

FAITH IN *action*

What's inside:

Embracing your
neighbors in Türkiye

Ingathering Tips & Tricks

What's in a name?

and more...



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF



FIASUM24-30K-0524

lwr.org/quilts | lwr.org/kits

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

Phone: 800.597.5972 | Email: lwr@lwr.org

700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230

Lutheran World Relief

LWR HEADQUARTERS:

Important Contact Information

For more packing information go to lwr.org/pack

- LWR: Type and Quantity of Item
 - Name and Address of Church or Group
- write on your boxes in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS:**
you identify your boxes? Create your own label or
Barcode labels are no longer used, so how should

PACKING UPDATES

It's time to start making your Fall Ingathering plans!
Visit lwr.org/ingathering to find one near you.

FIND AN INGATHERING

Packing your quilts and kits



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

700 LIGHT STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21230 USA
LWR.ORG

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Dear Quilters & Kit Makers,

As we prepare for Ingathering season, I find myself anticipating the enormous amount of logistics ahead. It takes countless behind-the-scenes individuals to carry the loving work of your hands to the hands of our neighbors. But there's more I prepare for than overflowing inboxes and phone calls.

I prepare my heart.

After many years, I know this work is a calling, and **my heart is consistently overwhelmed by your love.** Honor and privilege are inadequate words to describe the awe it is to witness the culmination of your compassion. On behalf of Lutheran World Relief and our neighbors around the world, thank you.

In this issue, I'm excited to share how that compassion is changing lives. You are comforting neighbors in Türkiye, many of whom are still reeling from the devastating earthquake last year.

Every year, your quilts and kits make a journey. They, along with your love, travel far distances, extending **reminders of God's love to the farthest and most forgotten corners of the world.**



In Gratitude,

Martha Piedrasanta

Quilt & Kit Ministry

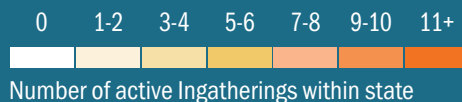


From Sea to Shining Sea!

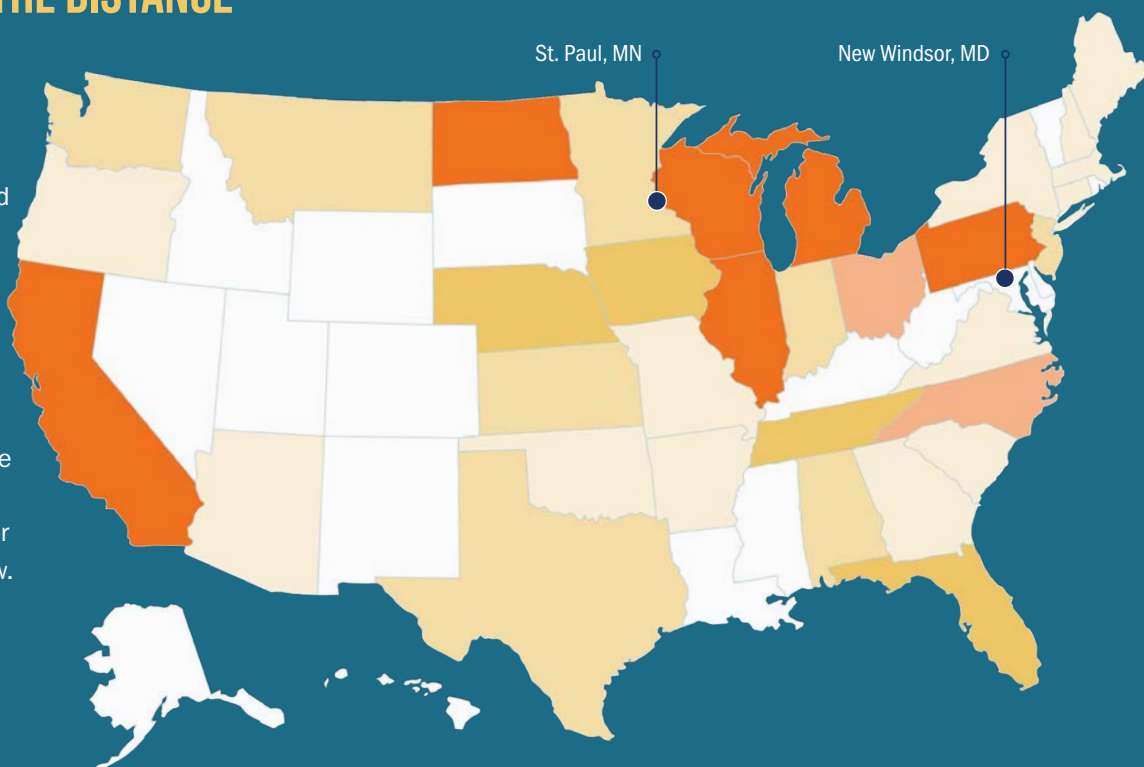
YOUR LOVE GOES THE DISTANCE

As **Ingathering** season approaches, thousands of you gather across the United States, bringing the loving works of your hands.

Visit lwr.org/ingathering to find active Ingatherings across the country. If there is not a location in your state or if you are more than two hours from an Ingathering or LWR warehouse, let us know. We want to collaborate with you on filling 'Ingathering deserts' in your region!



○ Warehouse location





TIPS & TRICKS

For Ingathering Season

It's nearly time to (In)gather! Find ways to make sure you — and your neighbors in need — reap the benefits of your compassionate work.

BEFORE

1 MEET THE REQUIREMENTS

Quilts have **THREE**:

- A finished size of 60" x 80"
- Sturdy
- Warm

Kits have **TWO**:

- All kits must contain **ONLY** and **ALL** items listed
- **New items only**, except where otherwise noted.

2 REMEMBER THE RESTRICTIONS

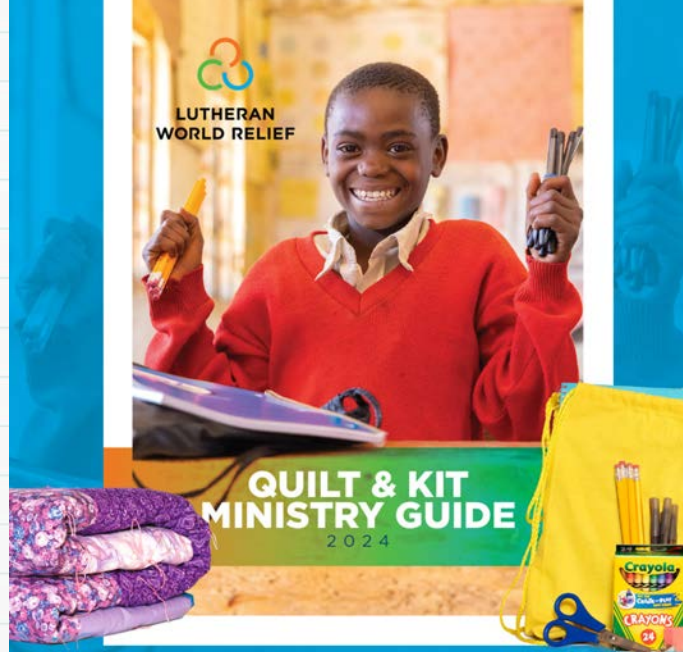
- **NO FLEECE** in QUILTS or ANY KITS. We will accept other fabrics that include microfiber.
- **NO RELIGIOUS** or **PATRIOTIC** SYMBOLS, LANGUAGE or MESSAGES.

3 PACK PROPERLY

- Pack completed quilts and kits **separately** in boxes, not to exceed 40 lbs.
- Create your own label OR write on your boxes in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS** (example below).

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Church or Group Name
Church or Group Address
Type and Quantity of Item



Learn more in the 2024 Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide at lwr.org/2024guide.

DURING

4 FIND AN INGATHERING

Visit the Ingathering Map (lwr.org/ingathering) to find one near you as well as details on drop-off.

5 OR A WAREHOUSE

Shipping or delivering to a warehouse instead?

Ship your boxed Quilts & Kits prepaid or drop them off at the Lutheran World Relief warehouse closest to you. Warehouses accept items year-round, just be sure to **call ahead** for the hours of operation.

Lutheran World Relief
398 East Richmond Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
651.457.9009

Lutheran World Relief
601 Main Street
PO Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776
410.635.8795

ANYTIME

6 CONTRIBUTE TO THE QUILT & KIT SHIPPING FUND

See page 6 for ways to make your love go even further!

7 CELEBRATE!

We certainly are celebrating you! You are the heartbeat of this ministry, and we are so grateful for the compassion and love you put into every quilt and kit. THANK YOU!

Your unrelenting love embraces neighbors in *Türkiye*



ABOVE: Leyla Güleriyüz (right) and her mother Seher Güleriyüz (left) hold some of the LWR Quilts, Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits their family received following the collapse of their home in the February 2023 Türkiye earthquakes.

In 2023, a massive earthquake in Türkiye left thousands of families in crisis. In faith and generosity, Lutherans like you rushed help and hope during this time of unimaginable loss.

Over the past year, much of the world has since turned its attention — and funding — elsewhere. **But your love has persisted**, easing suffering and meeting critical needs as families and communities work to recover.

Leyla Güleriyüz has been living in a tent with eight other relatives since the earthquake obliterated her family's home. Their makeshift setup includes a shed for cooking, a greenhouse for growing vegetables, and a tent where the family sleeps at night. The cold is numbing, but the tent's flammable nylon material makes fires for warmth too dangerous.

RIGHT: “The personal hygiene kits, **we’re running out of them all the time ...** so it is important that we stock up always.”

—Irem Gül Cansever (left), Local partner in Türkiye



“For Türkiye earthquake survivors, life is dependent on the compassion of people like you.”

– Deniz Sila Beemsterboer,
LWR staff in Türkiye



Leyla is overwhelmed by life's challenges that have been exacerbated by the earthquake. Both of her parents are chronically ill — her father with heart failure and hypertension and her mother with cancer. Her grandfather is epileptic, and her sister-in-law faced many challenges giving birth to her son in the disaster's aftermath.

To make matters worse, few nearby public health centers and hospitals remain operational. Many doctors left the country after the earthquake. The private hospitals demand money that Leyla's family simply does not have.

Because their home is on a less traveled road, they are often forgotten by aid workers.

The challenges are many and the conditions heartbreaking, but love overcomes. And yours is unwavering.

How YOU put your faith in action:

5,760

Baby
Care Kits



11,880

Mission
Quilts



14,440

Personal
Care Kits



Each icon represents a quantity of 1,000.



***"It is as if five or six years have gone from our lives,"** Leyla says of life since the earthquake. Here she stands with her mother in front of the tent her family has been living in for more than a year.*



*"Quilts and kits are especially important for those living in tents, keeping them warm and helping their personal hygiene and dignity. It's also amazing psychological support for them to know that **all around the world people are supporting them, understanding them and sharing in their pain and grief.**" –Deniz Sila Beemsterboer, staff in Türkiye*

Hear Leyla's story in her own words.



Watch the video online at lwr.org/leyla

Leyla and her family received LWR Quilts, Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits. They said the quilts are especially useful because "it gets very bitterly cold at night." The baby items will be used for Leyla's nephew.

"It made us feel very special," Leyla says. "Because it is very difficult to reach us. We don't have electricity most of the time. With these things, it will allow us to warm up in a better way."

"Thank you for everything."

– Leyla Güleriyüz



The comfort of your compassion

The members of **Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama**, knew the power of caring hearts when they formed their quilting group “The Comforters” more than 20 years ago.

Your quilts and kits bring tangible benefits. Quilts are used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Kits allow those in often uncertain and uncomfortable living conditions to care for their babies and themselves and maintain a sense of dignity.

But as founder **Annette Joens** knew when naming the group, providing hope and comfort is equally life changing. Knowing someone cares, someone prays for them and that they are not forgotten can often be the most profound effect of all for our neighbors around the world.

Fittingly, the quilts also comfort the group’s members. Annette passed away in August of 2022, mere days before her church’s quilt blessing and Ingathering. During the memorial service, her family and friends celebrated her life, comforted by the quilts laid out on pews in preparation for blessing, reminding everyone of her lifelong compassion and service.



IT TAKES A VILLAGE

With more than two decades under their belt, the Comforters understand the importance of collaboration, teamwork and feeling comfortable with the tasks they choose.

**DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE
LWR QUILTERS & KIT MAKERS
FACEBOOK GROUP?**

Visit lwr.org/facebook
to join today!

Jeanette Beamer, a passionate lifelong sewer who joined the group within two weeks of moving to Alabama from Minnesota, leads the quilting group. **LeeLinda Baggett** handles promotion and communication for the group, taking pictures and sharing the group’s work as a member of the LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Facebook Community. In 2022, they made **105** quilts and grew to **120** quilts in 2023. They are well underway on their 2024 quilts.

COLLEGE STUDENTS PITCH IN

Separately, **Dr. Rhonda Gaede** oversees Messiah Lutheran’s Kit Makers. As an Associate Provost and Professor at the University of Alabama, she gets college students involved as part of the kit assembly group. In 2022, the group completed **754 Personal Care Kits, 746 School Kits and 393 Baby Care Kits**. In 2023, they held a packing blitz and assembled over **700 School Kits in 75 minutes**.

It takes many individuals to bring comfort to our neighbors around the world. **We are grateful for all of you!**

LEFT TOP: Kit Maker **Diane Davis** assembles the shadowboxes to show the congregation what goes in each kit.

LEFT BOTTOM: Member **Paulette McNamara** sews a quilt top.

ABOVE: Comforter members **Chris Fossum, Janet Smith and Kit Baker** tie a quilt.



The couple that *sews* together, *stays* together!



ABOVE: Now with his and hers, Pat and Steve Colson are a two-sewing-machine family.

At first, **Steve Colson** watched his wife **Pat** sew from the sidelines. A dedicated member of her quilting group with **Trinity Lutheran Church in Park Forest, Illinois**, Pat often brought sewing “work” home. Before long, Steve’s interest was piqued, and he asked Pat to teach him.

After he tried it for the first time, he was hooked. “At first Pat encouraged me,” says Steve, who has been sewing quilt tops for LWR for nearly a decade. “Now, she thinks I sew too much! She can’t get a turn at the machine!”

When they retired to Florida several years ago, Steve and Pat joined **Atonement Lutheran Church in Wesley Chapel**. They didn’t have a quilting group yet, so the couple set up a sewing area at home, which quickly grew to take over the top floor.

They send quilt tops home with their former church friends when they visit for the winter. In exchange, they receive more fabric to make more quilt tops! The couple also makes frequent visits to Park Forest to reconnect with loved ones. During these visits, they bring more quilt tops for the quilters at Trinity to finish and pick up more fabric. The cycle continues.

“I know our quilt tops are not quilt show material, pun intended, but that’s not the point,” Steve says. **“We’re part of making warm, comfortable and sturdy quilts that will help someone.”**

SUPPORTING THE JOURNEY



While Florida is a far distance from where Steve and Pat’s quilts — and comforting presence — end up, we are all truly connected in this journey, from the first stitch of a quilt to the grateful hands that receive them.

The Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund is an excellent way to support the journey and to get your congregations involved. You can also honor or recognize a loved one through our Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza and become part of the “Many Trips Around the World” quilt pattern in Baltimore. **To give today, use the enclosed envelope. You can also donate online and get more information at lwr.org/shippingfund.**

TOP: Detail of two of Steve Colson’s finished quilt tops.

RIGHT: Steve lays out fabric for LWR quilt tops. He’s been sewing them for a decade.



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

• The Do-Day Ladies • Katie's Quilters • The Sewing Belles • Willing Workers • The Cover Girls •

• The Lady Fishers • The Piece Makers • The Knotty Girls • The Blanket Bunch • The Material Girls •

• The Ties That Bind • The Cut-Ups • We Tie Together Group • Mary & Martha Circle • Stitchin' Sisters •

But now, says the Lord,
who created you, O Jacob,
And He who formed you,
O Israel: Fear not,
for I have redeemed you,
I have called you by name.
You are mine.

Isaiah 43:1

Names hold significance. There is usually a meaningful story behind how or why you were named.

In the Bible, when God changed someone's name, it signified a new purpose or identity. Take Jacob, for example, renamed Israel, destined to lead a mighty nation.

As Quilters and Kit Makers, our purpose is to **channel our faith into action** by creating quilts and kits for our neighbors around the world. And for many of us, it's also one of our proudest identities.

There's probably a great story behind your group's name. If your group doesn't have a name, consider it. It's a fun way to reflect your group's collective personality! Read along the edges of the page to discover some creative ones we've seen over the years.

We'd love to hear your group's name and the story behind it. Share them with us at quiltsandkits@lwr.org. We look forward to hearing from you!