



A is for **River**

Conference Women of the ELCA

Volume 2

October 2019

**DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
IS JANUARY 1, 2020. This new issue
will feature February, March and
April events.**

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your W/ELCA events.

**MEET YOUR APPLE RIVER
CONFERENCE OFFICERS**

We have busy as a beaver and busy bees. This month we have both! Two of our conference officers are named Kim and you can put either of them in whatever busy category you can find.

Our new co-coordinator is Kim Patterson from Immanuel Lutheran Church out in the country near Clayton where she grew up. Recently retired from paid employment, she will merely add this “job” to a long list of volunteer assignments that have always kept her productively busy. One of those finds her elected to a 2nd term on the Synod Council as the lay person from Apple River Conference.

She loves many types of crafts – sewing memory bears for hospice patients, crocheting anything that can be made from yarn, knitting afghans, sewing items for her 17 grandkids, etc. How has she learned all these skills? Some of it started with grandparents and mom,

other things were picked up from books and patterns. But she doesn’t stop there when someone shows her a picture and asks, “Can you make me one of these?” She does all this between visiting hospice patients, leading worship at the nursing home, filling in for her pastor’s vacation Sundays, and helping at the food shelf.

Now we can only wonder how Kim has had time to attend lay school for at least a dozen years. She says she got “hooked” when some of the teachers got into historical aspects of explaining scriptural things because she’s a history buff. It must have served her well because she’s the only one known for leading a Bible study that will show up on an evaluation sheet as one of people’s favorite parts of a retreat.

A recent trip found Kim and ten others from the continuing education group of lay school spending a week immersed in Native American culture at the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. This amazing learning experience was designed to look at things from the Native viewpoint which gets overlooked in our school textbooks.

So are you surprised she was nominated for the national volunteer of the year in the National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization? And this is surely proof that asking someone who is busy will get the job done.

Welcome to the Apple River Conference W/ELCA Board, Kim!



Our Apple River W/ELCA Secretary is the other busy Kim. She has many other titles besides Secretary – some normal sounding, others unusual.

Let's start with the "normal." Being President of the Milltown Lutheran Church congregation in this time of leaving their beloved 100+ year-old building to consolidate with the Fristad bunch in Centuria has been a real challenge with all the extra meetings. Not to mention the issues of combining "stuff." Kim has pretty much spent her whole life as a part of Milltown, so this has been huge.

For several years the Milltown Lutheran women had hosted a spring cabin fever reliever. Who do you suppose was one of the people behind that? None other than Kim Grossmann.

Lest it be forgotten, Kim is employed fulltime as an engineering technician in the research and development area for Seagate in Bloomington, Minnesota. Take an 8 hour day and add a 90-minute commute twice a day – come rain, shine, sleet or snow – and it makes for a long day.

For many years she has been a member of the Sweet Adelines barbershop chorus out of Stillwater. She is now president of that group with the lovely French name that won't get repeated here. Add weekly practices to the schedule.

One of the things our Kim's have in common in crafting. This Kim is also a seamstress, making most of her own clothes. But then she ventures off in different directions – teaching herself how to tat or make thread-covered buttons from centuries-old patterns.

Now we are moving along in the uncommon! As a "Master Food Preservationist" through the county extension office, Kim spends a few days every summer testing pressure gauges on canning lids. She is trained to teach canning and answer canning questions. Sometimes you will find her at the Barron Farmers' Market selling her husband's hand-carved wooden kitchen items.



Fortunately, we aren't going to vote on who is the busiest! We certainly have two very caring and interesting gals helping lead our organization.



These ladies are part of the group at Pilgrim Lutheran in Frederic making lefse for their 13th annual Harvest Dinner that will be held on October 12th. After two busy days in September they netted 230 rounds that were packaged in lots of 6 and sold for \$5. Not a bad day's work!

UPCOMING EVENTS

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17th, 4-7 pm - Come to North Valley Lutheran Church for their annual **casserole supper**. They are located 3 miles west of Milltown on County Road "G". Lefse and raffle tickets will be available to purchase. The raffle includes a Gwen Morrisette quilt, an American Girl doll wardrobe, and a \$50 meat selection of your choice from Daeffler's.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20th – Moe Lutheran Church will meet for worship at 8:30 am so their annual **Lutefisk Dinner** can be served from 11 am to 3 pm. Besides lutefisk, they will have meatballs and gravy and all the trimmings for both. Lefse will be served as well as sold. The church is located on 45th Avenue north of Clear Lake and just east off Hwy 63.



PUMPKIN STEW

YUM!!

2# beef stew meat cut into 1" cubes
3 TBSP vegetable oil, divided use
1 cup water
3 large potatoes, peeled and cubed
4 large carrots, peeled and cubed
4 cloves garlic, minced (or substitute)
1 onion, chopped
2 tsp. salt
½ tsp. ground black pepper
1 large can diced tomatoes with juice
2 TBSP beef bullion granules
1 large pumpkin, basketball size

Brown stew meat in 2 TBSP of the oil. Stir in remaining ingredients and bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 45 –60 minutes (or more).

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2nd - beginning at 4 pm, Luck Lutheran Church will serve their annual **Harvest Dinner**. This church is located at 520 East Foster in Luck.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th – You can drive on over to West Immanuel Lutheran Church for their annual **Lutefisk Dinner**. They begin serving at 10:30 am and continue until 6 pm. The address is 447 – 180th Street in rural Osceola, (eight miles SE of Osceola or six miles north of Star Prairie). It is also their fall bazaar with lefse, canned and baked goods for sale. Home-made pies are part of the deal!

While beef mixture is simmering, cut and save a fairly large "lid" from the pumpkin. Remove the seeds and stringers and set the pumpkin aside. You can make a design on just the very outside of the pumpkin, *but don't cut through!*

When the stew has finished, place the pumpkin in a heavy baking pan. Brush the outside and lid with the 1 TBSP oil. Dump the stew into the pumpkin, replace the lid. Bake for 2 hours at 325 degrees.

Serve the stew from the pumpkin, scraping some of the pumpkin "meat" with each serving. Serves 8 to 10 people.

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN
FOR THE
2020 Triennial Gathering
JULY 16-19, 2020

Phoenix, Arizona

Not everyone chooses to go to Phoenix in July! But, the Women of the ELCA office received such interesting information and possible activities from their Chamber of Commerce that they almost HAD to decide to schedule our meetings in that state we think of as snowbird territory!

The other downside for many of us is that the information and registration is ONLY ONLINE this year as there is no registration booklet. If you need help ask a church secretary or one of your grandchildren! Go to the link below and you are on your way:

<https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page>

The earlybird registration is good until January 6th. After that the price increases.

TRIENNIAL THEME –

“Just Love”

SWO BOARD MEETING
HELD OCTOBER 15TH

Poplar, Wisconsin was the place.

Peace Lutheran provided hospitality for the day.

The drive up north was spectacular with the wonderful fall colors.

And it was business as usual – except the board is really trying to bring us into the electronic age of this generation.

WE NOW HAVE A FACEBOOK PAGE ALL OUR OWN!!!

“Women of the Northwest Synod”

is the title of it. You can even put information on it by email contact with:

Kim Vlcek - vlcekkr@yahoo.com

or Dawn Wicklund – dawnwicklund@gmail.com

Planning is being done to update the *Northwester*, which has been the same since its inception.

Last but not least, save the dates for our own convention –

APRIL 17-18, 2020

Bethany Lutheran in Rice Lake



Snowy Mason Jars – create faux snow-covered mason jar luminaries for the holiday season. These are perfect for decorating your mantle, dining table, front porch, or give as a gift!

SUPPLIES:

[Mason Jars-any size](#)

[Use Tacky Glue or Decoupage Glue matte finish, both work great!](#)

[Epsom Salt](#)

[Glitter](#)-this looks beautiful and adds a little sparkle to your jars

[Greenery & twine](#)

[Flameless tea lights](#)

[Hot glue](#)

Combine 1 cup of Epsom salt with a tablespoon of glitter in a disposable plate or bowl. Depending on how many jars you plan to make, you may need more.

Apply a layer of glue around the mason jar. Be careful not to layer it on too thick or the glue will start to drip once the Epsom salt is applied.

Sprinkle the glitter-Epsom salt around the jar until evenly covered. Place the jars on a cleanable surface or paper (newspaper, wax paper, etc.) in case glue drips down while drying. Allow the jars to dry for several hours, preferably overnight.

Cut a small piece of faux greenery and use a dot of hot glue to adhere to the top of the jar. You can find holiday greenery at most craft stores during this time of year. You could even add fresh greenery from your yard. Then wrap twine around the mouth of the jar a few times and tie off with a bow. Add a flickering tea light to create luminaries for your holiday decor.

HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS SEASON

