

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

The Weekly Messenger

Founded in faith. Growing in grace.

5800 Backlick Road, Springfield, VA 22150 ~ 703-451-4331

Fifth Sunday in Easter ~April 28, 2024



(Shown above flowers from April 21st)

TODAY'S FLOWERS

Carolyn Baird in loving memory of John's mother, Elizabeth.

**ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY APRIL 21, 2024: 9:45AM IN PERSON (78), 9:45AM
RESTREAM (16), 12:15PM IN PERSON (48), 12:15PM RESTREAM (2)**

**We are a Stephen Ministry Congregation
Christian Care, Compassion, Listening — When you need it most.**



April Military Packages Collection: Anytime Now through the End of April

After a month-long hiatus, we have some information so we can send some packages to our deployed troops. This month, we are partnering with an organization called *Love in a Box*, which also sends to deployed troops, to Marines. Our main person to contact is Gilbert Fenters, the leader of the team of Marines on the Navy ship *USS Dwight D. Eisenhower (CVN 69)*, nicknamed the "IKE"; the chaplain with Fenters' team is Lindsay Lyerly. You have probably heard of the IKE in the news lately—they are in the Red Sea and have been working overtime every day, in such a dangerous area ... they are part of the attempts to stop the Houthi's attacks on shipping routes. It is a Navy ship, but the individuals we are sending packages to are Marines deployed on the ship.



Thank you so very much for your support. They did not list specific items they would like, but you have learned over the years that they welcome every kind of snack—sometimes those snacks become their meals when they are so busy.

St. Mark's Women—You Are Invited!

All St. Mark's ladies and guests are invited to our Women of the ELCA semi-annual salad/dessert supper Combined Circle meeting Wednesday, May 1st. Guest speaker will be Pastor Saul Cardona, who will talk about his past and upcoming mission trips to Honduras. This is also an opportunity to support this ministry, along with our May project of providing summer items for the children in Wise, VA. Suggested donations include: summertime sports equipment and kids clothes, toiletries, suitcases/duffle bags, socks, shoes in good condition, and gift cards. (No winter clothing, please.) If you can't attend the meeting, a collection bin for these items has been placed outside the church office. We hope you can join us!



Wednesday, May 1, 2024
5:30 PM - 7:30 PM
Fellowship Hall

Opening prayer will be promptly at 5:30 PM, since Pastor Saul has another obligation. Come and enjoy an evening with us as we share food and fellowship!

Letter Carriers to Help ECHO "Stamp Out Hunger"



ECHO is grateful to the Letter Carriers of the Burke, West Springfield, and Central Springfield Post Offices who are willing to join us in our mission to make sure that our neighbors do not go hungry! On Saturday, May 11, carriers from these Post Offices will pick up donations of non-perishable foods that residents leave next to their mailboxes early that morning. These foods will be brought to ECHO to be sorted and shelved by teams of volunteers.

The "Stamp Out Hunger" Drive is vital to ECHO. Few organizations hold food drives during the summer. Food from this collection helps ECHO get through the lean months ahead. See a complete list of most-needed items on our home

page at echo-inc.org. This list includes canned meats and fish, dried beans, canned beans, canned fruit, boxed potato products, pancake mix and syrup, and much more.

What ECHO Needs Right Now

The Clothing Department at ECHO is responsible for providing diapers and baby wipes for our client families who need them. We welcome donations of wipes and disposable diapers, especially sizes 2, 3, 4 and 5. This month, we are also hoping for donations of new or gently used sneakers for boys or girls and of summer clothing for boys or girls. We always need men's jeans, especially in waist sizes 30 and 32, as well as new socks and underwear. The Housewares Department needs new or gently used 5-quart and 4-quart pots, irons, blenders, and towels.

ECHO's Donation Door, 7205 Old Keene Mill Road, Springfield, is open from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM on weekdays, and from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Receipts are cheerfully provided.

Are You a Whiz at Social Media? ECHO needs you!

If you enjoy creating social media posts and wish to use your knowledge and talent to serve the community, please consider talking to ECHO about our Social Media Coordinator position. ECHO is looking for a creative person who could devote 3-to-5 hours a week helping ECHO engage with the community to convey our news and needs. If you want to find out if this volunteer opportunity is right for you, please email Volunteercoordinator@echo-inc.org

ECHO also has a few openings for Counselors, Assistant Counselors, Food Room Volunteers, and Clothing Volunteers. We are also seeking people to join a Grant Writing Team to research and apply for funding opportunities. We are proud to be an all-

volunteer organization. Our volunteers bring a wealth of talent, experience, and commitment to the mission of helping our neighbors in need!

Girl Scout Troop 52061, Making Birthdays Festive

The members of Girl Scout Troop 52061 decided to help local families who are struggling financially by providing them the basics for birthday celebrations. These scouts assembled Birthday Bags with balloons, candles, cake mix, icing, and festive napkins and donated them to ECHO. They will be distributed to families where there is a need to brighten a birthday that occurs in the midst of household difficulties. ECHO thanks these generous and enterprising scouts!

Upcoming Dates to Note

May 4 - Saturday Opening

May 8 - Executive Committee meets

May 11 - Letter Carriers "Stamp Out Hunger" Food Drive

May 20 - Board of Directors meeting

May 27 - Closed for Memorial Day

June 1 - Saturday Opening

June 19 - Closed for Juneteenth

Food Drives

June - St. Mark's Lutheran

ANNUAL REPORTS

Starting this Sunday, annual reports will be available. You may obtain a printed copy from the Narthex or request a PDF copy by emailing the church office at info@stmarks-elca.org.



Quarterly Benevolences

Q2: Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge

Our April-June Quarterly Benevolence recipients will be our area Lutheran-affiliated camps and conference/retreat centers: Caroline Furnace and Mar-Lu-Ridge. You may designate "Quarterly Benevolence" on your check and special offering envelope or donate through the e-giving portal on the St. Mark's website.



- Caroline Furnace Lutheran Retreat and Camp Center is a place to encounter God in God's creation and through an intentional Christian community. They believe this experience has the power to permanently change lives. Caroline Furnace is committed to remaining a special place apart, with a focus on God's grace and presence and on positive community building. Learn more at <https://www.carolinefurnace.org/>.
- Mar-Lu-Ridge Year-Round Retreat and Conference Center is a year-round ministry of the ELCA. Situated in the beautiful Catoctin Mountains of central Maryland, Mar-Lu-Ridge ministers through summer camp, retreats, their conference center, and a variety of programs offered throughout the year. In addition to their traditional summer camp sessions, they also offer many specialty camp sessions including, but not limited to: adventure, arts, horseback, Night Owls, Civil War, and space camps. Learn more at <https://www.mar-lu-ridge.org/>.

New Opportunity to Add to Your Skills Set Now Available!



When someone calls out, "Does anyone know how to make coffee in the big pots?" (similar to IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?), do you shy away and go looking for napkins or fill water pitchers, or do you step forward with confidence and say, "Yes, I know how."? Well the newly founded HOSPITALITY TEAM is looking for you ... both the experienced barista and the ones eager to learn!

Our new kitchenette is fully operational and we are in need of loving, generous people to prepare the coffee before services, to clean up after services, and to help serve cake and doughnuts as the occasions warrant. As we look forward to the revitalization of St. Mark's, more celebrations will be coming and we are excited to begin this new ministry to step up and serve the congregation and our visitors.

Sign up individually or as teams, all ages welcome ... training by skilled veterans will be provided.


Please contact Raelene Long (llong41@verizon.net) or Linda Pendleton (lgp91@cox.net) if you would like to serve in this ministry.

**Food For Others is in need of extra food.
Please bring non-parishable food to Narthex.
Thank you!**


- The last several weeks, we have been seeing a big surge in demand for our FFO food distribution on Tuesdays. Our FFO pantry helps to provide protein in our food distribution and to provide food when all the fresh food runs out. The goods donated by the supermarkets are primarily fruits, vegetables, and carbohydrates, not protein. Your monetary contributions will help us purchase many identical canned goods so they can be efficiently stored.
- The increase in demand for our FFO distribution is taxing on the teams who receive, organize, and distribute the items. If you can spare a few hours on a Tuesday afternoon at 5:00 PM-6:30 PM, please consider helping one of our four FFO teams. No experience necessary. If you can help, even just one week, it will help us navigate this surge we are experiencing in demand. For further questions, please contact Debbie Brown, Nan Ackerman, or anybody you know who participates in our FFO teams.



Save these Dates for the All Lutheran Women's Retreat this Fall!

 All Lutheran Women's Retreat

"A Cup of Unconditional Love"



Save-these-Dates!

Thursday - Saturday, November 7 - 9, 2024

To be held at the:

Hilton Garden Inn, 4050 Cox Road, Glen Allen, Virginia

Ritorno a Musica

**String Chamber Orchestra
Ruth Erbe, Music Director**



“Serenade to Summer”

FREE orchestral chamber concert featuring works by C. W. Gluck,
Max Bruch, Aurthur Foote, and Ralph Vaughan Williams.

May 11, 2024 @ 3:00 pm
St. Mark's Lutheran Church
Springfield, VA

May 18, 2024 @ 3:00 p.m.
Great Falls Library,
Great Falls, VA

ritornoamusic.org



Dwelling in the Word Bible Study—Psalms



Our Thursday at 10:30 AM group continues on Zoom each week at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/894781064?pwd=qlhpplAMfIG4kATY76CfF2cVpJspHj.1>. We continue to read through the Psalms. All are welcome to join us. It is never too late to get started on reading the Psalms, as each Psalm can be read independently.

Men's Bible Study—Galatians

Men's Bible Study is every Wednesday at 9:00 AM in the lounge and online. If you would like to join remotely, the Zoom Link is in the online **St. Mark's Calendar**.

THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS:

April 28: Ruby Adkins **April 29:** Sally McAllister

May 1: Kathy Garrison **May 3:** Elizabeth Giuliani, William Swann

Next Week's Birthdays:

MAY 5: Jane Zuidema **MAY 6:** Javier Avila, Lori Hartmann, Brendan Richardson

MAY 7: Carl Bauersfeld, Carla Yock **MAY 9:** Patrocinia Reyes

MAY 9: Gregory Clark **MAY 10:** Ellen S. Nayeri

OUR PRAYER LIST AS OF APRIL 26, 2024

Tuesday: Prayers of thanksgiving for the birth of Orla Julie Rogers, granddaughter of Rodney and Linda Pendleton.

Wednesday: Grieving family of Kaityln Dula, family of Jane Miller.

Thursday: Carla Yock, Dave Smith.

Friday: Janis Katt, *friend of Wes and Janice Carr*.

Saturday: Grieving family and friends of Dale Buelter, *brother-in-law of Mary Palm*.

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

For the weekly calendar please visit: <https://www.stmarks-elca.org/calendar>

Ministry Team: Albert W. Triolo, Senior Pastor; Saul Cardona, Associate Pastor Maritza Cerritos, Admin Assistant; Julian Lee, Custodian; Christian Michaelsen, Organist; Karen Randall, Choral Director; Alice Real, Dir. of Youth and Family Services, English Handbell Choir, Children's Vocal Music; Harriet Latta, Sunday Church School Dir. **Congregation Council Officers:** Erik Long, President; Bill Turner, Vice-President; Nancy Gorman, Secretary; Colleen Struss, Treasurer.