

FLCW/WELCA – An Opportunity for Growth and Service

An “Opportunity for Growth” can be yours by joining FLCW/WELCA, participating in a Bible Study Circle, and attending our quarterly meetings. Our May 2 Salad Supper is an excellent way to get started. Cynthia Sheppard, our guest speaker, considers her presentations an opportunity to be of service to God. Through her topic “A Garden of My Heart,” she will help us understand how the seeds we sow in our lives can truly make a difference for God’s people. Please join us in the Gathering Room at 6 p.m. for salads and desserts, fellowship, inspiration, and growth.

Lutheran World Relief was organized after World War II to help Lutherans in need. It is one of the

First Lutheran

FLCW

Church Women

safest and most effective agencies in the world. As such, Lutheran World Relief has been the focus and recipient of many warm quilts and kit projects at First Lutheran Church for decades, and our work continues.

Fabric kits sent to various countries are used to teach recipients how to sew, thus giving them a trade with which they can start a business to support themselves. Health care kits provide items to many who have suffered extreme loss due to wars and conflicts. In the U.S., most

of us can take for granted getting to be clean, but items such as a bath towel, soap, and a toothbrush can mean the world to those living in refugee camps. Often baby showers hosted by family provide for our newborns. In other countries, our items such as blankets, sleepers, and cloth diapers can provide a safe start to God's tiny children. Locally, school supplies are collected and distributed at the Banquet. Items for learning such as notebooks and pencils collected and sent to LWR can give students in under-developed countries the confidence to attend school and learn skills needed for success. Studies have shown that some children lack the courage to attend school without the proper tools for learning because they are embarrassed to be unprepared.

In the highlands of Tanzania, research showed that children were not able to grow because in the cold nights their little bodies used calories to keep warm. Our warm quilts allowed them to turn their calories into food for growth.

What a blessing our kits and quilts have been worldwide. Your gifts as members of FLC have made a big difference. You are invited to check out the LWR service display on one of the new bulletin boards in the Atrium. This is your **“Opportunity for Service.”**

Think Spring – Grow and Blossom

Think First Lutheran Bazaar 2024.

To hit the ground running, we will have the first 2024 planning meeting on Monday, May 13, at 4 p.m. in the Gathering Room.

ALL are welcome. Please come with your new suggestions and enthusiasm. Bring your creative ideas for a Bazaar theme with a supporting logo design.

Thank you for supporting First Lutheran's mission Bazaar as we reach out to touch lives around the world.