



Country Chronicles

February, 2012

Cannon River and Cross of Christ
Lutheran Parishes, ELCA



From Interim Pastor, Joy Bussert

Dear Members of Cross of Christ and Cannon River,

In his book, *A Change of Pastors*, Loren B. Mead of the Alban Institute says that an “interim period of time” can trigger many different feelings for members of a congregation. Much of what happens depends on the history of the congregation, how long ago a congregation experienced a pastoral change, and how any given congregation experiences and deals with change. In any case, most congregations, he says in his study, will look back on the complex process of going through the time after one pastor has left and another pastor arrives, as not only challenging, but also exciting and enlivening, that is, *full of potential*.

In my brief 3 weeks at Cannon River and Cross of Christ, I have heard many different sentiments voiced in one way or another. Some folks have expressed lingering sadness, even grief, over the departure of a beloved pastor, who, for six years, shared many joys and sorrows with them. Grief is a process and takes time. I have heard expressions of the normal stresses that accompany any situation of change in our lives, including our church lives. I have heard expressions of uncertainty about the future, that is, many questions about what direction Cannon River/Cross of Christ might take as they now move into this new chapter of life together as paired congregations in this particular part of southeastern Minnesota.

I have also heard people speak about the future with a renewed sense of anticipation and even a sense of “wonder” about what God might have in store for this ministry: How has Cannon River/Cross of Christ’s particular histories and rich heritage shaped how this ministry understands itself in terms of its identity and purpose? How will that identity inform a response to God’s ever new challenge to move into the future with new understandings? Where is the Spirit of God already at work in this community and how is the gospel calling for new and fresh ways of dreaming forward to 2020? All of these questions raise a host of uncertainties. They also suggest that, as Dr. Mead indicates, an interim period of time can be rich and *full of potential and creativity!*

All of this is to say, that Faith, at least in part, has something to do with the courage to live with ambiguity and uncertainty long enough to discern where God’s Spirit might be leading. “Those who wait on the Lord, shall renew their strength,” the prophet Isaiah assures the people. And of course we embrace a God who promises, “Behold I make all things New,” who promises a new heaven and a new earth, puts new wine in old wine skins, and calls us to be the people of God in this time and in this place.

As your Interim Pastor, I am charged with the responsibility of helping Cannon River and Cross of Christ move through this interim period and on to the next chapter of shared ministry. And, my first impression is that Cannon River and Cross of Christ are blessed with strong caring leadership, on both the Church Council and with those now leading the Transition process. People, who I sense, have the best interests of the people of God’s Church at heart. I sense that they will be listening to you as they move forward. How you see the identity and purpose of this ministry, its strengths, and its opportunities for growth moving forward.

It is a privilege to serve as your Interim Pastor during this uncertain yet creative “in-between” time for Cannon River and Cross of Christ. Thanks again for the opportunity to be with you in this time and in this place!

Joy K. Bussert
Interim Pastor

Reference: Loren B. Mead. *A Change of Pastors: Critical Moment of Ministry*. Alban Institute. 2005.

CANNON RIVER NEWS

Cannon River Council Minutes

Thursday, January 12, 2012

The Cannon River Lutheran Church Council met Thursday, January 12, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Present were Mark Hartman, Mitch Jackson, LeRoy Peterson, Diane Brage and Pastor Joy Bussert. The meeting was called to order by President Mark Hartman. Mark welcomed Pastor Joy Bussert to our church and to the council meeting. Pastor Joy Bussert led devotions.

The secretary's report was read. A correction was made to change the sentence: Motion was made and seconded to approve the budget to 'approve proposed budget.' A motion was made and seconded to approve the report with one correction. The treasurer's report was read. A motion was made and seconded to approve the treasurer's report.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joy went over the interim process so everyone understands.

What is an Interim Pastor some may ask? An interim pastor is a temporary pastor who serves a congregation at a time of pastoral change. **What is the difference between an interim and a permanent pastor?**

An interim pastor provides pastoral leadership and continuity while a congregation moves through a time of transition to new and permanent pastoral leadership. The interim pastor is not involved with the call process and is not a candidate, but appointed for a period of time to enable the transition to permanent pastoral leadership to go smoothly. **How long does the interim time go on?** Interim periods average about 12 months and vary from congregation to congregation and place to place, some longer, some shorter. There is no right or wrong length of time. One thing is sure, however, and that is that a transition time is not a time to relax, but a time to "step up to the plate" with time, talent, and resources. The church needs each and every person during an interim time more than ever! A motion was made and seconded to approve the Pastor's Report.

Old Business:

- The Transition Committee is done, and a Call Committee will be formed.
- The Church Constitution will have some discussion at the Annual Meeting.

New Business:

- The Annual Meeting will be held Sunday, January 29, 2012, right after the 9:00 church service. A motion was made and seconded to approve the annual meeting agenda.

The next meeting will be Thursday, February 9, 2012 at 7:00 p.m. at Cannon River Church.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane Brage, Council Secretary

Lectors & Flower Sign-Up

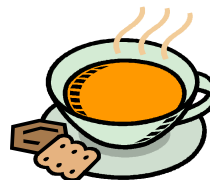
Please consider signing up to read the lessons on Sunday morning or to provide flowers to decorate the sanctuary. Sign-up sheets are located in the entry.

Lenten Soup Supper

Cannon River will host the Lenten Soup Supper on Wednesday, February 29th. Serving will begin at 6:15PM with the service following at 7:00PM.

Worship Attendance

Dec 4 th :	22
Dec 11 th :	43
Dec 18 th :	53
Dec 25 th :	6



CROSS OF CHRIST NEWS

Cross of Christ Council Minutes

January 10, 2012 (not yet approved)

The Cross of Christ Council met on January 10, 2012. Dale Froyum was absent

Kwik Trip- Gift Card Fund Raiser

Julie Schreifels presented information on the Kwik Trip Scrip Gift Card Program where nonprofit organizations would earn 10% profit of cards sold. Julie would be willing to spearhead the sales of the cards for the church if we are interested in doing this as a fundraiser. The council will discuss it and get back to Julie on the decision.

Introduction of Pr. Joy Bussert – devotions - Introductions of Council members were made, and Pastor Joy also introduced of herself. Psalms 121, For the New Year, was the devotion and we closed with a prayer.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Agenda – Motion Passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the December Council Minutes – Motion Passed.

Unfinished Business –

***Church Secretary** - We are happy to announce that Ellen Hartman (from Cannon River) has accepted the secretarial position. Rebecca Peterson has been training her in.

***Call Committee** - A list of 10 members were presented to the Council for the Call Committee to represent Cross of Christ. There will be a vote at the Annual Meeting for the final selection. Cross of Christ will have 6 representatives and 2 alternates.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Call Committee names as written. – Motion Passed.

A motion was made and seconded to remove Kandace Peterson from the ballot and make her a Council Appointed Youth Representative to the Call Committee. – Motion Passed.

New Business –

***Church Repairs** - Jason Orloske discussed with the council ideas to help raise Capital Funding for the church to pay for expenses. In November, Property Management presented several areas of concern with the church that need attention.

A motion was made and seconded to have Property Management, or designee, briefly explain at the Annual Meeting the maintenance issues we are facing at Cross of Christ – Motion Passed.

A motion was made and seconded to establish a Capital Improvement Fund Task Force – Motion passed.

Jason Orloske, Anna Amy and Jim Gustafson agreed to be on the Task Force. A brief update will be given at the Annual Meeting.

A motion was made and seconded for Julie Schreifels to spearhead the Kwik Trip Scrip Program. Proceeds will go towards the Capital Improvement Fund. – Motion Passed.

***Donation** - A council member received \$2,500 from a member, whose name remains anonymous, the money was to be used where the council felt it was most needed.

A motion was made and seconded to place the \$2,500 in the Capital Improvement Fund. – Motion Passed.

***Copy Machine** - We are unable to reach the representative for the copy machine. Marion will investigate options.

V Committee Reports

* Finance – New boiler is installed and paid for. – Received a \$500 donation to go towards the boiler, that money will be placed back into the Building Improvement Fund. A new fund, “Capital Improvement Fund” will be established.

* Property Management – No report; Property Management Committee to speak at the Annual Meeting, January 22, 2012

* Worship and Music, Missions, Personnel – No report

* Visions and Expectations – No report; meeting with Jim Hill in March.

* Learning and Youth – New officers have been elected.

* Service – We plan to have new members join the church January 29th.

* Witness – Janet Daley is reminding us that July 14th has been set for the Township Picnic to be held at the church.

WELCA has agreed to serve the food (potluck). More details will be coming on this event. Janet Daley and Cheryl A. Fox will chair the event.

* Stewardship – Pledge Cards and Time and Talent sheets will be sent out by e-mail mid January. You will be able to do your pledge on-line. Hardcopies will be available on Sunday, January 22. The Stewardship Committee, along with Thrivent Financial, will be presenting a special project with the Sunday School on February 19th. Parents are encouraged to attend. More information will be coming on out on this activity.

Next Meeting-February 14, 2012, Council Person for February-Cheryl Fox

Meeting Adjourned – We closed with Lord’s Prayer.

In Christ, Cheryl A. Fox-Council Secretary

Worship

Assistants for February

Greeters

5th Cheryl & Darwin Fox
 12th Dean & Dana Dinndorf Family
 19th Virginia Strand
 22nd Rhonda & Jeff Meyer-Ash Wed.
 26th Dena & Lee Strand Family

Lectors

5th Jakob Meyer
 12th Anna Amy
 19th Mary Fjetland
 22nd Andrew Amy-AshWed.
 26th Danielle Nelson

Altar Committee

Millie Niebeling

Council Person

Cheryl Fox

Attendance

January 1st 29
 January 8th 98
 January 15th 62
 January 22nd 80

Thank You

Cross of Christ Members,
 Thank you so much for “adopting” four families this Christmas season. With your help we were able to give gifts to over 27 families and each child that attends Kids Count.

Sincerely,
 Staci, Hope Coalition

Dear Friends at Cross of Christ,
 On behalf of the board members of Shepherd’s Center, please accept our thanks for your donation of \$100.00. It is truly appreciated.

Sincerely,
 Pat Rehbein

Kwik Trip Cards

Help support our Capital Improvement Fund. Buy Kwik Trip scrip cards. The cards can be used to purchase anything at Kwik Trip; gas, groceries, car washes, and anything else they sell. Contact Julie Schreifels to purchase. Available in \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and \$100. You pay the amount of the card being purchased; the church makes 10% of the sales.

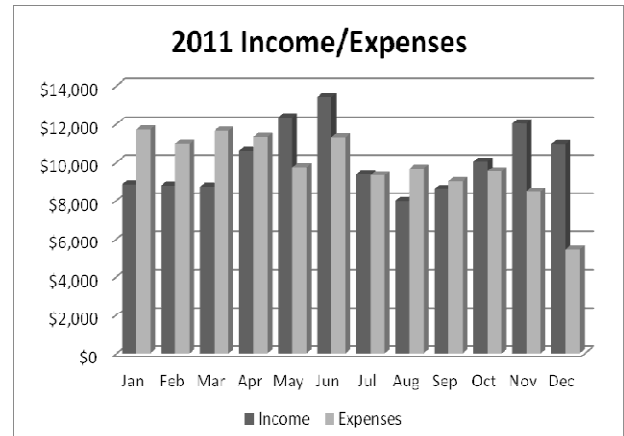
Lenten Soup Suppers

Once again, in an effort to decrease expenses and waste, congregational members are asked to bring their own soup bowls, plates, and silverware for the Lenten soup suppers. Thank you.
 Kitchen Committee, Cross of Christ.

Finance

The next finance committee meeting will be Wednesday, February 1st, at 7pm at church. Questions? See a finance committee member or Sue Hill, 651-437-8368 jimandsuehill@gmail.com

Cross of Christ Financial Report



	Income	Expenses
Jan	\$8,839	\$11,720
Feb	\$8,781	\$10,997
Mar	\$8,730	\$11,658
Apr	\$10,572	\$11,319
May	\$12,354	\$9,742
Jun	\$13,417	\$11,299
Jul	\$9,363	\$9,305
Aug	\$7,972	\$9,678
Sep	\$8,602	\$9,005
Oct	\$10,031	\$9,530
Nov	\$12,019	\$8,477
Dec	\$10,984	\$5,412
Year to Date	\$121,664	\$118,142

Souper Bowl of Caring

On February 5th, the Sunday School Mission “kids” will once again be participating in the Souper Bowl of Caring. In the past 8 years we have raised a total of \$1,296.58!! We’ll be passing our pots and pans before the church service on February 5th as our cooks take up a collection to be sent to the Red Wing Area Food Shelves and Hastings Family Service. We are proud to be part of this nationwide movement to help those who are hungry. Thank you, Sue Hill

Stewardship Corner

Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets

All kidding aside, the Stewardship Committee would like to thank all those who generously gave of their time and financial resources to our Church in 2011. As you consider your goals for the New Year, please prayerfully consider making or increasing your financial and time and talent commitment to our church. Pledging your time and financial resources is not only good for our church, it is good for our spiritual growth and discipline. Paper Pledge Cards and Time and Talent Sheets can be found at the back of the church and can be deposited in the box there. Or, if you prefer a more private pledge, a secure Online Pledge Card can be found at <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/viewform?formkey=dGlnV2ppSHJCVWZiT3VpYTVJMU1pamc6MA>

Thank You,

The Stewardship Committee

Parents, Teens and Money Matters

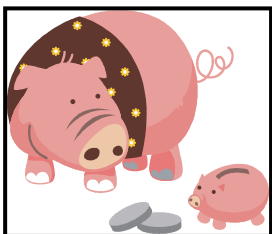
ATTENTION all Parents of and Sunday School children in Grades 4+

Every day, your kids are bombarded with messages from advertisers. Do the messages they hear reflect the values you want your kids to learn about money? If stewardship is important to you and your family, I hope you'll join us for a unique, educational workshop called **Parents, Teens and Money Matters®**. The workshop is specifically designed for parents and their child(ren) [ages 10 to 16]. During the workshop, you and your child(ren) will be able to:

- Increase your understanding of stewardship.
- Learn how to make intentional choices about sharing, saving and spending money.
- Talk about money and values in your family.

Parents, Teens and Money Matters will be presented by Mike Adler, a Thrivent Financial for Lutherans representative. There is no cost for you to attend this 50-minute workshop on Sunday, February 19 at 9:00am during the regular Sunday School time in Dahlen Hall. It is highly desired and important that you attend this

workshop with your child(ren). For more information about the Parents, Teens and Money Matters workshop, contact Dean Dinndorf at 612-384-6006 or dean@thedinndorfs.com



Valentine Addresses Needed

The Mission "kids" will be packing Valentine packages on Feb. 5th. We like to remember our college students, those in the military, or anyone living away from home with a Valentine package. **So, we need current addresses!** Please update the church office with your son/daughter's current address or email me at jimandsuehill@gmail.com. Thank you, Sue Hill

National Youth Gathering Fundraisers

The youth that are going to the National Youth Gathering are asking for your help!

- There will be youth at the back of the church each Sunday through the end of February. They will have envelopes with dollar amounts written on them from \$1-\$51. Pick one or more envelopes with the dollar amount that fits your budget. Inside will be a question about the Youth Gathering or about the place where it will be held. Ask the youth the question and they will answer it.
- They will be serving coffee fellowship on Sunday March 11th at Cross of Christ.
- They will be bagging groceries on Sunday March 18th from 12pm-4pm at EconoFoods in Red Wing and then again on Saturday June 2nd from 10am-4pm. So please come and do your shopping on these days.

Please help support the youth in raising money to help cover the cost for them to go. Contact Tracy Harth at 651-347-0609 or Kelley Mittelsteadt at 651-388-0451 if you have any questions.



Women of the ELCA News

The next WELCA meeting will be on Thursday, February 2, 2012 at 7:00 pm.

ONE MISSION: THREE MISSION AREAS

Mission Growth: To provide a variety of learning experiences that strengthen each woman as a whole person, develop her potential, and equip her for ministry.

Women's Retreat: January 27-29, 2012. Moved to Cedar Valley Resort in Whalen, MN This year's theme was **I AM SHE**. Boldness is a call to action. As Women of the ELCA, women who are claimed and called by God, we believe that a life lived **boldly** is a faith-filled celebration and an investment in the world we want for ourselves and our children.

Mission Action: To enable women to articulate and act upon their faith as Disciples of Christ in all areas of life.

Prayer Shawls: If you can knit or crochet at all you can make a shawl. These shawls are given to people in need of healing of any kind. We will discuss giving them to local people. Julie S. has the pattern or go to www.shawlministry.com/instructions.html

Food Shelf: Fill the barrel in the back of the church for the local food shelves.

Soup Sale: We will be selling quart jars of soup for Super Bowl Sunday on Feb. 5th. Chicken Wild Rice, Chili, and others \$7.00 per container.

Buy Fair Trade Coffee and/or Lucinda Pins. See displays in the room between the sanctuary and the hallway.

Mission Community: To enable each woman to value herself & others as created in God's image & redeemed through Christ; & to build up & celebrate relationships that are global, diverse, & interdependent.

Spring Conference for Cannon River Conference will be held on April 14th in Kenyon from 8-12. More information to come.

Spring Salad Luncheon April 28, 11:30: Jessica Zuelke, co-author of Church Basement Ladies will present our program entitled. "**Church Basement Ladies**": **How the musical was written**. She will have her apron collection on display, some for sale. Ladies from Cross of Christ will bring the salads and the Women of the ELCA will provide the dessert.

Craft Day: There will be another craft day, tentatively set for May 5th.

Welch Township Community Picnic: July 14th: WELCA will coordinate (set up) the potluck dinner. More information to come.

Officers for 2011-2013

President/ President Elect: Julie Schreifels/Tracy Harth Secretary: Deb Sanford Treasurer: Jean Kehren

Kitchen Committee: Judy Meyer, Diane Hermanson, Jean Kehren, Sandra Bjornson, & Doris Gruber.

The Cross of Christ Women of the ELCA needs YOU!! Renew, Respond, Rejoice!

God go with you! Your sister in Christ, *Julie Schreifels*

Altar committee

Altar committee: I am looking for more altar assistants. Kris Portinga is stepping down to devote more time to the Music & Worship committee. I have two volunteers so far (Yvonne Nelson & Nicole Wohlers) and would like 4 or 5 more people so we can share tasks. Anyone who would like to help in this capacity please sign up on the sheet located between the church and Dahlen hall. You will get some training so you can get familiar with what we do. Contact Millie Niebeling 651-388-4616 or email me at quiltygram@hotmail.com if you have any questions. Millie Niebeling- Altar Chairperson.

Women's Bible Study

WELCA Bible Study will meet at the Plaza in Red Wing at 9:00 AM on February 14th. Anyone needing a ride in Red Wing call Linda Chester at 651-388-1573. Anyone wishing to carpool meet at Cross of Christ at 8:30AM. Bring your bibles.

