

A is for **River Conference Women of the ELCA**

Greetings Women of the Apple River Conference!

This newsletter will be sweet, short and simple due to the lack of news because of the lockdown we are experiencing from Covid-19.

Recap of the Apple River Conference Board's "ZOOM" Meeting – May 4, 2020

1. The Treasurer says we still have money - \$380 in checking and \$1632 with the SWO account from which we can draw as needed.
2. Only eight churches have sent in their \$20 dues for 2020! Please remind your local Treasurer to do this.
3. All conventions and gatherings have been cancelled or postponed for 2020. However, some have been tentatively scheduled for 2021:
 - January ??, 2021 – Apple River Board Meeting (hopefully) at the home of Carol Johnson just south of Milltown
 - April 10, 2021 – Apple River Spring Day of Renewal, location TBA
 - August 3-5, 2021 – Triennial Convention in Phoenix –Business Meeting
 - August 5-8, 2021 – Triennial Gathering “Just Love” also in Phoenix
 - August 14 or 21 – Apple River Fall Gathering, location TBA
4. All Apple River officers will remain through the year in the same fashion that Chicago is doing with the national officers.
5. How are you staying connected with your WELCA ladies? Let us know what is working for you – others may want to try it!
6. The ZOOM thing works for meetings. Try it!

MEET YOUR APPLE RIVER CONFERENCE OFFICERS!

Joan Sorenson - Not every church has its own resident photographer. Bone Lake has one in the person of Joan Sorenson. We won't count the hours and patience she has waiting to get just the right shot of that owlet or an eagle dangling a fish. And she doesn't stop there! These wonderful pictures now adorn greeting cards of all kinds. After talking about her husband having been a roofer, she admitted she keeps her feet on the ground!

Joan has been active in many ways for many years at Bone Lake Lutheran doing things like working with the quilters, helping produce graduating senior quilts, coordinating the annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Lutheran World Relief Kit drive, and helping prepare meals for Vacation Bible School. She has been both secretary and president of their WELCA more than once.

After moving to the area in 1975, Joan, her husband and two daughters ran the Bone Lake store for several years. She then spent 28 years working at the plastics plant in Turtle Lake before retiring. She now is on the coordination team at the local Ruby's Pantry and enjoying her two grandchildren. We're happy to have her on board as the Discipleship person for Apple River Conference.

Suzanne Grille - After moving to our Wisconsin area in 2015, Suzanne Grill didn't waste any time before she jumped in with both feet! She is currently the Justice person on our conference board.

But that's not all! There is the job she's doing as the parish nurse at North Valley Lutheran Church and the paid employment as a homecare nurse, mostly working nights in Stillwater.

After growing up on a farm near Northfield, Minnesota, she married and moved to the Twin Cities and became a mother to 4 children. After becoming a single parent, she entered nurses training at St. Catherine's in St. Paul, graduating in 1999 when her youngest child was in Middle School. Ensuing employment has included Childrens' Hospital, Hospice, and home care where she also did some of the case management.

Suzanne found the 2017 Triennial in Minneapolis to be very inspiring. It has furthered her interest in both sex trafficking and care of creation. She is on the Synod's committee for justice.

And she can't say enough good about Women of the ELCA, an organization she feels works well together with voice and strength on the issues that matter. "We get stuff done!"

Messages from the Apple River Board Members ~

From: Carol Medchill, Co-Coordinator

As I was thinking about what to write, my thoughts turned to the Spring Days of Renewal and the Fall Retreats we have had over the years. They have all been so wonderful – bringing us together and renewing our Christian friendship.

I was also thinking of when I went to the Sunday School which we had all twelve months. I looked forward to getting an award for perfect attendance. One gift that was so special was the Junior Hymnal I received. I still have it and it was much loved.

I have been looking into my church history and found that in the early 1900's they had 6 weeks of summer school taught by a seminary student in Danish.

I hope and pray that we all continue calling our church family and hope that all is well with them. If they are in need of something, someone could help them out.

Blessings to you all and always feel free to call me if you need an ear.

Carol – 715-648-5817

From Carol Johnson, Treasurer

Carol Johnson has accepted the position of Financial Secretary until we can have an election in 2021. Please send your annual conference dues (\$20) to her at the address below. Even though we cannot meet during this time, the work of the church goes on. Please remember to send your conference dues in if you have not done so already. Also, please send your convention dues (\$30/yr) to Phyllis Beastro, SWO Treasurer, W6244 410th Ave, Ellsworth WI 54011.

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From Carol Johnson, Stewardship

Stewardship takes on many forms, especially during these trying times. We need to be mindful that our churches still have salaries and bills to pay, so our weekly or monthly offerings are very important. Do you have friends, relatives or neighbors who need financial help (if you are able); or need groceries; or extra chores to be done? We can still help people and be careful with them and ourselves. Could you do some calling of church members, neighbors, anyone who might need to hear a friendly voice? We all need to be creative in ways to connect with others. God Bless Everyone!

From Gloria Rolstad, Apple River Conference Representative

As your Apple River Conference Representative it is my responsibility to keep you informed as to what is happening at the Synodical Women's Organization and any changes from those meetings that have been voted on and passed. Unfortunately, since Covid-19 has drastically changed our every day lives, we have not been able to gather for meetings. Churchwide did ask that all events that had been planned be cancelled through the end of 2020 for the safety and health of all women.

The Triennial has also been cancelled this year and has been rescheduled to take place in Phoenix, AZ at the Sheraton Hotel. Please check the W/ELCA website <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/new-triennial-event-page> for information on next year's Triennial Gathering.

I just received the new updated speaker list from the Synodical Women's Organization and will send out the list via email. This updated list can also be found on our Facebook page, "Women of the Northwest".

As it has been difficult for us to get together with our family, friends, and sisters in Christ, I especially miss going to church services! I enjoy being around people and sharing my time helping others. When it is safe to do so, please help others when needed and allow others to help "you" when needed.

God's blessings to all of you, Gloria

If you have any information you would like to share to others in our newsletter, please contact the following individuals:

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