kellie Dahling

Cheryl Fox

Carl Peterson

If you have any questions, suggestions, or insights, please feel free to contact anyone on the Call Committee. Thanks for your prayers on behalf of their important work.

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## **Call Committee-Update**

On March 1<sup>st</sup>, Cannon River and Cross of Christ Call Committee members met with Bishop Barb Streed. Bishop Streed walked us thru the Call Committee process. Chairpersons and Secretaries were appointed for each church.

### **Cross of Christ**

Chair                      Jim Gustafson

Secretary                Cheryl Fox

### **Cannon River**

Chair                      Ellen Hartman

Secretary                Polly Valade

On March 17<sup>th</sup>, the Call Committee met. A letter to the congregation, along with a survey will be sent out.

For five Sundays, starting April 24<sup>th</sup> worship service will be shortened and time will be available to fill out additional surveys.

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## **What is a Tenebrae Worship?**

On Good Friday (7 PM) we will have a Tenebrae service (at Cross of Christ). It is a moving service with the reading of the Passion of Christ interspersed with familiar hymns and special music. Tenebrae means, "lengthening shadows." Seven candles will be extinguished throughout the worship symbolizing the growing darkness in Christ's passion and crucifixion. This worship will prepare us well for the anticipation of the celebration of Easter. Don't miss this powerful worship!

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## **Motorcycle Ministry**

If you or someone you know (neighbor, friend or co-worker) is interested in forming a Motorcycle Ministry, we will be meeting on Wednesday, April 20, 7 pm at Cross of Christ to schedule the monthly rides for the summer. Ride your bikes, weather permitting. Contact Pastor Dan (763-458-5066) if interested. Visitors are ALWAYS welcome.

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## **Returning to the Altar for Communion**

Cross of Christ will return to the altar for communion starting in April, with the possibility of "walk by" communion on contemporary Sundays. Wafers will continue to be used.



## **Building Vision Committee**

During the March Council meeting; the newly created Building Vision Committee was discussed. In April, the Council will review, discuss, and decide on five individuals that would be great assets to this committee.

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# Cross of Christ News

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*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***

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## Assistants for April 2022

### Readers

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Carl Peterson
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Kulla
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	David Hill

### Greeters

April 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doris Gruber
April 10 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday School Children
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis & Jackie Martin
April 24 <sup>th</sup>	Jim & Sue Hill Family

### Altar

Millie-April 3rd  
April 10<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> open  
Yvonne-April 24th

### Attendance

### Council Person

Ann Kulla

March 6 <sup>th</sup>	32
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	37
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	36

### April Ushers

Jeff Busse    Anyone else who can help

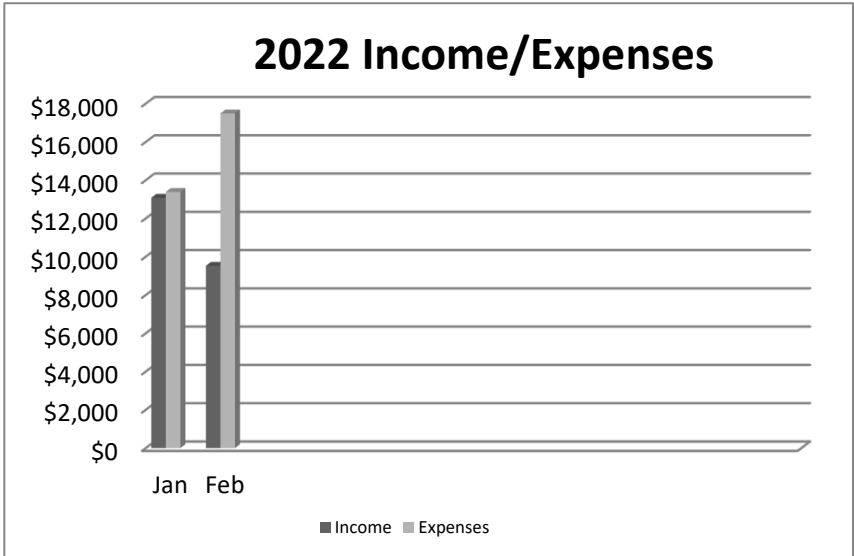
### Kitchen Person

Sandi Petrashek

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# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
Jan	\$13,081	\$13,386
Feb	\$9,524	\$17,486
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$22,606</b>	<b>\$30,873</b>



## Financial News:

**Thrivent members**, please remember that you can designate choice dollars earned in 2021 only until **MARCH 31, 2022**. Contact your agent for more information. Cross of Christ greatly appreciates these gifts, which go to Building and Grounds maintenance. In Feb we received \$246 in Thrivent Choice dollars.

**Lent and Easter donations** will go to cover our operating costs.

In Feb, giving was down and expenses were higher. Some of the contributing factors to the **higher expenses** were a larger gas bill and loyalty bonuses paid to employees.

In Feb we received the \$1,000 from our last **Family Fare receipt collection**, which was sent on to Feed My Starving Children.

Prepaid **Kwik Trip cards** are available through Julie Schriefels at 507-990-7024. 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.

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

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer  
[crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com) 651-301-2652



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## Kwik Trip Cards

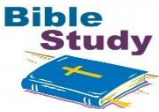


Help support our Building Maintenance Fund by buying Kwik Trip scrip cards. The cards can be used to purchase anything at Kwik Trip from gas, groceries and car washes to anything else they sell.

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, April 12** and will be available at the church by, April 17. **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.** Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards. Julie Schreifels

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## WELCA Bible Study



Meet in Dahlen Hall- 9am to 11am.

April 12th, 2022. Pastor Dan will lead bible study.  
Bring a snack to share if you like.

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## Cross of Christ Cemetery

The Cemetery yard seems to have come through the winter very well. We will plan a clean-up day for April 23rd, anyone that would be interested in helping please contact me. We will be removing some trees and many limbs that have fallen over the winter months.

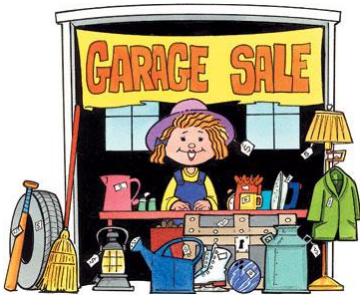


If you are considering your future plans and would like to purchase a lot in our Cemetery, we have plenty of options available. Please contact me and I would be happy to help you. Ann Kulla [aequilla@embarqmail.com](mailto:aequilla@embarqmail.com)

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## Garage Sale

Time to start cleaning out your closets!! Cross of Christ will hold a garage sale **April 21<sup>st</sup> from 10-7pm, April 22<sup>nd</sup> from 8-4pm and April 23<sup>rd</sup> from 8-12pm.** Garage sale set up and item drop



off will be **April 17-20<sup>th</sup> from 4-7pm.** Please have clean, smoke free items, no electronics. Both set up helpers are needed as well as workers for the days of the sale. Please contact Lynette Hanson 651-380-7814.

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## Church Softball League

The Church softball league is looking to add more players to the team (typically need 12-15 players).

Games usually start the beginning of May and run through August...with a few practice games. If

you are interested in playing on the Church Softball League this year, please contact

and play some ball!!



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## Cross of Christ 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Cross of Christ will be celebrating 150 years in 2023. We are looking for members to coordinate this exciting time in our Church history. Please contact the church secretary for details.



# Missions

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

## Minnesota Food Share



**Our thanks to you . . . the Mission Committee** would like to thank everyone who made a donation to support Minnesota Food Share. Your donations go directly to a food bank where 100% of the funds are distributed to food shelves.

This is a significant and direct way of caring for people who need nourishment. Just one way we can share the love of God and help those in need.

Thank you for being so generous!

## Family Fare Store Receipt Collection

We continue to collect **Family Fare** store receipts; our total to date is \$66,554. 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.



## Introducing Jacob John!!

In March the Sunday school kids were introduced to Jacob John our newly sponsored child through The Rift Valley Children's Village in



Tanzania. Jacob became the 102<sup>nd</sup> child of the village. The Mission



Committee will continue to support Gabby for a few more years while she finishes school. The next collection of the banks will be by May 1<sup>st</sup> and will support both Gabby and Jacob. Thank you!

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## Youth and Learning News

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### Sunday School Activities

April 3 - Buck-A-Chick Fundraiser

April 7 (Tuesday) 6:00-7:00 First Communion Instruction

April 10 - First Communion –during worship service

April 10 - Palm Sunday Brunch- after church

April 17 - No Sunday School – Easter Sunday

April 21, 22, & 23 Church Garage Sale – Youth Serve Lunch

April 23 7:00 pm - Mercy Me Concert, Target Center

April 27 – 6:00 Confirmation Banquet

May 1 - Confirmation

May 8 - Last Day of Sunday School until fall

May 13- 5:30 Pizza and Movie night at Pastor Dan's

May 15 - Graduate Recognition

Confirmation classes will be suspended during Lent. Confirmation students are required to attend at least four Lenten worship services in leu of the regular classes.

First communion instruction is for anyone who has not had their first communion 5th grade or higher. Brooklyn Fox and Erin Briggs will receive first communion on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Cross of Christ Scholarship** The Cross of Christ Christian College Scholarship Program awards scholarships to members of Cross of Christ as a means to support furthering their education at a faith-based institution. The criteria and application are attached. Please have applications in by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Graduate Recognition:** The 2022 graduates will be recognized during the worship service on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Coffee fellowship in honor of the graduated will be right after the worship service. If you know of anyone from Cross of Christ who will be graduating from high school (Emma Dinndorf) or post-secondary school please contact Julie Schreifels by April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## **Confirmation Bible Camp at Good Earth Village June 19-24**

Youth currently in 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grade are encouraged to take part in Confirmation Bible Camp. Come to camp with your confirmation class and pastor! Confirmation campers have memorable faith-building adventures during this week! Campers spend time each morning with their pastor or a confirmation leader exploring faith topics in depth. In the afternoon and evenings, campers enjoy group activities, canoeing, swimming, arts and crafts, epic games, and campfire worship led by our summer staff. A registration form is attached. Please return it along with a check for the deposit (\$150) to Deanna at the church office. Confirmation camp registrations need to be sent by the church.

The youth will be in charge of the lunch/snack sale during the church garage sale. Thurs. April 21 10 am -7pm, Fri. April 22 8 am – 4 pm and Sat. April 23 8am – 12 pm. We will need volunteers to help out. Please contact Julie.

**Mission:** The Sunday School will continue to support Gabby, from Tanzania this year. The Mission Committee has decided to support a little boy as well. Our newly sponsored child, Jacob John, an 8 month old baby boy who will grow with us throughout the coming years. The next turn in date for the banks will be May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Buck-a- Chick** The Sunday School kids will be selling paper chicks once again this year before and after church March 27, April 3 and April 10. They are \$1.00 each. Proceeds will go to the ELCA Good Gifts. Purchase some chicks in honor or memory of someone or just because it's a good cause.

**Pizza and a Movie with Pr. Dan.** Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> meet at the church at 5:30 return at 10:30. Youth 6<sup>th</sup> -8<sup>th</sup> grades are invited to join Pr. Dan for a night of fun eating pizza and watching a movie. Please RSVP to Pr. Dan by May 10<sup>th</sup>. 753-458-5066 email [pastor@cccrchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccrchurch.com)

**Vacation Bible School – July 10-14 5:30 – 7:30**



This year we will be exploring Jesus' Parable of the Sower. We will have fun learning some ways kids can care for God's creation. Supper, singing, sowing seeds, spectacular crafts, skits and games.

Contact Julie if you would like to help with VBS.

Peace, Julie Schreifels

Sunday School Superintendent Cell 507-990-7024 email

[hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)



The next **WELCA meeting will be Thursday, April 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will review the Blood Drives, Canon River Conf. Gathering, Fundraiser for Triennial, Taste of Welch and other things that people feel need to be discussed.

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 12-6 pm and Friday, May 13<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/> Let Julie know if you can help with the blood drive.

**Spring Gathering for Cannon River Conference:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN. Four members of the Cross of Christ WELCA have registered to attend. If you would like to attend, please let Julie or Jean know soon so we can send in your registration. Our WELCA unit will pay the \$12 registration fee. See the attached letter, flyer, and registration forms for more information or contact; Julie, Tracy Harth, Kelley Mittelsteadt or Cathy Nemcek.

**Graduate Recognition:** May 15<sup>th</sup> WELCA will be providing the cake for coffee fellowship. If you know someone who is graduating from high school or post-secondary school please let Julie know.

**2022 SE MN Synod WELCA Fall Convention:** September 17, 2022 Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester. Attached is list of items for the convention's Love Offering. Start collecting items on the list. We will have a designated donation place in August.

**Future Events:**

**Days for Girls Group:** April 14 & 18 9:00 -11:00 am Cannon Falls Senior Center

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> 12-6 pm and Friday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 8:30 am – 2:30pm

**Spring Gathering for Cannon River Conference:** Saturday, April 23, 2022 First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Kenyon, MN

**2022 SE MN Synod WELCA Fall Convention:** September 17, 2022 Bethel Lutheran Church, Rochester

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

Cross of Christ Council Meeting Minutes  
*Faithful Through Generations*  
March 8, 2022

*Present:* Joan Slingsby, Darwin Fox, Kelly Mittelsteadt, Ann Kulla, Oscar Daley, Jon Peterson, Interim Pastor Dan Nordin, Deanna Gehloff *Absent:* Anthony Nemcek

Meeting was called to order by Pastor Dan and mission statement was read.

Pastor Dan gave devotions.

Agenda was approved with a few additions; February minutes were approved with a typo change.

Unfinished Business

\*Pastor's Report: report given by Pastor Nordin

\*Call process/update: The committee met with Barb Streed on March 1<sup>st</sup>. Both congregations will have 5 weeks of surveys following worship starting after Easter. Service will be shortened to allow time to complete the surveys. Ellen Hartman is the overall Chairperson, with Jim Gustafson as the chair for Cross of Christ.

\*Covid and Worship Practice: Discussion was held about returning to the communion rail and offering plate passing. It was decided to return to the rail starting in April and will continue to use the wafers. The offering plate will remain in the back.

News Business

\*April Council person – Ann Kulla

\*Election of Officers: Joan Slingsby was nominated and elected for president and Anthony Nemcek for Vice President. Deanna Gehloff will be Secretary.

\*Council Serving Soup Supper: It was discussed and decided Council will serve soup supper on Wednesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>

\*Easter Advertising: An ad was reviewed for Easter Sunday worship for Cross of Christ. ***A Motion was made and seconded to run advertising for Easter. -Motion Passed.***

\*Building Vision Committee: The committee details were discussed,



along with potential candidates who would fit in the position. The council decided they will review names and decide on 5 persons to serve on this committee during the April council meeting.

\*150<sup>th</sup> Church Anniversary Committee: Cross of Christ will be celebrating 150 years in 2023 and it was discussed to start forming a committee. A clip soliciting volunteers will go into the April Chronicles.

\*Donation: Cross of Christ received a donation for the purchase of a hand bell to be rung and funerals and such. The bell will be purchased and a thank you will be sent to the family.

### Committee Reports

Finance:

***A motion was made and seconded that Ash Wednesday, Lent and Easter offerings go to operating costs. -Motion Passed***

It was brought up and discussed that a member of the church is willing to match a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine, if council decides on making a donation as well.

***A motion was made and seconded to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response for Ukraine in the amount of \$5,000; using funds from the Council Discretionary Fund. -Motion Passed. A***

thank you will be passed along to the member.

***A Motion was made and seconded to accept financial secretary's report as written. Motion passed.***

Worship & Music: A meeting is scheduled for March 27<sup>th</sup>

Missions: MN Foodshare collection will end March 27<sup>th</sup>

Stewardship: a letter will possibly be sent out if needed

Personnel: reviews will be held

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

The next meeting will be held with Cannon River at Cross of Christ at 6:30pm. Regular meetings will follow.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanna Gehloff- Secretary

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2022  
VASA and WELCH AREA



8-MILE RUMMAGE (& BAKE) SALE

Thursday, April 21, 10am-7pm

Friday, April 22, 8am-4pm

Saturday, April 23, 8am-Noon

(Thursday & Friday only at Vasa Lutheran Center)

Sales at Vasa Lutheran Center on Highway 19 and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran Church on Highway 61 and at  
various homes along County Road 7 & between both  
churches for over 8 miles.

Lunch served during sale hours each day at both  
churches.