



Country Chronicles November 2025

Cannon River and
Cross of Christ Lutheran
Parish, ELCA

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
-1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

I recently had a conversation with my therapist Maddie about the competing demands of life and my propensity to feel overwhelmed by it and honestly to feel pretty grumpy about it. You probably know the feeling, I HAVE to go here, I HAVE to go there, then do this, then that, JUMP in the shower, RUN to the store, GRAB a quick bite to eat. We know we should slow down, and maybe sometimes that's possible. Yet, our busy lives don't always allow for pauses in particularly hectic seasons.

Maddie acknowledged this and suggested a subtle reframing. Instead of saying "I have to do..." instead say "I get to do...". In moment that makes you grumpy and frustrated or overwhelmed there is an opportunity to think about it differently. You have an expensive house to heat? You also GET to live in a house and one that has heat. You have so many errands to run? You GET to enjoy the benefits of your own transportation and resources to provide for yourself. As I said it's small, but it can take the edge off the negativity and the grumpy resentful feedback loop.

This isn't to say you can't or shouldn't feel overwhelmed, frustrated, exhausted or resentful. Those are real feelings that can't simply be brushed aside by a clever word trick or new age mantra. However, it can contextualize your situation and right size your frustration and perhaps make it more bearable. We can't always choose our circumstances, but we can choose how we think about it and how we respond.

As we enter the final month of the Fall season and look toward Thanksgiving, I think this sort of frame is incredibly useful in a world that feels like it's spinning out of control. Despite all the things I HAVE to do or think about, what is it that I GET to do or cherish? I HAVE to put a meal together for my family, but I also GET to share in the abundance of food and relations present in my life. It can be a tall order to give thanks in all circumstances as Paul urges in the passage above. But he's not naïve, thinking there is nothing to give us real cause for hopelessness or despair. Rather, his call is to reframe, to make sure that we are just as clear eyed about God's promises and abundance as we are about the difficulties that lie before us. We HAVE to do or endure many things in our lives, but we also GET to do and experience many wonderful things as well, sometimes in the very same moment. Such is the complexity of life and a life lived in gratitude. Thanks be to God for all those things I GET to do!

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

Brewed Theology

Brewed theology is back! In our next session we will be discussing “Church & Politics. Jesus: Democrat or Republican?”. We will meet at the parsonage on **November 18th 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!

Harmony in Faith Concert

Join us at Cross of Christ today, **Sunday, November 2nd at 2pm** for the ***Harmony in Faith Concert*** performed by Kurt Weber and Ash St John. They specialize in hymn arrangements, and they see their music as a way to serve Jesus and bring joy to others. It is their joy to share their gift whenever and wherever they can. Hope you can join us!

Women’s Connection Group Looking Forward



The Women’s Connection group extends an invitation to members of our congregations including our confirmation students and the students from United Lutheran on **November 12th 6:30 p.m.** Come hear Welch residents, Bruce and Brenda Blair, tell the story about their 10 years of work in

the village of Mondema Sierra Leone West Africa. Their multimedia presentation will highlight educational system struggles and review cultural, religious, economic and government challenges.

Refreshments will be served. Come join us and invite a friend!

Cannon River News

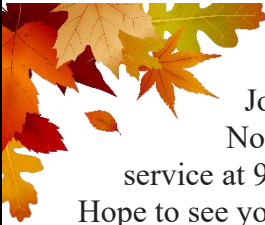
Faith and Family first, helping others along the way.

Attendance

October 5 th	11
October 12 th	12
October 19 th	16
October 26 th	11

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)
Sept	\$9,635	\$6,307	\$3,327
Year to Date	\$30,498	\$40,689	(\$10,191)



Coffee Church at Cannon River

Join us for Coffee Church on Sunday,
November 16th starting at 8:00AM, with
service at 9:00AM. Bring an item to share.
Hope to see you there!



Council Rotation-November

November 2nd --- Les November 9th --- John
November 16th --- Barb November 23rd --- David
November 30th --- Robert

Cannon River Lutheran Church
Church Council Meeting
October 9, 2025

The Cannon River Church Council met on October 9, 2025, at Cannon River Lutheran Church. Members present were Les Anderson, Ellen Hartman, David Fremouw, John Niebur, Barbara Flynn and Pastor CJ.

Meeting was called to order by President Ellen Hartman. Pastor CJ gave Devotions.

Meeting minutes from September 11, 2025, were read and approved. September treasurer's report was read and approved.

PASTORS REPORT:

Pastor had to re-do the website. Pastor looking into another Hops and Hymns for December. Pastor will be working PT on Thursday, October 16 and Friday, October 17. Pastor will be attending the Fall Theology Conference in Onalaska on Sunday, October 19 through Tuesday, October 22, 2025

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.

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

NEW BUSINESS:

No new business.

NEXT MEETING:

Next meeting to be held on December 11, 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 November 2025

Readers

November 2 nd	Doris Gruber
November 9 th	Mary Fjetland
November 16 th	OPEN-Reader Needed
November 23 rd	Contemporary Service
November 30 th	Joan Singsby

Greeters

November 2 nd	OPEN
November 9 th	Kelley Mittelsteadt
November 16 th	OPEN
November 23 rd	Doris Gruber
November 30 th	OPEN

Altar Committee

Nov. 2nd	Kelley
Nov. 9th	Cathy
Nov. 16th	Joan
Nov. 23rd	Millie
Nov. 30th	Kelley

Council Person

Ross Nelson

November Ushers

Jim Gustafson, Pat Fox, Kelley Mittelsteadt, Millie Niebeling

Kitchen Person

Jean Kehren

Cross of Christ Financial Update

Any Questions please reach out at

crossofchristreasurer@gmail.com

Thank you for your continued support! ~Emily



Kwik Trip Cards-These make great stocking stuffers!

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 or 651-388-2326. The next order will be put in on **Tuesday, November 11th** and will be available at the church by **Sunday, November 23rd**. Thanks to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

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!



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 and return it filled by November 30th.

Learning & Youth



In October, we had some substitutes fill in for the Fox Family. Thank you, Joan and Cheryl, for taking on the Sunday School tasks while we were gone! We finished off October with some lessons

and some school breaks/Sunday School breaks. We hope everyone enjoyed this extra time with family this fall.

Schedule

11/02/2025 - Fall - O - Ween Jesus - Costumes welcome.

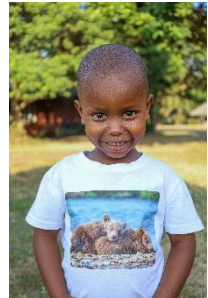
11/09/2025 - Lesson: The Sadducees Question - ***Sing in Church***

11/16/2025 - Lesson: Working Together

11/23/2025 - Lesson: King on the Cross



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



Thanks,
The Fox's



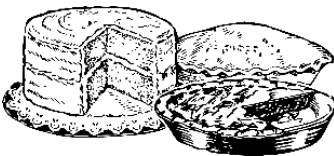
The next **WELCA** meeting will be on **Wednesday, November 12th 7:00pm. Dahlen Hall.** We will prepare for the October Blood Drive, review the Taste of Welch and distribute the proceeds. Discuss the convention and gatherings below.

Taste of Welch: The Taste of Welch was a great success again this year!! We made a good profit and distributed \$2050 to various charitable organizations. ***Thank you to all who contributed to this event!***

2025 SE MN Synodical Women's Org. Convention: Four of us attended this event. I was a great day with much information. Julie was voted as a delegate to the Triennial Convention. This will be a Zoom meeting.

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

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. Check it out at <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page> See also the attached Triennial Information sheet.



PIE AUCTION: The auction will be held after church on November 23rd to raise money for the women who will be attending the Triennial Convention. Please let Julie or Joan know if you

would like to donate a pie to the auction. Come and purchase your pie(s) for Thanksgiving. There will also be lefse available for purchase.

Women's Retreat: January 16-18, 2026. Main program on Saturday, Jan. 17 beginning at 9:00 am. Please join us for the weekend or just Saturday. We will be inviting Pr. Emily Carson to lead our program once again. Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center near Stillwater, MN More information to come. Please let Julie know if you are interested in attending and/or have ideas for the retreat.

Future Events:

Pie Auction: November 23 after church

Christmas Dinner: December 7, 5:00 pm

Women's Retreat: January 16-18, 2026. Main program on Saturday, Jan. 17, 9:00 am -

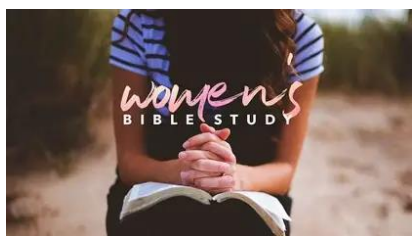
2026 Cannon River Spring Event/Salad Luncheon: April 25, 2026, Cross of Christ

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*

WELCA Bible Study



WELCA Bible study will meet on **Tuesday, November 11th at 9:00** in Dahlen Hall. This is the final session of our 3-part series of *"Where two or three are gathered."* Session three will focus on relationships that push us to grow. Study guides are provided. Come join the conversation!

Cross of Christ
Council Meeting Minutes
October 15, 2025

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

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

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

Unfinished Business

* **Pastor's Report** - Pastor CJ's report included information related to 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. Additional information related to using the book *Funding Forward* as a congregational tool to move forward conversations about discernment and revitalization. A new member Sunday will occur on the same day as Harvest Festival Worship.

* **Dahlen Hall Exterior** – Oscar Daley received a bid from the outfit that completed exterior work on the detached garage. The cost to use them for the replacement of exterior surfaces of Dahlen Hall would be \$48,450. This compares well to the other bids received in the \$70,000 range. Further information will be gathered for using a board and batten design in the gable ends of Dahlen Hall to understand how that might impact the cost. A designated fund has been created by the financial secretary as there is interest among congregants to give funds toward the cost of the work.

New Business

* November Council person: Ross Nelson

*Christmas Smorgasbord will be on Dec 7. There is an opportunity for the Red Wing High School Ovation Choir to perform either before or after dinner. Details to come.

Committee Reports

***Finance** – Financial reports were provided for the month of September and year-to-date. The financial secretary is working with the finance committee to finalize the format of the report.

***Property Management** – Updates from the bid request for Dahlen Hall were discussed under new business.

***Worship & Music** – Pastor described how United Lutheran in Red Wing is using their youth to help with A/V work during worship and would like to begin moving forward with improvements to the A/V system. 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.

***Learning and Youth** – Pastor described ways in which other churches are keeping their older youth involved after they've been confirmed.

***Missions** – The M & M's drive to benefit Feed My Starving Children will kick off. It was a great success last time.

***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. Investigations into different forms of electronic giving are taking place.

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

The next meeting will be on November 11th at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,
James Gustafson
Council Secretary