



## Country Chronicles May 2026

Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA

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*I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.*

*-Philippians 1:3-6*

I have been absolutely blown away by the outpouring of support I have received since the death of my mother this past month. You have shown up materially and emotionally in ways that truly touch my heart and buoy me in this challenging time in my life and ministry.

The passage above has been top of mind for me these past weeks as I think about all of you. Not least of all because I know you don't reserve this servant mindset simply for your pastor but for your family, friends, and your communities inside and outside the church walls. You are ministers of the gospel, living out its implications just by how you choose to live and act in your lives.

In our world that feels so angry and broken it is so heartening to see instances when we show up for each other and help each other feel less alone. In a world that feels like it's spinning out of control it's the one thing we can control, what do we do with this life God has given us?

So by all means, carry on! Not just for your pastor's sake, but for the sake of the world, for the sake of what Christ Jesus has done for us. Continue on in that good work until we along with God bring it to completion on that last day when all is made new.

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@cccchurch.com](mailto:pastor@cccchurch.com)

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**The women's connection:** A heartfelt Thank You to the ladies that volunteered to make food for the **Cannon Falls Breakfast Club** and also served food. God bless you Ann Kulla, Cheryl Fox, Janet Daley, Jackie Martin, and Diane Brage. It was a pleasure! Gail Peterson

Check out other volunteer opportunities with the CFBC at [Cannon Falls Breakfast Club | Facebook](#)

### **Mays Women's Connection Event**



Hope and Harbor is a nonprofit organization serving individuals and families in Goodhue County who are experiencing homelessness or other forms of instability. Through our rotating cold-weather homeless shelter, The Next Step Community Resource Center and the Community

Care Fund, we will provide safe shelter, connection to resources, and financial assistance to help our neighbors move toward stability and self-sufficiency. -*Kenzie Reuter, Executive Director*  
Join us on **Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>** after service for a short awareness outreach activity with light refreshments. All members welcome!

**HOPE &  
HARBOR**

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# Cannon River News

*Faith and Family first, helping others along the way.*

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## Attendance

April 5 <sup>th</sup>	38
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	12
April 19 <sup>th</sup>	15

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## 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)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$7,253</b>	<b>\$15,400</b>	<b>(\$8,147)</b>

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## Coffee Church

Join us for Coffee Church on **Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**. Fellowship will start at 8am and service at 9am. Hope you can join us.



## May Council Rotation

May 3<sup>rd</sup> -David    May 10<sup>th</sup>-Robert  
May 17<sup>th</sup>-Ellen    May 24<sup>th</sup>- Les  
May 31-John

Cannon River and Cross of Christ Lutheran Churches  
Joint Council Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2026

Members present from Cannon River: Les Anderson, Ellen Hartman, David Fremouw, John Niebur and Barbara Flynn  
Absent: Robert Klahr

Members present from Cross of Christ: Anthony Nemcek, Jim Gustafson, Jeff Meyer, Ross Nelson, Hans Schreifels, Barb Peiffer and Darwin Fox  
Absent: Sherril Bjornson and Pastor CJ

The meeting was called to order by Cross of Christ President, Anthony Nemcek.

Barbara Flynn was appointed Secretary for this meeting.

A blank agenda was distributed and approved after two additions – One Old Business and One New Business

Secretary's report for the Joint Council Meeting held 09/11/25 was approved.

**PASTORS REPORT:**

Pastor's report was read at the Joint Meeting and will be read at each church's individual meetings.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Shared expenses – Rick Anderson, Cannon River Treasurer, has stated that he has not received split expense statements for 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr. of 2026. He has been paying his "best guess" as to what these expenses should be. If possible, he would work with Cross of Christ's Finance Committee at their next meeting to get accurate numbers. Rick Anderson [ricka@agpartners.net](mailto:ricka@agpartners.net) and Anthony Nemcek [anthonymemcek@gmail.com](mailto:anthonymemcek@gmail.com) are asked to

coordinate this meeting.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Council discussed ways in which the Councils and Congregations can support Pastor CJ as he navigates his grief following his mother's passing.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting to be held on September 10, 2026, at 6:30, at Cannon River.

The meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Flynn

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Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
April 14, 2026

The Cannon River Church Council met on April 14, 2026, at Cross of Christ prior to the Joint Council Meeting. Members present were Les Anderson, Ellen Hartman, David Fremouw, John Niebur and Barbara Flynn.

Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Hartman.

The February 15, 2026, Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's reports from February and March 2026 were reviewed and approved.

**PASTORS REPORT:**

Pastor's report was read and discussed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

A stack pipe continues to leak. A second bid will be procured, but the consensus is to have a plumber repair the stack pipe and replace the pressure tank.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A suggestion was made that we use Benevolence Funds to help Pastor CJ with expenses. Motion made and seconded.

During the Joint Meeting tonight, it should be discussed if the 2025 and 1<sup>st</sup> Qtr 2026 numbers should be audited. Rick Anderson let Ellen know that he has not received split expense statements and has been paying a “best guess” as to what these expenses should have been. Ellen will ask that this be added to tonight’s agenda.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting to be held on June 11, 2026, at 5:00 at Cannon River.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Flynn

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## **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 May 2026

### **Readers**

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ann Kulla
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Fjetland
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Slingsby
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contemporary Service</b>
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dean Dinndorf

### **Greeters**

May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kelley Mittelsteadt
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Alex Kitzmann
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OPEN</b>
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Dean & Dana Dinndorf

### **Altar Committee**

May. 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley
May 17 <sup>th</sup>	Joan
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy
May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Kelley or Cathy

### **Council Person**

Anthony Nemcek

### **May Ushers**

Jim Gustafson, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Pat Fox and Ann Kulla

### **Kitchen Person**

Cathy Nemcek

## Cross of Christ Financial Update

If you are a current user of Simply Giving for online giving, that service will no longer be used after May. Cross of Christ will now use Tithe.ly for online/automatic giving.

You can use the following link to sign up below or scan the QR code.

<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=e8c862d8-2f30-4c52-b57e-e04ebe8e66e0>



With Tithe.ly, tracking your quarterly or yearly giving is easy with your own account access.



# Tithe.ly

Feel free to reach out if you have questions or are needing help signing up for online/automatic giving with Tithe.ly.

Thank you!

Deanna



**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 at \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50, and \$100. You pay the amount of the card being purchased. The next order will be put in on **Tuesday, May 12th** and will be available at the church by **Sunday, May 17th**. 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

## **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**

Food Shelf: Each month we are going to focus on collecting one specific food item based on the need and input from our food shelves. The month of **May we are asking for cereal** and in June pasta. These will be distributed evenly between food shelves in Red Wing and Hastings. Thank you in advance for supporting this mission.



## **Learning & Youth**

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Not much to report in April. On April 12th, we had a short lesson and painted bird houses, which we will continue on April 26th. Our time is almost up for the year. Thank you, families, for being a part of Sunday School. **May 3rd** will be our final Sunday. We will conclude with a Sunday Funday, final ticket collections, and the kids will sing in church.



Congratulations to our confirmands who will be confirmed on **Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**-Alex Kitzmann, August Nemcek and Noelle Dahling.

Thanks,  
The Fox's

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The next **WELCA meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm Dahlen Hall**. We will review the Spring Event, triennial, make final plans for Grad rec, discuss Taste of Welch

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive is scheduled for Thursday, May 7 12:00-6:00 and Friday, May 8 8:30 am-2:30 pm**. Schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) , 800-REDCROSS or use your blood ap. welchmn to schedule an appointment. Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers.

**2026 Cannon River Spring Event/Salad Luncheon:** Thank you to everyone who helped with and/or attended this wonderful event! Brenda and Bruce Blair (our speakers) want me this message along, "I want to say a big THANK YOU to the women of Cross of Christ for having us speand AND for all the donations, both money and items for our Sierra Leone

teachers/school. We were not expecting the huge amount of donations. That is one suitcase full right there! You ladies were awesome!

**If you would like to send a monetary donation to support the remodeling of the old church into a new school go to this website [www.fosalone.org](http://www.fosalone.org) Click on donate the Passion Learning Initiative.**

**The 13th Triennial Gathering** is scheduled for July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is "I am Worthy". Check it out at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page> you can register on the website if you wish to attend. Janet, Doris, Tracy, Kelley, and Julie have completed the early registration. We will travel by charter bus.

**Graduate Recognition:** We will be hosting the recognition for this year's graduates from high school or post-secondary school on May 31<sup>st</sup>. Coffee fellowship after church service. Cam Peterson and Gabe Durham are the high school graduates we are aware of. **Please let Julie know if there are any post-secondary graduates that should be included in this celebration.**

**Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, May 7, 12:00-6:00 pm & Friday, May 8, 8:30 am-2:30 pm**

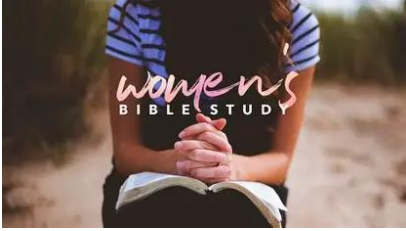
**Graduation Recognition: Sunday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**

**The 13th Triennial Gathering:** July 16-19, 2026, in Des Moines, Iowa.

*Officers: President: Julie Schreifels Secretary: Joan Slingsby  
Treasurer: Jean Kehren*

**Julie Schreifels** cell phone: 507-990-7024 email  
[hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)

## WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible study will meet on **Tuesday May 12th** in Dahlen Hall at 9:00. We'll gather in Dahlen Hall to complete our study on generosity, "*There's a Wideness in God's Mercy.*" Bring your ideas/ suggestions for what you would like to "dive into" next!

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### Cross of Christ Council Meeting Minutes April 14, 2026

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

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

The meeting agenda was approved with amendments, and the March meeting minutes were approved as written.

### Unfinished Business

\* **Pastor's Report**-Pastor provided a written report in his absence. The report was a summary of activities Pastor has been involved in, including the new bible study at Tinta Wita and working with the Worship and Music Committee to narrow the scope of the A/V improvement project. Upcoming events include Confirmation Sunday on May 10 and the kickoff of the Service and Witness Committee's Vision and Vitality task force. Pastor also mentioned a potential for some upcoming PTO needs.

**\*Accessibility Task Force** - No updates at this time. This agenda item has been added as a placeholder. Activities will begin following the Dahlen Hall exterior project.

**\*Dahlen Hall Exterior** – The task force will be reviewing all the bids that have been received and will bring a recommendation to Council at its May meeting with a congregational vote on the project by the end of May. A fundraising plan will be created following a positive vote by the congregation.

### **New Business**

\* May Council person: May will be shared among Nemcek, Nelson, Gustafson and Schreifels

### **Committee Reports**

\*Finance – Council reviewed a rough report, but final reports will be forthcoming as Clergy Financial Resources works through some additional clarification. Tithely will be set up this month, and by the end of May any congregants currently using Simply Giving to give electronically will have to transition to the new system. The church secretary will offer assistance to anyone needing help. Council approved a one-time \$250 compensation to Deanna Gehloff for the additional hours spent getting the church's bookkeeping and payroll moved over to CFR.

\*Property Management – Council discussed investigating options to provide better lighting in the steps from the Narthex to the basement. A lithium-powered motion light may be a good option. Darwin Fox will get bids for crack sealing and seal coating the driveway and parking lot. Crack sealing is crucial, seal coating should also be done to ensure the longevity of the asphalt.

\*Worship & Music – The committee reviewed bids for A/V installation. Considering moving to a hymn of the month format.

\*Learning & Youth – Confirmation Sunday will be May 10<sup>th</sup>. The banquet for confirmands and their families will be on May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 3-6. May 3 is the last day of Sunday School.

\*Service & Witness – The committee is kicking off its Vision and Vitality task force and is looking for volunteers. The goal is to establish 1-2 ministry priorities for the congregation to pursue beginning in 2027.

\*Missions – Granola bars are being collected in the narthex.

\*Stewardship – No updates at this meeting.

\*Personnel – No updates this meeting.

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

The next meeting will be on May 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Gustafson  
Council Secretary

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