



## Country Chronicles July 2024

Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA

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*I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.*

*Psalm 121:1-2*

As I write this, I'm looking out that the foothills and mountain peaks of the Colorado Rockies. High places have long been considered holy ground, the dwelling place of the divine (think mount Sinai, or the mountain where Jesus was transfigured). These places are often experienced as a "thin place" where the spiritual realm bleeds into our reality and transcendence is possible if only for a moment or two. The Psalmist certainly had such a view as he considered the mountains in his own time and place, casting his gaze upward contemplating the awe-inspiring heights before him. We have a similar opportunity to consider the majestic power of our creating God, providing us with the wonders of creation to live and flourish.

As followers of Jesus, we also worship a God who doesn't remain high above the clouds but comes down into the valley to be with his people. In this way we experience a God who is both profoundly powerful but also deeply personal and compassionate. We worship a God who crafted the wonders of the planet and the cosmos and is willing to humble himself and die for the redemption of that creation.

I hope that in these warm summer months you can find such thin places for yourself whether on or near the mountain top or somewhere a bit closer to home. In so doing you cast your gaze upon a creative life-giving God and contemplate your place in something so much larger than yourself.

As Ever in Christ,

Pastor CJ

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

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# Cannon River News

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## Attendance

June 2 <sup>nd</sup>	13
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	10
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	23
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	13

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## Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,286	\$3,806	(\$1,520)
Feb	\$2,916	\$4,230	(\$1,314)
Mar	\$4,350	\$6,033	(\$1,683)
Apr	\$3,298	\$4,022	(\$726)
May	\$2,558	\$4,360	(\$1,802)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$15,406</b>	<b>\$22,454</b>	<b>(\$7,048)</b>

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## Coffee Church at Cannon River!

Join us on **July 21<sup>st</sup>** for Coffee Church Sunday at Cannon River. Fellowship will begin at 8AM and informal service will begin at 9AM. Bring a dish or a treat to pass and bring a friend!

We hope to see you there!



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## Council Rotation-July

July 7<sup>th</sup> - Bill    July 14<sup>th</sup> - Sharon  
July 21<sup>st</sup> - David    July 28<sup>th</sup> - Robert

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## Save the Date-Outdoor Worship



Mark your calendars for **Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>** for our annual outdoor worship. The meal will start at 6pm and worship/bonfire starting at 7pm. Note: there will not be worship service

on Sunday August 11<sup>th</sup>. Hope you can join us!

Cannon River Lutheran  
Council Meeting Minutes-June 16, 2024

Cannon River Lutheran Church Council meet on Sunday, June 16, 2024 after Coffee Church. Present were: Bill Bodin, Ellen Hartman, Les Anderson, David Fremouw and Robert Klahr. Pastor CJ Boettcher updated the council at the beginning of the meeting.

**Pastor's Report:**

Pastor asked if Cannon River would like to hold a Wednesday evening service in July, and if CR wants to participate in the Synod visioning session. Planning to partner with Red Wing churches for a confirmation retreat and youth events in the fall; possibly work with Cannon Falls churches for a service event. Pastor would like to schedule another Hops and Harmony at Tilion Brewing in Cannon Falls.

The minutes from the last meeting were approved. The May Treasurer's Report was also approved.

**Old Business:**

\*Ellen checked with Althoff's Hardware, and they have the exterior window paint color on file. The windows were last painted in 2010. Ellen will get some paint.

**New Business:**

\*After discussion, consensus was to hold our usual Saturday night outdoor worship in August and not host a Wednesday night worship service. Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup> was chosen, with the meal at 6pm and fire at 7pm; no Sunday worship on August 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*Consensus was to participate in the Synod visioning session, which pastor will organize.

Next meeting: Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup> after Coffee Church. We adjourned at 10:25am.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Ellen Hartman

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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 July 2024

### **Readers**

July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Fjeltand
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Doris Gruber
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contemporary Service</b>

### **Greeters**

July 7 <sup>th</sup>	Oscar & Janet Daley
July 14 <sup>th</sup>	Ken & Joan Slingsby
July 21 <sup>st</sup>	Judy Meyer
July 28 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley Mittelsteadt

### **Altar**

July 7th.- Joan Slingsby  
July 14th – Cathy Nemcek  
July 21st- Yvonne Nelson  
July 28th- Millie Niebeling

### **Council Person**

Deanna Gehloff

### **July Ushers**

Jim Gustafson	Kelley Mittelsteadt
Pat Fox	Millie Niebeling

### **Kitchen Person**

Cathy Nemcek

### **Attendance**

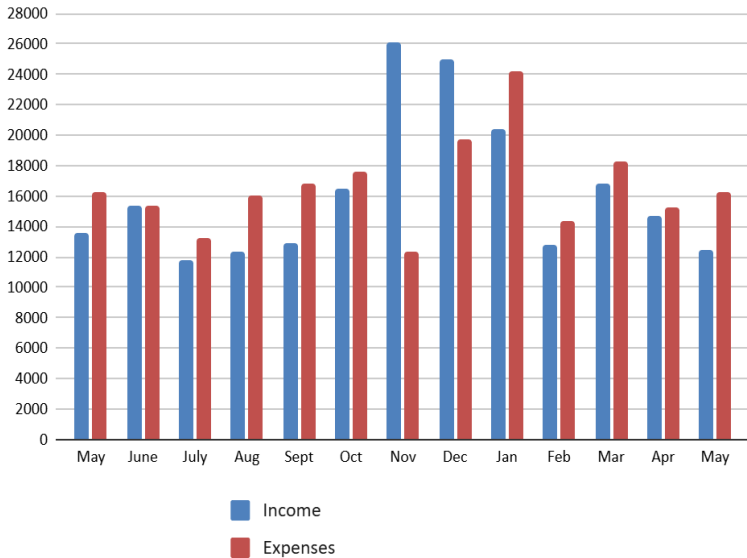
June 2<sup>nd</sup> ?    June 9<sup>th</sup> 19    June 16<sup>th</sup> 34    June 23<sup>rd</sup> 26

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# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
May	\$13,623	\$16,310
June	\$15,408	\$15,326
July	\$11,818	\$13,229
Aug	\$12,294	\$15,988
Sept	\$12,952	\$16,769
Oct	\$16,480	\$17,622
Nov	\$26,146	\$12,399
Dec	\$25,020	\$19,687
Jan	\$20,356	\$24,148
Feb	\$12,786	\$14,337
Mar	\$16,821	\$18,282
Apr	\$14,644	\$15,253
May	\$12,447	\$16,237
<b>Last 13 months</b>	<b>\$210,793</b>	<b>\$215,586</b>

## 2023-2024 Income/Expenses



## **Financial News:**

**Missions:** Sunday School offerings of \$72.84 went to the Child Fund for our \$50/mo sponsorship of Jacob and Gabby in Tanzania.

\$65 in **coffee fellowship donations** went to the Audio/Visual fund.

In 2025 we will be using standard **offering envelope** booklets instead of custom ordered ones. There are also loose envelopes at the back of the sanctuary for use by anyone, whether you forgot your envelopes or don't use them, or for special worship services. Just make sure to note your name and the purpose of your gift.

We paid the 1<sup>st</sup> ½ of our **parsonage property tax** bill in May, of \$1,236 from the Parsonage Expense fund.

We renewed our annual OneLicense subscription in May for \$290.

The **For Those in Need fund** is available for members and community members who are experiencing financial hardships. Please speak with Pastor CJ if you or someone you know is in need. You can also donate to this fund by noting it with your gift.

Watch your mailbox (or inbox) for **mid-year giving statements**, arriving in early July. They will include your giving totals for the year so far, and pledges for 2024 (if you made a pledge). Thanks so much for your donations!

**Thrivent members**, remember that you can designate your Choice dollars to Cross of Christ, which go to the Building and Grounds fund. Talk to your Thrivent agent for more information. We received \$7 in May. Thanks so much for directing your Choice dollars to Cross of Christ!

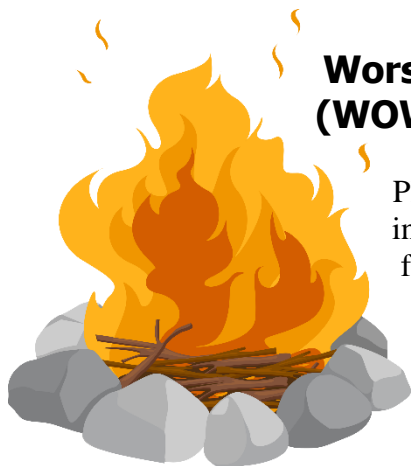
It is so helpful to have **committed giving**, be it by pledge or automated giving. We now have **ACH**, so donations can easily be sent to us electronically at no cost to donors. Please contact Rebecca to for more information.

Prepaid **Kwik Trip cards** are available monthly through Julie Schreifels 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 next Finance meeting will be **Tuesday, Aug 6 at 6:30 pm** at church, there will not be a meeting in July. 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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## **Worship on Wednesday (WOW)**

Please join us this summer for brief informal worship and bonfire fellowship at Cross of Christ! The service will be driven by music, hands-on activities and lively discussion lead by lay people. Worship will be followed by bonfire fellowship including a

hot dog and marshmallow roast. Come join the fun and invite a friend! We will be meeting on **July 10<sup>th</sup> and July 24<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6:30 PM.** We hope to see you there!





**Kwik Trip Cards**-Help support our Building Maintenance Fund by buying Kwik Trip scrip cards. **GROCERY ONLY CARDS** the church makes 15% on the purchase of these cards. The church makes 5% on the purchase of the **usual gas and gift cards**,

which can be used to purchase anything at Kwik Trip from gas, groceries, and car washes to anything else they sell. Both are available in **\$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, and \$100**. You pay the amount of the card being purchased. The next order will be put in on Tuesday, July 9th and will be available at the church by July 14th. **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**- will be held on Tuesday July 9th from 9-11AM in Dahlen Hall. We are still on Part 1 so those people that missed can catch up with the rest of the group. Those who came all liked what this was about. It gave us a new perspective about "Curiosity". We can go to Part 2 "Certainly" when we are ready. Bring a Bible with or we can use some from in the Church. Bring a snack to share if you like

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## **Missions**

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*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!

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## SUMMER COLLECTION FOR HOPE COALITION

Hope Coalition is an organization in Red Wing that offers support to people in need during a crisis in their lives. Your response last summer for donating kitchen items was amazing.



This year we would like to focus on items for the bathroom. We'll have a table set up in the back of the church for donations. A list of suggested items will also be available. A few examples would be towels, wash clothes, lotions, soaps, and shampoo. Please note only new items are accepted for donations. For more information about Hope Coalition go to: [info@hope-coalition.org](mailto:info@hope-coalition.org)

Thank you for your support, The mission team.

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### **Please save the date – July 28<sup>th</sup>!**

We are so excited to welcome Karen Anderson to Cross of Christ on **July 28<sup>th</sup>!** We sponsor Karen in Chile through the ELCA Global Church Missionary Program.



Karen is the founder of the EPES Program; Popular Education for Health. EPES was founded in 1982. Please read about Karen and her ministry on the Mission bulletin board.

Karen will be retiring from the ELCA this fall, but will still collaborate as a volunteer with EPES. We are fortunate to see her before she leaves!

On the 28<sup>th</sup>, Karen will offer a message in lieu of the regular sermon. After the service we invite you to stay and have a light lunch and visit with her.

In her last message to us, she writes, "I am so grateful for your love and support over the years. Our ministry in Chile truly does take a village and I am filled with gratitude for your interest and support and for always keeping the congregation connected. Gracias! Gracias! Gracias! Gracias!"

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## Youth and Learning News

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We hope you are all  
enjoying your summer!!



**No VBS this year.** Due to little to no interest, helpers or volunteers for VBS, it has been decided to not have it this year.



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## TANZANIAN CHILDREN'S FUND



Continue to support Gabby and Jacob by collecting coins throughout the summer. Get creative and create your own collection can or you can get one at the back of the church.



We look forward to seeing you all in the fall for Sunday school.

Thanks,

Deanna Gehloff



The next **WELCA** meeting will be **Wednesday, July 17<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will discuss/plan the Taste of Welch, Women's Retreat ideas, other items.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** **Our next drive will be Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-2:30 pm.** Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> Let Julie know if you would like to volunteer to work a shift 8:30-11:30 or 11:30 -2:30, make a meal for the workers, provide some homemade treats for the donors.

**Women's Retreat:** We are looking at making some changes in the Women's Retreat and need your input. Please send Julie ideas on changes ie new location, presenter, program...

[Julie.schreifels@gmail.com](mailto:Julie.schreifels@gmail.com)

**Taste of Welch:** October 12, 2024 9 am – 2 pm. Help will be needed with lunch, bake sale, raffle, publicity, and other details. Start thinking about how you can help with our annual mission fundraiser.

#### **Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Friday, July 5<sup>th</sup> 8:30am-2:30 pm.

**Taste of Welch:** Saturday, October 12 from 9:00 am – 2:00 pm

**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  
June 11, 2024

Present: President Anthony Nemcek, Vice-President Jon Peterson, Deanna Gehloff, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Darwin Fox, Jim Gustafson, Jeff Meyer and Oscar Daley Absent: Sherril Bjornson and Pastor CJ Boettcher

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

The meeting agenda was approved with the additions of “Kitchen/Bath Update” under Unfinished business, along with adding “basement wall and sidewalk by back entrance” under property management in the committee reports. The May meeting minutes were approved as written.

**Unfinished Business**

- \* Pastor’s Report-a printed report was provided
- \* Employee Compensation -Discussion was held regarding pay for the Secretary, Treasurer and Custodian. All council members agreed their current pay is not sufficient. ***A motion was made and seconded to make a 20% increase in the Secretary, Treasurer and Custodian’s pay. -Motion Passed.***
- \*Kitchen & Bathroom Update-Jeff and the committee has received two bids, with one of the bids being considerably lower. Once the pricing has been confirmed a recommended bid will be presented to council, hopefully in the coming month.

**New Business**

- \* July Council person: Deanna Gehloff
- \* August Council person: Jon Peterson

**Committee Reports**

\*Finance

Bob Luhman has been the representative on file for the Trust Fund Investment with American National Insurance Company Contract

number 14835578 held by Cross of Christ Lutheran Church, however the authorized representative needs to be reassigned. ***A motion was made and seconded to re-authorize Bob Luhman as the representative for the Trust Fund Investment with American National Insurance Company.***

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

\*Property Management- After the sewage backed up in the Parsonage, it was authorized by Anthony to have Red Wing Plumbing dig up and replace the main sewer line that had cracked open and allowed roots in approximately a \$1,500 cost on top of the already emergency cost of \$400-600 line clearing and water removal from the backup. It was suggested to have additional work to re-establish the cemented floor drain and be pumped out. They will also run the water softener and furnace condensation lines to drain/sump pump indoors to avoid freezing. The estimated cost is approximately \$2,000. ***A motion was made and seconded to approve the additional suggested work with the floor drain and condensation lines. - Motion Passed.***

\*Worship & Music-Meeting held June 2<sup>nd</sup>. They will be getting together to further discuss the A/V updates.

\*Learning & Youth: VBS in August only if enough interest and helper/organizers, June 21<sup>st</sup> last day for interested families.

\*Missions- Karen Anderson will be visiting July 28th. Hope Coalition collecting running June and possibly July for bathroom items.

\*Stewardship-Met May 19<sup>th</sup> and will have something lined up for October.

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

The next meeting will be on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024. No meeting will be held in July.

Respectfully submitted,  
Deanna Gehloff  
Council Secretary

**I took my troubles to the Lord;  
I cried out to him, and he  
answered my prayer.  
Psalms 120:1**

## **Prayer List**

We will publish the weekly list of people for whom prayer has been requested. Each person that is added will remain on for 4 weeks or until there is a request to remove them sooner. If the person on the list wishes to remain on longer simply renew the request after four weeks. This is not to say people do not need ongoing

prayer or an attempt to neglect those who need it. Rather, it is a practice that ensures our list is crafted thoughtfully and is updated regularly.

Please note:

- 1) A person added to the prayer list **MUST** be added with their knowledge and permission.
- 2) Their prayer need may be listed if they desire but is **NOT** required
- 3) First names of members will be read as a part of the prayers of the people each week

If you have any questions or comments on the list, please get in touch with Pastor CJ.