

FAITH IN *action*

A NEWSLETTER ESPECIALLY FOR LWR QUILTERS & KIT MAKERS

GOING THE EXTRA MILE(S) TO DELIVER QUILTS AND KITS

When asked whether he is an experienced long-distance truck driver, Paul Speckman says, “Absolutely not!” But neither that nor an ice storm stopped him and his wife Karon from driving a large moving truck full of quilts and kits more than 450 miles at the end of October.

During a normal year, about 18 churches in their area of central Missouri take their quilts and kits to St. Andrew’s Lutheran Church’s annual fall Ingathering, which the Speckmans have helped to coordinate since 2006. Then the load is transferred to a larger Ingathering in St. Louis. From there, a professional driver takes a fully loaded semi to the LWR warehouse.

But, due to the challenges of the pandemic, the fall 2020 Ingathering in St. Louis was canceled. Karon and the other members of the St. Andrew’s Global Missions Committee knew they had to find a Plan B. After all, their quilters and kit makers had gone into “high gear” during all their time at home this year, and they knew the need for these items had only increased.

“Our church had made the most quilts we’ve ever made, and we were worried they wouldn’t get to the warehouse,” Karon recalled. “We just decided we were going to have to get them there ourselves.”

On October 24, representatives from 24 churches brought their donations to the parking lot at St. Andrew’s in Columbia, where hired movers loaded them into a 26-foot moving truck. The entire operation was as safe and socially distanced as possible. The next morning, Paul started the long drive to St. Paul, with Karon following in their car so they could leave the rented truck there and drive back home comfortably.

The Speckmans laugh about their challenging adventure. “The truck didn’t go over 62 miles an hour,” Paul said, a factor that stretched the normally eight- or nine-hour trip into a full 12 hours. To make the journey more interesting, the rain turned to sleet and ice in northern Iowa. “It was hard trying to scrape the windshield and not fall on the icy steps!” Paul laughed. And while Karon enjoyed listening to Broadway show tunes in the car, Paul couldn’t hear anything but road noise in the truck — including his favorite podcasts and, worse, Karon’s phone calls.

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LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Lutheran World Relief is a ministry of U.S. Lutherans, serving communities living in poverty overseas.

A woman wearing a black hijab and a light blue surgical mask is looking towards the camera. She is holding a large, white quilt with a red polka-dot pattern and a red drawstring. In front of her are two rolled-up items: a blue blanket and a grey blanket, both secured with yellow and red drawstrings. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an outdoor setting with a building.

WHERE DID LWR QUILTS AND KITS GO IN 2020?

Even from home,
you wrapped the
world in love.

In 2020 you reached...

616,210

NEIGHBORS IN NEED

IN

23

COUNTRIES

WITH

\$11.1 million

WORTH OF
QUILTS, CARE KITS
AND MASKS



264,585

QUILTS



12,960

BLANKETS



174,055

SCHOOL KITS



71,900

PERSONAL CARE KITS



12,300

FABRIC KITS



52,860

BABY CARE KITS



40,750

FACE MASKS



HONDURAS

From February to November 2020, **10,075 Personal Care Kits** were distributed to pregnant women and people living in poverty — including families devastated by Hurricanes Eta and Iota. Entire towns were washed away, and your love reached vulnerable people who were without shelter and at great risk of contracting COVID-19.



LEBANON

A shipment of quilts and kits was awaiting customs clearance in Beirut on the day of the fateful explosion in August 2020. Initially thought to be lost in the blast, the items were discovered intact after weeks of sifting through rubble. Your gifts of love — needed more than ever — were distributed to **24,000 people** impacted by the explosion as well as refugees from Syria and across the region.



UKRAINE

Too many families in Ukraine lack adequate shelter or heat — making frigid winters unbearable. Between December 2019 and March 2020, your warm quilts reached **16,000 people** including mothers, refugees and disaster survivors. To express their gratitude, Rashkov and her children drew pictures and wrote: “We are thanking God for your great work.”

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But they are glad they did it, because the load arrived just in time. In September, neither the Minnesota nor the Maryland warehouse had any quilts or kits to process. Because so many Ingatherings were canceled and the need for these items was so great, the shelves were completely bare.

Karon said, “In retrospect, I think about that 12-hour trip and say “never again” — but when you look at the list of all the things we took and how that will brighten people’s lives, it brings joy. And that’s what really drives people. It’s so exciting to think what you’re going to make is going to be something of joy for somebody.”

Lutheran camps step up to support collections

In a year like no other, the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry decided to try something we’ve never tried before: partnering with Lutheran camps to collect LWR quilts and kits. In a time when so many Ingatherings have been postponed or canceled and when so many church buildings are closed, these camps were ideal spaces for safely collecting and storing items.

Instead of collecting items in a single day like most Ingathering events, the camps allowed people to make appointments and drop their donations at their leisure across an extended time period — allowing for more social distancing.



Paul Speckman drove a rental truck full of quilts and kits more than 450 miles from Missouri to the Minnesota warehouse to ensure these critical items would reach neighbors in need as soon as possible.

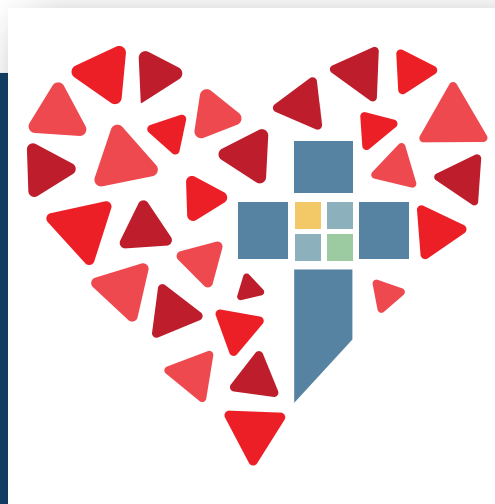
LWR would like to thank the following camps for so graciously offering their time and space:

- **Calumet** in Freedom, NH
- **Camp Wartburg** in Waterloo, IL
- **Crossroads Camp** in Port Murray, NJ
- **Fortune Lake** in Crystal Falls, MI
- **Lutheranch** in Tallapoosa, GA
- **Lutheridge** in Arden, NC
- **Spirit in the Desert** in Carefree, AZ ■

Have you ordered your Quilt & Kit Affinity Pin?

You make LWR Quilts and Kits. You blanket the world with love. That is why we'd love to send you the brand new LWR Quilt & Kit Affinity Pin. As you wear it, know that we will always be a community. It's our special gift of appreciation to you for being a faithful member of this ministry.

Order your **FREE** pin at lwr.org/qkpin.





Camden Fleischer, 10, helped to make the cloth masks that her family donated toward the 75,000 Face Mask Challenge in 2020.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I don't know if you've noticed, but things have been a bit different the past year. I am so grateful for how flexible and resourceful this community has been during the pandemic. You've made changes to your quilting and kit making groups, and you've been doing your best amid the challenges and uncertainties of Ingatherings.

I'd like to offer special thanks to a few folks who went above and beyond to make their fall 2020 Ingatherings possible and safe: **Pastor Kyle Woodrow** and **Krista Smith** of St. Jacobs Lutheran Church in North Canton, Ohio; **Joann Weberg** of Bethel Lutheran Church in Cupertino, Calif.; and **Paul and Karon Speckman** (read their story on these pages) of St. Andrew's Lutheran Church in Columbia, Mo.

I'd also like to recognize that this year's **Quilt & Kit Map** is a bit different. Because many churches are still closed and therefore won't be able to display the poster publicly, we decided to save paper by making it a little smaller.

Your quilts and kits are needed more than ever. Right now, our inventory is almost gone. The items we received from fall Ingatherings are already on their way to their recipients. Meanwhile, war, poverty and disaster haven't slowed just because there's a pandemic. Quite the opposite.

Your work is so important, and I am so thankful that despite this different, difficult year, you continue to work diligently to create offerings of love for your neighbors in need.

JANEL JOHNSON-MOMANYI
Quilt & Kit Ministry Manager

MORE! 75,000 FACE MASK CHALLENGE!

UPDATE

A special thanks to all our mask makers! So far, our warehouses have received **118,360** of your homemade masks in every color and pattern imaginable. What a generous outpouring of support. Thanks to you, neighbors in Mali and Haiti have received masks to help protect them against the coronavirus. Another container with masks recently departed for Latin America and more masks will be shipped this year. We deeply appreciate everyone who rose to this critical occasion!

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

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QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

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LWR WAREHOUSES:

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601 Main Street
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New Windsor, MD 21776
Phone: 410.635.8795

Warehouses
are OPEN!
Call for
hours.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**



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