



## Country Chronicles January 2025

Cannon River and  
Cross of Christ Lutheran  
Parish, ELCA

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The new year is upon us, and it is often a time for taking stock of our lives and weighing the possibilities before us. What were my priorities these past months and how did they serve me? Should I realign them and what could that look like? I think such a thing ought to run deeper than simple new years resolutions or embracing the newest “life hacks”. Rather it’s a deep and prayerful consideration of deepening our connection to ourselves, our neighbors and to God.

To that end I have decided to foster deeper connections not only in my personal life but in those of the church. I will be establishing a monthly study every third Tuesday at the parsonage beginning on February 18<sup>th</sup>. There will be more information in next month’s newsletter on the topics and other details as I finalize my decision on resources and guides we might use.

Secondly, on Sunday February 16<sup>th</sup> after the service at Cross of Christ I will be hosting an Open House at the parsonage from roughly 12-3 PM. I have heard from multiple folks since I moved into the house that it had been years even decades since they had last set foot inside. Well, it’s about time we changed

that! I hope there will be a strong showing from both congregations for the festivities!

Lastly, if I may be so bold, I'd love to come to your house or get a tour of where you work and get a better sense for what you do. So often I find myself in close contact with members and friends after a tragedy or during a health crisis. This is of course holy and meaningful connection but how much better to interact and connect BEFORE something might happen. So, if you'd be interested, I'd love to come out sometimes to see you and your loved ones. Let's put something on the calendar!

I pray for a safe and meaningful year for each of you. I pray in these beginning days of the coming year that you can discern a path forward more closely aligned with who you are and who God made you to be, whatever that looks like. I pray that you experience deep and meaningful joy and that the peace and hope of Christ attends you through all that this year will bring.

As Ever in Christ,

Pastor CJ

***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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# Cannon River News

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

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## Attendance

December 1 <sup>st</sup>	27
December 8 <sup>th</sup>	13
December 15 <sup>th</sup>	10
December 22 <sup>nd</sup>	13

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## Financial Report

	Income	Expenses	Net
Jan	\$2,286	\$3,806	(\$1,520)
Feb	\$2,916	\$4,230	(\$1,314)
Mar	\$4,350	\$6,033	(\$1,683)
Apr	\$3,298	\$4,022	(\$726)
May	\$2,755	\$3,497	(\$742)
June	\$6,695	\$6,964	(\$269)
July	\$1,645	\$4,125	(\$2,480)
August	\$1,988	\$3,878	(\$1,889)
September	\$2,465	\$6,608	(\$4,143)
October	\$2,345	\$4,114	(\$1,766)
November	\$3,655	\$3,551	\$103
<b>Year to Date</b>	<b>\$34,396</b>	<b>\$50,831</b>	<b>(\$16,434)</b>

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## Coffee Church at Cannon River!

Coffee Church will be starting at **8am on January 19th**  
Service will begin at 9am. Bring a breakfast item to share. Hope to see you there!



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## Council Rotation-January

January 5<sup>th</sup> - Robert    January 12<sup>th</sup> - Ellen  
January 19<sup>th</sup> - Les    January 26<sup>th</sup> - Bill

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Cannon River Lutheran Church  
Council Meeting  
December 12, 2024

The Cannon River Church Council met on December 12, 2024 at Cannon River. Present were Pastor Boettcher, Les Anderson, Bill Bodin, David Fremouw, Ellen Anderson, Robert Klahr and Sharon Niebur.

The council meeting was called to order by president, Bill Bodin. Pastor CJ led us in devotions on Luke 3 and prayer.

The minutes from the November 14, 2024 council meeting were read. A motion by Ellen Hartman, second by Les Anderson to approve the minutes as written.

The November treasurer's report was reviewed. A motion by David Fremouw, second by Sharon Niebur to approve the report.

Pastor's Report- It was discussed at the last Worship and Music Committee meeting that it would be nice for Cross of Christ and Cannon River to worship together a couple times a year. The first joint worship will be January 12, 2025 at Cross of Christ. The joint service at Cannon River will be in Sept.

Old Business- Cannon River will be serving at the Breakfast Club for high school students at St Ansgar's before school on 12/17.

New Business- A motion was made by Ellen Hartman, second by Les Anderson to renew a \$75, 000 note at Ag Partners for 5% interest until 9/2026.

Dakota County will be renting the church basement area for a follow-up meeting about the Miesville Reserve on February 6<sup>th</sup> from 4-7:30.

The next council meeting will be held Jan. 16, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sharon Niebur

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## **A Warm Thank You!**

Members and Friends of Cannon River,

Thank you so much for your generous Target Gift Card last month. It was extremely useful in a season that is never short on expenses! As you can imagine there were odds and ends for the kids' Christmas list, special foods and ingredients and still some odds and ends in the kitchen that I needed to round out. You all have been so gracious in what has been a difficult year of transition for me personally and I am so grateful as always with your kindness, flexibility, and great sense of humor through all of it.

Sincerely,  
Pastor CJ

## **Treasurer/Financial Secretary Open Position**

Requirements: experience in bookkeeping and ethics.

### Summary of Duties:

- \*Oversee weekly deposits and pay bills as they are incurred.
  - \*Accounts are accessed online, and donations and expenses recorded in Icon CMO.
  - \*Employees are paid bi-monthly by direct deposit.
  - \*The finance team meets once a month, the treasurer prepares reports and directs the meeting and prepares a financial summary for the monthly newsletter.
  - \*Send a monthly report to our sister church detailing shared expenses, which they will reimburse.
  - \*Reports are requested by members and committees monthly and on demand.
  - \*Monthly pay the state and US treasury payroll taxes and submit quarterly filings.
  - \*Quarterly prepare and deliver giving statements.
  - \*Yearly prepare the budget and reports for the annual meeting
- Prep
- \*Work with committees and church council to achieve financial stability.

This position is salaried and requires roughly 10 hours per week.

Please contact Anthony Nemcek

at [anthonymemcek@gmail.com](mailto:anthonymemcek@gmail.com) for more information.

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## Cross of Christ News

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*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***

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Assistants for January 2025

### Readers

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Jean Kehren
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Doris Gruber
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Mary Fjetland
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Contemporary Service</b>

### Greeters

January 5 <sup>th</sup>	Oscar & Janet Daley
January 12 <sup>th</sup>	Ken & Joan Slingsby
January 19 <sup>th</sup>	Judy Meyer
January 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>OPEN</b>

### Altar

Jan 5th--Millie Niebeling  
Jan 12th-- Cheryl Fox  
Jan. 19th--Joan Slingsby  
Jan 26th-- Cathy Nemcek

### Council Person

Jim Gustafson

### Attendance

Dec. 8 <sup>th</sup>	38
Dec. 15 <sup>th</sup>	68
Dec. 22 <sup>nd</sup>	28

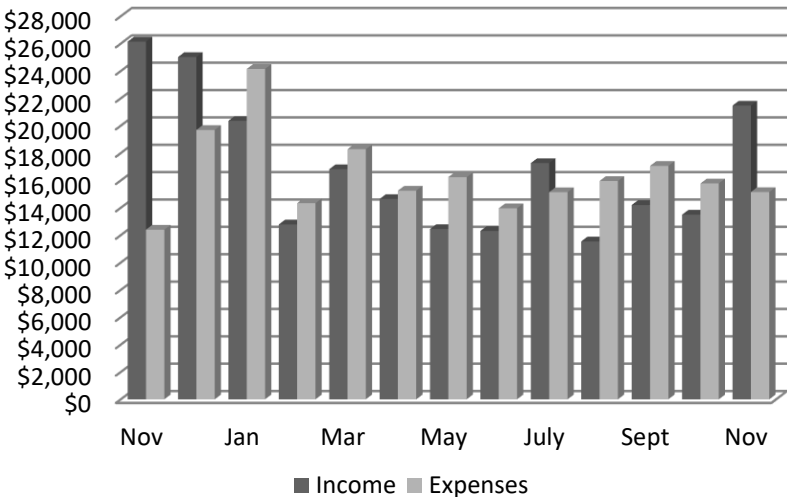
### January Ushers

Steve Peiffer	Barb Peiffer
Sherril Bjornson	Sandra Bjornson

# Cross of Christ Financial Report

	Income	Expenses
Nov	\$26,146	\$12,399
Dec	\$25,020	\$19,687
Jan	\$20,356	\$24,148
Feb	\$12,786	\$14,337
Mar	\$16,821	\$18,282
Apr	\$14,644	\$15,253
May	\$12,447	\$16,237
June	\$12,307	\$13,966
July	\$17,267	\$15,141
Aug	\$11,543	\$15,960
Sept	\$14,198	\$17,062
Oct	\$13,502	\$15,781
Nov	\$21,469	\$15,151
<b>Last 13 months</b>	<b>\$169,336</b>	<b>\$165,409</b>

## 2023-2024 Income/Expenses



## **Financial News:**

**Missions:** Donations of \$955 were sent to Lutheran Disaster response, Hurricane Helene in Nov.

**Christmas offerings** will be split between the Red Wing, Cannon Falls and Hastings food shelves, unless otherwise designated.

Pastor's **salary** will continue to follow the Synod guidelines, and other staff employees will receive a 3% raise, pending budget approval.

**Thrivent members**, remember that you can designate your Choice dollars to Cross of Christ, which go to the Building and Grounds fund. Talk to your Thrivent agent for more information. Thanks so much for directing your Choice dollars to Cross of Christ!

It is so helpful to have **committed giving**, be it by pledge or automated giving. We now have **ACH**, so donations can easily be sent to us electronically at no cost to donors. Please contact Rebecca to for more information.

Prepaid **Kwik Trip cards** are available monthly by ordering 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!

Loose **offering envelopes** are available at the back of the church for anyone's use. If you'd like a numbered booklet, please let Rebecca know.

In Oct, we took an **early withdrawal** of \$20,000 from one of the CDs to cover the kitchen project down payments. In Dec, we will reinvest the remainder (\$130,000) in another short term CD, and the other CD (\$100,000), along with the earned interest from both, will remain in the money market account.

Rebecca's last day as Treasurer will be Jan. 15. If you know anyone who may be interested in taking over, please speak to someone on council.



The next Finance meeting will be **Tues, Jan 7 at 6:30** at church. Detailed reports of income and expenditures are always available upon request.

Rebecca Peterson, Treasurer  
[crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:crossofchristtreasurer@gmail.com)  
651-301-2652

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## Choir Practice

Join us for choir practice on **January 26th** following service.

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**WELCA Bible Study- January 14<sup>th</sup> Tuesday.** We will meet in the back of the Church while Dahlen Hall is being renovated. We will have a table/chairs set up for that. For Bible Study we were looking at some new books we might choose. Mary Fjetland has a few ideas we can use. Paster CJ WILL help us too. Bring a snack to share if you like.

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## Bathroom/Kitchen Contributions

THANK YOU to all who contributed to the completion of the fundraiser for Bathroom/Kitchen remodel project. The contractors plan to start construction on **January 6th** and will likely finish sometime in March. Please note: the only available restrooms will be in the basement.

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**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, January 14th** and will be available during church on Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to those who have ordered Kwik Trip Cards.

## Worship & Music Committee Meeting

The Worship and Music committee will be meeting on **January 19th** after the morning service

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## 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!



We hope you enjoyed the M & Ms!!!

**Thank you** to everyone who filled their tube with coins and brought it back to church. Our collection of tubes and coins officially ended on **December 31st**. If you still have one at home, please bring it in and we'll make sure it gets to Feed My Starving Children!

Remember . . .if you filled your tube with quarters, you have fed **48** children for a day!!

Thank you for delivering hope to children around the world!!!  
Mission Committee

Red Wing



**Please make a donation and bring it to the back of the church by March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Thank you!**

The First Choice Clinic is a non-profit pregnancy medical clinic that has served Red Wing and the surrounding communities since 2006. Their mission is to educate and empower the community to make healthy, life-affirming choices. They offer medical, educational and support services to women and men.

We have the opportunity to help the clinic continue their important outreach. Please look at the list below of center needs. We will collect these **new** items through **March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We ask your help in purchasing some of the items listed below.

We will use Thrivent funds to assist in this project.

Thank you, The Mission Committee

**First Choice Clinic Needs (new only):**

Baby shampoo/body wash/lotion

Baby brush/comb set

Baby nail clippers

Kids toothbrush

Clothes 18 months to 5T

Diapers size 3-7

Children's Bibles

Bottle brush cleaners

Outlet covers

Gift cards to Walmart, Target, Amazon

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## Youth and Learning News

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December was filled with the Spirit of the Season. During the Smorgasbord, Noelle and Hope, helped Cheryl perform her version of “Oh Lutfisk”, then the group sang some Christmas Carols. We also pulled the Christmas Program together with only two practices and no practice for our guest participants. Thank you very much to the congregation and our guest speakers, for supporting the kids during worship and coffee fellowship. Thank you also parents for all the great baked items to share, and for getting your kids to Sunday School every week.



### January 2025 Schedule

1/05/2025 - Sunday Funday

No Music

1/12/2025 – John Baptizes Jesus

1/19/2025 – NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

1/26/2025 – Pastor CJ – After Church

Jamie and Becky Fox

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The next WELCA meeting will be Wednesday, February 12<sup>th</sup> 7:00 pm. We will confirm Review the Women's Retreat ideas, Cherish All Children fundraiser and other items.

**Red Cross Blood Drive: Our next drive will be Thursday, January 2nd 12:00-6:00pm and Friday January 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30am-2:30 pm.** Come and donate blood-Save lives. You can register now at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/> Thursday 12-3 or 3-6 Friday 8:30-11:30 or 11:30-2:30. THANK YOU all of our wonderful donors and volunteers 😊

### **Holy Everything**

We are excited to have Rev. Emily Carson leading the 2025 Women's Retreat program: "Holy Everything: Experiencing the Spirituality of Daily Life through Connection, Creation and Compassion". Rev. Emily Carson is the author of Holy Everything and the Assistant to the Bishop, Director for Evangelical Mission & Financial Administrator.

The retreat will be held **Friday, January 17 - Sunday, January 19** at Dunrovin Christian Brothers Retreat Center near Stillwater. You will have two options: stay the entire weekend or make it a day trip. The main program will be on Saturday. There will be some related activities on Friday night, some other fun evening activities and "church" service before we go on Sunday. **Meals and lodging are included in the registration fees.** *The proceeds from the Pie Auction can provide some assistance to lower the registration fee. If you have not registered yet do contact Julie to find out if there is room. Thank you to those who have their registration fees in.* You can see the video tour of the Saint Francis Cottage on our website: [Cabins for Rent](#) or [www.dunrovin.org](http://www.dunrovin.org) Please use this link to register <https://forms.gle/kTvVVmfeRPnrSzJ98> If you need a paper copy contact Julie Schreifels or pick one up at the back of the sanctuary.



We will be selling hearts in February as a fundraiser for ***Charish All Children.***

Purchase a heart for each of the children that you want to honor/cherish. \$1.00 each. You can add their name or decorate it as you wish.

**Future Events:**

**Red Cross Blood Drive:** Thursday, Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> 12:00-6: 00 pm and  
Friday Jan. 3<sup>rd</sup> 8:30 am-2:30 pm

**Women's Retreat:** January 17-19, 2025 Women's Retreat, Holy  
Everything

**Cannon River Women of the ELCA Spring Event:** Saturday, May  
3, 2025 9 am- 12 pm. Vang Lutheran Church, Dennison, MN  
Registration begins at 8:00.

**2025 SE MN Synodical Women's Org. Convention:** Sept. 27,  
Grace Lutheran Church, Waseca

**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*

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

Cross of Christ  
Council Meeting Minutes  
December 10, 2024

*Present:* President Anthony Nemcek, Vice-President Jon Peterson Secretary Deanna Gehloff, Darwin Fox, Jim Gustafson, Jeff Meyer, Sherril Bjornson, Oscar Daley and Pastor CJ Boettcher. *Absent:* Kelley Mittelsteadt

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

Devotions was led by Pastor CJ.

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

**Unfinished Business**

\* Pastor's Report-Pastor will be away Dec. 26-28<sup>th</sup> in WI and will provide Deanna with a contact for pastoral care while he is out. Pastor will be in touch with Tom on the A/V upgrades and get this project moving forward. Pastor will host an open house on Feb 16<sup>th</sup> at the parsonage from 12-3pm. Pastor also talked about the possibility exploring other new ministries in the new year including using a resource called "Brewed Theology" and the possibility of meeting monthly in the evenings, at the parsonage. Angie from the Cannon River Inn is interested in hosting a hymn sing at her tavern sometime in the coming months.

\*Kitchen and Bathroom Accessibility Project Update-Jeff noted a start date after the first week in January. It was mentioned roughly 21k was recently donated to the fund.

**New Business**

\* January Council person: Jim Gustafson- It was noted Jim will need some help ringing the bell.

\* Financial Secretary/Treasurer Position- Rebecca has put in her resignation, and her last day will be Jan 15<sup>th</sup>. The position has been posted in the weekly updates and announcements, will also be posted on Facebook. Anthony mentioned his sister-in-law was interested. A deadline of Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> will be added to the posting.

## Committee Reports

### \*Finance

It was noted that the 2025 budget was still a work in progress and will be sent out around Christmas time.

Christmas donations- *Motion made and seconded to have Christmas offerings be split between the Cannon Falls, Red Wing and Hastings food shelves. -Motion passed.*

Annual employee increases- *A motion was made and seconded the recommended 3% increase for Jeff, Rebecca and Deanna for 2025; and to continue to pay Pastor CJ by Synod guidelines with an approx. 6.4% increase for 2025. -Motion Passed.*

CD's- *A motion was made and seconded the finance recommendation of reinvesting the remaining \$129,887 in another CD, at a rate of 4% for a 6-12/mo term; and depositing the other CD of \$100,000 back into the Money Market account to be available for the kitchen/bath project or other needs.*

*A motion was made and seconded to approve the financial secretary's reports as written. -Motion Passed.*

### \*Property Management-

The cold weather pushed the repair of the water issue until spring.

\*Worship & Music-Communion will be served for Christmas Eve service, as intinction. Communion/usher help may be needed.

\*Learning & Youth-Sunday school program will be held Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> with coffee fellowship after. They will be on break until Jan 5<sup>th</sup>.

\*Service & Witness- "Bring a Friend" to worship as been pushed out due to the Women's retreat.

\*Missions- FMSC M&M tube collection will end Dec. 31<sup>st</sup>.

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

The next meeting will be on January 14 at 6:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanna Gehloff    Council Secretary

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