



Country Chronicles June 2023

Cannon River and
Cross of Christ Lutheran
Parish, ELCA



I finally had the chance this past month to hear the widely acclaimed pastor and doctor Otis Moss III preach in person at the Festival of Homiletics in downtown Minneapolis. He began his sermon with a story, a story about an interview he had seen with a music artist. This particular artist always carried a small cup of tea with him wherever he went and was always seen with it. The interviewer wrapped the interview by asking why this was. The artist responded:

“My mother told me to do it to remind me to be careful about whom I let fill my cup... and to make sure to pour it out if it was not good... I should wash it out afterwards as well to make sure there isn't any residue left behind to contaminate the good...”

Be careful whom you let fill your cup... It is a timeless and yet timely call to be mindful of who and what we let into our lives. Does it bring out our best self? Does it help us grow into who God made us to be? Or does it cause us to turn caustic, bitter, cynical and cruel? You are what you eat and the company you keep after all. So what is and who exactly are filling your cup?

Because if you aren't careful, people are willing to do it for you, people who are more than happy to lie about who you are or who your neighbor is. They do it to stoke insecurities, anxieties, prejudice and downright hate to sell you something. If they can make you discontented with yourself or even hate yourself, or hate your neighbor they will. Sadly there are even those in the Christian tradition that would happily fill cups with such rhetoric and venomous spite. We as people of faith are not immune to this.

Be careful whom you let fill your cup... There is a reason we come together each week, to be fed by Jesus' words, by his body and blood. There is a reason we gather each week to hear again God's promises to us and to all people. It's so we can fill our cup with the right stuff, the life giving, world changing, stuff. We gather to be reminded that we belong to God and have value no matter what we do or have done to us. Moreover, our worth isn't defined by others who wish to pour out their own ideas on us, their ideas of who we are or who we should be. Every BODY is God's good creation. We are made in God's own image **not** someone else's idea of what that image should be. This is especially important for our siblings whose skin is darker, whose gender or sexuality, may not conform to our expectations, for people whose body type isn't represented positively in our media and culture. They too are God's good creation. I'm reminded of something my seminary professor used to say all the time: "God is not in the business of making junk".

Siblings in Christ, be careful whom you let fill your cup. Do they bring out the best in you and help you to see the best in others? Or do they cause you to loathe and hate yourself and those around you? Remember that God didn't create junk when God created you, and that goes for your neighbor too, whatever God's image looks like in them.

As Ever in Christ,
Pastor CJ

Contact Information for Pastor CJ Boettcher:

Church Phone: 651-388-3464 *Cell Phone:* 920-858-7066

Email: pastor@cccchurch.com

Cannon River News

Attendance

May 7 th	13
May 14 th	35

May 21st 19

Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,945	\$3,923	(\$978)
Feb	\$2,165	\$3,439	(\$1,274)
Mar	\$2,345	\$5,468	(\$3,123)
April	\$4,606	\$3,952	\$653

Year to Date	\$12,061	\$16,784	(\$4,723)
---------------------	-----------------	-----------------	------------------

Cannon River Council Rotation for June

June 4th Sharon
June 11th David
June 18th Shawn
June 25th Ellen



Congratulation Graduate!

Congratulations to Noah Klippen for graduating from Hastings HS.

Coffee Church at Cannon River!

Join us again on June 18th for Coffee Church Sunday at Cannon River. A time of fellowship will begin at 8AM with coffee and assorted goodies. A brief and informal service will begin at 9AM. The service will feature more interaction and hands on rituals for more meaningful engagement. Bring a dish or a treat to pass and bring a friend!

We hope to see you there!

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 June 2023

Readers

June 4 th	Cathy Nemcek
June 11 th	Jim Gustafson
June 18 th	Jean Kehren
June 25 th	Doris Gruber

Greeters

June 4 th	Oscar & Janet Daley
June 11 th	Cathy Nemcek
June 18 th	Jon & Rebecca Peterson & Family
June 25 th	Dennis & Jackie Martin

Altar

June 4 th	- Millie Niebeling
June 11 th	- Joan Slingsby
June 18 th	- Kelly Mittelsteadt
June 25 th	- Millie Niebeling

Council Person

Jon Peterson

Attendance

May 7 th	45
May 14 th	84
May 21 st	80

June Ushers

Anyone who can help

Kitchen Person

Janet Daley

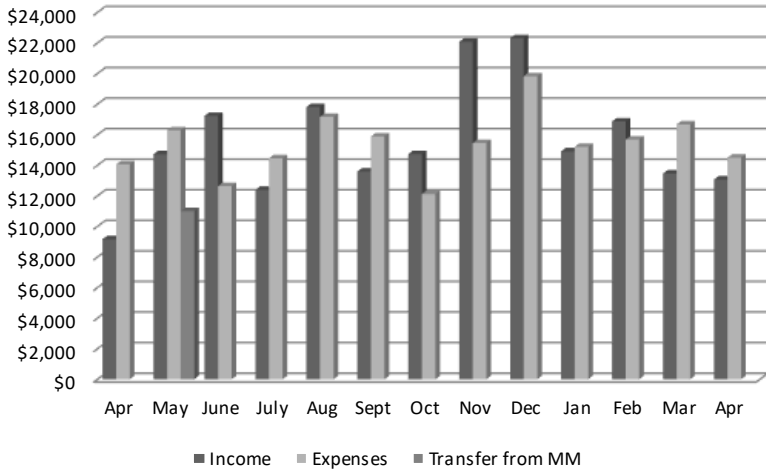
Cross of Christ Financial Report

<u>Income</u>	<u>Expenses</u>
---------------	-----------------

Jan	\$14,909	\$15,207
Feb	\$16,867	\$15,680
Mar	\$13,464	\$16,671
April	\$13,073	\$14,497

Year to Date \$58,313 \$62,055

2022-2023 Income/Expenses



Financial News:

Easter offerings of \$1830 went toward covering the cost of the new boiler.

Missions:

Missions received \$53 in coffee fellowship donations. Lent offerings went to Lutheran Disaster Response – Turkey (\$171) and MN Foodshare (\$171) An additional \$200 went to LDR – Turkey. Donations of \$730 and additional \$200 also went to MN Foodshare. \$500 was donated to Hastings Family Services, and \$500 was donated to the 150th Anniversary fund.

Thrivent members, THANK YOU for designating your Thrivent Choice dollars to Cross of Christ! In April we received \$560, which went to the Building and Grounds fund.

A breakdown of the **Building and Grounds fund**:

General Building and grounds: \$66,051

In addition,

Kitchen fund: \$27,535

Accessibility fund: \$25,870

Audio/visual: 20,000

\$201 was donated at the **Palm Sunday brunch**, which went to Sunday School.

The **garage sale** raised \$1,768.60 which went to the 150th Anniversary fund.

Garage sale food sales brought in \$856 for the Youth fund, and \$51 in tips, which went to the Tanzanian Child Fund.

Bob L was able to get our rental property valuation down to \$288,000 which will lessen our **property tax** next year but doesn't affect this year. The first 1/2 of this year's property tax (\$1,623) was paid in May.

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, it really makes a difference for our church to have giving we can count on.

Prepaid **Kwik Trip cards** are available monthly 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 next Finance meeting will be **Tuesday, June 6 at 6:30 pm** at church. 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. **NEW 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, June 13th** and will be available at the church by June 18th. **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. **If you need Kwik Trip cards for graduates or other gifts in early June please contact Julie to order.**

WELCA Bible Study

Join us for WELCA Bible Study on **Tuesday June 13th** Dahlen Hall 9:00-11:00AM. Pastor CJ will lead Bible Study. Bring treats if you like. Working on some things for July to go to for an outing.



Contemporary Vocal Practice

Please join us for the next Contemporary Service Vocal practice on **Monday, June 12th at 6:30pm** at Cross of Christ. Spread the word, bring someone along!

We will be practicing the new songs, please feel free to pass on any new ideas as well! Thanks!

Memory Quilt-150th Anniversary quilt.



We are in the process of making a quilt to commemorate our church's 150th Anniversary. It will have a cross in the middle with information from the past 25 years (since the 125th Anniversary). This will include the pastors, significant events, building improvements, etc. The rest of the quilt will be

squares “designed” by church members/families. This may include: family memories related to the church, a family crest, pictures, etc. Look for a display with some examples in the back of the sanctuary. ***There are squares and instructions on the table in the back of the sanctuary. Please return your finished square to the basket next to the squares or to Julie Schreifels or Millie Niebeling by June 15th.*** Contact Julie or Millie with any questions or if you need assistance.

Mystery Bag Sermon is Back!

Beginning in June Pastor CJ will again do a mystery bag sermon as a part of Sunday worship in lieu of the Children's sermon. People of all ages are welcome to sign up to bring an item on a given week on which Pastor CJ will have to try and base a mini sermon. Please find pastor before service on Sunday morning and give him the object in a bag or box so that it remains a surprise until it is unveiled during the service. Sign up sheets will be out on the back table for June, July and August. If you still have lingering questions on how it works or the type of thing you should bring, please reach out to pastor. He's looking forward to seeing what you come up with!

Thanks!

Graduate Recognition

The 2023 graduates will be recognized during the worship service on **June 11th**. Join us for coffee fellowship in honor of the graduates after the service. If you know of anyone from Cross of Christ who will be graduating from high school or post-secondary school please contact Deanna Gehloff.



Missions

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

Paper Bag Collection

Hastings Family Services (HFS) needs paper bags. If you are that classic Midwesterner who has a bag-of-bags, please consider donating your paper bags. It costs HFS over \$40 for only 400 bags. They also double bag to avoid tearing or ripping. Please place the bags in the collection bin at the back of the church



Mission: Empowering lives through

HOPE.

HOPE Coalition works with ordinary people facing extraordinary trauma; domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, homelessness and the inability to meet their basic needs. “When they come us they’re frightened, confused, feeling alone and looking for assistance and guidance as they rebuild their lives. We step in at that point; we restore HOPE and help rebuild lives.”

HOPE Coalition, located in Red Wing, serves an average of 1,200 people annually in Goodhue, Wabasha and Western Pierce (WI) counties. These people are served in the following ways:

- Haven of Hope domestic violence shelter and outreach services
- Housing Support Services
- Community Care Fund
- Sexual Assault Services
- Crisis calls to Haven of Hope domestic violence shelter

How can we help this important outreach in our community?

HOPE Coalition welcomes “Baskets of HOPE” for their clients who are starting over with limited household items. This is where we can help!

Please consider donating new kitchen items; the list is below. We will gather donations through August. The vacation Bible school children help put together the “Baskets of HOPE” this summer. We will use a Thrivent grant to help with the shopping.

Please pick up a list in the back of the church! NEW kitchen items:

- Pots, pans, cookie sheets
- Utensils (spatulas, can openers, etc.)
- Pot holders
- Dish cloths and dish towels
- Hand soap and dish soap
- Paper towels

Thank you, Mission Committee

Youth and Learning News



The last week of April, the youth served food at the church garage sale. Thanks to those that were able to help out, a HUGE Thank You to Joan and Cheryl for taking the busy shifts! We were able to raise \$907.00 a portion of this was donated to Gabby and Jacob John.

May brought the end of the Sunday School year. We celebrated with a Sunday Funday Candy Verse Scavenger Hunt, and the kids sang during worship.



Congratulations to Addison, Hannah, Avery (Cannon River) and Beretta on their confirmation.

Looking ahead to August Pre - K through 12 Vacation Bible School is set at this time to be:

Wednesday August 2nd 5:30 - 7:30

Wednesday August 9th 5:30 - 7:30

Wednesday August 16th - Valley Fair

Wednesday August 23rd - 5:30 - 7:30

Families are encouraged to stay. If you would like to help in any way please contact Jamie or Becky at beckyfox31@msn.com. RSVPs and more information will be sent out in the coming weeks.

Thanks,
Jamie and Becky Fox



The next WELCA meeting will be **Wednesday, JULY 12th at 7:00 pm. Fellowship Hall.** We will make further plans for the Taste of Welch, and other items.

Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will

Thursday, July 6th from 12-6pm and Friday July 7th 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 can help with the blood drive.*

Women's Day at GEV Saturday, June 24, 2023 9:00am–3:00pm
Boundless Compassion Presented by Julie Klock Register at www.goodearthvillage.org/womensday

Southeastern MN Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

Convention: September 30, 2023 at First Lutheran Church in Red Wing. **Theme: "Beginning**

Anew...Again...and...Again!" Worship, music, speakers, fellowship, lunch, and business will fill the day. Registration, coffee, vendors begin at 8:30 am. The formal opening of the convention is at 9:15 and closing scheduled for around 3:30 pm.

Our WELCA unit has agreed to pay the \$25 registration fee for Cross of Christ members. See the poster on the little board at the back of the Sanctuary. Contact Julie Schreifels for more information and help with registration. *The Love Offering for the convention will go to HOPE COALITION in Red Wing, Items needed: Monetary offering preferred, Visa cards and Gas cards (Kwik Trip).* Hope Coalition never knows who they will be helping and the above will help put gifts where they are needed. PLEASE bring your LOVE gifts to the Fall Convention or contact Julie Schreifels if you wish to order Kwik Trip cards.

Taste of Welch: October 14th from 9-12. We will hold the Taste of Welch in the time honored tradition of Raffe, Lunch, Bake Sale and some Crafts for sale. Start thinking about how you will help with our annual mission fundraiser. We will be making further plans at the July 12th meeting.

Future Events:

Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, July 6th 12-6 pm and Friday, July 7th 8:30 am – 2:30pm

Women's Day at Good Earth Village: June 24, 2023 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

12th Triennial Gathering: September 21-24, 2023 Phoenix, Arizona
Southeastern MN Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

Convention: September 30, 2023

Taste of Welch: October 14th from 9-12

***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*

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
Council Meeting Minutes
May 9, 2023

Present: President Anthony Nemcek, Vice-President Jon Peterson, Oscar Daley, Darwin Fox, Jim Gustafson, Anne Kulla, Pastor CJ Boettcher

Absent: Deanna Gehloff, Kelly Mittelsteadt

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

Agenda was approved with addition of “150th Anniversary” as item E, under Unfinished Business.

April minutes were approved as written.

Unfinished Business

- A. Pastor's Report: report given by Pastor CJ Boettcher
- B. Church Website: ***Motion made and seconded to present a thank you and gift card to Emma Dinndorf for her work on refurbishing church website. Motion passed***
- C. Building Vision Comm update: Committee has been split into 2 working groups. A Financial Campaign Committee and a Project Committee. Meetings will be twice a month.
- D. Audio/Visual Proposal: Discussion of A/V upgrade proposal made by Tom Benson. Will seek input from Worship and Music Committee and congregation.
- E. 150th Anniversary: May 21st will be Cong Photo. Program in the works. Quilt is progressing. Still seeking tent, tables, and chairs.

News Business

- A. June Council person: Jon Peterson
- B. Copier/printer lease: Renewed at current rate.

Committee Reports

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

Worship & Music: Meeting scheduled for May 21st to select Sunday hymns. Will review A/V proposal.

Learning & Youth: Confirmation is May 14th

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan Peterson – Council Vice-President

Commemorative Magnets



Our Commemorative Refrigerator Magnets have arrived! They are a picture of our church and contain information about our 150th Anniversary. We are asking for a donation for the anniversary celebration expenses in return for a magnet. No donation is too small or too big! 100% of all donations go towards the celebration. The cost of designing and producing these magnets were all donated by an anonymous donor. They will be available after church and at other activities; or you may contact Janice Hinsch at 651-388-8740 to get one.

IT'S SUMMER, LIVE IT UP!

We Minnesotans know we have a brief few minutes to enjoy summer and we know how to do it! Vacations, parties, farming, gardening, enjoying the liquid lakes, etc! We get real busy real quick this time of year.

Church attendance always drops in the summer (we get it, we're busy). The challenge for Cross of Christ is that church giving also drops in the summer, while expenses unfortunately do not.

If you ever look back and think, whoops, I meant to give more, please consider automated giving. Rebecca will walk you through the many options and setting it up, and you can cancel at any time if you don't like it. It could be just one less thing for you to have to think about! And you can help us go into the fall (and our 150th celebration) as a healthy, thriving church.

Thanks so much to everyone who has already set up automated giving, it makes a world of difference!

Enjoy your summer!

HISTORY MOMENT 40 YEARS AGO

While Pastor Aaron Lofgren served our congregation, a new tradition of 'graduation recognition' was started in 1983. Any church member graduating from high school, college, Vo-tech or any higher education was honored during the church service. Typically, the student stated their future plans and coffee fellowship followed. As a congregation we continue to support further education. In 2011 the Seth and Agnette Peterson Trust Fund will now be known as the Education Trust Fund. A Christian College Scholarship Program was established in 2019. This program awards scholarships to members furthering their education at a faith-based institution. Currently the ladies of WELCA host this event and we thank them for their planning and work. Join us this year on June 11th as we honor Carl Peterson who is graduating from Red Wing High School.



Thank you!



A **BIG** Thank you to this years Sunday school teachers, helpers and music leaders: Becky & Jamie Fox, Cheryl & Darwin Fox and Deanna Gehloff.

*Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it.*

-Proverbs 22:6