



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

FAITH IN *action*

FROM HEART TO HEART:
The Journey of a Quilt

AN ANSWER TO PRAYER
In a Crisis

TIPS & TRICKS
For Growing Your Group



FIASUM23-304K-0623

lwr.org/kits
lwr.org/quilts

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

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Lutheran World Relief

LWR HEADQUARTERS:

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Back-to-school sales are a great time to save on supplies for School Kits. Visit LWR.ORG/KITS for a supply list.

Stock up and save

Visit LWR.ORG/INGATHERING to find one near you.

Fall is around the corner – it's time to start making your Ingathering plans!

Find an Ingathering



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DEAR QUILTERS & KIT MAKERS,

Thank you for being so welcoming since I rejoined LWR last year. I love working with you and supporting your efforts to love your neighbors in need through the Quilt and Kit Ministry.

As you may have seen on Facebook, Mary Tereskiewicz recently joined our team as the new Quilt & Kit Ministry Associate. (Yes, the fact we are Mary and Martha does make us chuckle!) Mary spent many years as a teacher and principal at Lutheran schools in Massachusetts and Florida, and as a Lutheran she is passionate about serving God and others. Mary is also an experienced quilter and a “people person” — the perfect collaborator to help your projects thrive. You can reach her at MTereszkiewicz@lwr.org.

Mary has hit the ground running and is eager to work with you, and I know you will extend the same warm welcome to her as you did to me. After all, that is what this ministry is all about!

In gratitude,

Martha Piedrasanta
MARTHA PIEDRASANTA

Quilt & Kit Ministry Senior Manager

WELCOME Mary Tereskiewicz!

Lutheran World Relief's new
Quilt & Kit Ministry Associate



ON THE COVER: Azura Mbeya and her toddler Shaziri Masonjo received a quilt from Lutheran World Relief during a distribution in Njombe, Tanzania, to help prevent stunting.

Visit lwr.org/keepingwarm to learn more.

FROM HEART TO HEART: the journey of a quilt



▲ Maya Kameniyk, 14, received a quilt and Personal Care Kit during a distribution in Morshyn, Ukraine, for families displaced by war.

There's a difference between a blanket purchased from a store and one stitched together with love. We have seen firsthand that the children, women and men who receive your quilts are deeply moved by the care, intention and prayer poured into each one.

That's because **the journey of an LWR Mission Quilt begins in the compassionate heart of the quilter.** While that love is shared directly from one heart to another, a quilt's journey generally requires a few steps in between:



From sewing table to Ingathering. Quilts are collected, prayed over and transported to regional collection events.



To a warehouse. Personal vehicles, U-Hauls, tractor trailers and even the USPS deliver quilts to one of the LWR warehouses in Maryland or Minnesota.



Across air or sea. Quilts are packed into bales of 30-35 each. When the need arises, these bales are loaded onto shipping containers. Last year, 220,000 quilts traveled to 19 countries.



To their final destination. From their port of entry, quilts are transported to distribution sites to wrap God's love around the families who need them.

When you make a quilt, you never know where it may end up – but you can know that, after a long journey, it will be a beautiful blessing to the person who receives it.

MAKE THE JOURNEY POSSIBLE

As you may imagine, transporting quilts and kits around the world is a significant expense. It costs tens of thousands of dollars to ship these items to communities in need every year.

Your support of the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund is an immense help and ensures your quilts and kits get to those who need them as quickly as possible during a crisis.



▲ Quilts ready for distribution at a warehouse in Ukraine.

Thank you for loving your neighbors through the Quilt & Kit Ministry. To make a gift today, please use the enclosed envelope or give online at lwr.org/figive.

10 TIPS & TRICKS FOR GROWING YOUR QUILTING GROUP



Quilting is a delightfully hands-on ministry, and the more hands we have, the merrier. Below are some ideas you shared for growing your groups.

(Bonus: many of these are relevant to kit making, too!)

1

DIVIDE UP THE TASKS.

You don't have to do it all to be a big help. Karen Trebus from Sevierville, Tennessee, says, "Encourage people to help with tasks such as pinning, watching for sales on materials, tying the quilts, donating funds for shipping and last, but certainly not least, praying."

2

INVOLVE YOUTH CLASSES.

Reach out to Sunday School, confirmation class and youth group leaders to get the next generation excited. Students can make kits and complete certain steps of the quilt-making process, such as laying out squares and tying quilts. As Marlene Dreyer from Plano, Texas, says, "If you can tie your shoes, you can help us make quilts."

3

PLAN A "WORKDAY" EVENT.

A one-time event is less intimidating than committing to a regular meeting. Plan a weekend or evening event and invite congregation members of all ages to come to learn and help. Make it fun and rewarding, and they'll be hooked.

4

PUT OUT AN INVITATION IN YOUR CHURCH BULLETIN.

A simple message like, "Are you recently retired and looking for a way to fill some of your new-found free time serving God and others?" may be the gentle nudge someone needed.

5

INVOLVE YOUTH CLASSES.

Try offering regular evening or weekend opportunities to quilt with the group, not just weekday sessions. Ruth Fortis from Midlothian, Virginia, shared, "The quilting day at my church is the third Tuesday. Quilting day at my home is every Friday. Community Quilt Day each year is a Saturday so school youth and people that work during the week can participate."

6

ENGAGE PARENTS OF QUILT RECIPIENTS.

If your quilting group makes quilts for confirmands or high school graduates from your congregation, invite their parents or caregivers to come and lay out the squares for the top. Then share about opportunities to get more involved.

7

EMPOWER PEOPLE TO WORK ON QUILTS AT HOME.

There are many reasons some people work most comfortably at home. Alice Tylutki from Austin, Minnesota, shared, "I suffered a stroke, which leaves me weak and slightly uncoordinated on the left side. I cut and sew a top at home, then take it to my group. I can still contribute — not as many, but a few... It gives me joy."

8

CONNECT WITH LOCAL QUILTING GUILDS.

Invite them to join one of your meetings, or set up a table at one of their events, to share about your quilt-making for LWR and how your handiwork is blanketing neighbors all around the world with love.

9

REACH OUT TO YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY OR COMMUNITY CENTER.

Set up a table or speak at a community event about your quilting ministry. Share about the quilt-making process and assure folks that they do not need to be skilled quilters to take part.

10

FEED THE SHEEP.

Good coffee and snacks are always fool proof incentives, and a supportive atmosphere is just what many of us crave. As Maxine Heuberger from Sheffield, Iowa, shared, "There are many jobs, but most important is the fellowship. We talk, we listen and we laugh a lot. One lady said we were her weekly therapy."



▶ Onur and Feride Aaikgöz, along with their 12-year-old daughter Azra, stand outside the family's tent in Kirikhan, Türkiye. The family, which includes four children and a cat, lost everything in the February earthquakes and had difficulty finding basic supplies in the weeks afterward.

IN TIMES OF DISASTER, QUILTS AND KITS ARE AN ANSWER TO *prayer*

For more than 75 years, Lutheran World Relief has responded to war, disaster and emergency by turning the compassion of quilters and kit makers like you into tangible items that meet urgent needs and offer glimpses of hope for families experiencing crisis.

FIRST RESPONSE IN AN EMERGENCY

Although a quilt or a bundle of hygiene supplies might seem like a drop of help in an ocean of need, these basic necessities might be impossible for families to find on their own in the wake of disaster.

Onur and Feride Aaikgöz say their family could get “nothing at all” in the aftermath of the February 6 earthquake that destroyed their city and their home in Türkiye.

“People looted most of the markets,” Mr. Aaikgöz told Lutheran World Relief. “They looted the big shopping malls and left nothing.”

A large-scale disaster, like those our neighbors in Türkiye and Ukraine are experiencing, often means stores and markets are shut down. Transport becomes extremely limited. It gets cold

at night, and the simple act of handwashing might become a luxury. LWR Quilts & Kits serve as a first response to basic material needs, getting families through until longer term solutions can be found.

THE ONLY HELP AVAILABLE

Additionally, Lutheran World Relief is sometimes the only organization that reaches communities in distress. Following back-to-back hurricanes in Honduras in 2020, your quilts and kits, coupled with food packages, were the only aid that reached hundreds of rural families whose remote villages, livelihoods and homes had washed away.

“The Quilt & Kit Ministry allows LWR to love our neighbors during the hardest time of their lives, when they are exhausted, homeless, grieving and terrified. Without your generosity, some neighbors may be completely on their own to survive when everything they worked for is gone. Your quilts and kits are literally the answer to their prayers.” says Daniel Speckhard, president and CEO of LWR.



▲ Bundles of quilts and boxes of kits in the warehouse in New Windsor, Maryland, ready for shipment to Türkiye.



▲ Rev. Tim Krick, Congregational Engagement Manager, assists at an LWR Quilt & Kit distribution in Ukraine on May 31. Your love continues to reach families whose lives have been upended by war.

HOW YOUR QUILTS AND KITS FILL THE GAP

In the wake of disaster, every quilt and kit has an important role to play. Here are a few examples:

LWR Mission Quilts are a comforting hug wrapped around someone's shoulders and a practical item providing for warmth, shelter and more. LWR's Maryna Zuy Hayes reflects on a distribution she facilitated in Ukraine, "It was quite emotional. When we arrived, people started surrounding us – mostly young women with children. Some had withdrawn expressions, some looked around suspiciously and some were barely holding their tears... But when the quilt and kit distribution began, joy and gratitude spread quickly among all of us. One mother who received a quilt and a **Baby Care Kit** burst into tears – grateful that someone on the other side of the world would care enough to make these items and send them all the way to Ukraine."

Personal Care Kits not only provide hygiene essentials that keep people healthy, but they also offer a measure of dignity for those who have not been able to care for their bodies as they normally would. LWR's Moses Kabongo says these kits are especially useful for pregnant and new mothers. "The items help them clean and cover themselves and their babies, protecting them from the cold," he says. "In addition to keeping themselves and their babies clean, they also love the soaps because they smell so good!"

School Kits give children the ability to attend school, supporting both their education and a sense of normalcy and stability after a crisis. Following hurricanes Eta and Iota in Honduras, one mother said, "Since the start of the pandemic, my husband, who is a security guard, had his salary lowered. We could not buy school supplies for our children so they could receive their classes. We live in a very poor area along the river border and after the hurricanes could not find any help. The school supplies are a great blessing to my children and our family."

Thank you for being an answer to prayer on a neighbor's darkest day. ■

"The Quilt & Kit Ministry allows LWR to love our neighbors during the hardest time of their lives, when they are exhausted, homeless, grieving and terrified. Without your generosity, some neighbors may be completely on their own to survive when everything they worked for is gone. Your quilts and kits are literally the answer to their prayers."

Daniel Speckhard,
president and CEO of LWR



▲ Many hands make light work! Grace members Patricia Schouten, Donald Schouten and Linda Moravec tie the finishing knots in an LWR quilt.

Grace Lutheran Church, Des Moines, IA

75 YEARS

OF QUILTING AND KIT MAKING (AND COUNTING!)

In 1948, families in Europe were trying to rebuild their lives following World War II. That was also the year **Grace Lutheran Church in Des Moines**, Iowa, completed its first project for Lutheran World Relief: making layettes, assembling “Kiddie Kits” and hosting a clothing drive.

Seventy-five years later, new generations continue the church’s LWR ministry. This spring, Grace Lutheran sent 233 Personal Care Kits, 20 Baby Care Kits and 42 quilts to the local Ingathering, and they are busy preparing another shipment for fall.

PERSISTENCE, DEDICATION, MISSION

Pastor Mike Schmidt attributes the ministry’s longevity to a culture of service and humility. He describes Grace Lutheran

as a place where, “People will just roll their sleeves up, donate, get to work and get it done. There’s an attitude of persistence, dedication and mission. There may be ebbs and flows, like during the pandemic, but we just keep at it.”

It helps that everyone can get involved. The weekly quilting group has about 10 members; the youngest is Pastor Mike’s teenage stepdaughter Allison Olson, who helps with tying. On the last Sunday of each month, the congregation dedicates its education hour to intergenerational mission opportunities. Twice a year, they spend this time working on LWR quilts and kits. There are also opportunities for congregants of all ages to design quilt squares with fabric scraps throughout the year, as well as opportunities to give financially.

“The congregation has also been really great about donating fabric, batting and crochet thread,” adds Kathy Piltingsrud, who has been a part of the quilting ministry for 28 years. **“We used to joke that the supply room where we store the quilt supplies is like the loaves of bread and fish. Whenever we would open the door, there were always more donations in there.”**

IMPACT THAT ENDURES

Cathy Watson, chair of Grace Lutheran’s LWR team and leader of the kit ministry, recently pored through 75 years’ worth of minutes from the church’s women’s group meetings. She estimates that, so far, they have sent more than 1,700 quilts and 10,000 kits to neighbors in need.

“It’s all about being able to help someone,” she explains. “LWR goes where I can’t go and helps in ways I would want to help if I could be there myself.”

Kathy agrees, “You’re giving hope. You’re giving comfort. You’re sending hugs and love to people that desperately need it,” she says, with emotion. “In a moment when they feel like there’s nothing, a quilt or a kit shows them somebody far away cares about them.”

She even had a rare opportunity to glimpse the impact in real time. “In 2010, when the big earthquake happened in Haiti, I was watching the news and I saw two of our quilts,” she recalls. “One was spread out on the ground, and a woman was sitting on it with her kids. The other one was wrapped around a man’s shoulders, and he was just staring, like he was in shock. I recognized the quilts as ours immediately, and it brought the impact home for me in a huge way.” ■



▲ People of all ages can assemble kits. Daniel and Madison Robbins took part in assembling the 233 Personal Care Kits that Grace sent to LWR this spring.

75 YEARS OF LOVING NEIGHBORS GRACE LUTHERAN’S LEGACY OF IMPACT THROUGH LWR



1,700
QUILTS



250 LBS.
OF SOAP*



1,500 LBS.
OF CLOTHES*



10,000 KITS
OF ALL TYPES

*LWR no longer collects soap or clothing



▲ Richard Watson and his son Ralph work together to assemble Personal Care Kits during Grace’s intergenerational mission opportunity event.



LWR MISSION QUILTS

Keep Children Healthy

Your quilts provide warmth, shelter and a tangible gift of love to neighbors in need. Did you know they also help children grow up to be strong and healthy?

STUNTING IS COMMON BUT PREVENTABLE

Stunting is caused by chronic malnutrition in a child's early years, and it has devastating results. Children who are stunted are more likely to get sick and take longer to get better; they also often experience developmental delays and have trouble learning.

In other words, stunting is more than just being short — it prevents a child from reaching her potential in almost every way.

GROWTH TAKES ENERGY

Njombe is one of the coldest regions of Tanzania, where one out of every three children is stunted. In 2020, researchers looked into the causes of stunting in the Njombe region and discovered that children were not only hungry — they were also cold. Instead of using every last calorie to grow, they were burning significant energy just to keep their bodies warm.

Fortunately, Lutheran World Relief has a reliable (and colorful) solution to the cold: the LWR Mission Quilts you faithfully sew. **Today, thanks to the work of your hands, nearly 9,000 children in Njombe have quilts to keep them warm and help them grow up strong and healthy.**

Your quilts are the perfect complement to our programs that screen children for malnutrition and help families ensure they have enough to eat.

Dr. Lali Chania, who leads our programs in Tanzania, says, **“Thank you to quilters on the other side of the globe for all the great work and dedication, and for bringing works of their hearts to children of Tanzania. It's very important.”** ■

◀ **Watch and discover how the warmth of your quilts helps protect children from stunting in Tanzania at lwr.org/keepingwarm.**

▲ Your quilts are the perfect complement to LWR programs that screen children for malnutrition and help families like Azura Mbeya and her daughter Shaziri Masonjo.



IMPORTANT Quilt & Kit Tracker Update

More than a decade after its launch, **the Quilt & Kit Tracker is officially retired.**

The technology behind the Tracker has become obsolete, making the system unreliable and difficult to use. If you used the Tracker in the last year or more, you likely experienced lags in reporting or were unable to retrieve updates. The Tracker is no longer serving its important purpose, and we are sorry for the frustration you experienced.

Because the Tracker is out of service, **barcodes should no longer be used, and no reports**

or updates will be generated for previous donations with Tracker-generated barcodes.

Plans are in motion for a completely new, state-of-the-art system. During this period of transition, you can expect more photos, videos and stories than ever before of your quilts and kits reaching neighbors around the world.

Please go to **lwr.org/trackerupdate** for the complete update. Thank you for your patience and your unwavering generosity.