



## Country Chronicles October 2025

Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA

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*When the sun came shining, and I was strolling,  
And the wheat fields waving and the dust clouds rolling,  
As the fog was lifting a voice was chanting:  
This land was made for you and me.  
-Woodie Guthrie*

This past week I spent a few days at the Spent Dandelion Retreat Center in Two Harbors, Minnesota. While there I spent a day exploring a couple of state parks along the Northshore. As many of you know, that rugged coastline has an ethereal, transcendental power. It is for me a window back in time, standing on billion-year-old rock, looking over cliffs, tens of thousands of years old, carved and pressed and lifted by glaciers long since retreated. I think of the Ojibwe people and their long history with the land, searching for manoomin, and finding it here in the Northlands. That is “food on the water” or what we know as wild rice. There were of course the fur trappers and voyageurs an early connection between the old world and the new giving rise to many of the French place names and surnames we see today. I am struck by the gigantic ore docks and freighters, some active some long abandoned, carrying countless tons of taconite ore to steel mills far away.

In such places you feel so small. What am I in the grand sweep of countless millennia and the ceaseless march of time and

history? Yet if we are attentive, if we feel, sense, listen; if we take the time to be quiet there is also connection. If we are present, we perceive we are a part of this thing that is so much larger than ourselves.

These past few days I thought of these words written by Woodie Guthrie. They are words I sang out of our grade school song book back in the day. I thought they were nice at the time but now I feel they take on a heightened relevance, an urgency. When so much is unraveling and falling apart, when grace, understanding and nuance is such a scarce commodity, these words perhaps feel hopelessly naïve.

Yet I can't help but feel that if we are to understand one another, to let go of the fear and anxiety that stokes our anger and rage we must be attentive to Guthrie's words. I think this does two things. First, it cannot fail to humble us. They remind us of how small we are and how foolish our pretensions, judgements, strident attitudes can be. Second, it grounds us. It reminds us that each of us are created in the image of God, that we are fearfully and wonderfully made. The land upon which we stand, upon which we live and work and cultivate and build and develop and dream was made for us, for you, AND for your neighbor. God lovingly and carefully crafted a bounteous and beautiful creation of which we get to be a part. We have but a small verse in the grand sweep of cosmic history, but we get a verse. There is something about standing on rock that is incomprehensibly old that has been created and carved over hundreds of millions of years looking out over an inland sea tens of thousands of years in the making, there is something that can't help but make me feel, make me yearn, for wholeness, for peace in my heart, for peace in our communities, for peace in our country. This is not just some hippy dippy milk toast peace but one that lives into the promise that this land, this creation, in all that it has been and will be, is made for you, just as it was made for me.

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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## **Brewed Theology**

Brewed theology is back! In our next session we will be discussing “Self-Help”. **We will meet at the parsonage on Tuesday October 21st at 6:30 PM.**

You are welcome to bring your beverage of choice and any snacks you may want to share. Also, if you’d like to read or watch some of the source material in advance of our discussion or can’t make the discussion but still want to learn more, please contact Pastor CJ and he can pass on a PDF list and discussion guide. You can still participate fully in the study without the “homework” so just showing up that night is just fine as well! We hope to see you there!

## **Living Well, Finishing Strong**

The Stewardship committee has organized event for **Wednesday October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5 PM** for those wishing to engage in conversation about living the final third of their life with purpose and intention.

We have invited Tharan Leopold from the ELCA

Foundation to discuss end-of-life financial planning and align your bequests with your passions and interest within the congregation and/or associated ministries in the larger

church. We will also have a representative named Dana Bergner from Three Rivers Community Action to talk about how to take proactive steps to age in place and to highlight the various senior care services available in the area. Finally, a representative from Mahn’s funeral home will walk through funeral and memorial service arrangements.

The event is free, with a light meal will be provided courtesy of Mahn’s. Please spread the word and be sure to **RSVP by**

**Wednesday October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Information for registration is on the flyer. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to think about your legacy and steward the last third of your life with purpose and intention. We hope to see you there!



## Women's Connection Event at Potter Ridge!

The women's connection met on Tuesday, September 23 at Potter Ridge. There were 12 women who joined the event. We were greeted by the director, who gave us a tour and overview of Potter Ridge. We then joined the residence and

played bingo! We ended our event at Shirley Hanson's apartment with devotions, apple, crisp and fellowship.



## Women's Connection Group Looking Forward



The WCG plans to fully support **Taste of Welch on October 11**, a community outreach event.

Ways to Get Involved:

- ☐ Share Your Talents: We invite you to utilize your gifts of baking, gardening, or crafting to contribute to this special occasion.
- ☐ Easy Drop-Off: Please bring any items for donation to Dahlen Hall the evening before the event. This will help with our setup and ensure everything is ready for our guests.
- ☐ Invite Others: Taste of Welch is the perfect opportunity to invite a friend or neighbor to join you for a delicious homemade lunch and experience the warmth of our church community.

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## Cannon River News

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

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### Attendance

|                            |    |
|----------------------------|----|
| September 7 <sup>th</sup>  | 21 |
| September 14 <sup>th</sup> | 13 |
| September 21 <sup>st</sup> | 11 |
| September 28 <sup>th</sup> |    |

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### Financial Report

|                     | Income          | Expenses        | Net               |
|---------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| Jan                 | \$2,060         | \$3,702         | (\$1,642)         |
| Feb                 | \$2,365         | \$4,067         | (\$1,702)         |
| Mar                 | \$2,920         | \$5,901         | (\$2,981)         |
| Apr                 | \$3,485         | \$3,361         | \$123             |
| May                 | \$2,255         | \$3,215         | (\$960)           |
| June                | \$3,300         | \$6,629         | (\$3,329)         |
| July                | \$1,590         | \$3,718         | (\$2,128)         |
| Aug                 | \$2,988         | \$3,850         | (\$862)           |
| <b>Year to Date</b> | <b>\$20,863</b> | <b>\$34,381</b> | <b>(\$13,518)</b> |

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### Cannon River Harvest Festival

Cannon River will hold its Harvest Festival brunch on **Sunday, October 19th, starting at 8:00am**. Please bring a dish to share; beverages will be provided. Worship in the basement will follow at 9:00am.



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### Council Rotation-October

|                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| October 5 <sup>th</sup> --- Barb    | October 12 <sup>th</sup> --- David |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> --- Robert | October 26 <sup>th</sup> --- Ellen |

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Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
September 11, 2025

The Cannon River Church Council met on September 11, 2025, at Cannon River Lutheran Church prior to a joint meeting with Cross of Christ.

Members present were Les Anderson, Ellen Hartman, Robert Klahr, David Fremouw, John Niebur, Barbara Flynn, Rick Anderson and Pastor CJ.

Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Hartman.

Devotions will be given at the joint meeting.

Meeting minutes from July 10, 2025, were read and approved. July and August treasurer's reports were read and approved.

**PASTORS REPORT:**

Website – On-line giving will be run through VANCO. Rick Anderson will be the administrator.

Brewed Theology will be held 09/16/25 at 6:30pm at the parsonage.

A program called “Aging Well” will be presented by Three Rivers and the funeral home on October 22, 2025, focusing on stewardship. Deadline for registering is October 15.

Confirmation for the 2025 -2026 class will be held in conjunction with Red Wing churches.

Pastor's retreat 09/24/25 – 09/26/25.

Pastor looking into another Hops and Hymns for December.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Ellen and Rick are in the process of adding Ellen Hartman as an additional signor on the church's main checking account at First Farmers.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Gravel for parking lot was donated by Schumacher Excavating to repair damage caused by equipment while doing road repairs.

Rick Anderson will contact Mark Niebur to spray weeds.

Harvest Festival will be held October 19, 2025, at Coffee Church.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting to be held on October 9, 2025, at 5:30 pm at Cannon River.

Respectfully submitted,  
Barbara Flynn

## 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 October 2025

### Readers

|                          |                                       |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| October 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Doris Gruber                          |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> | Rhonda Meyer                          |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Coffee Church no reader needed</b> |
| October 26 <sup>th</sup> | <b>Contemporary Service</b>           |

### Greeters

|                          |                                                          |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|
| October 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Bob & Sandy Luhman                                       |
| October 12 <sup>th</sup> | Jim Gustafson                                            |
| October 19 <sup>th</sup> | Dennis & Jackie Martin<br>(Coffee Church in Dahlen Hall) |
| October 26 <sup>th</sup> | Jean Kehren                                              |

### Altar Committee

|                       |        |
|-----------------------|--------|
| Oct. 5 <sup>th</sup>  | Kelley |
| Oct. 12 <sup>th</sup> | Cathy  |
| Oct. 19 <sup>th</sup> | Joan   |
| Oct. 26 <sup>th</sup> | Millie |

### Council Person

Anthony Nemcek

### October Ushers

Cheryl & Darwin Fox, Ken Slingsby, Duke Bjorklund

### Kitchen Person

Joan Slingsby



## **Cross of Christ Financial Update-August 2025**

Giving \$ 7,281.92

Expenses \$13,248.67

Profit/Loss - \$ 5,966.75

### Assets

Checking Account Balance \$ 36,741.87

Money Market Funds \$ 153,102.51

Trust Investment – ANIC \$ 160,093.70

Education Trust – Thrivent \$ 80,351.94

CD's – Red Wing Credit Union \$ 130,025.00

Total Assets \$ 560,315.02

~ Spent \$9,250 out of the Council Discretionary Expense (Money Market) for the garage by the parsonage to Larry Grosse.

~ Beginning Balance of the Kitchen / Accessibility Fund was:  
146,726.40

~ 10,000 to Luster on 2/20/25 for kitchen

~ \$12, 370.78 to Luster on 3/1/25 for kitchen - final  
payment

~ \$48,785 to Wood Doc for Kitchen Remodel project.

Leaving a total of : \$86,570.62

~We will be opening another fund in the Money Market for the siding of Dallen Hall - please note on your giving envelope or feel free to give extra to this Fund

Any Questions please reach out at

[crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued support! ~Emily



**Kwik Trip Cards-** Help support our Building Maintenance Fund by buying Kwik Trip scrip cards. The cards can be used to purchase anything at Kwik Trip from gas, groceries and car washes to anything else they sell. Available in \$10, \$20, \$25, \$50 and

\$100. You pay the amount of the card being purchased; the church makes 5% of the sales and another 10% for non-fuel purchases made with the cards. Contact Julie Schreifels to purchase at [hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com) or 651-388-2326. The next order will be put in on **Tuesday, October 14th** and will be available at the church by **Sunday, October 19th**. Thanks to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

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### **Coffee Church Helpers Needed**

Coffee Church continues at Cross of Christ on the Third Sundays of the month. We are asking for help with set up and cleaning up after the service. If one or two could help it would be greatly appreciated. There is a sign up sheet on the wooden table at the back of the church to sign up.

If you have any questions contact Joan Slingsby

Join us on **Sunday, October 19th** for our next Coffee Church. It starts at 10am with service beginning at 10:30am. All will be held in Dahlen Hall.

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### **Cemetery Clean Up**

Cemetery cleanup will be October 18th. We will be getting the yard ready for winter and with the weather looking so nice we have pushed this date out a couple of weeks.

Thank you!  
Ann Kulla

## 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!



Once again, the Mission Committee along with the help from members of Cross of Christ will participate in the M&M collection. These little tubes make a perfect little treat while also

making a difference in the lives of kids around the world. Each tube can fit 56 quarters, which equals \$14 and provides funding for 63 MannaPack meals!



Grab a tube from the back of the church starting on October 12<sup>th</sup>, and return it filled by November 30<sup>th</sup>.

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## Church Garage Sale



Thanks to everyone for helping with before, during and after the garage sale. A BIG thanks for helping to haul away as we did not have someone to pick up the unsold items. Thanks to Joan for cooking our dinners and for doing the lunch. The sale made \$1,044.30. We will not be doing a sale in the fall again. -Lynette

The proceeds from the sale will go towards the Dahlen Hall exterior. Thanks!

## Learning & Youth



Rally Sunday was held on **September 14<sup>th</sup>**. We introduced a full prize room, played games, had snacks and enjoyed music with Cheryl.



### Schedule

**10/05/2025 - Lesson: Faith Passed Down**

**10/12/2025 – Lesson: Jesus Heals Ten**

**10/19 and 10/28 No Sunday School**



Please remember to support Gabby and Jacob by bringing coins each Sunday.

Thanks,  
The Fox's





The next **WELCA** meeting will be on **Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will prepare for the October Blood Drive, review the Taste of Welch and distribute the proceeds. Discuss the convention and gatherings below.

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** **Our next drive is scheduled for Thursday, October 30<sup>th</sup> 12-6 p.m. AND Friday October 31<sup>st</sup> 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.

**Taste of Welch: Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 2 pm:** This is our main fundraiser each year. We will need much help to make it another great event. Please contact the following people to help with these sections: Tickets and sign up sheets for helping and providing baked goods or other items will be at the back of the sanctuary in September.

*Raffle – Kelley Mittelsteadt* – Ticket packets are available at the display in the narthex or from Kelley

*Bake Sale/Crafts- Joan Slingsby* - baked goods, items from the garden, orchard, etc., canned items, jams, jellies, relish, pickles, etc. and craft items. **Foods with nuts or other allergens need to be marked, if gluten free or dairy free please note that.** Please price any craft items that you bring. Bring your goodies from 4-8 on Friday or 8-8:45 Saturday morning. Workers will price items for consistency.

*Lunch- Julie Schreifels or Doris Gruber-* We will be making the Wild Rice Soup, Vegetable Soup, and Pulled Roast Beef at the church on Wednesday. October 8<sup>th</sup>. Starting at 9 am. Cole slaw, buns, chips, beverages, and condiments will be purchased or donated. We still need some people to help on the day of TOW *and after church on Sunday.*

**2025 SE MN Synodical Women's Org. Convention:** Sept. 27, Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca. The convention theme was “***Speak Up***” Thank you to all who donated to the collection for the Love

Offering for Bethlehem Inn of Waseca and clean white cotton sheets for the Rolled Bandage Service Project.

**2026 Cannon River Spring Event/Salad Luncheon:** We will be hosting the spring event and combining it with our annual spring salad luncheon in April 25, 2026. Bruce and Brenda Blair will be presenting the program “Village Partnership for Education” based on their mission in Sierra Leone.

**The 13th Triennial Gathering** is scheduled for July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa. The theme is “I am Worthy”. Registration is now open, see Julie Schreifels for details.

**Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, October 30, 12-6 p.m. & Friday, October 31, 8:30 am – 2:30 pm.**

**Christmas dinner: December**

**2026 Cannon River Spring Event/Salad Luncheon:** April 25, 2026, Cross of Christ

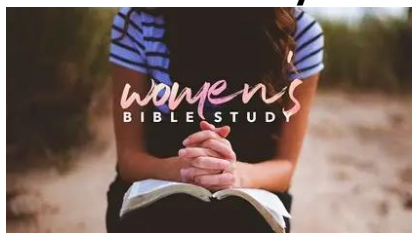
**The 13th Triennial Gathering** is scheduled for July 16-19, 2026 in Des Moines, Iowa.

***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)*

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## **WELCA Bible Study**



WELCA Bible study will meet on **Tuesday, October 14 at 9:00** in Dahlen Hall. We will continue our series of Where two or more are gathered. Session one focused on “relationships that form us.” We

will look into the book of Ruth as we discuss “relationships that sustains us” in session 2. Study guides are provided. Come join the conversation!

Cross of Christ and Cannon River Lutheran Churches  
Joint Council Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2025

*Present from Cross of Christ:* Anthony Nemcek, Jim Gustafson, Jeff Meyer, Sherril Bjornson, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Oscar Daley, and Pastor CJ Boettcher. Absent: Ross Nelson

*Present from Cannon River:* Ellen Hartman, John Niebur, Robert Klahr, Barbara Flynn and Rick Anderson, Cannon River Treasurer. Absent: Les Anderson, David Fremouw

Meeting was called to order by Ellen Hartman.

Anthony Nemcek was appointed as Secretary for the meeting.

Pastor CJ offered devotions from the 15<sup>th</sup> chapter of Luke.

### **Unfinished Business**

\* **Pastor's Report** - Pastor CJ's report included information related to the start of confirmation, continuing Coffee Church, and the Brewed Theology series. Pastor also mentioned a stewardship event to be held on October 22 with representatives from Mahn Family Funeral Home, Three Rivers Senior Care Services, and the ELCA Investment Foundation. The goal of the event is to encourage seniors to plan and steward their golden years with purpose.

\* **Parsonage Utilities** – Context was provided related to the sharing of certain costs toward the parsonage. Historically, while a pastor resided in the parsonage, Cannon River contributed 22% of the cost of utilities (gas and electric). Additionally, members from Cannon River gave their labor toward various improvement projects.

A **motion** was made by Anthony Nemcek and **seconded** by Darwin Fox to craft a Memorandum of Understanding that will define the responsibilities of the two churches related to the cost sharing of gas and electric utilities. The MOU will be approved and executed by both councils before the end of the year. The **motion** was carried. Pastor CJ will check if the Synod has any templates for an MOU to use as a starting point.

### **New Business**

- \* Cannon River's Harvest Breakfast will take place on October 19.
- \* Cross of Christ's Harvest Festival will take place on November 16.

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

The next meeting will be on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anthony Nemcek

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Cross of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 11, 2025

Present: Anthony Nemcek, Jim Gustafson, Jeff Meyer, Sherril Bjornson, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Oscar Daley, and Pastor CJ Boettcher. Absent: Ross Nelson

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

The meeting agenda and the August meeting minutes were approved as written.

### **Unfinished Business**

\* **Pastor's Report** - Pastor CJ's report included information related to the start of confirmation, continuing Coffee Church, and the Brewed Theology series. Pastor also mentioned a stewardship event to be held on October 22 with representatives from Mahn Family Funeral Home, Three Rivers Senior Care Services, and the ELCA Investment Foundation. The goal of the event is to encourage seniors to plan and steward their golden years with purpose.

\* **Dahlen Hall Exterior** – The siding was replaced on the detached garage, and the work was done well and on budget. Oscar Daley will get a bid from that business to include with the others received to replace the siding on Dahlen Hall.



## **New Business**

\* October Council person: Anthony Nemcek, help is needed on 10/5 and 10/19. Anthony is happy to swap or step in during other's months in exchange.

## **Committee Reports**

\*Finance – Finance committee and the financial secretary are working on the formatting of reports and ensuring that the funding for different projects is being reflected in the appropriate fund categories.

\*Property Management – Oscar Daley provided an update of the garage exterior project. The area was graded to move water around and away from the structure. Seed has been laid. Oscar will reach out to a tree service to replace trees that were removed recently. Pest Arrest is taking over pest control for the church.

\*Worship & Music – The committee is meeting on September 28<sup>th</sup> to pick hymns through the end of the year. A musical duo, Weber / St. John will be performing on 11/2 at 2:00 p.m. More info about these musicians can be found at [weberstjohn.com](http://weberstjohn.com).

\*Learning and Youth – Sunday school starting on 9/13 with Rally Sunday. Confirmation has begun. Like last year, Cross of Christ is collaborating with United Lutheran.

\*Stewardship – The stewardship committee is coordinating the October 22 event with the representatives of Mahn Funeral Home, ELCA Investment Foundation, and Three Rivers Senior Care. Harvest Festival will occur on November 16. Dedication/Memorial of the Dahlen Hall renovations will take place during Harvest Festival.

\*Personnel – No updates this meeting.

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

The next meeting will be on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Gustafson  
Council Secretary

## Storage Garage Renovated

Renovations were recently completed to the church's storage garage, which had fallen into disrepair.

Before the new siding and windows could be installed, a landscape project which directed the flow of rainwater away from the garage was necessary.

Oscar Daley removed a substantial amount of dirt from the west and



south sides and placed it over the clay dirt which had filled in the former backstop area. An ash tree stump needed to be reground due to the lower grade. Luhman Construction did the finish grading. The areas were dragged smooth, and Niebur Tractor donated the use of a small tractor



and lawn seeder. Thanks to job coordinator Oscar Daley, Brett Zimmerman and Kelly Daley for their work. Following completion of the landscape project, repairs were made to the structure, new metal siding and windows were installed by the contractor.





# **34th Annual Taste of Welch**

Bake Sale

Lunch

Homemade Chicken Wild Rice Soup

Homemade Vegetable Soup

Roast Beef Sandwiches    Coleslaw

Assorted Desserts

Hot and Cold Beverages

Raffle Quilt Many other items including  
Gift Cards and Gift Certificates

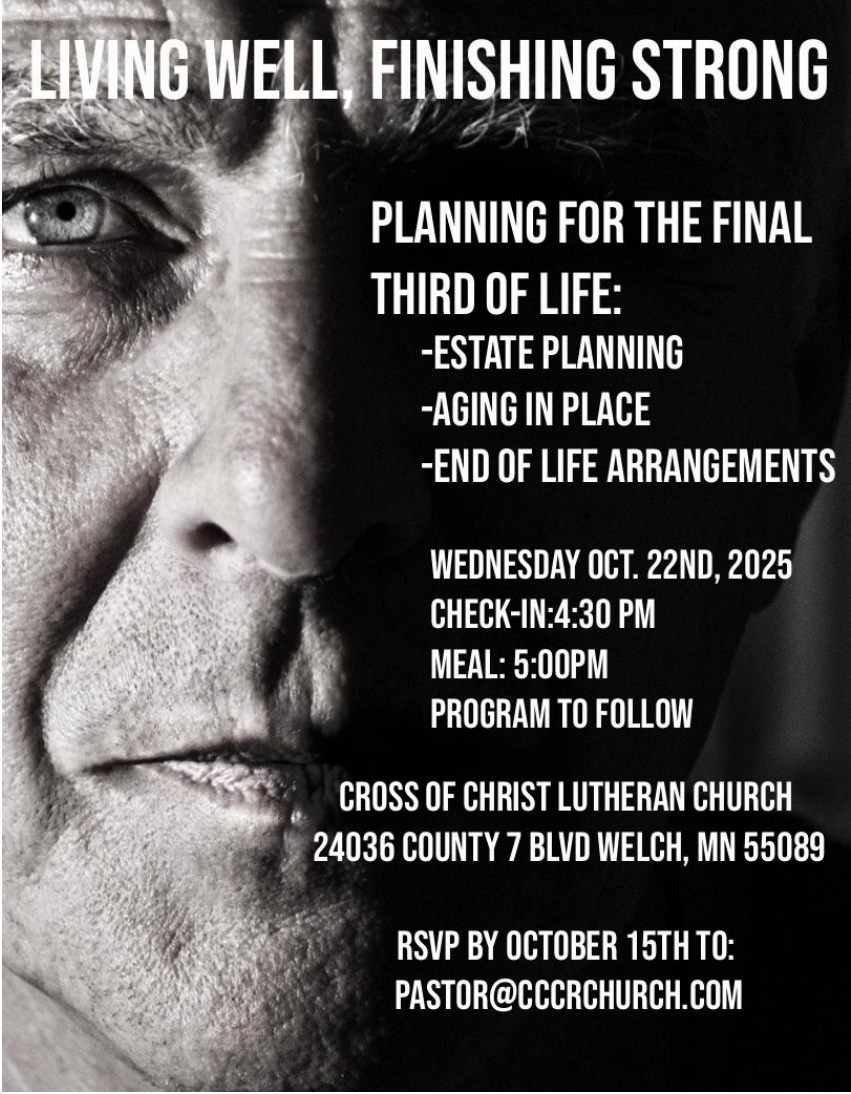
Sign up for FREE drawings!  
Some Crafts available

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church  
24036 Co. Rd. 7 Blvd., Welch, MN

**Saturday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025**  
9:00am – 2:00pm

Partially funded by a  
Thrivent Action Grant





# **LIVING WELL, FINISHING STRONG**

## **PLANNING FOR THE FINAL THIRD OF LIFE:**

- ESTATE PLANNING**
- AGING IN PLACE**
- END OF LIFE ARRANGEMENTS**

**WEDNESDAY OCT. 22ND, 2025**

**CHECK-IN: 4:30 PM**

**MEAL: 5:00 PM**

**PROGRAM TO FOLLOW**

**CROSS OF CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH  
24036 COUNTY 7 BLVD WELCH, MN 55089**

**RSVP BY OCTOBER 15TH TO:  
PASTOR@CCCRCHURCH.COM**