



## Country Chronicles July 2026

Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA

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*<sup>14</sup> But how are they to call on one in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in one of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone to proclaim him? <sup>15</sup> And how are they to proclaim him unless they are sent? As it is written, ‘How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!’ <sup>16</sup> But not all have obeyed the good news,<sup>[a]</sup> for Isaiah says, ‘Lord, who has believed our message?’ <sup>17</sup> So faith comes from what is heard, and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.*

*-Romans 10:14-17*

This past month we opened our Vision and Vitality taskforce meeting at Cross of Christ with this text. In the discussion we noticed that the Apostle Paul is calling God’s people to proclamation but also to movement. Quoting Isaiah he says “*How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news*”. It is an important thing to consider in our work as we explore what it means for Cross of Christ to be a “lasting presence” in this time and in this place. What does it look like to proclaim the good news not merely inside our walls and on our grounds but amongst our neighbors and our communities?

So often in churches as well as other organizations we think in terms of “how do we keep this thing going another year/decade etc.?” Certainly, thinking ahead and concerning ourselves with longevity is important. However, we often fall into the trap of making the means for ministry the ends themselves.

After all, success is often measured by attendance graphs and balance sheets. We become tied up in preserving the institution for its own sake while neglecting the “why”. *Why* does this congregation exist and how does God want us to leverage our assets and resources to do God’s work? Where is God guiding our feet? Who will we meet and what is God up to in those meetings? These are questions worth asking at both of our congregations now as ever. Even in this fallow time of summer vacations and recreation I pray that we as God’s people can ponder this question anew.

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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## July Women's Connection Event

What: Potluck Birthday Celebration

When: **Sunday July 26th** after  
Church

Why: Come celebrate the 250th  
Birthday of the United States and

Everyone's Birthday.

All are welcome. Cake and beverages will be provided.

Games will be played (*cards, board games, ect. If nice outside with outdoor games.*)

So bring a dish to share and come celebrate your birthday.

Contact Yvonne Nelson or Kelley Mittelsteadt if you have questions.



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# Cannon River News

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

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## Attendance

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	22
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	14
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	14
June 28 <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)
April	\$4,055	\$3,548	\$506
May	\$3,028	\$3,366	(\$338)
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$14,336</b>	<b>\$22,315</b>	<b>(\$7,979)</b>

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## Coffee Church

Join us for Coffee Church on  
**Sunday, July 19th** Fellowship will  
start at 8am and service at 9am.  
Hope you can join us.



## July Council Rotation

July 5<sup>th</sup> -Les    July 12<sup>th</sup> -John  
July 19<sup>th</sup> -Barb    July 26<sup>th</sup> - David

Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Church Council Meeting  
June 11, 2026

The Cannon River Church Council met on June 11, 2026, at 5:00 pm at Cannon River. Members present were Les Anderson, Ellen Hartman, David Fremouw, John Niebur and Barbara Flynn.

Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Hartman.

April 14, 2026, Secretary's report was reviewed and approved.

Treasurer's reports from April and May 2026 were reviewed and approved.

**PASTORS REPORT:**

Pastor CJ is on vacation, so no report was available.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The stack pipe has been fixed, and the pressure tank will be replaced this week. Since these unexpected repairs have not been budgeted, they will be paid for by investments. Motion made and seconded.

Rick Anderson has been working with Cross of Christ on the split expenses and progress has been made.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The 2007 Cannon River cookbooks will be available for sale at \$10.00 each.

We scheduled the annual potluck and bonfire at Cannon River. The date will be 08/01/26. Potluck is at 6:00, an outdoor service at 7:00 and the bonfire follows, weather permitting.

**NEXT MEETING:**

Next meeting to be held on August 13, 2026, at 5:00 at Cannon River.

Respectfully submitted,

Barbara Flynn

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**Second Annual Joint Outdoor Worship  
Cross of Christ and Cannon River**



Join us on **Saturday, August 1<sup>st</sup>** for our second annual joint outdoor worship at Cannon River Church.

Both congregations will gather for a potluck meal starting at 6pm, with worship at 7pm, followed by a bonfire in the parking lot. Please bring a potluck item and a lawn chair. Plates, silverware and beverages will be provided.

Potluck and worship will be held indoors if there is rain.

Church address: 10960 280th Street,  
Cannon Falls.



**Note: no worship service on Sunday, August 2nd at either congregation.**

Hope you can join us!

# 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 July 2026

## Readers

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Anthony Nemcek
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contemporary Service</b>

## Greeters

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Fjetland
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Oscar & Janet Daley
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Joan Slingsby
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley Mittelsteadt

## Altar Committee

July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley
July 12 <sup>th</sup>	Cathy
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	Joan
July 26 <sup>th</sup>	Kelley

## Council Person

Anthony Nemcek

## July Ushers

Jim Gustafson, Pat Fox, Ann Kulla, Kelley Mittelsteadt

## Kitchen Person

Janet Daley

## June Attendance

June 7 <sup>th</sup>	47	June 14 <sup>th</sup>	31
June 21 <sup>st</sup>	22	June 28 <sup>th</sup>	15

## 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)

### Thrivent Choice Dollars



If you are a Thrivent member, you can now direct your choice dollars at any time throughout the year. No need to wait, **those funds are available now.** Please consider Cross of Christ when directing funds. Head on over to [Thrivent Choice | Thrivent](#) and click on “Direct Choice Dollars”

Cross of Christ received \$2,277 in 2025.

Thank you for your continued support to Cross of Christ.

### 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.

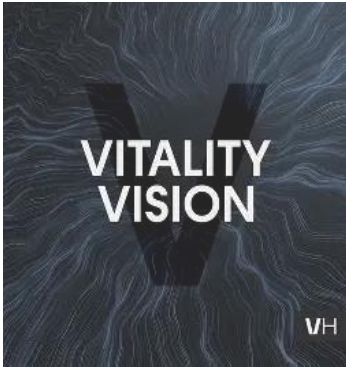
<https://give.tithe.ly/?formId=e8c862d8-2f30-4c52-b57e-e04ebe8e66e0>



Thank you!

Deanna

## Vision and Vitality: A Progress Update



The Vision and Vitality Task Force met on June 24th, to continue discerning where God is calling our congregation in this season. Pastor CJ opened our time with devotions based on Romans 10:14-17, helping us center our conversation in faith, prayer, and listening.

We assessed the Mission Planning document handed out at the prior meeting and selected the parts most useful for our church. From there, we developed a high-level plan for the next six months. Our sister church, Cannon River, will be invited to join us on this important journey.

Our seven-person team also identified community leaders we will interview one-on-one so we can better understand community needs and opportunities. In September, the congregation will be invited to a meal where we will ask together: What is God calling us to be about in this place, at this time?

Pastor CJ will continue helping us ground this work in prayer and reflection, both privately and within the congregation(s), so we can stay focused on what God is saying to us. Please keep the task force, our leaders, and our congregation in your prayers as this work continues.

Our next meeting is scheduled for **July 15 at 6pm** – anyone is welcome and participate!



**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, July 5th** and will be available at the church by Sunday, July 12th. 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**

We had a great collection in June for pasta, that will be going to hungry families at the local food shelves.



**In July we will collect condiments.** Thank you in advance for supporting this mission.

## Learning & Youth

We will see you all in the fall for Sunday school.

Keep collecting your coins for Gabby and Jake throughout the summer.



The next **WELCA meeting** will be on **Wednesday, JULY 22 6:30 pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will review the Triennial Gathering, discuss Taste of Welch



**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Our next drive is scheduled for **Thursday, July 2 8:30 am–2:30 pm.** *One day only this time.* Schedule your appointment at [redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) , 800-

REDCROSS or use your blood ap. [welchmn](http://welchmn.com) to schedule an appointment. Thanks to all of our donors and volunteers.

**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 registered. We will travel by cars.

**Planning for the Taste of Welch has begun!** Kim Chandler has graciously donated a beautiful tied quilt from her mother. IF you have items to donate to the raffle contact Kelley Mittelsteadt by Sept. 1 if possible. Let Julie know if you are willing to help with anything (advertising, set up, BAKE Sale Items, craft items, help the day of TOW). At this point

the lunch menu will remain the same: chicken wild rice soup, vegetable soup, roast beef sandwiches, chips, desserts, and beverages.

### **Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Thursday, July 2, 8:30 am–2:30 pm**

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

**Taste of Welch:** October 10, 9am – 2 pm

*Officers: President: Julie Schreifels Secretary: Joan Slingsby*

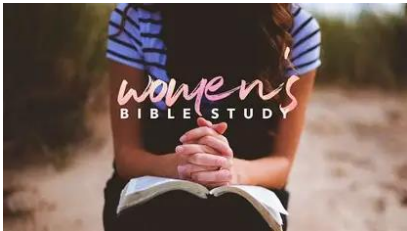
*Treasurer: Jean Kehren*

*Julie Schreifels cell phone: 507-990-7024 email*

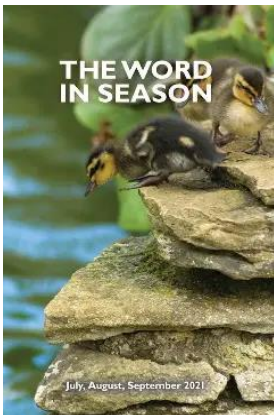
[hjschreif@live.com](mailto:hjschreif@live.com)

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## **WELCA Bible Study**



WELCA Bible study decided to pause for the summer months. We will start again in September.



The next quarterly devotional book called: *“The Word in Season”* is now available in the narthex of the church. Pick up your FREE copy next time you’re in church.

Cross of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
June 9, 2026

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

The meeting was called to order by Darwin Fox and the mission statement was read.

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

**Unfinished Business**

- \* **Accessibility Task Force** – No updates at this time. This agenda item has been added as a placeholder. Activities will begin following completion of the Dahlen Hall exterior project.
- \* **Dahlen Hall Exterior** – A congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 14th, to accept the bid received from ABC Seamless/Dubois Design and Remodeling. River Falls, WI, and proceed with the project.

**New Business**

- \* July Council Person: Anthony Nemcek
- \* August Council Person: Jim Gustafson

**Committee Reports**

- \* Finance – Council reviewed the financial reports for the month of May received from Clergy Financial Resources.
- \* Property Management – No items.
- \* Worship & Music – Jeff Rudi submitted a request to attend Getty Music’s “Sing! Symphony of Scripture” music conference in Nashville, TN, September 7 -9, 2026.

The conference brings together more than 7,000 pastors, worship leaders and musicians.

**Motion made and seconded to approve Jeff's conference attendance at an estimated cost of \$2,150. (Cost includes registration, airfare, food, lodging and rental car.) Motion passed.**

\* Learning & Youth – No items.

\* Service & Witness – No Items.

\* Missions – Various items of pasta will be collected during the month of June for local food shelves.

\* Stewardship – A committee meeting will be held in July.

\* Personnel – No items.

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

The next meeting will be August 11th at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
James Gustafson  
Council Secretary

Cross of Christ  
Congregational Meeting Minutes  
June 14, 2026

The Congregational Meeting was called to order, by Council President Anthony Nemcek, immediately following worship service.

The express purpose of the meeting was to review and vote on the council's recommend bid for re-siding Dahlen Hall.

The Mission Statement was read, and a quorum was declared with thirty voting members.

Deanna Gehloff was appointed secretary for the meeting.

Ann Kulla and Darwin Fox were appointed tellers.

A summary of the proposed Dahlen Hall exterior work was distributed and contained the following information:

Contractor: ABC Seamless/Dubois Design and Remodeling, River Falls, WI.

Scope of work:

- \* Install custom, seamless steel siding
- \*Remove and dispose of existing
- \*Install house wrap
- \*Install aluminum soffit and fascia and trim two windows
- \*Install band board on the gables
- \*Install steel gutters and downspouts
- \*Remove/dispose chimney and re-shingle/frame rood area

Work includes lifetime material warranty and 10-year labor warranty.

Total cost: \$44,830 plus building permit fee and electrician work to install security light on south side of Dahlen Hall.

Current Dahlen Hall fund balance: \$23,434.41 (\$21,295.59)

A brief discussion was held regarding the project and bid.

Ballots were handed out and a congregational vote was conducted that passed unanimously in moving forward with the project.

It was noted that the project would be completed this summer, with a possible start date as early as June 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The remaining balance will come out of the Building and Grounds fund, with more donations coming in to replenishing that fund.

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

**-Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Gehloff  
Parish Secretary

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Want to contribute to the Dahlen Hall siding project? Scan the QR code and select “Dahlen Hall Fund”. If you are already signed



up with Tithe.ly, simply log-in and make a contribution to the “Dahlen Hall Fund”

Thank you to those who have already contributed to this project.

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