



Country Chronicles
November 2026

Cannon River and
Cross of Christ Lutheran
Parish, ELCA

For the beauty of the earth,
for the glory of the skies,
for the love which from our birth
over and around us lies.

Christ, our Lord, to you we raise
this, our hymn of grateful praise.

-For the Beauty of the Earth ELW 879

I have always found myself humming something or other as I go about my day. Usually, it's a scrap of some folksy acoustic song or maybe something from my favorite Christian artists. This time of year, as I look out on the explosion of color along the bluffs and hills I cannot help but think of this song in a quiet joyful prayer.

I caught myself doing it this past weekend and I realized it was more than a frivolous diversion. It was good for my soul. There is so much going on personally, professionally, out in the world, things and people that command and demand our attention. We can and should pay attention to these things, our lives, our communities and our world are better for our

engagement. Yet, if we are not careful this becomes and idol onto itself under the catch all category of "busyness". It is a busyness that fills our calendars but empty our hearts.

It's important to remember that sabbath is more than church attendance, it's more than a "should". It is a "get to". It is a gift. It is God's invitation to revel in the wonder of all that God has made. To find ourselves in the midst of something we are both connected to and so much larger than ourselves. The holidays are fast approaching and we would do well to remember that blank spaces on our calendars, whether by accident or intentionally carved out are to be sought after. Whether to gaze out on the landscape, to hum or sing, to quietly pray, to write something or to simply think long thoughts, these windows of sabbath are good for our soul. It is good to raise a hymn of grateful praise.

As Ever in Christ,
Pastor CJ

Contact Information for Pastor CJ Boettcher:
Church Phone: 651-388-3464 ***Cell Phone:*** 920-858-7066
Email: pastor@cccrchurch.com



Help Shape the Women's Connection Group's 2027 Programs!

Mark your calendar for the Women's Connection Group Planning Party on **Saturday, November 7, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. in Dahlen Hall**. Bring an idea for a 2027 program, along with the details written on a sheet of paper. Or select a topic from the pink programming folder (found in the lower right corner of the display case in DH).

We will repeat the successful format from our last planning party. Each woman will share her suggestion aloud in a welcoming space—with no judgment and plenty of encouragement. Together, we will group the ideas into broad themes. Next comes the voting round: each participant will receive five stickers to mark her top choices. Evening events will be scheduled during daylight saving time. The WCG hosted seven events in 2026; for 2027, we will adjust the number of events based on our members' capacity so that the schedule remains joyful and manageable.

We can't wait to discover which events will bring connection, encouragement, and blessing to our church and community in 2027. Come ready to share, listen, and help shape an uplifting year together!

Cannon River News

Faith and Family first, helping others along the way.

Attendance

October 4th	16
October 11th	13
October 18th	12

Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	$2,153	$4,174	($2,021)
Feb	$2,095	$4,346	($2,251)
Mar	$3,005	$6,878	($3,873)
April	$4,055	$3,548	$506
May	$3,028	$3,366	($338)
June	$9,955	$7,515	$2,439
July	$2,085	$3,702	($1,617)
Aug	$2,725	$4,182	($1,457)
Sept.	$2,057	$6,408	($4,351)
Year to Date	**$31,158**	**$44,123**	**($12,965)**

Coffee Church

Join us for Coffee Church on **Sunday, October 18th** Fellowship will start at 8am and service at 9am. Hope you can join us.



November Council Rotation

November 1st -Ellen
November 8th -Les
November 15th -John
November 22nd -Barb
November 29th -David

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 2026

Readers

November 1st	Ann Kulla
November 8th	Mary Fjetland
November 15th	Joan Slingsby
November 22nd	**Contemporary Service**
November 29th	Sandy Luhman

Greeters

November 1st	Jim Gustafson
November 8th	**OPEN**
November 15th	Doris Gruber
November 22nd	**Contemporary Service-OPEN**
November 29th	Oscar & Janet Daley

Altar Committee

November 1st	Cheryl
November 8th	Cathy
November 15th	Joan
November 22nd	Kelley
November 29th	Kelley

Council Person Ross Nelson

November Ushers Jim G., Pat Fox, Yvonne & Kelley M.

Kitchen Person Jean Kehren

October Attendance

October 24 September 13th 36
September 20th 16 September 27th 39

Cross of Christ Financial Update

	Income	Expenses	Net
Mar	**$10,798.89**	**$14,017.72**	**($3,219.83)**
Apr	**$9,634.93**	**$14,019.57**	**($4,384.64)**
May	**$8,882.09**	**$15,881.93**	**($6,999.84)**
June	**$14,955.15**	**$15,187.09**	**($231.18)**
July	**$17,827.45**	**$14,233.28**	**$3,594.17**
Aug	**$11,988.92**	**$32,497.80**	**($20,508.88)**
Sept	**$26,275.22**	**$19,246.70**	**$7,028.70**

Note: expenses were higher in August, due to paying a balance of $21,376.25 for the Dahlen Hall siding project. Thank you to those who continue to give towards that project, those gifts will help replenish the Building and Grounds fund where the balance was paid from.

Giving Statements: Giving statements were included in the Stewardship letters that you should be receiving early November. If you have any questions about your statement, please reach out.

Tithe.ly

Thank you to those who have signed up with our new online giving with Tithe.ly. You can still sign up using the following link below or scan the QR code.
https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=e8c862d8-2f30-4c52-b57e-e04ebe8e66e0

Tithe.ly

Thank you!

Deanna

Vision and Vitality Task Force Update



Pastor CJ led an interactive devotion based on Philippians 4:4–9. He connected our review of feedback from the September Congregational Listening Session on Asset Mapping, Aspirational Reflections from a cross-section of members, and August interviews with community leaders. Our task force is on track to identify several ministry priorities that will strengthen church vitality and community engagement in the near future. Could we become a 'Community Center' to the broader Welch population and surrounding communities? Just for fun, the term "Up-Town Welch" was tossed out and hung in the air! So, think outside the box and ponder the possibilities. Our next meeting will be **Nov. 19 at 6pm**, all are welcome.
Please continue to keep the Task Force, our leaders, and our congregation in your prayers as this
important work moves forward.



Kwik Trip Cards Help support our Building Maintenance Fund by buying Kwik Trip cards. The next order will be put in on **Tuesday, November 10th** and will be available at the church by **Sunday, November 15th**. If you would like to order cards and are not on the regular order list, please email hjschreif@live.com or 507-990-7024. Thank you to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards. Julie Schreifels

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Missions

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



We continue our paper bag collection in the back of the church. These are taken to **Hastings Family Service** where they have a great need for bags for their produce delivery!

Food Shelf- Collection



November and Decembers food collection has us thinking about holidays meals like Thanksgiving and Christmas. We will collect mashed potatoes, gravy, crandberries, canned veggies, stuffing, cookie mix and anything that you enjoy duiring the holidays. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission.

Adopt-a-Family

Once again, we are asking for your help with the Adopt-a-Family Christmas program. Keep a look out for the Christmas tree in the Narthex during the middle of November. We appreciate all your help with this project as we continue to support families in need.



Questions? Please reach out to Lynette Hanson at 651-380-7814.

Learning & Youth



Sunday School is in full swing. There have been lots of prize room ticket redemptions and tickets given out. We have lots of chances for multiple tickets this year and new ticket earnings. Cheryl led the kids singing during worship on October 11th. On the 18th over MEA break Pastor CJ and Deanna hosted the first Sunday School after church session. They enjoyed some lunch, games and a little work about Jesus. We finished off October with our Fall - O - Ween Jesus party. Jamie gave them a very short lesson, then it was time to split off into groups for games. The kids dressed up, played games, got prizes, and enjoyed some Halloween treats. Don't forget Gabby/Jacob John offering is extra tickets every week.

We will also be looking for Substitutes at this time we will mostly be looking, toward the end of Sunday school in the Spring. If you are interested, please let Deanna know.

November Schedule

11/1/2026	Be Humble - Painting Pumpkins	
11/15/2026	Parable of the Talents	
11/22/2026	Sheep and Goats	Kids Sing in Church

No Sunday school on November 8th or 29th

Confirmation Wednesdays (except before thanksgiving) 6:30-7:15 at United with Youth Group 7:30-8:30 PM

Thanks,
The Fox's

The next **WELCA meeting will be on *Wednesday, November 11th 6:30 pm*. *Dahlen Hall.*** We will firm up plans for the Women's Retreat and discuss any other business that comes up.

Thank you to everyone who helped with or attended the Taste of Welch.

There will **not** be a pie auction this year.

Christmas Smorgasbord – December 6th at 5:30 pm
Planning has begun for our annual Christmas Smorgasbord. Please contact Jane Nelson, Barb Peiffer or Julie Schreifels if you would like to help plan and/or have an addition to the program.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Wed, Dec. 30 8:30 am – 2:30 pm & Thurs., Dec. 31, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
Note the change from Thursday and Friday to Wednesday and Thursday. Also, both days will be from 8:30 am – 2:30 pm. This is due to New Years Day being on Friday.
Come and give blood to kick off a new year!!

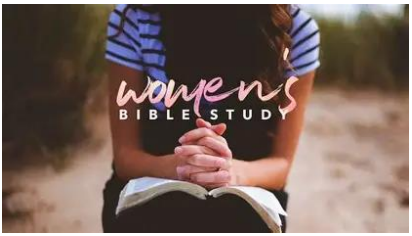
Annual Women's Retreat Maiden Rock Retreat- January 15-17, 2027
Enjoy the return of Pr. Emily Carson as our Saturday Presenter. We will have some fun, informal activities Friday and Saturday nights and a worship service on Sunday morning before we depart. This is our first year in this new facility. Check it our at https://maidenrockretreat.com/ There are only 9 beds available, but there are other sleeping options. So, register early to get a preferred sleeping option. Stay the weekend ($175) or come for the day on Saturday ($50). The meals will be provided by various groups of participants. Contact Julie Schreifels if you are interested in coming &/or helping to plan the retreat.

Use this link to sign up today!
https://forms.gle/XN63C4YCQNWcgQGEA

Future Events:
Christmas Smorgasbord – December 6 5:30 pm
Red Cross Blood Drive: Wed, Dec. 30 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
&Thurs., Dec. 31, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm
2027 Women's Retreat: January 15-17 Maiden Rock Retreat
Cannon River Spring Event: April 24, 2027 First Lutheran Church, Red Wing
Convention of the SE MN Synodical Women's Organization: September 18, 2027, 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Rochester, MN (See attached poster)

***Officers**: President: Julie Schreifels Secretary: Joan Slingsby Treasurer: Jean Kehren*
***Julie Schreifels** cell phone: 507-990-7024 email* hjschreif@live.com

WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible study will resume in September. We will meet in Dahlen Hall on **Tuesday November 10th, 9:00 - 11:00.** Our study will be *"Bold Faith on an unexpected journey."* In this 3-session series we will journey with Hagar, Ruth, and Mary Magdalene - women whose bold faith transformed their stories. Study guides will be provided. Please join us for this morning of learning, sharing, and laughing together.

Cross of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2026

Present: Anthony Nemcek, Jeff Meyer, Sherril Bjornson, Hans Schreifels, Barb Peiffer, Darwin Fox, Pastor CJ Boetcher
Members Absent: Ross Nelson, Jim Gustafson

Meeting was called to order by Anthony Nemcek, and the mission statement was read.

The meeting agenda was approved, and the September meeting minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

* **Pastor's Report** Pastor's report included information related to the onset of confirmation classes and upcoming events to engage older youth who have already completed confirmation. Additional information was provided related to the Sunday School's after service experiment on October 18. Pastor also provided information related to his attendance at the Fall Theological Retreat in LaCrosse, WI. Pastor conducted 3 visits and ministered 3 weddings (One Cannon River member and two nonmembers).

***Accessibility Task Force** – Hans Schreifels will take the lead on assembling a task force to move this project along. $79,924.79 remains in the Kitchen/Accessibility Fund. Once task force is assembled, they will get quotes and review to make a recommendation to Council. Prior to onset of the work a congregational vote will be held.

New Business

* **November Council person** – Ross Nelson

Committee Reports

*Finance – Council voted to change the name of the

Kitchen/Accessibility Fund to simply the Accessibility Fund as the kitchen project has wrapped up. Council voted to accept the reports as written.

*Property Management – The Council discussed having an additional spray completed for boxelder bugs due to the high number of them this year. Anthony will connect with Pest Arrest for advice and order an additional application if recommended.

*Worship & Music – The A/V update is moving forward, and an updated quote was received. A proposal will be presented to Council at the next meeting. The committee continues discussing ways to improve or reconfigure contemporary service.

*Learning & Youth – As Pastor's report indicated, confirmation has kicked off with 3 students. Opportunities for older youth to meet with other youth from different churches will be promoted. Sunday School is meeting after service on October 18.

*Service & Witness – Following the successful discussion with the congregation on September 27th, the Vision and Vitality task force will be meeting on October 20 to discuss what was heard and to begin compiling a report for Council identifying 1 or 2 ministry priorities to enact in 2027.

*Missions – Breakfast foods are being collected through October.

*Stewardship – The committee met on September 20 and will focus on the accessibility project and work being done by the Viion and Vitaility task for as springboards for giving this fall and in 2027. Their plan is called "Building for God's Future". A letter will be going out with giving aids and pledge cards as has been done in past years. Deanna remains available to help people set up their profiles within the Tithely system. Deanna is also

using Tithe.ly to track giving, so any funds received are being allocated appropriately by her directly.

***A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting*. - Motion Passed.**

The next meeting will be on November 10 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
James Gustafson
Council Secretary

Church Council Members Needed



Cross of Christ is seeking members who are willing to serve on the Church Council. If you are interested in helping guide our congregation, support church ministries, and contributing your time and ideas, please prayerfully consider filling a spot on the church council.

If you are interested, please reach out to the nominating committee. They will be happy to provide more information and answer any questions.

2026 Poinsettia Plant Order Form



Please use the order form below to purchase Poinsettia plants for Christmas. Each plant will be a in a 6.5" pot and are $17.00 each.

Your Name:

_____

_____

In Memory/Honor of: (please circle one)

_____

_____

_____

_____

Plant Color: (please circle one)

RED PINK WHITE MARBLE

Total Price:

_____

If purchasing multiples, please state which plant goes for what.

Please return your order into the office by November 15th.

Plants can be picked up after service on December 24th.

Thank you!