

The Country Register

Available across the U.S.A. & Canada

Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events

November/December 2021

**Free!
Take One!**

Shop Local This Holiday Season!

Merry Christmas



Subscriptions

Get one years worth of papers for only \$18!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Send an \$18 check to:

The Country Register • 2920 - 144th Ave NE • Ham Lake, MN 55304

If you want to pay by credit card, please call 763-754-1661!



Minnesota's Guide to Specialty Shopping & Fun Events



Kim Keller, Publisher

2920 144th Ave. NE

Ham Lake, MN 55304

763-754-1661

minnesota@countryregister.com

www.countryregister.com/mn

Win a \$25 Gift Certificate!

Each issue we give away a \$ 25 gift certificate to YOUR favorite shop!
Just fill out the form below to entered in the drawing. (one per person please)

Gift Certificate Drawing Form

To enter, complete form and mail to:

The Country Register
2920 - 144th Ave. NE
Ham Lake, MN 55304



ND21

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Favorite Shop Advertised: _____

My Favorite Shop because: _____

My Favorite Country Register Feature(s): _____

Found this issue at: _____

Regular reader? _____ 1st time reader? _____

Do you tell the shops you saw their ad in the paper? _____

What stores would you like to see in The Country Register?
(include town) _____

Please make sure to tell the shop owners you saw their ad in
The Country Register! It's the only way they know you saw them
here and that their advertising dollars work!

And the Winner Are...

Martha Strecker of Lindstrom, MN won a \$ 25 gift certificate to *The Cutting Edge* in Rush City, MN! Martha says *The Cutting Edge* is her favorite shop because of "the great customer service and lots of great samples and fabric!"

Barbara Swanson, Peggy Carlson, Linda Prettyman, Patti Lee Bock, Bette Deming, Lorraine Carlson, and Julia Eggart each won a copy of *101 inspirational thoughts to brighten your day*.

Congratulations!

The Country Register Publisher Contact List

The Country Register began in Arizona, in the Fall of 1988, to provide effective, affordable advertising for shops, shows, and other experiences enjoyed by a kindred readership. Since then the paper has flourished and spread. Look for the paper in your travels.

Barbara Floyd, founder • barbara@countryregister.com • 602-321-6511

PUBLICATIONS ALL ACROSS THE UNITED STATES & CANADA

To receive a sample paper from another area, mail \$3.00 in U.S.A. or \$4.00 in Canada to that area's editor.

- | | |
|---|---|
| USA | New Hampshire: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399 |
| Arizona: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | New Jersey: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319 |
| Arkansas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597 | New Mexico: Jan & John Keller, 719-749-9797 |
| California: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | Colorado: New York: Mike & Wendy Rothfuss, 502-468-3938 |
| Jan & John Keller, 719-866-8570 | North Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950 |
| Connecticut: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217 | North Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181 |
| Delaware: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319 | Ohio: Barb Moore, 937-652-1157 |
| Florida: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217 | Oklahoma: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597 |
| Georgia: Linda Parish, 706-340-1049 | Oregon: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 |
| Idaho (N): Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181 | Pennsylvania: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319 |
| Idaho (S): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | Rhode Island: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217 |
| Illinois: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597 | South Carolina: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 888-942-8950 |
| Indiana: Gail & Merle Taylor, 888-616-8319 | South Dakota: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181 |
| Iowa: Linda Glendy, 641-751-2619 | Texas: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597 |
| Kansas: Cindy Baldwin, 866-966-9815 | Vermont: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399 |
| Maine: Robin Levison, 518-752-6399 | Virginia: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217 |
| Maryland: Stacy Lute, 443-909-0531 | Washington: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 |
| Massachusetts & RI: Dave & Amy Carter, 866-825-9217 | West Virginia: Merle & Gail Taylor, 888-616-8319 |
| Michigan: Bill, Marlene & Leslie Howell, 989-751-8860 | Wisconsin: Scott and Jennifer Hughes, 715-838-9426 |
| Minnesota: Kim & Mickey Keller, 763-754-1661 | Wyoming: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181 |
| Missouri: Richard and Lenda Brown, 405-470-2597 | CANADA |
| Montana: Kelsey Ruzicka, 605-568-0181 | Alberta: Marcy Horswill, 587-585-3545 |
| Nebraska: Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | British Columbia: Jenifer Smith, 800-784-6711 |
| Nevada (N): Barb Stillman & Lolly Konecky, 602-942-8950 | Manitoba & Saskatchewan: Colleen Gust, 306-585-0274 |
| Nevada (S): Glenna Dunn, 702-523-1803 | Ontario: Harriet Ramos, 613-424-6420 |

Articles published in this newspaper, which are contributed by outside sources, express the opinions of their authors only, and may not express the viewpoint of the management or staff of The Country Register. Such articles that are accepted for publication herein may be edited at the sole discretion of the publisher. Responsibility for products advertised in this newspaper lies with the advertisers themselves. Though The Country Register will not knowingly publish fraudulent materials or fraudulently obtained materials, we are not liable for any damages arising from purchase or use of products advertised herein. Notifications regarding any consumer complaints related to merchandise purchased from our advertisers would be appreciated and would assist in our publishing efforts.

Months Nov/Dec 2021

Volume 27 Number 6

The Country Register is published every other month. Copyright 2021. Reproduction or use, without permission, of editorial or graphic content in any manner is prohibited. Offices of The Country Register are located at PO Box 84345, Phoenix, AZ 85023. The Country Register of Minnesota is licensed by The Country Register with exclusive rights to publish in the state of Minnesota using logos and graphics owned by The Country Register.

Deadline For the Jan/Feb 2022
Edition is December 10th!

Happy Thanksgiving

City Listing

Baxter.....	18	Menomonie, WI.....	5
Blue Earth.....	10	New Richmond, WI.....	5
Brainerd.....	18	New Ulm.....	8
Cook.....	22	Northfield.....	7
Cloquet.....	21	Oklee.....	17
Duluth.....	24	Owatonna.....	7
Eagan.....	12	Plainview.....	5
Eden Valley.....	16	Red Wing.....	5
Elk River.....	12	Rush City.....	21
Excelsior.....	13	Sandstone.....	21
Fergus Falls.....	17	Sherburn.....	10
International Falls.....	22	Spring Lake Park.....	13
Kiester.....	9	Waseca.....	7
Kimball.....	16	Wells.....	9
Lake City.....	4	White Bear Lake.....	12
Lone Rock, IA.....	10	Winona.....	5
Luverne.....	10	Worthington.....	11

Support your local shops!
Small Business Saturday
November 27



Be sure to
thank the
Advertisers!

They make this paper possible.



GIRLFRIEND WISDOM
BE CALM & CARRY ON



While sitting in the doctor's office, I noticed these words on a bulletin board in the Nurse's Station - BE CALM & CARRY ON - pretty good advice for all of us. Staying calm is better for our blood pressure, staying calm is better for our decision-making, and staying calm is simply the right formula for having a good day mentally and physically. Staying calm is the ability to make our minds quiet and preventing worry and anxiety. We live in a fast pace world and there are changes and unexpected situations around many corners of daily life. While taking the lead from a cute little Sloth - we can practice and learn to relax. A quote from Lao Tzu is perfect for this season:

**"Nature does not hurry,
yet everything is accomplished."**

Here are some practical ways to learn Calmness:

- Shift your focus to positive things
- Listen to calming music
- Move your body - a walk or a few deep breaths - blow that stress away!
And in your mind's eye - remember the restful-blissful cute little sloth!

Joy & Blessings,



Girlfriend Wisdom is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton®
For color files of this writing, contact Jody at:
jodyhoughton@msn.com or www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

Special Events

November

- 5-6.....North Iowa Quilter's One - Stop Shopping Spree - See ad page 11
- 11-13.....Hometown Holiday Road Trip - Thimble Box - New Ulm
- 11-13.....Hometown Holiday Road Trip - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
- 11-13.....Christmas Open House - Lost and Found - Eden Valley
- 12.....Christmas Arrives - The Farmer's Daughter - White Bear Lake
- 12-13.....Fabric Collage 2 Day Class - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 13.....Holiday Arts and Crafts Festival - See ad page 18
- 15-20.....Christmas Open House - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
- 16-20.....Anniversary Sale - Antiques of the Midwest - Wells
- 26-28.....Christmas Sale - Country Craft Shed - Duluth
- 26-27.....Holiday Open House - Quilter's Cottage - Kiester
- 26-28 and Dec 3-5.....Christkindlsmarkt - Excelsior
- 27.....19th Anniversary Celebration - Michele's - Blue Earth
- 27-Dec 19.....Year End Sale - Bluffview Quilt Shop - Winona

December

- 1-4.....Holiday Hop - Thimble Box - New Ulm
- 1-4.....Holiday Hop - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 1-4.....Holiday Hop - See ad page 8
- 2.....Holiday Boutique - Cabin Quilting - Cook
- 4.....Customer Appreciation Day - Gone To Pieces Quilt Shop - Kimball
- 4...Pine City's Holiday Madness - American Legion & Lighthouse Christmas Boutiques - Pine City
- 14.....Mazze's Birthday Party - Quilted Dog - Cloquet
- 27-31.....Pre-Inventory Sale - Quarry Quilts and Yarns - Sandstone

January

- 1.....Anniversary Sale - Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- 7.....Plum Creek Quilter's Quilt Show - Red Wing



Welcome to
The Country
Register of
Minnesota

*** Visit us Online! www.countryregisterofminnesota.com ***

Pumpkinberry Stitches
 108 E. Lyon Ave • Lake City, MN 55041
 651-345-2573
 Hours: Tue-Sat 12pm-4pm
A Quaint Little Quilt Shop
 Gift Certificates available!
 20% off one Item Expires 12/31/21
 Fat Tuesdays! Buy 4 Fat Quarters get one Free!

Stories of a Farm Wife

by Tammy Page
 Grandma's Quilts



I love quilts. I love the smell that is so unique like the rain mixed with old, the heaviness of a quilt that feels like I'm enveloped in my very own cocoon and the thought that someone, probably one of my ancestors laid under this very quilt to keep warm on a cold, winter's night.

In a little one-church, one-general store, town on the Ohio river where once stood a fish stand on the bank of the river, where you could get bait, a burger and a cold Orange Crush out of the cooler I would spend many nights at my grandma Williams' house. This is where some of my most prized and memorable childhood moments took place.

As the colder months draw closer in Indiana, I can still smell that old quilt smell. I wouldn't say it was an odor, just a distinguished smell that might be offensive to some but to me, it's an odor that brings happy memories. I can still see the quilts layered on the old iron bed where I would sleep. Most times my family was visiting, some of my cousins were there too so I didn't often have the bed to myself because we all loved getting under the layers of quilts in grandma's old bed. As I mentioned before, the quilts had a unique smell; kind of a comforting smell like it had been hung out of the clothesline where the evening dew had dampened it. I remember the quilts were made of different patterned squares of cotton, wool and maybe even someone's old shirt material. They were muted blues and greys with a little pink and an occasional yellow scattered here and there. I think most were tacked because they took less time and effort to put together. These weren't the displayed, don't touch kind of quilts, they were the laying out under the weeping willow tree and having a picnic with your baby dolls kind of quilts. Grandma would shake them out after I played pretend for hours and hang them on the clothesline to dry out in the warm winter sun. Then they would be put back on the bed for night time.

It was actually a struggle to get out from under all those covers, especially when it was cold. You see, grandma and grandpa did not have central heating and no heat upstairs, which is why the staircase door had to always remain open. The floors were covered with linoleum in flowered patterns and boy were they cold on those winter months down by the river. So cold that sometimes the windows would be completely frosted up from the wind off the river. Once you made the commitment to drag yourself out from under the many layers of quilts, you had to make a run for it and scurry down the stairs where the big gas furnace was blasting warm air out into the two main rooms of the first floor. The furnace had a rectangular glass window in it and you could see the flame that was the force behind the warm air drifting up from it. I can remember laying on the living room floor being mesmerized by the little flame in the glass window. I also remember that furnace only heated a few rooms so if you had to go to the bathroom, which was on the other side of the kitchen and a late addition to the home, you'd better prepare yourself for a rude awakening because it felt just like the upstairs bedrooms. Needless to say, we did our business and got the heck out of there in a hurry.

Those times under those homemade quilts were some of the most wonderful times of my life. My cousin, Teresa who is only 6 weeks younger than I am and one of my favorite childhood playmates would go to grandma's on the same weekends and we could cuddle up under those quilts and look through the J.C. Penney and the Sear's Christmas Toy Book for what seemed like hours. At times, we'd have three of us in the bed as cozy as bugs in a rug. Each of us would pick out our favorite item on each page and dream of receiving those gifts come Christmastime. We would giggle and sing until the warmth of the layers of quilts would lull us to sleep. In my opinion, there is still no better sleeping that cuddled up under a homemade quilt.

RATHER BEE
 Your One Stop Quilt Shop
 M-Sat 10am - 4pm
 Sunday Closed
 Gift Certificates Available
 Classes Offered
 • 100% Cotton Fabrics
 • Quilting Tools & Notions
 • Books and Patterns
 (651) 345-3958
 TF(800) 233-9549
 106 South Lakeshore Drive
 Lake City, Minnesota 55041
www.ratherbeequilting.com



B4 and After Projects

by Liberty Bramer

Christmas Stocking Decor for Kitchen Cabinets

Here is an idea for you to decorate your kitchen for Christmas! You can use a miniature stocking, or you can make your own stocking from felt and sequins. I made these felt stockings years ago from a kit from Herrschners. They are easy to duplicate.

Use red, green, and white felt to make the stocking. If you want to sew on sequins, do that BEFORE you sew the front and back of the stocking together. The little white ribbon for the loop on the corner is optional.

You can also use these stockings as silverware holders at a table place setting.... because that is what they actually are!

To attach them to your kitchen cupboards you will need some coordinating ribbon. Use masking tape to attach the ribbon to the backs of your cabinet doors. Then use a safety pin to pin the felt stocking to the ribbon.

For more pictures of this project, as well as more great ideas, please visit Liberty at B4andAfters.com, or use your phone camera to scan this QR code!



Menomonie, WI • New Richmond, WI • Plainview • Red Wing • Winona



Quality Quilting Products with a wide variety of Fabric, Flannel, Batiks, Westalee Ruler Work products, Patterns, Notions, Classes

Year-end Sale
Nov 27th – Dec 19th, 2021

Happy Thanksgiving Merry Christmas

Regular Hours: Thurs & Fri 10-4
Sat 10-3 Sun 12-3

Visit us on Facebook for the latest news

FABRIC FUN FRIENDS

1671 1/2 W 5th Street
Winona, MN 55987
www.bluffviewquiltshop.com
bluffviewquiltshop@gmail.com



Piece by Piece
CREATIVE COLLABORATION

401 W. Broadway • Plainview, MN 55964
507-710-4055

The Little Shop that Makes a BIG Impression

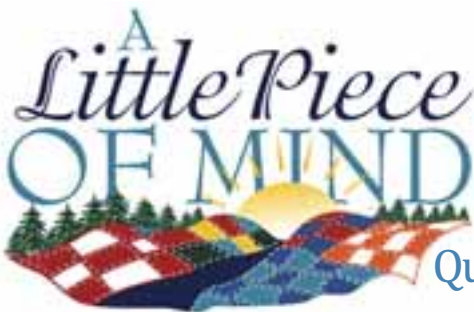
Carrying Plymouth Yarn
Fabric, Notions and Patterns
****Now Selling Malabrigo Yarns****



Open Sew Fridays! 9am-3pm
Saturday Sit-n-Knit or Crochet 9am-2pm

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 9-5 • Saturday 9-4
Closed Sun & Mon

<https://www.facebook.com/Piece-By-Piece-Creative-Collaboration>

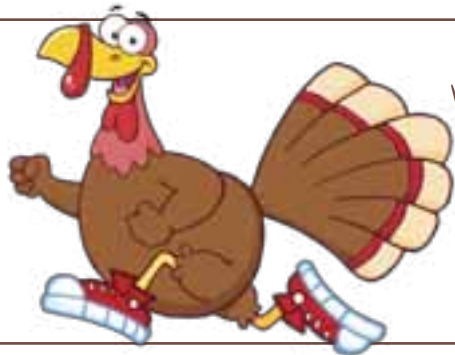


Regular Hours
T&TH 10am-4pm
W&F 10am-7pm
Sat 9am-3pm
1st & 3rd Sun 11am-4pm

Quilt Shop

Quality quilt fabric, quilting supplies, wool
and yarn for your "Peace" of mind

1027 N. Knowles Ave • New Richmond, WI 54017 • 715-246-7314
www.littlepieceofmind.com • alicia@littlepieceofmind.com



Why did the turkey
cross the road:
To prove he wasn't chicken!



Woodland Ridge Retreat

A Place to Create and Be Inspired

5 Day Workshops:

- 12 Students
- Superb Instructors
- Luxury Comforts
- Scrumptious Meals

Located one hour east
of the Twin Cities

E4620 County Road C
Menomonie, WI 54751

715.664.8220

www.woodlandridgeretreat.com

Join us for a workshop or retreat with your favorite friends

Visit our website to learn more



Dye Candy Fabrics

Elegant and Artistically Inspired

Stocking a wide variety of 100% cotton fabric:

Digitally Printed, Batiks and Hand Dyes

Shop in person, by appointment at

Woodland Ridge Retreat or on line at

Dyecandy.Etsy.com

Quilt Show

Presented by Plum Creek Quilters

**Three Days of Warmth,
Beauty, and Awe!**

Step-in out of the winter's cold!
Let the tropical warmth of Sargent's
greenhouse envelop you as you
experience a spectacular showcase of
quilting expertise and talent!



Hosted by



3352 N. Service Drive
Red Wing, MN 55066
www.SargentsNursery.com

\$5 Admission

Price of admission enters you to win our
Door Prize: A lovingly handcrafted quilt!

In the event of a snow cancellation, the event will take place the following weekend.
CDC, State & Local guidelines for Covid-19 will be followed. Subject to Change.

Favorite Holiday Recipes

Our Writer's Favorite Holiday Recipes

Holiday Treats for Our Feathered Friends

from Judy Sharer

As the seasons move into winter, more birds frequent backyard feeders. Why not give them a holiday treat this year and make holiday cookies they are sure to enjoy? Easy, fun, and healthy, the whole family can help, then watch to see which birds drop by to enjoy your efforts in the kitchen.

Ingredients:

1 tube of store bought peanut butter cookie dough
½ cup cornmeal
¼ cup thistle seeds (or sunflower, pumpkin, etc.)

Mix together, roll out dough a good half inch thick and cut with cookie cutters. Punch a hole in each treat with a straw before baking.

Directions:

Bake as directed on dough package, let cool and add a ribbon or string through the hole so it can be hung on a tree by a window. All that's left is to sit back, relax, and watch our fine feathered friends enjoy their holiday treats.

Judy Sharer is a regular contributor to The Country Register and the author of A Plains Life sweet historical romance and family saga series. Visit her website for more details. judysharp.com

Frosty Cranberry Circles*

from Lydia E. Harris, Grandma Tea

This salad tastes yummy enough to serve as dessert! It's perfect for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays

Ingredients:

1 (8-oz.) package cream cheese, softened
1 (16-oz.) can whole-berry cranberry sauce
1 T. mayonnaise

1 (8-oz.) can crushed pineapple, drained
1 cup whipped cream (1/2 cup unwhipped)
1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)
Lettuce leaves

Directions:

Place cream cheese in a large mixing bowl and beat 1 minute or until fluffy. Add the cranberry sauce and mayonnaise, and then beat the mixture together until blended. Stir in the drained pineapple. Fold in the whipped cream. Add nuts if desired. Spoon the salad mixture into paper cups or empty cranberry and crushed pineapple cans. Cover the salad with plastic wrap and secure it with rubber bands. Freeze the containers standing upright for at least four hours, until solid. Remove the salad from the paper cups or cans and slice it into ¾-inch circles. Serve each slice on a lettuce leaf.
Serves 10.

**Taken from In the Kitchen with Grandma, cookbook by Lydia E. Harris, Harvest House Publishers.*

Cinnamon Twists

from Janet Young

This makes a nice presentation. The dough is actually a biscuit or scone dough, so goes nice with tea.

Ingredients:

2 c flour
2 T sugar
1/2 tsp. salt
2 tsp baking powder
½ tsp baking soda
½ tsp cream of tartar (optional)
6 T butter, room temperature
1 c buttermilk or milk

Filling:

2-3 T melted butter
¾ c brown sugar
1 tsp cinnamon
1 T flour

Icing:

¾ cup confectioner's sugar

Directions:

- In medium sized bowl, mix dry ingredients. Then cut in butter with pastry blender.
- Add buttermilk, stirring with fork until dough holds together. Shape into a ball.
- Pat into a rectangular shape on lightly floured surface and roll out to a 6 x 24 inch strip.
- Spread with melted butter, then, with sugar/cinnamon/flour mixture.
- Starting from long side fold over twice, so that you have a 2 inch strip that has three layers.
- Cut into ¾ inch slices and twist each slice so that it looks so that it looks like the figure 8. (right hand twists away from you and left hand toward you).
- Place on greased and floured (or parchment paper lined) cookie sheet.
- Bake at 400F until golden. About 12-14 minutes. Yields approximately 30 mini twists.

Icing: Fill a 1 cup measuring cup ¾ full of confectioner's sugar. Stir while adding a little water at a time, until it has an easy spreading consistency. Drizzle or brush over warm twists. If you are not using parchment paper remove twists before you drizzle with icing.



Cranberry Shortcake with Butter Rum Sauce

from Ann Stewart, My Loving Ewe

Mix:

3 cups flour
1 cup sugar
¾ tsp salt
1 T baking powder

Add:

1 1/2 cups milk, and 1/2 cup melted shortening
Fold in 2 cups raw cranberries. Bake at 325 for 25 minutes.
Serve warm with the following butter sauce

BUTTER SAUCE

Bring to boil:

1 cup butter
2 cups sugar
1 cup cream
1/3 cup rum

(This sauce makes A LOT and is really nummy on pancakes and ice cream and other desserts)

Cherie's Cherry Chewies

from Cheryl Potts, Wit & Wisdom



Ingredients:

2/3 c. shortening
2/3 c. butter
1 1/2 c. sugar
2 eggs
1 tsp. cherry extract
1 c. chopped marachino cherries
3 1/2 c. flour

2 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. salt

Topping:

1/3 c. granulated (red) sugar sprinkles
¾ cup confectioner's sugar

Directions:

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
- In medium bowl, cream together the butter, shortening and sugar. Stir in the eggs and extract. Combine the flour, baking powder and salt. Stir into the creamed mixture until dough comes together. Drop by teaspoonsful on cookie sheet and sprinkle the top with red sugar sprinkles. Place them on ungreased cookie tray- 2 inches apart.
- Bake at 10-12 minutes until bottom is light brown. Remove and cool.
- Yields about 8 dozen.
- (optional) Cut cherries in half and put one on each cookie after sprinkling with the red sprinkles.

The BEST Cookie Cutter Cookies

from Liberty Bramer, B4 and After.com

These cut-out cookies even taste good without frosting! They use no rising ingredients, and keep their shape when baked.

Ingredients:

2 sticks butter
4 oz. cream cheese
1 c. white sugar
1 egg YOLK
1 tsp. vanilla
2¼ c. flour

PREP TIME: 1 hour

COOK TIME: 50 minutes

ADDITIONAL TIME: 1 hour

TOTAL TIME: 2 hours 50 minutes

YIELD: 36

Directions:

- Cream butter and cream cheese at room temperature with mixer until blended.
- Add sugar, egg yolk, and vanilla.
- Beat until blended.
- Add flour a little at a time until blended. Dough will be thick and you may need to mix by hand instead of with a mixer.
- Refrigerate overnight.
- Roll thin, cut out with cookie cutters, and bake on a lightly greased cookie sheet for about 10 minutes at 350 degrees until just starting to brown.
- Let cool before removing from cookie sheet.
- Frost with frosting or glaze if desired.

Notes: This recipe doubles or triples easily. <https://www.b4andafters.com/best-cookie-cutter-cookies/>

Here's one of our favorite Christmas cookie recipes:

Chocolate-Cherry Cookies

from Julie Druck, Life in Shunk Hollow

Ingredients:

1 1/2 C. all-purpose flour
1/2 C. unsweetened cocoa powder
1/4 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. baking powder
1/4 tsp. baking soda
1/2 C. butter, softened

1 C. sugar

1 egg

1 1/2 tsp. vanilla

10 oz. jar maraschino cherries

6 oz. pkg. semi-sweet chocolate chips

1/2 C. sweetened condensed milk

Directions:

Preheat oven to 350. In a large bowl, stir together flour, cocoa powder, salt, baking powder and baking soda; set aside. In mixer bowl, beat together butter and sugar on low speed with electric mixer until fluffy. Add egg and vanilla; beat well. Gradually add dry ingredients to creamed mixture; beat until well blended. Shape dough into 1" balls; place on ungreased cookie sheet. Press down center of dough with thumb. Drain cherries, reserving juice. Place one whole cherry in center of each cookie.

In a small saucepan, combine chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk; stirring, heat over medium-low until melted. Stir in 4 tablespoons of reserved cherry juice. Spoon about 1 teaspoon frosting over each cherry, spreading to cover cherry. (Frosting may be thinned with additional cherry juice, if necessary.) Bake at 350 for 11-13 minutes or until done. Remove to wire rack; cool. Makes about 40 cookies.

Northfield • Owatonna • Waseca

★ *Across the Freeway from Cabelas!* ★

Southern Minnesota's **Largest Gift Store**

Open 7 Days a Week!

Country Goods 

Owatonna, MN • 507-451-5661

Find Gifts for the Whole Family!

Nativity Sets • Angels • Stocking Stuffers • Snowmen • Santas
 Windsocks • Flags • Memorial Products • Heritage Lace
 LARGE Bible selection • Linen and Lace Window Valances
 Jim Shore and Willow Tree Figurines
 Hundreds of mugs and salt and pepper shakers
 Biggest Chime Display including the giant \$3000 chime!

 Preview lots of our products on Facebook!





Located in **Historic Downtown Northfield** since 1995

We Have 6 Rooms of Gifts and Decor!

• Melissa and Doug Toys • Framed Photos
 • Clothing • Kitchen Items • Hair Accessories
 • Holiday Decor • Birdhouses
 • Locally and handmade: Jewelry, Soaps, Ornaments and Wood Items • So Much More!

Call for Store Hours 507-645-6510

113 5th St. W • Northfield, MN 55057



PAST & PRESENT ANTIQUES and GIFTS

“Come Together for Christmas”

Welcome to our Winter Wonderland and Celebrate the Season with us!

We can't wait to see you!

Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm

1101 N. State St. • Waseca, MN • 507-835-4000

Reuse • Repurpose • Recycle

by Kim Keller

Wool Sock Candle Wraps

The weather is getting cooler, or even down right cold! You'll soon be, if you haven't already, tucking away those swim suits. Next you'll be getting out your wool socks to keep your feet warm. You may notice you have a stray sock or two. Here's a perfect project to up-cycle those random single wool socks!

What you'll need:

- 3 candles of different sizes
- 2 knee high wool socks (or any long socks)
- 3 charms or buttons
- raffia
- hot glue gun
- hot glue sticks
- scissors



1. Cut the "foot" off of both of the socks. Set aside.
2. Stretch the one of the remaining long parts of the one of the socks over the largest candle. I found it easier to come from the bottom up versus over the top and then pushing it all the way down.
3. Arrange the folding pattern of the sock to your liking.
4. Cut the "toes" off of one of the "feet" that you set aside earlier.
5. Stretch the remaining section of this sock over the smallest candle.
6. Arrange the folding pattern of the sock.
7. Take the one remaining long section of sock and stretch it over the medium sized sock.
8. Arrange the folds.
9. Tie three bows of raffia.
10. Using the hot glue gun, glue the three raffia bows to each sock wrap.
12. Also using the glue gun, glue one of the charms or buttons to each candle and sock wrap.



The options are endless with this project! While I used a moose metal charm for each candle (because I like symmetry!) you could do different charms on each candle. You could also use buttons for a cute sweater twist! Mix up the type of socks too! There are so many different socks out there including seasonal socks for every season! No matter what you like, you'll be able to find a sock to fit your style! I did use the same style of sock for

each candle because again, I like symmetry, but using your random single socks could result in some great combinations as well.

You Could Win!

By the Yard Comics for Quilters

12 Month Wall Calendar 2022



From the popular webcomic *By the Yard*®, you'll be in stitches all year long with the antics of fabric-loving Quilt Girl and her ever-patient Train Guy! Created by quilty cartoonist Jen Lopez.

You Could Win!

You can register to win *By the Yard Comics* calendar!

Clip and mail in this form! If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to: The Country Register, 2920 144th Ave. NE Ham Lake, MN 55304. You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Favorite Shop _____

New Ulm • Holiday Hop

The Thimble Box

Holiday Road Trip: Nov 11-13

- Drop off food shelf items for a free fat quarter
- Receive an ornament and pattern at each shop

Holiday Hop: Dec 1-4

- Receive a zipper at each shop
- Grand Prize Featherweight Sewing Machine

Mon-Fri: 10am-5pm
Sat: 10am-4pm

2 S. Minnesota St. • New Ulm, MN
507-354-6721 • thimblebox@newulmtel.net



Where in Minnesota?

Somewhere in Minnesota the image to the right can be found.
Where is it?
(Answer on page 22 of this issue)



Merry Christmas



Free Pattern




For more fun and creative inspiration visit: www.JacquelynnSteves.com

Free Embroidery Pattern –May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

The Fourth Annual Holiday Hop

Zip Up Your Holiday

Wed. through Fri. Dec. 1st - 3rd 9AM - 5PM
Sat., Dec. 4th 9AM - 4PM




Grand Prize: Featherweight Sewing Machine

Win 1 of 9 \$50 Gift Certificate

Receive a Complimentary Zipper at each shop

Visit all 9 Fine Quilt Shops

- Sewing Seeds Quilt Co. - New Ulm
- Spinning Spools Quilt Shop - New Ulm
- The Thimble Box - New Ulm
- Michele's Quilting & Sewing Center - Blue Earth
- Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
- River City Quilts - Mankato
- Sue's Quilt Shop - New Prague
- Quilting by the Hearth - Lonsdale
- Quilter's Dream - Montgomery

Kiester • Wells

ANTIQUES OF THE MIDWEST

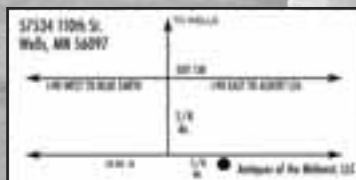
WIDE VARIETY OF GENUINE ANTIQUES
BY MULTIPLE DEALERS

57534 110TH ST. • WELLS, MN 56097 • 507-553-6048

**ANNIVERSARY SALE:
NOV. 16 - 20
20% OFF STOREWIDE ON
ALL ITEMS OVER \$20!**



HOURS: TUES-SAT 9:30-4:30
SUN & MON BY CHANCE
OR APPOINTMENT
AFTER HOURS CALL: 507-456-3699



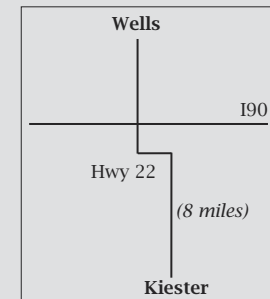
Holiday Open House

November 26-27

Watch Facebook for more details on special events and discounts during the open house!



119 South Main St.
Kiester, MN 56051
507-294-3700
507-993-1777



Hours: Monday - Friday 10am - 4pm • Saturday 10am - 1pm

Making the Choice Between Giving Plastic or Giving Gifts

by Barbara Kalkis

Thanks to Covid-19, it seems the size of my wallet gained almost as much weight as I did. After carrying only necessities, I suddenly had prepaid gift cards crammed into every spare pocket of my purse. When stores reopened, it was luxurious to treat myself to expensive cheese and wines and binge on frothy, fattening coffee drinks—and I'm a tea person! I ate at restaurants I had never been to before ... or heard of. Like my waistline, even my stash of cardmaking stuff grew to never-before-seen proportions.

In those pandemic days, I too churned out gift cards like I was jellybean supplier to the Easter Bunny. It was the easiest way to celebrate any event or just say thank-you. Then the euphoria dimmed. My mirror proved what "chunky" really means and nooks and crannies got stuffed with a bulging craft stash.

It also seemed as if I was saying, "Look, I can't spend time looking for a special gift, so just buy something nice for yourself." Easy-peasy and only a little bother to stand in line to buy the card.

Handmade is Best Made.

The lesson really hit home on a visit to a local "members only" warehouse. Shoppers pushing carts large enough to hold three kids and a year's worth of toilet paper snapped up jackets in "seasonal" colors of black, gray and some sickly green color that surely had been mixed wrong. Everyone bought the same jacket, pants and shoes in the same style, the same monthly special cookware—even the same grilled chickens. There was no individuality or creativity anywhere. Just like the plastic gift cards.

It made me think. The most precious items in my house are handmade and unique: the solid oak dining table with a hidden leaf that pops up with a flick of my hand; a redwood burl table crafted by an artisan who shipped it to us in a pine coffin, also handmade. My aprons, potholders, quilted blankets—all stitched by creative, loving hands.

Each piece has a history that reveals the crafter's personality. It takes imagination to see what is and what can be in wood grain; an inner eye to capture the magic of a scene in paint or a photo; a memory that becomes a story.

Art appreciation is universal. October is National Arts & Humanities month in the USA. Japan honors handcrafts of its ancient heritage every November. In December, Germany thrills tourists with its annual Christmas fairs. UNESCO, the education, science and cultural arm of the United Nations, honors World Art Day every April 15th—birthday of that crafter extraordinaire, Leonardo da Vinci.

Here is a resolution idea. Instead of plastic, let's give something unique. Visit craft marts, fairs, antique collectives and art shows for unique gifts. Try a new hobby ourselves. Teach kids to sew, make a birdhouse or color a picture for the refrigerator. It is good for lifting hearts and maybe even slimming waistlines.



think big

SHOP SMALL

Small Business Saturday

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 27TH

Wit and Wisdom

by Cheryl Potts

Christmas Lights

Creativity has soared to new heights when you see how people decorate with Christmas lights! What a visual smorgasbord!

It's quite a treat to drive around the countryside during this season and enjoy the "celebration of lights". The Christmas season is alive and well in rural America. You may see strings of lights that circle silos, outline barn roofs, and follow picket fences as well as, porches, railings, windows, bushes and yes, even leafless trees. The most unique display of holiday lights I've seen so far, is a John Deere tractor decked out with Christmas lights around the tires, the body, the steering wheel, and seat, proudly sitting on the front lawn of a large dairy farm. Now that's a serious dairy farm decorator! Some people even go to great expense by purchasing commercial Christmas decorations such as reindeer, snowmen, Santa, outdoor Christmas trees with lights galore, and the air-filled giant versions of Christmas characters.



I love the overzealous Christmas decorators who engulf their whole house and front lawn with lights of every color, shape and design. Lights that twinkle, blink off and on and if you're lucky, a computerized musical rendition with lights flashing to the music. It's unbelievable the imagination of people at Christmas time.

However, none of our Christmas lights can compare to the enormous beauty or brilliance of the Bethlehem star that led the Shepherds and Wisemen to the manger. I can't even fathom how that "celebration of lights" must have scared the shepherds to death. In fact, the scripture says, "...and the glory of the Lord shone around them and they were terrified. But the angel of the Lord said to the shepherds, Fear not...I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all people. Today in the city of David a Savior has been born; he is Christ the Lord..."

It always warms my heart to see those homes in the neighboring communities, that place a lighted cross, or large nativity scene on their lawn as a reminder that Jesus is the reason for the season. 'Tis the season for rejoicing in the birth of Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. His light will outshine them all! Luke 2



Gift Certificates available!

michelesewvac@bevcomm.net Hrs: 9am-5:30pm M-F
9am-7pm Thur
9am-2pm Sat

Visit Updated website!
www.michelesquiltingandsewing.com
Order what you want from the comfort of your home!

Celebrating our 19th Anniversary!
on Small Business Saturday, November 27th
• Storewide Specials • Drawings •

Holiday Hop
December 1st - 3rd

Notions - DMC Floss - Classes - Sewing machine repairs and services
Quality Quilt Fabrics - Janome Sewing Machines Sales & Services

We're moving in 2022! Two blocks south of our current location!
Watch for updates!

120 N. Main St • Blue Earth MN 56013 • Phone: 507-526-3295



The Quilted Steeple
A Quilting and Crafting Retreat located in heritage farm country of Northwest Iowa
We are OPEN and taking reservations!
BOOK YOUR RETREAT NOW!
** Watch for exciting changes coming soon! **

2605 90th Ave, Lone Rock, IA 50559
Phone 515-570-9625
www.quiltedsteeple.com
info@quiltedsteeple.com



Hours:
Monday-Friday 10-6
Thursday 10-8
Saturday 10-4

- Sewing machine servicing and repairs!
- Scissors sharpening!
- Follow us on Facebook for sales and new products!

204 East Main • Luverne, Mn • 507-920-8715
www.sewingbasketluv.com • Email: sewingbasketluv@gmail.com

Shop small for all of your Holiday Crafting needs!

QUILTING	NEEDLEWORK	YARN & GIFTS
		
 JANOME SEWING MACHINES & QUILTING FABRICS 120 N. Main St. 507-526-3295 michelesquiltingandsewing.com	 WELCOME STITCHERY 214 N. Grove St. 507-526-2006 www.welcomestitchery.com	 BECKI STEIER STUDIO, LLC 110 N. Main St. 507-525-3363 Find me on Facebook!

Visit them all in Blue Earth, Minnesota!



FOURTH ANNUAL HOLIDAY HOP
'ZIP UP YOUR HOLIDAY'
DECEMBER 1ST - 3RD 9AM - 5PM
SATURDAY, DEC. 4TH 9 AM - 4 PM

Visit all 9 Fine Quilt Shops
Sewing Seeds Quilt Co. - New Ulm
Spinning Spools Quilt Shop - New Ulm
The Thimble Box - New Ulm
Michele's Quilting & Sewing Center - Blue Earth
Old Alley Quilt Shop - Sherburn
River City Quilts - Mankato
Sue's Quilt Shop - New Prague
Quilting by the Hearth - Lonsdale
Quilter's Dream - Montgomery


SIGN UP FOR OUR 1ST ANNUAL WINTER GET AWAY RETREAT.
FEBRUARY 4 - 6, 2022
ARROWOOD CONVENTION CENTER
OKOBJOI, IA

JOIN US FOR OUR 2ND ANNIVERSARY SALE
JANUARY 1, 2022
11 AM - 4 PM

OLD ALLEY QUILT SHOP
115 N Main Street
Sherburn, MN 56171
507-764-4088
www.oldalleyquiltshop.com

Regular Shop Hours
Mon - Fri 10 am to 5:30 pm
Sat - 9 am to 3 pm
1st Sunday of every month 1 pm to 4 pm

Book Review
Essentials of Quilt Judging
by Lorraine Covington



Ever wonder what criteria the judges are using when critiquing your quilt? This brand new book is a wonderful resource that will answer that question and more.

NQA Certified Judge Lorraine Covington is generous in sharing the knowledge she has gained from more than twenty years of judging thousands of quilts across the country. She has also quilted for fifty years.

Essentials of Quilt Judging will be useful for improving your quilts by applying the judging criteria, for help in setting up your guild's show or as a first step toward becoming a certified quilt judge. With over 100 pages of information about styles and types of quilt shows, definitions for categories, details about hiring judges and setting up judging rooms—and more—this helpful resource will be your go-to book for all things about quilt judging.

You will find this book encouraging and helpful for elevating your quilt-making to a new level. It would make a thoughtful and useful holiday present for all your quilter friends!

Suggested retail is \$24.99 but an introductory special is available. Email Lorraine at lorrainequilts@cs.com for prices and an order form.

You Could Win!

You can register to win a copy of **Essentials of Quilt Judging!**
Clip and mail in this form! If you prefer not to cut up your paper, write the form below on a note card and mail to: The Country Register; 2920 - 144th Ave NE; Ham Lake, MN 55304.
You will be notified and receive your prize by mail! Good Luck!

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Favorite Shop _____

North Iowa Shopping Spree • Worthington

1820 Oxford St.
Worthington, MN 56187
craftycorner@iw.net

Crafty Corner Quilt & Sewing Shoppe

* Local Shop for Bernina Sewing Machines *

We have over 9000 bolts of fabric!
Shop us here in the shop or online!

Call Crafty Corner 1-800-SEW MORE or 507-329-0158
www.craftycornerquiltandsewingshoppe.com

Mark your calendars for the 14th annual

North Iowa Quilters One-Stop Shopping Spree

Best Western Holiday Lodge
I-35 and US Hwy 18 W (Exit 194) • Clear Lake, IA

Friday, Nov 5 (10-5) • Saturday, Nov 6 (10-4)

Come in from the cold and join us for a quilter's shopping delight.
Thirteen vendors have their latest and best in kits, patterns, fabrics and sewing machines for you under one roof.
Make it a fun-filled day with your friends!

Participating Merchants:

- Rainbows & Calico Things, Williamsburg
- Quilter's Garden, Cresco
- Iowa Falls Sewing & Fabric, Iowa Falls
- Debbie's Quilt Shop & Gifts, Osage
- It's Sew Tempting, Story City
- Forest Mills Quilt Shop, Postville
- The Quilted Strawberry, Strawberry Point
- Mrs. T's Mercantile, Vincent
- Tillies Quilt Shop, Fort Dodge
- Cottage Rose, Marion
- Nolting Mfg, Hiawatha
- Seams to Me, Algona

Contact Barbara Wardenburg
319-668-1977

Random Acts

by Maranda K. Jones

Never Doubling

My grandma's hands illustrated her stories with their long crooked fingers moving through the air above her legs so contrastingly still in her wheelchair. Those long fingers with never painted nails would point to the drawer in the dresser where I would find the envelopes and stamps she needed. Those long fingers would hold my children's suckers and chocolate she saved for them and other visitors. Those strong hands steered her down the hall of the Good Samaritan Center where she spent her final days. And it was one of those last visits that I try to remember well.



My grandma's hands held my youngest child as I pushed her wheelchair down the hall with my older two children's help. We sat near the front window of the shared visiting room, and she gave me a cooking lesson. No kitchen was necessary. She taught me again the tradition of my childhood.

My grandma's hands came together as she showed me how to form the popcorn balls she had made most of her life and all of mine. Our fingers ran under imaginary water, getting our hands damp so the hot liquid would not burn as we shaped the sweet treats. She measured the water with a distance between her pointer finger and her thumb, reminding me to pour about that much in a glass to check the hardness of the candy. She rubbed her fingers against her thumb and reminded me how the consistency would feel and look when it was ready to pour on the popcorn.

My grandma's hands suddenly issued a warning! That shaking crooked pointer finger reminded me to remove any kernels that had not popped before getting started! She moved her arms around as if she was stirring the food coloring into the giant pot of sugar and syrup right then and there. She moved me back into her kitchen to a time when she stood tall over her stove. My dad lifted me up in his arms, above the hot pot to drop in a few squirts of red or green, and Grandma kept stirring.

My grandma's hands were all over the place as she told her story, which was symbolic in a way, as her story's instructions were not properly sequenced. She wanted to tell me again, and I was hungry to listen and learn. She wanted to share her tips and secrets, and I was indulging. She shared her delicious popcorn balls with neighbors, strangers, friends, and family. She was well-known for her holiday goodies.

My grandma's hands created hundreds of popcorn balls each year. She individually wrapped each one and placed it in a paper grocery sack. She only made one set at a time, never doubling the recipe. She felt each batch needed to be perfect, and finishing one batch only meant it was time to start another.

My grandma's hands hugged me tight around my neck and grabbed my kids' hands as we said goodbye. Her story reminds me to live one day at a time. Finishing one year only means it is time to start another.

© 2021 Maranda K. Jones

Maranda Jones' new book **Random Acts** is now available at [amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com).
The book includes her reader-acclaimed articles from the last decade.

Countryberries Designs
My Christmas Ornaments

Designed by Kathy Graham




This pattern is free for you to use. Please give the artist credit.
Not for commercial use.

Enlarge this pattern to your desired size. Paint on canvas, wood, paper or fabric. You can also applique the design with wool or cotton fabric to make a pillow or wall-hanging. You can do embroidery, punchneedle or rug hooking techniques too.

Whatever craft you choose, have fun!

Please note: our shop is temporarily closed due to a fire.
Follow Countryberries on our website or on Facebook.

Countryberries LLC NEW Website

Whimsies and necessities for your country home and garden
330 North Road Deerfield, NH 03037 
603-463-7615 www.countryberries.com Like us on Facebook

The Farmer's Daughter

A gathering of fine handmade goods & gifts

Open Year 'Round Mon-Sat 10-5 & Sun 12-5

Specialty furniture - primitives - home goods
gourmet foods - great gifts - holiday decor
"And So Much More!"

Christmas arrives November 12th

4905 Long Avenue (8th St & Hwy 61), White Bear Lake, MN 55110
(651) 653-6768 Visit us on Facebook at: TheFarmersDaughterWBL



The Noble Quilter

19570 Holt Street NW | Elk River, MN 55330

* Long Arm Services * Fabrics *
* Notions * Gifts * Clubs * Classes *

Come visit our warm and friendly MN shop that hosts something for everyone! Enjoy browsing through 4,500 bolts of thoughtfully selected fabrics. Check out our wonderful assortment of gifts, notions, books, patterns, kits and classroom. We also have a complete Long Arm Service to help finish your quilt!

phone: 763-633-4669
www.thenoblequilter.com

Regular Store Hours:

Mon - Sat:
10am - 4pm
Sun:
Closed



**What does the
Gingerbread Man use
to make his bed?**

Cookie Sheets

Riddle submitted by Shirley Ross

Open for business!
Shop hours: M-Sa 10:30am - 4:30pm
and by appointment.

Sew Trendy MN

LIVE Fabric shows on Facebook

Join us on Facebook "Sew Trendy MN" for LIVE shows!
Thursdays and Fridays at 7pm • Saturdays at 6pm
Trendy Fabrics, Kits & Bundles, Patterns, Notions, Demos & More
Great Giveaways during the show • Enjoy shopping from home!

Fabrics by FreeSpirit, Andover, Art Gallery, Robert Kaufman,
Shannon Fabrics, Windham, Majestic Batiks,
Dear Stella, Birch and MORE!



✱ **New Fabric Arriving DAILY!** ✱
TONS of Batiks!



Follow us on Instagram!

1964 Rahncliff Court Suite 600 • Eagan, MN
651-387-1815 • www.sewtrendymn.com

Visit our website
www.sewtrendymn.com
Follow us on Facebook

Excelsior • Spring Lake Park

Join us! Celebrating our 16th Year!

Christkindlsmarkt

is coming to the Excelsior Commons!

November 26, 27 & 28 and December 3, 4 & 5

Father Christmas	Biergarten
Mrs. Christmas	Artisans
Live Reindeer	Big Bubble
Magic Show	Eats & Treats
Gluhwein	German Delights

NEW! Expanded to TWO WEEKS!
NEW LOCATIONS: Excelsior Commons

SPONSORS: Kowalski's • The Pillars • Cambria Nova Group • Hasellewood • Tavern 4 & 5 • The Waters T Mobile • Alerus • Marine Max • Xcel Energy • KPMG Shorewood Wealth • Carrick Tonka Bay

Admission: \$5.00. Children 12 & under FREE
Get tickets at: www.ExcelsiorChristmas.com





BUTTERMILK BASIN

QUILT & WOOL SHOP,
THREADS, NOTIONS, KITS,
CLASSES, WORKSHOPS &
EVENTS

763.792.0638
8301 SUNSET ROAD NE
SPRING LAKE PARK MN

HOURS
MONDAY
THRU
SATURDAY
10 TO 4

WWW.BUTTERMILKBASIN.COM

BRINGING YOU FRESH VINTAGE INSPIRED DESIGNS IN WOOL & COTTON TO STITCH, SEW & CREATE! A "DESTINATION FOR INSPIRATION"! SHOP IN PERSON AT OUR RETAIL SHOP OR ONLINE & GET CREATING!

2021 Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt

Popular German Christmas event
now runs six days!

November 26-28 and December 3-5



EXCELSIOR, MN — The annual Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt is in a new location and doubling its event days this year to both make the event more enjoyable, and to adjust for pandemic-related safety protocols. It will take place in the Excelsior Commons next to Lake Minnetonka on Thanksgiving weekend, Nov. 26-28, and on the weekend of Dec. 3-5.

Inspired by traditional German open-air Christmas markets, the event brings a cherished tradition with local charm and a festive holiday atmosphere to Excelsior. It features a variety of food and beverages, artisan crafts and other products from dozens of vendors, entertainment including visits from Father Christmas and Mrs. Christmas and carolers (socially distanced from the crowd), kids events and live Alaskan reindeer, Christmas llamas, Frozen princesses, Magic Christmas Show, Balloon Artist, German mask display, Christmas String Concert, Christmas Rockabilly Concert and demonstrations of finished Kicksleds.

New attractions include Father Christmas sitting inside a giant popup bubble shaped like a Christmas ornament, allowing children to talk closely with him in a safe manner.

Also, the Cannonball Holiday Lights Cruise returns, featuring dozens of cars decorated with Christmas lights that will gather in downtown Excelsior, cruise from there by neighboring towns, senior living centers and health care facilities, and end back in Excelsior.

Attendees will be encouraged to wear a mask or scarf at all times other than while eating or drinking. Other safety protocols will include hand sanitizing stations.

Those interested in attending need to purchase tickets in advance through Eventbrite. Those interested in volunteering please sign up on the website beginning October 1, 2021.

"We're more excited than ever about this year's event," Mackenzie says. "The outpouring from people all over the area saying, 'we REALLY need this event to happen live this year'"

We wouldn't be able to bring the festival back live if it wasn't for the Excelsior Lion's Club and all local volunteers.

2021 Excelsior Christkindlsmarkt Food & Beverages

- Food Artisans
- Roasted Almonds & Nuts
- Bubushka's Polish Foods
- I Got Cheese (Wisconsin cheese and meat snacks)
- Kowalski's food truck – Brats, etc
- Luther Enterprises Mini Donuts
- Natasha's Pierogi's
- MSP Pretzel
- Ruhland's Strudel Haus
- Biergarten by Lion's Club
- German Gluhwein by the Coalition
- Kinder cocoa (German hot coco)
- Hot apple cider
- Coffee, water, soda, etc.
- Honey
- Cindy's Cinnamon Roasted Nuts
- Maple Syrup
- Kalihari Foods



Contact: Dale Kurschner • 763-567-9241 • dale@kurschnerconsulting.com



**SHOP LOCAL
This Holiday
Season!**

Happy Thanksgiving!

Sights, Sounds, Tastes, and Memories of the Holidays

by Judy Sharer

Soon Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us, filled with memories enhanced by all the senses. Stuffing, roasted turkey, and creamy mashed potatoes remind me of Thanksgiving gatherings when I was young. One year everyone would go to my mother's family and to my father's the next. When my grandparents got older, everyone came to our house, and my sisters, and I would help prepare the meal while watching the festive parades on television and waiting for the gang to arrive. The turkey always looked huge to our young eyes and Mom would somehow get it in the oven despite its size. Of course, that meant there would be plenty left for turkey sandwiches the next day.

Along with eating all my favorites like Aunt Thelma's candied sweet potatoes and Grandma Rohrer's rice pudding, there were of course all the traditional Thanksgiving side dishes the rest of the family would bring to share. After a sumptuous meal, the men folk would huddle in the living room watching a football game, cheering on their favorite team while the woman cleared the tables, did the dishes, and then sat around the kitchen table and chatted.

Christmas was a little different. My mother liked to decorate for every holiday, but for Christmas, we went all out. In addition to two trees fully covered with lights and some handmade and some store-bought ornaments there wasn't a flat surface in the entire downstairs of the house that didn't have a manger scene, a Christmas village, a candle arrangement, or some sort of decoration adorning it. Many items even had music that played. My favorite was a silver tinsel tree with miniature ball ornaments. You wound the base and as it turned slowly it played Silent Night!

Before the big day, Dad would drive us to town and wait in the car while mother dragged us to what seemed like every store in the city. We'd hear the Salvation Army Red Kettle people ringing their bells, the streetlight poles were decorated with lights that glowed in the falling snow of Western Pennsylvania. It seemed like I never came home with both gloves after a shopping trip.

Wrapping presents took days. At least that's what it seemed like to me. Mom would always run out of paper and send Dad for more plus additional tape. She would put a ribbon or bow on every package and when we unwrapped the packages after our holiday feast, we always had to save the bows for next year.

These are some of my most cherished memories; ones I'll never forget. My grandparents and parents have all passed now, and memories and photographs are all I have to remember them by. Here's hoping you are making beautiful memories with your children and loved ones. Take lots of pictures and perhaps put them in a holiday album instead of just storing them on your phone. You'll be happy one day that you did as the sights, sounds, taste, and memories of holidays past come alive again and again

*—Judy Sharer is the author of a historical sweet romance series titled *A Plains Life*. This three, so to be four book series is published by The Wild Rose Press, and available on-line wherever books and eBooks are sold. Visit Judy's website for more details. judysharp.com*



1st Annual All Minnesota Shop Hop Will Be Held from 4/1 – 5/31

Great Sewing Adventures™ will be held across Minnesota from April 1st to May 31st, 2022! **The All Minnesota Shop Hop** brings together sewing and quilting enthusiasts from throughout the United States for one of the nation's largest Shop Hops. Shop Hoppers will travel the state of Minnesota visiting more than 55 stores for this first annual spectacular event.

Each participating store offers shoppers a fun collectible thank you gift, and the chance to experience each of their unique personalities. Participants have their passport stamped at each store they visit to qualify for hundreds of fabulous prizes and store prize giveaways.

The All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazine goes on sale in February and features everything you need for your "Great Sewing Adventure Across Minnesota™." The magazine is your guide to all things about the event, participating stores and sponsors:

- Magazines sales help fund the event and will be available to purchase at participating **All Minnesota Shop Hop** stores in February.
- Besides the official passport, the magazine contains patterns, articles and other resources for sewing and quilting.
- The magazine also notes special Shop Hop store hours and includes regional and state maps that make it easy to plan your route.
- Each person in your party will need a passport to register for prizes.
- You will want to reference your magazine all year. Many shoppers even find value in keeping multiple copies – one for the sewing room and one for the car to use it to find a quilt shop whenever they are meandering through Minnesota.
- Be inspired by the patterns, projects and articles.
- There is no purchase necessary to participate or to win prizes.
- If you are not in Minnesota to pick up your copy in person, many of the stores will be selling the magazine online. Set a reminder to be sure to get your copy early to start planning your tour!

All Minnesota Shop Hop fabric is a 2022 exclusive that you will want to check out. The camping and outdoor themed fabric is only sold at Shop Hop stores during the shop hop. When it's gone, it's gone. When you see it, be sure to get your supply since it will sell out quickly.

Take your time—you will have TWO MONTHS to visit all of the stores! Enjoy the unique personality of each Shop Hop store. Get to know the staff. Discover the secrets and special items individual stores have that keep you inspired and excited about sewing.

Collectible Quilt Squares are a special 'Thank You' and each participating store has created a unique 4-inch quilt block capturing the fun and creativeness of sewing and quilting. The quilt blocks are only available to those embarking on this Great Sewing Adventure Across Minnesota™!

- Collect the fabric blocks and combine them with the exclusive **All Minnesota Shop Hop** fabric to make a one-of-a-kind project.
- Regional Quilt Blocks – Collect the stamps from all stores in a Region and you will be sent a free 6-inch, on-point quilt block to commemorate your accomplishment. (You must turn in your passport to receive Regional quilt blocks. You will receive one block for each region completed.)
- State Quilt Block – Purchase a commemorative 8-inch finished state block at many of the stores. A special state block will also be awarded to participants who collect stamps from all stores!

Prizes—Be sure to visit our website's Prize Page for more information about the hundreds of prizes available through the 2022 **All Minnesota Shop Hop**. This will be updated leading up to the event so check back often. Be sure to have your passport stamped at each store you visit. All winners are selected by random drawing from qualifying passports postmarked by June 3, 2022. There are Grand Prizes, Regional Prizes and General Prizes awarded during the live drawing in mid-June.

For complete details about the All Minnesota Shop Hop, including "Insider Tips for Shop Hopping," visit the website at <https://MinnesotaShopHop.com>. And be sure to join the Facebook GROUP at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AllMinnesota-ShopHop>.



FUN FACT:

"Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving Day song! Before becoming a Christmas anthem, "Jingle Bells" was an 1857 song titled "One Horse Open Sleigh," and its composer, James Pierpont, intended it to be a Thanksgiving Day song. But it became so popular around December 25 that in 1859 the title was changed to "Jingle Bells" and the rest is history!

All Minnesota Shop Hop

Mug Sugar Cookies

- 2 tbsp butter
- 4 tbsp sugar
- 1 pinch salt
- 2 egg yolks
- 6 tbsp all purpose flour
- 1 tsp sprinkles



1. Melt the butter in mug in the microwave (about 30 seconds).
2. Add sugar and stir together.
3. Mix in the egg yolks.
4. Add the flour, salt and sprinkles.
5. Stir until combined.
6. Divide the mix between two mugs.
7. Top with more sprinkles.
8. Cook each separately in the microwave for about 45 seconds to 1 minute.
9. Serve with a little buttercream frosting on top if you'd like!

Recipe by Gemma's Bigger Bolder Baking



THE WOODWORKING SHOP



At The Woodworking Shop we offer hand carved wooden spoons, hardwood tree bowls, log furniture and shelves, candleholders and many more

handmade wood items. We also offer woodworking supplies for your DIY projects and your rustic wedding!

We sell lodge, cabin, rustic, primitive decor along with woodworking supplies!



Visit us online:

www.etsy.com/shop/thewoodworkingshop

New shop hop coming to Minnesota

APRIL AND MAY 2022

Over **50** Stores, **100s** of Prizes, **Free** Gift at Every Store

Visit www.MinnesotaShopHop.com and join our Facebook Group: www.facebook.com/groups/allminnesotashophop to learn all about it.

The All Minnesota Shop Hop Magazine will go on sale Mid-February at all participating stores.

It's your passport to embark on the Great Sewing Adventure™ across Minnesota!



Become Inspired

Touches of Nature's Beauty

by Annice Bradley Rockwell

As our days get colder and our daylight hours become the shortest of the year, there is a natural tendency to focus our attention on our home's interior, making it warm and welcoming for the exciting season to come. With the holidays quickly approaching, we now have a chance to create a special ambiance that only belongs to this magical time of year.

Crisp, cold November days could find us gathering greens in the woods to begin the joyful process of holiday decorating. We can bring home branches of pine, hemlock, spruce and cedar to fashion our very own evergreen wreaths adorned with fresh-picked rosehips and turkey feathers gathered on our journey. We can finish our hand-made wreaths with huge, hand-tied red and black buffalo plaid bows that can be seen from afar. We can clip smaller pieces of balsam-scented greens to be placed in and around our large country antiques, giving our vignettes a touch of nature's beauty. Adding elements such as southern pinecones, small quince fruit and even nuts gathered on a late-fall foraging hike can provide layers of texture and change to our artful displays.



The Essence of the Season

As the season of Christmas creeps closer, adding touches of light to our arrangements can beautifully alter both the look of our property and the look of our home's interior. Decorating a simple primitive cedar tree in the middle of an open meadow with white lights can be a lovely addition to a country landscape that be enjoyed from a distance when neighbors and friends drive by. Windowsills of an early cape on the corner of a country road adorned with the warm glow of candlelight on a cold, dark December evening can be a reminder that the season to celebrate Christmas is finally here. Glancing into the candlelit windows one might see Christmas trees of various sizes decorated with lights, making an early country home

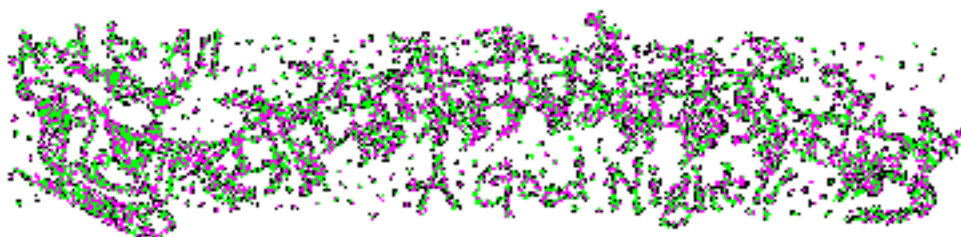
even more appealing as it is now dressed for the height of the season.

Treasured Traditions

Within our own homes, themed trees with ornaments made by hand, or found at country shops and shows, can be used to enhance our festive displays. A tree decorated with small felt birds, small bird nests and turkey feathers or a petite natural tree in an antique redware crock with homemade gingerbread men alongside a string of dried apples from your own small backyard orchard adds the perfect touch to a country kitchen. Santas made by hand from a dear friend can finally be taken out of their special storage spot in the keeping room blanketchest to be enjoyed now in a prominent spot on the early blue step-back cupboard alongside blue-decorated stoneware crocks and woven splint baskets. Larger evergreen trees strung with popcorn and cranberries decorated with ornaments gathered over the years lends a true sense of heritage to our home and reminds us that the season of Christmas is a time of treasured traditions that can be enjoyed by those we hold dear as we make even more memories together.

This season, take extra time to enjoy the soulful pleasure of honoring the patterns of the past. Share precious moments of creating the essence of Christmas with the ones you love. Surround yourself with the bounty of nature's hand and continue to carve out traditions that can be enjoyed for generations to come.

--Annice Bradley Rockwell is an educator and owner of Pomfret Antiques. She is currently working on her book, *New England Girl*. NewEnglandGirl2012@hotmail.com



GONE TO PIECES QUILT SHOP

70 South Main
Kimball, MN 55353
320-398-5300

Hometown Holiday Shop Hop:
Thursday, Nov 11th - Saturday, Nov 13th · Hop Hours 9am - 5pm

Customer Appreciation Day: Saturday, Dec 4th
50% off all regularly priced Christmas bolts
30% off all regularly priced fabric on bolts
(1/2 yard min cut)

After Christmas sales starts December 27th

www.gonetopiecesquiltshop.com • gonetopieces@meltel.net

Minnesota's Best Kept Secret!!

LOST & FOUND

Hwy. 22 Downtown
Eden Valley, MN
320-453-5678

Christmas Open House - November 11-13

Celebrate the season with us and enjoy Coffee,
Cider, and Cookies!

★ **20% OFF Storewide!** ★
(some exclusions apply)

Follow us on
Facebook to
see what's
new!

Over 6500 sq. ft. of Indoor Shopping!!

Clothing and Accessories • Gnomes
Home Decor • Spa Items • Jewelry
Religious Books and Gifts
Kitchen Items • Repurposed and
Upcycled Items

Hours: Mon - Sat 9:30 - 5:30

Christmas Drive Scavenger Hunt

Wear your P.J.s and bring a mug of hot cocoa along for the ride as you search for these fun festive items letting you know Christmas is on it's way!

- Baby Jesus in a Nativity Scene
- Lighted Christmas Tree
- Santa with his Sleigh and Reindeer
- Snowman
- Dancing Light Display
- Candy Canes

12/12

Fergus Falls • Oklee

Featuring Quality Fabrics, Patterns and Handmade one-of-a-kind Items for Your Home



Visit Us Online:

www.etsy.com/shop/needlespinsstichery

Offering Quality Fabrics!

We carry Henry Glass, Studio E, Wilmington Prints, Elizabeth Studios and Many More!

Also featuring Cath's Pennies and Buttermilk Basin Wool Patterns for your sewing projects!



Beyond Mitred Corners

Quality Professional Framing & Matting
Home Decor, Gifts and Floral Designs you won't find anywhere else!

Now carrying Fusion Mineral Paints and Accessories!

Come check out our 11 new colors that just arrived!

Hours:
T-F: 10-6
Sat: 9-12

409 W. Stanton Ave • Fergus Falls, MN 56537 • 218-998-4147 • mitredcorners.com

Oklee Quilting Supply, Inc.

205 Main St • Oklee, MN 56742

218-796-5151

1-800-777-7403

www.okleequiltinginc.com

email: okleequilting@hotmail.com



OPEN:

Monday-Friday: 8am-5pm

Saturday: 9am-12pm

The Art of the Home

HOME:
Where even the
teakettle sings
from **HAPPINESS**

We can't control
the way the
world goes, but we can
make our piece of it a little bit of
heaven on earth. ♥



FILL THE COOKIE JAR:
MAKE A LEMON TEA
BREAD; DISPLAY IT
UNDER A GLASS DOME.

SHINE UP GLASS & SILVER;
CLEAN WINDOWS, MIRRORS,
& GLASS ON PICTURES FOR
MORE LIGHT & SPARKLE.

**IF YOU GET A KITTY
(OR TWO) OR A DOG,**
YOUR HOUSE WILL
BE FILLED W/ LOVE. ♥

MAKE TEA, LIGHT A
CANDLE & WATCH
AN OLD
MOVIE



DOMESTIC BLISS

It's that time of year when Home Sweet Home is Homemade. Join us for the cozy season at www.susanbranch.com ♥

Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

The Way It Is

The branches of the trees drooped from the weight of the perfectly ripened red apples that could fall to the ground at the slightest provocation or wind. It had become an Autumn tradition to visit an apple orchard when we visited our son and his family who at the time lived in Ohio.

As soon as our gang checked in at the apple office, we quickly proceeded to the orchard. Our goal was to fill two half-bushel containers—and we could quickly tell this objective wouldn't take very long to achieve. "There are so many apples," I proclaimed, "and we need to be careful to only pick perfect ones!"



On our way back to our son's home, we made a quick stop at the grocery store. We needed frozen pie shells and other supplies to quickly get a dozen or so Dutch Apple Pies tucked in their freezer. How yummy the pies would be once the cold days of winter blew in. Enjoying a hot piece of pie, topped with whipped cream or ice cream, would be a great way to again enjoy our treasured memories of our fun autumn outing.

In a matter of hours, there I was, standing at the kitchen sink, peeler in hand as I prepared our freshly picked apples for pies. My husband John was busy coring and slicing apples. Our son Mick and his wife Kim had the task of preparing the apple filling and then topping each of the pies with the buttery Dutch apple crumbs.

As the official peeler, my idea of a perfect apple is always a really large one. While peeling ... and peeling ... and peeling, it didn't take long for me to realize that for every one my extra large apples there would be three really tiny ones. It seemed I had picked one big apple while Austin, Morgan and Reagan each picked one little apple. Obviously, my idea of perfection wasn't the same as theirs.

As I considered this apple discrepancy, I thought about what a strange bunch of apples we humans must appear to our Heavenly Father. Why would He pick any one of us?

We may not be filled with worms, but we each have our own unique warts and rotten spots. And yet, in spite of our foibles, I realized that, because God loves us, he sees us as apple pie perfect.

From one rotten apple to another, take heart and remember, "Whoever touches you touches the apple of His eye."

Zechariah 2:8b

©2021 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission. Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

Enjoy More of Jan's Columns ORDER HER BOOKS TODAY



Life is like a quilt, pieced together from a unique patchwork of memories, friendships, joys, and challenges. In each of these books, syndicated columnist Jan Keller is down to earth and refreshingly transparent as she opens the door to life's dreams, triumphs and struggles in a heart-warming way that will touch you forever. You'll love the way she spins 'yarns' that



weave the pieces of a treasured tapestry into a vivid depiction of life and love.

SPECIAL OFFER! Order both books for just \$25 and SAVE Shipping & Handling!

Mail your order to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831.



14091 Baxter Dr. Suite 112
Baxter, MN 56425
218-825-9101
colorzquiltshop@gmail.com
www.facebook.com/
colorzquiltshop
www.colorzquiltshop.com

Colorz Quilt Shop Friendly Service - Great Fabric

We are sad to announce that we will be closing our brick and mortar shop. But the good news is we will be going online!
We are currently having a sale with almost everything in the shop at a discount!
We will be closing Dec. 1, 2021.
We will still offer long-arm quilting services so please contact us for information.
Thank you!

Holiday Arts & Crafts Festival

Saturday November 13, 2021
9:00am-3:00pm
Riverside Elementary School
220 NW 3rd Street
Brainerd MN 56401

Spring Arts & Crafts Show
Saturday
May 14, 2022

Free Admission Over 100+ Exhibitors Concessions

For more information, questions, and registration, please visit: idell.org, Community Education (tab) or Contact Kari at kari.orders@idell.org



By the Yard

© 2021 Jennifer Lopez

www.bytheyardcomics.com



12 Days of Baking



The Country Register of Minnesota's Annual 12 Days of Baking! 2021

Thank you for submitting your recipes!

Country Register 12 Days of Baking Carmel Rolls

submitted by Freda Jansen of Paynesville, MN



- 2 loaves of frozen bread dough, partially thawed
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1 tbsp cinnamon

Cut into 16 pieces and toss in the sugar mixture. Place loaf pieces on the top of carmel sauce mixture.

Carmel sauce mixture:

- 1 stick butter
- 1/2 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 cup white sugar
- 1 cup vanilla ice cream

Bring all ingredients just to a boil. Pour into a 9x13" pan.

Let the bread dough rise to the top of the pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes. Invert tray on a plate to serve.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking M&M Magic Bars

submitted by Anne George of Park Rapids, MN



- 1 stick unsalted butter, melted
- 14 chocolate graham crackers
- 1 can (14 oz) sweetened condensed milk
- 1 bag (10 oz) bag mint chocolate chips
- 1 cup cocktail peanuts, coarsely chopped
- 2 cups mini marshmallows
- 1/2 cup red and green M&M's
- 1/2 cup coarsely chopped candy canes
- 1/4 cup red and green sprinkles

Crush the graham crackers into fine crumbs. Add the melted butter and mix to combine. Transfer the mixture to a buttered, foil lined 9x13" baking dish and press it into the bottom. Pour the sweetened condensed milk over the crumbs. Sprinkle the chocolate chips, peanuts, marshmallows, M&M's, candy canes and sprinkles over the condensed milk. Bake until the sides are golden brown and begin to pull away from the sides, about 30 minutes. Lift the bars out using the foil edges.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking Marshmallow Fudge Bars

submitted by Freda Jansen of Paynesville, MN



- 1/2 cup butter
- 3/4 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 3/4 cup flour
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 tbsp cocoa
- 1/4 tsp baking powder
- 1/2 cup nuts
- Marshmallows

Mix together the sugar, butter, eggs and vanilla. Add dry ingredients and nuts, mix. Put into a 9x13" pan. Bake for 20 minutes at 350°. Put marshmallows on top. Bake 3 minutes longer. Frost with chocolate frosting.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking Blitzen Cookie

submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN



- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup brown sugar, packed
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp baking powder
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 cup old-fashion oatmeal
- 3/4 cup shredded coconut
- 1/2 cup chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup nut meats
- 1 tsp green or red sugar

Cream butter and sugars together in a mixing bowl. Beat in eggs and vanilla. Combine flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder. Gradually add to the creamed mixture and stir in well. Add oatmeal and coconut. Then add chocolate chips and nut meats. Refrigerate for 20-30 minutes. Read a Christmas story during this time! After the story, take 1 cup of dough and form into a 4" circle by 1/2" cookie. Place this large cookie in the middle of a greased or parchment-lined cookie sheet. Lightly sprinkle with colored sugar. Bake about 10 minutes on the top rack. Cool and move cookie to a plate for Santa! Make the rest of the dough into regular sized cookies.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking Hot Cranberry Tea

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- 4 cups hot black tea
- 4 cups cranberry juice
- 2 cups apple juice
- 2 cups water
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup lemon juice
- 2 cinnamon sticks
- 6-10 whole cloves

Combine all ingredients in Dutch oven. Bring to a boil. Reduce heat and simmer 1 1/2 hours. Cool. Refrigerate over night. Reheat before serving.

12 Days of Baking

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Easy Peppermint Fudge

submitted by Kim Keller of Ham Lake, MN



- 3 cups semisweet chocolate chips
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- Red peppermint candies, crushed
- Cooking spray

Line 8x8" baking dish with foil. Spray foil with cooking spray. In a medium saucepan combine chocolate chips and sweetened condensed milk. Melt over low heat stirring until smooth. Pour into prepared baking pan and spread out evenly. Sprinkle on the crushed peppermint candies. Refrigerate for 2 hours.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cherry Bread

submitted by Lila Liebl of Albert Lee, MN



- 1 cup sugar
- 2 eggs
- 8 oz marahino cherries
- use juice from the cherries
- 1 1/2 tsp baking powder
- 1 1/2 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp salt

Cut up cherries. Mix all ingredients together. Pour into greased and floured loaf pan. Bake at 350° for 30 minutes.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Holiday Eggnog Pie

submitted by Shirley Ross of Alexandria, MN



- 4 oz cream cheese (softened)
- 1 tbsp butter (softened)
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1/4 cup egg nog
- 2 tbsp sour cream
- 1 tsp pumpkin pie spice
- 1 1/2 cup whipped topping
- 9" graham cracker crust
- Nutmeg for taste

Beat cream cheese, butter and powdered sugar until smooth. Beat in eggnog, sour cream and pumpkin pie spice. Fold in whipped topping. Spread into 9" graham cracker crust. Sprinkle with nutmeg. Cover and freeze for 4 hours or until firm. Remove 15 minutes before slicing.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Banana Bars

submitted by Freda Jansen of Paynesville, MN



- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 2 eggs
- 3-4 ripe bananas, mashed
- 2 tsp vanilla
- 2 cups flour
- 1 tsp salt
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

Mix sugar, sour cream, butter and eggs on low speed for one minute. Beat in bananas and vanilla on low speed for 30 seconds. Beat in flour, salt and baking soda on medium speed for one minute. Stir in nuts. Bake in a greased jelly roll pan at 375° for 20-25 minutes. When cooled frost with the cream cheese frosting.

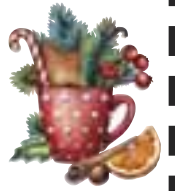
Cream Cheese Frosting:

- 1/2 cup butter
- 2-4 cups powdered sugar
- 1 package cream cheese, softened
- 1 tsp vanilla

Combine all ingredients and beat until fluffy. Spread over bars.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Holiday Punch

submitted by Patti Lee Bock of New Ulm, MN



- 2 cups cranberry cocktail
- 6 cups orange juice
- 3 cups ginger ale
- 2 (10oz) packages frozen strawberries, undrained

Mix together all ingredients and serve over ice. Serves 18.



Santa,
stop here!
We have
cookies!

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Cranberry Crispies

submitted by Lila Liebl of Albert Lee, MN

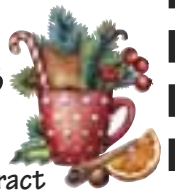


- 1 pkg (15.6 oz) cranberry quick bread mix
- 1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 1/2 cup chopped walnuts
- 1 egg
- 1/2 cup dried cranberries

In a bowl, combine the bread mix, butter, walnuts and egg. Mix well. Stir in cranberries. Roll into 1 1/4 inch balls. Place 3 inches apart on ungreased baking sheet. Flatten to 1/8 inch thickness with a glass dipped in sugar. Bake at 350° for 10-12 minutes or until light golden brown. Remove to wire racks to cool.

Country Register 12 Days of Baking
Eggnog Meltaway Cookies

submitted by Beth Davis of Hibbing, MN



- 1 cup blanched almonds (skinless)
- 2 cups confectioners' sugar
- 2 sticks unsalted butter, room temp
- 1 tbsp bourbon
- 2 tsp rum extract
- 1 tsp pure vanilla extract
- 2 1/4 cups flour
- 1/2 tsp fine salt
- 1 tbsp grated nutmeg, plus more for serving

Put the almonds and 1/2 cup of the confectioners' sugar in a food processor until finely ground, about 2 minutes. Add the butter and process until smooth, about 30 seconds to 1 minute. Add the bourbon, rum and vanilla. Pulse until smooth. Add the flour and salt and pulse until the dough forms into a ball. Roll mounded teaspoons of the dough in to balls and place on parchment lined baking sheets. Refrigerate for 30 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 350°. Bake for 20-25 minutes rotating the baking sheets from top to bottom and front to back halfway through baking time. Bake until the cookies are firm when gently pressed, completely dry and just beginning to crack on the top. Cool the cookies on the sheet for 5 minutes.

Meanwhile, add the nutmeg and remaining 1 1/2 cups confectioners' sugar in a pie plate and mix well. Toss the cookies gently in the sugar mixture until evenly coated. Cool the cookies on a wire rack completely, about 30 minutes. Toss the cookies in the sugar mixture again. Sprinkle with additional grated nutmeg.

Cloquet • Rush City • Sandstone

Quarry Quilts & Yarns
 326 Quarry Place • Sandstone, MN 55072 • 320-216-7639
 quarryquiltsandyarns@gmail.com • www.qqonline.com

Husqvarna Viking Sewing Machines • Fabrics • Yarns
 Sewing and Knitting Notions • Patterns • Books
 Long Arm Quilting • Sewing Machine Repair • Custom Quilts

★ **Pre-Inventory Sale!** ★
December 27th - 31st

Store Hours: Monday - Saturday 9am-5pm • Closed Sundays 



Christmas Open House
 November 15th-20th

Visit us on
Black Friday and Small Business Saturday
 to enjoy some great specials!

Mazzee's Birthday Party!
 December 14th

During December
 Receive a \$5
 Gift Certificate
 with the purchase
 of a \$50
 Gift Certificate!

Monday-Friday:
 10am - 5pm
 Saturday:
 10am - 3pm

274 Hwy 33 North • Cloquet, MN 55720 • 218-879-3577 • www.thequilteddogquiltshop.com



Search for the underlined words in the recipe in the word search below!

Christmas Fudge
 submitted by Kerrie Smith

- | | |
|---|--|
| 4 1/2 cups sugar | 2 oz <u>unsweetened</u> chocolate, chopped |
| 1 can (12oz) <u>evaporated</u> milk | 3 cups chopped <u>walnuts</u> |
| 1/2 up butter, cubed | 2 tsp vanilla <u>extract</u> |
| 2 <u>packages</u> of milk chocolate chips | 4 oz white baking chocolate, <u>melted</u> |
| 4 1/2 cups <u>mini</u> marshmallows | |

Line a 13x9 inch pan with foil. Coat with cooking spray. In a heavy Dutch oven, combine sugar, milk and butter. Bring to a boil over medium heat, stirring constantly. Cook and stir for 5 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in chocolate chips, marshmallows and chopped chocolate until melted. Fold in walnuts and vanilla. Immediately spread into foil lined pan. Drizzle melted white baking chocolate over the top. Cool completely. Using foil, lift fudge out of pan. Remove foil; cut fudge into squares.

T D S M E L T E D K J K F U D G E N S X
 S Z G I B G W W G U U X U Y I C Q G E C
 W C H O P P E D N R B L Y R U W B U X Q
 O M A W C H D U T E E Q N Q B E W Z T G
 L M D V D L S A E A V T E E K T W Y R O
 L T V G S S Y D I Y S O T Q J K W N A L
 A R L X J Y U U S F P W H U K R X T C W
 M Y C K T G E H W N I A R C B A A U T X
 H M O E M M A G Q C H S V M T U O H W D
 S S O Z F O V B E P C E P Z Z U R A R X
 R E K W I U N S W E E T E N E D D K J D
 A G I W K L I M D E T A R O P A V E A F
 M A N F P N B O I L A I B Y D G R E D O
 D K G X E N A W A H L V V B A P W L H V
 M C S V L V T E O W O A I Q E K A Z R M
 O A P D E N I L T R C N M Y R K L Z F D
 O P R J Y G P I E P O I U A P F N I I S
 R A A Q S W C O D B H L V K S Y U R D Z
 E L Y M I N I F J L C L A F K L T D E Z
 F E D A Q D P Y B J J A O H X Q S Q L J

THE Cutting Edge Quilt Shop
 485 South Dana Ave • Rush City, MN 55069
 - 1 mile east of interstate 35, Exit 159 -
 www.rush2quilt.com • 320-358-3693

Great Place to Stop on Your Trip Up North!

Stunning Collection of Beautiful
 Fabrics • Kits • Books • Patterns • Notions

✳ Knowledgeable Staff and Inspiring Ideas! ✳

Reserve the Sewing Room for a
 sewing day with your friends!
 \$20 reserves the day! Participants receive a
 10% discount on regular priced merchandise that day!

Hours: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-4pm • Sun Closed

**New Name!
 New Owner!
 Formerly
 Fabric, Fashions
 and More**

Leaf Quilts

by Rachel Greco

Fall is the time of year when every imaginable leaf pattern appears in quilts. Popular for over 200 years, leaf quilts can be either pieced or appliquéd. Many appliqué leaf patterns appear in quilts from the mid-1800s to the present, including oak leaf and reel patterns. An abundance of maple leaf quilt patterns can be found as well.



For piecing, Autumn Leaves is a popular quilt block. For appliqué work, many quilters find their inspiration by collecting leaves when they fall from the trees. If you want to make a quilt using the leaves that fall in your area, choose leaves that appear to be as perfect as possible. Within one hour of collection, you will want to press them flat by placing them in single layers between two sheets of waxed paper. You can then either place them in a leaf press or inside or underneath a heavy book. Allow them to dry for at least seven to ten days.

Once your leaves are dry, use them to trace shapes onto templates. You are then ready to use the templates you need for fusible web or traditional appliqué work. Depending on the type of leaves that fall from trees in your area, you'll want to use Fall fabrics, including yellow, gold, green, orange, scarlet, brown and red.

To create stems for your leaves, you can either cut fabric on the bias or embroider them in place. Try including embroidery and iridescent threads on your work to add texture to your leaf designs or use gradating tones of fabric for a 3-D effect.

-Rachel Greco owns Grandma's Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilt historian and avid reader, she gives talks on needlework as well as the role of women in American history and their connection to fabric. She has authored several books and patterns, and runs Grandma's Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants collect quilt blocks, learn about quilt history and make new friends. <https://grandmasatticquilting.com>

CABIN QUILTING

218-666-3146



227 1st Street SW • Cook, MN 55723

**Quilting Materials - Fabrics - Notions - Patterns
Gifts - Long Arm Quilting Services**

<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Holiday Boutique Dec 2nd - 4th</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Winter Hours: Tues - Fri 10am-4:30pm Sat 10am-3pm</p>
---	--



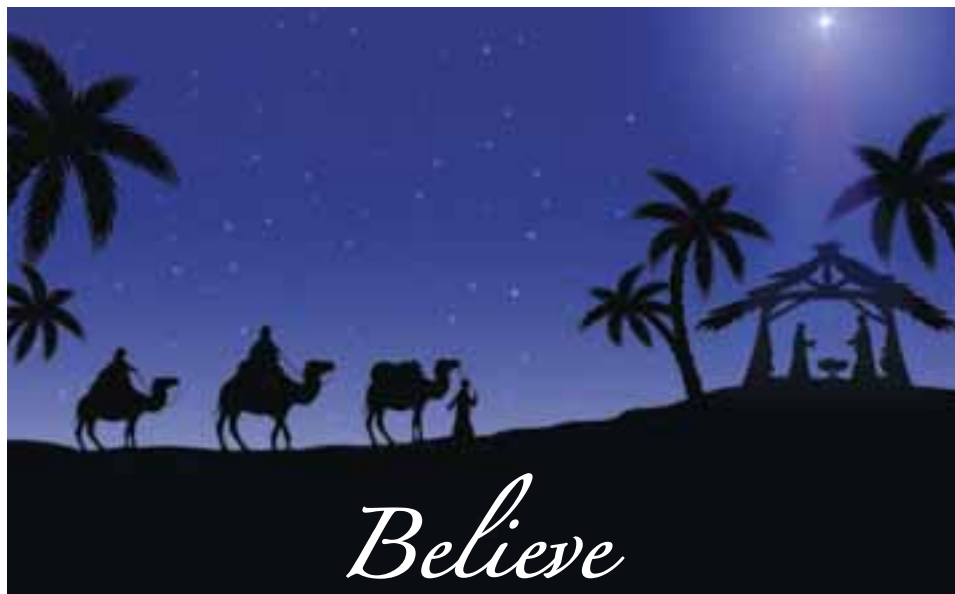
Studio 53 home of Fotos on Fabric

3 Blocks South of McDonalds!

We are ready to welcome you to our **TOTALLY REMODELED** shop!
Come see everything that's new and fresh!

Prepare to visit us during the **All Minnesota Shop Hop!** Join Us!
April and May

Hours: Mon-Fri 10am-4pm Sat 10am-2pm	2030 2nd Ave - Same as Hwy 53 International Falls, MN 56649 218-285-9962 or 218-240-1078
---	---



Where in Minnesota?



The answer is...

Iron Man Statue in Chisholm, MN

The whole structure is 85 feet high where the statue of an 1880's miner balances on a spherical framework of rusted corten steel. The iron miner is a tribute to the Iron Men of yore, when metal mining boomed in the region.

A TOUR OF MINNESOTA'S STATE PARKS

Whitewater State Park



The Dakota named the river Whitewater because it turned milky white in the spring as high water eroded light-colored clay deposits along its banks. Picturesque limestone bluffs and deep ravines make Whitewater a very popular southeastern state park. The 2,700 acre park is an angler's paradise with brown, brook, and rainbow trout swimming in the spring-fed Whitewater River and Trout Run Creek. Visitors enjoy a sandy swimming beach, a year-round visitor center, easy to challenging hiking trails, camping and a modern group center. Come in the winter to enjoy cross-country skiing and snowshoeing, and stay at the group center in rustic, winterized cabins. All through the year, discover the natural and human history of the area at one of the many interpretive

programs, visitor center exhibits or self-guided trails.

Whitewater State Park offers a combination of easy, moderate and challenging trails that take you from down by the river to up along the bluffs. Two self-guided options are available – the Trout Run Creek Trail wanders two miles through the wooded valley, or, if you'd rather stay close to the water, the Meadow Trail provides an easy, one-mile walk along the middle branch of the Whitewater River.



If you're looking for a more strenuous hike (and a great view), try the Coyote Point Trail. Allow a couple of hours; the switchbacks can be more deceiving than they look!



The Chimney Rock Trail offers a moderately difficult uphill hike to a beautiful limestone bluff overlook. Visitors often view turkey vultures, bald eagles and many other birds of prey from the overlook as well as enjoy the beautiful vistas. Inspiration point, an outcropping of beautiful limestone rocks, overlooks the valley. Here you cannot see any signs of civilization.



Stop in at the visitor center while at the park. Home of the park office and interpretive services, the Whitewater Valley Visitor Center should be your first stop. Park staff are ready to help you plan your visit and load you up on information.

There's even free equipment you can borrow and use while you're at the park – GPS units, birding kits, fishing kits and Kids' Discovery Kits.

Be sure to visit the Discovery Room, with nature-orientated displays, interactive exhibits and a bird-feeding station, where you can see bluebirds, cardinals, hawks and bald eagles.

Information from www.dnr.state.mn.us/state_parks. Visit the website for more information, pictures, hours and fees.



Merry Christmas!

Drinking from My Saucer

anonymous

*I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.*

*And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*

*I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.*

*I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*

*I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.*

*So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*

*If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough
I'll not ask for other blessings, I'm already blessed enough.*

*And may I never be too busy, to help others bear their loads.
Then I'll keep drinking from my saucer, 'cause my cup has overflowed.*



Changing Seasons and Silver Linings

by Kerri Habben Bosman

At the end of the year there is something about the dwindling light and drifting leaves. Gratitude is ever-present but, in autumn, I treasure time even more deeply. My husband Wayne and I wistfully remove the feeder after the hummingbirds leave on their southern journey. It surprises me that January slipped into April. April eased into August. Once school starts, the months fly by.

2020 was an exception to my customary autumn sensations. With the pandemic starting, that year possessed its own surreal reality. However, for Wayne and me, there was a precious silver lining to this unique time.

The three grandchildren who live closest to us came to our house one day a week when remote school began in August 2020. Isaac was in 8th grade, Laurel in 6th and Naomi in 4th. Throughout the rest of the school year and throughout the summer, this time together continued.

It helped all of us to have a change. I would pick them up in the morning between their classes so that they could get settled in before the next ones. Isaac claimed our bedroom as his spot, Laurel spread out in the TV room and Naomi either sat on the sofa in the living room or with me at the kitchen table.

Every day that they came over, their favorite fruits waited along with healthy snacks and some not so healthy ones. Omelets and grilled cheese sandwiches appeared upon request. They quickly discovered their grandfather's stash of candy, gradually eating most of it but kindly leaving one or two pieces for Wayne to find when he came home from work. Of course, we didn't spoil them too much, just the right amount.

We set up the table in the TV room as an art table and kept paint, markers and canvases at the ready. Isaac, who loves America's national parks, depicted his favorite places. The girls were often more impressionistic in their creations. We bought a second-hand dollhouse. The girls used everything from toothpicks to leftovers in my sewing basket to make things for it. Isaac and Naomi played our piano, much to our delight. Laurel wasn't quite as appreciative of their talents.

I learned that I could effectively have a conversation with each of the kids, work on an article and cook—all at the same time. I had not had my own children so this was a bit of revelation to me. Being a 'bonus grandparent' to our seven is one of the first blessings I count every morning and every night.

In between classes, we'd also bake something together. Laurel loves to bake and is exceptionally good at it. At Christmas and Valentine's Day we made sugar cookies and decorated them all together. Most every Tuesday, their grandmother came over for an hour or two and often we'd all have tea. It became one of our small rituals we shared together.

I carefully planned dinners and desserts we all enjoyed together when Wayne came home. We sat at the kitchen table and the conversation was a delicious music of the children's voices—usually all of them at the same time in a timeless symphony of sharing. Then we'd have about two hours before it was time to drive them home.

The kids are back in school, fully present with their teachers and their friends. We still spend time with them but we miss when our hearts felt the pulse of their daily lives. We treasure that we were given this gift.

Our grandchildren are not unlike the hummingbirds—beautiful in their flights and intuitive on their journeys. Every season of their lives is a time for us to love them even more as they grow and change in amazing ways.

Kerri Habben Bosman is a writer in Chapel Hill, NC. She can be reached at 913jeeves@gmail.com.



The Perfect Gift

by Becky Van Vleet

As the holiday season approaches, we're all thinking about shopping sprees and finding just the right gifts for family and friends. My mind takes me back to a number of years ago when our family packed up our house and set out for an adventurous move from the Midwest to Colorado. As we prepared, our older three daughters were busy with final sleep-overs and farewell parties. Our youngest daughter, Tavia, age six, was having a difficult time saying good-bye to her best friend, Katie.

To distract her and ease the loss, I took Tavia to Target one afternoon to select a farewell gift for her friend prior to our move. As we entered the toy section, my young daughter immediately discovered the stuffed animals, and within a brief moment, she grabbed a furry brown lion. She proudly made her choice known to me by hugging the little animal and stating how she'd found the perfect gift for Katie.

Normally I would have been quick to get out of the store and move on to the next errand. However, I was not convinced that this plain, brown furry thing of sorts was the appropriate farewell gift. I just knew my daughter's friend probably had about a hundred stuffed animals. So, I convinced Tavia that we needed to spend a bit more time and peruse the toy shelves a little more carefully before making a final decision. I remember how she followed me up and down the toy aisles in a meandering fashion, submitting to her mother's will, but still holding tight to the little lion.

After pointing out several other suggestions which I thought were certainly better since I was THE MOM, my little daughter emphatically blurted, "Mommy, I really want to give this lion to Katie. I have already put my love in it!"

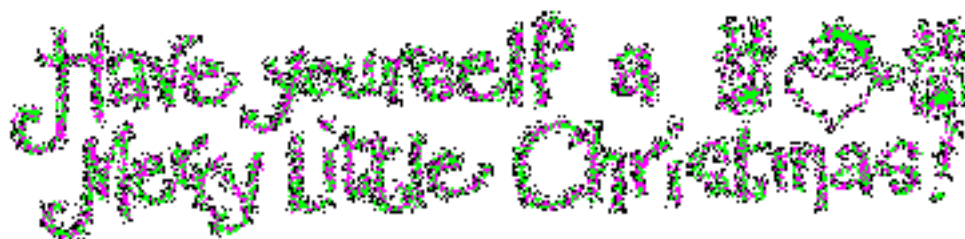
Stupefied, I humbly gazed down at my daughter hugging the lion, and I immediately realized she had, indeed, selected the perfect gift. Her love was in the gift.

Will we find the perfect gifts for our family and friends in our frenzied shopping sprees? Will our eyes land on just the right item as we scan stores on the internet? Maybe some of us will—but I am thinking how meaningful this new Christmas season could be if our gifts come from the source of love.

Can we sink love into gifts of outreach into our communities? Our fire and police stations enjoy snack baskets, cookies, and thank you notes for sure. Local soup kitchens and our Care and Share always appreciate donations of our time. Libraries and animal shelters can always use helping hands. Nursing home residents feel loved and valued with visits. The list goes on.

With love-infused gifts, I don't think we can go wrong. Many can be the recipients of our perfect gifts filled with love from our hearts.

Becky Van Vleet, a retired school administrator, lives near Colorado Springs with her husband, Troy. They are the parents of four grown children and enjoy spending time with their eight grandchildren. Becky is a children's picture book author, and her website is devoted to family stories and creating memories: www.beckylvanvleet.com.



Duluth



HANNAH JOHNSON
Fabrics & Sewing Studio
Fabric • Quilts • Notions • Classes

Check us out on Facebook Live
Every Thursday at 6:00 pm!
If you can't watch it live, you can
catch it on our webpage under LIVE!
We ship via 2 day FEDEX
We welcome you to visit our store in person
and follow safe distancing!

Shop & sign up for classes at
hannahjohnsonfabrics.com p: 218.525.7800
4511 East Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55804

The Country Craft Shed
7016 Van Rd. Duluth, MN
218-721-3258

Sat. - Sun.
10am - 4pm

Christmas Open House
November 26th - November 28th

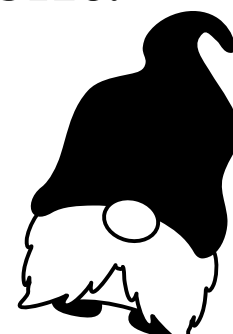
Primitive furniture • Rustic • Vintage
Repurposed items • One of a kind handmade items
New Christmas Items



**from babies to old biddies,
all are welcome at our quilt shop!**
we can't wait to see what you create next.



your friendly quilting place
10a-5p (tues-fri) 10a-4p (sat)



218-628-1687 | 2904 W 3rd St. Duluth, MN 55806
creationsquiltshop.com (coming soon)