



Don't you just love it when you see God's Hands at work in our daily lives? When a comment about a need pulls together a community to help and really makes a difference in someone's life and, by extension, in the lives of others?



Let me tell you a true story that just happened. A woman, newly arrived to the US, is eight+ months pregnant and has nothing for her baby girl. (We women know how much stuff is needed!). A member of St. Mark's mentions this need, word gets around, and this is what happens when the news is spread and God directs the pieces to fall into place:

1. Quilts and bibs are given.
2. Someone knows a friend who is moving away and wants to find a home for a used crib, changing table, a glider with a footstool, and girl's clothing of all sizes.
3. Someone mentions that there is no crib mattress and someone just happens to have spare one to give.
4. Since babies grow fast, a bunch of newborn diapers are available, along with wipes and crib sheets.
5. All these items just happen to fit into three cars, the rain stops, and items are delivered.
6. A grateful mother responds: "My baby and I feel very lucky and blessed by God and may God give you double."

There is such power for good in both reaching out and responding. You never know who can help or who knows someone who can help. It is both a blessing to ask and a joy to have the ability to respond. The Lord said, "Ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you." (Matthew 7:7) Heart-felt blessings all around!

And we are blessed to have two opportunities to help others on May 1st at our Combined Salad

Supper Meeting at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Our May Project is summer items for kids of Wise, VA and Hazard, KY. For more information, please see the article on page 3.

Plus, we are in for a treat! **Pastor Saul will speak to us from 5:35 PM to 6:00 PM about his past and future mission trips to Honduras!** Please come to hear all about it and provide any financial support that you can! (See page 2)

Spirit-filled blessings to you all!

~Linda



Treasurer's Report

As of April 18, 2024, WELCA Treasurer Shanon Hardy reports a working balance of \$1412.27. This includes an April offering of \$160 and the project monetary donations of \$725 for ECHO.

We continue to keep a reserve of \$300 for future funerals and of \$200 for expenses for combined WELCA meetings (January, May in 2024). See page 3 for the complete April treasurer's report.



Spring 2024 Projects

The May project is summer needs for children living in poverty in Wise, VA, and Hazard KY; monetary, gift cards, or in-kind donations—see more info on page 3.

The June project is N Street Village in Washington, DC. Learn more about it at <https://www.nstreetvillage.org/>.

*If you can't attend your circle meeting, please mail your offerings to **Shanon Hardy at 11108 Flora Lee Drive, Fairfax Station, VA 22039** ... or you may place them in the mailbox marked "Women of ELCA" in the church office.*



DC Area WELCA Unit News

Our SWO board is planning a mini-convention on **Saturday, September 21st, at St. Mark’s!** We will be needing a bit of volunteer help on that day—“boots on the ground!” Plans are gearing up with Bishop Leila Ortiz preaching for our abbreviated service with communion. LSS/NCA will give us an update on their role in helping settle immigrants, as they did for our own Rahmani family! Our theme is “Resilience and Hope”—both of which we all need! ... **STAY TUNED!**



Reminders... Mark Your Calendars!

- Every Tues* **Quilts and More:** 9:30 AM-1:00 PM meet in Friendship House
- Prayer Shawl** knitting group will resume meeting when the members feel “safe.”
- Every Fri* **Tabita Circle:** 7:00 PM meet in the Friendship House
- Wed, 5/1* **WELCA/MELIA Combined Spring Meeting:** Starts promptly at **5:30 PM** in the Fellowship Hall in-person!!!



**Women of the ELCA of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church
Treasurer’s Report through April 18, 2024**

Balance March 17, 2024	\$ 1,836.27*
Receipts	
April Offering.....	\$ 160.00
April Project (ECHO).....	\$ 725.00
Check #1824 Lynbrook School canceled.....	\$ 805.00
Thankoffering.....	\$ <u>1,560.00</u>
Total Receipts.....	\$ <u>3,250.00</u>
Subtotal	\$ 5,086.51
Disbursements	
World Vision Child – from 3/15/24	\$ 30.00
April Offering.....	\$ 54.00
April Project (ECHO).....	\$ 725.00
Lynbrook School (new check #1845 issued)	\$ 805.00
Women of the ELCA Thankoffering.....	\$ <u>1,560.00</u>
Total Disbursements.....	\$ <u>3,174.00</u>
Balance April 18, 2024.....	\$ 1,912.27*

* Plus \$300 cushion for funeral expenses plus additional \$200 for Winter/Spring Combined meetings; so current April 18, 2024 working balance of \$1,412.27.



WELCA/MELIA Combined Spring Meeting

- * **What:** Salad buffet * **When:** Wednesday, May 1, 2024, 5:30 PM-7:30 PM *
- * **Where:** in-person in the Fellowship Hall *



We will **start promptly at 5:30 PM**, as Pr. Saul *IS* our program, but he has to lead the Spanish Eucharist that evening—he will share his experience of his last year’s and this year’s upcoming working mission trip to Honduras! Part of our offering will go toward his trip. Each circle will furnish three salads to share and our hostesses will furnish dessert—yummy! Feel free to invite a friend along!

Our project for the kids of Wise, VA/Hazard, KY is described on the following page, so we can all plan ahead!



May Project Details ...

As purchases take planning, the May project is summer items for the kids (*all ages up to 18 years old*) of Wise, VA and Hazard, KY—**everyday “consumable” items like clothes and toiletries are ALWAYS needed along with summer play items.** With that in mind, at the right are some suggested items you may want to consider: ➡➡➡

Thanks, as always, for your generosity ... as Janelle has said to us after our Christmas collection:

Everyone on the other end commented to Bob [Janelle’s husband] with gratitude – they have texted or e-mailed me with gratitude. We could not do any of this without your help, and your generosity never ceases to amaze me. Thank-you, thank-you from the bottom of my heart.

And this one really touched us all:

Do you know how many lives/children you will touch and spread great light to?? It is just amazing.

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|---------------------------|------------------|
| Baseballs/Bats | Gift cards |
| Other sports balls | Toothbrushes |
| Games (indoor or outdoor) | Toothpaste |
| Crayons | Other toiletries |
| Coloring books | Suitcases |
| Kids’ summer clothes | Duffle bags |
| Socks | Backpacks |

Shoes (new or gently used)



Open Position of our WELCA/MIELA Vice President for 2024-2025

The position of **Vice President of our St. Mark’s WELCA/MIELA** is open and will be voted on with our other board officers in our May combined meeting. Serving on our board is a great way to be involved at the ‘top level’ and to work with our great cadre of women at St. Mark’s! Let Linda know if you are interested.

From our Constitution and Bylaws, the duties of Vice President are:

- Assume duties of president when necessary.
- Carry out assignments from president.
- Accept other assignments from unit board.
- Serve as chairman of the Program committee.



All Lutheran Women’s Retreat * November 7-9, 2024 * Glen Allen, VA

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

Plan ahead ... this is a wonderful opportunity sponsored by the Virginia Synod women ... several of our St. Mark’s women have gone to several of these retreats and they’re ALWAYS uplifting! Registration is open—learn more at <https://sites.google.com/view/alwretreat/home>. Full conference (\$175) and Friday-only (\$75) registration is available with lodging costs separate; however, limited scholarships are available. For questions, email Carol Troxell at carol.troxell@gmail.com.