



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

God's Love IN ACTION

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How you're reaching
families where cars
can't go

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God's Love

IN ACTION

DEAR PARTNER IN MINISTRY,

It's that time again: budget season and the start of a new program year. I can picture you looking over spreadsheets, planning for Advent and getting ready for 2025.

Amid all this preparation, I am so grateful you're taking a moment to check in with Lutheran World Relief. I'm incredibly proud of the life-changing work we do together in Christ's name. As you read the stories in this issue, I hope you'll feel **energized and inspired** by the impact **your congregation** has made possible for our neighbors around the world.

As your planning continues, I invite you to check out **Who will your love reach next?** — our suite of ready-to-use, easily adaptable resources created just for pastors. Learn more at lwr.org/congregations.

Thank you for loving your neighbors so well!

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daniel Speckhard".

AMBASSADOR
DANIEL SPECKHARD
President and CEO

P.S. The center spread of this issue is a poster!

Showcase your congregation's impact by hanging it on your bulletin board.

Cover: Nyaluit Chuol is a young widow from South Sudan. After violence and flooding forced her from her home, congregations like yours provided care for her family in a displacement camp.



Feeding the hungry:

A priceless gift for families in Lebanon

On paper, an emergency food parcel may cost \$45. But for a parent in a war zone, this gift is worth so much more.

“The food parcel you provided **relieved me from the stress that had been weighing on me for weeks**,” said Bahij Tawk Mahdi, a 67-year-old father of three. His family is among the nearly 100,000 Lebanese citizens who are caught in the crossfire between Hezbollah and Israel at the southern border — a spillover from the war in Gaza.

The food parcels — which Lutheran congregations like yours made possible — contain enough canned food, staples, fresh produce and rice to feed a family for a week. So far, we have reached **222 families with food and over 1,000 families with LWR Quilts & Kits**.

Our team in Lebanon said your support is “a beacon of compassion” that has nourished the bodies and spirits of the families who have lost so much.

Families remain resilient

Life in South Lebanon was peaceful and heading toward economic recovery before violence erupted. Now, families displaced by violence are living in vacant buildings. Some are staying with family members. Children haven’t been able to attend school, as all education in the region has been suspended.

Parents like Kamal Mansour have no choice but to focus on survival. Today, he feels a little lighter.

Right: Kamal Mansour receives a food pack in southern Lebanon, where there have been frequent exchanges of strikes between Hezbollah and the Israeli army.

Opposite: Hassan Nemr Kaddouh was relieved to receive supplies for his family.



Above: So far, you have reached 222 families with food and more than 1,000 with LWR Quilts & Kits.

He says, “It’s not just about the food. **It’s a temporary relief from the constant worry about how to provide for my family**. For the next week, I can divert my thoughts from the struggles of daily survival and find solace in the fact that our basic needs are met.”

More aid is coming

Because of congregations like yours, more aid is on the way.

Four containers of LWR Quilts and Kits are headed to Lebanon and will be distributed soon to the many families who need them.

The ripple effect of your kindness and compassion leads to lasting change — and helps to shape a brighter future for Bahij, Kamal and so many others like them.



A Mother's Harrowing Journey in South Sudan and how your congregation helped along the way

Violence, grinding poverty and four years of extreme flooding have uprooted over 4 million people in South Sudan. As families scramble for survival, yours is the only help reaching some remote areas.

Follow Nyaluit Chuol, a young widow, on her quest for health and safety for her five children.



Nyirol county, Jonglei state

After months of flooding, there was no food or clean water left. Nyaluit had to choose: leaving was brutally dangerous, but staying meant certain death.

So she took her children — including **an infant and two toddlers** — and set off, bringing only what they could carry. “It was a very difficult journey, because some people want to kill you,” Nyaluit said, referring to a violent tribe patrolling the region.



Visit lwr.org/congregations to watch the inspiring story of Nyaluit's journey.



Mareng displacement camp

After six days, they **found refuge** in a camp for displaced families. But challenges continued: two of Nyaluit's children, Nyayien (4) and Mar (2), got sick with measles.

Fortunately, Lutheran World Relief runs a medical clinic at the camp. Health workers stabilized the children, but they were severely malnourished. They needed advanced treatment.

Due to flooding, the **hospital is reachable only by boat.** It would take five hours by canoe.



Malakal Hospital

Nyaluit didn't have a canoe, but gifts from **congregations like yours purchased a motorboat to serve four camps.** It carries medical supplies and serves as an **ambulance** in emergencies — cutting a five-hour trip to one.

Thanks to your generosity, Nyayien and Mar arrived at the hospital just in time. Their journey is far from over, but today they are healthy and strong. **Thank you** for helping families like Nyaluit's find hope!

**Until your love
reaches every
neighbor**

How you're bringing hope in flooded South Sudan



Imagine experiencing a health emergency, but the closest hospital is a **five-hour canoe ride** away. This is the stark reality for the hardest-to-reach communities in South Sudan.

Nyaluit Chuol and her children live in a camp for families displaced by war and extreme flooding. This year, 4-year-old Nyayien and 2-year-old Mar got very sick from measles. Health workers at a Lutheran World Relief-supported clinic determined they were **extremely malnourished** and would need treatment at a larger hospital.

The problem? Nyaluit didn't have access to a canoe.

Extreme flooding leaves families stranded

South Sudan continues to endure one of the world's worst and longest-lasting humanitarian crises. **Two-thirds of people experience poverty**. Due to ongoing violence, millions live their lives on the run. Due to all these challenges, more mothers die in childbirth in South Sudan than anywhere else in the world.

What's more, seasonal rains have caused **widespread flooding** — leaving entire communities stranded for long stretches of time. These floodwaters usually subside after a few months, when the rainy season ends ... but these have endured for four years.

2/3

of the country's
land covered by
floodwaters

1 million



people affected
by extreme
flooding each year

Above: Your generosity purchased a boat to transport medical supplies and patients through the floodwaters

Right: Nyayien (4) and Mar (2) needed emergency treatment at a hospital after measles left them severely malnourished



Your congregation is reaching the unreachable

Basic health care is an urgent need for displaced and isolated families. **Generous congregations like yours are standing in the gap** to ensure the most vulnerable people in Jonglei region have access to essential medical services. Your compassion provides treatment for malaria and other illnesses, **key medicines** like tetanus and polio, adequate **nourishment** for children and pregnant women, and much more.

Over the past year, **Lutheran churches have had an amazing impact:**



4 mobile clinics established in hard-to-reach communities



33 health care staff trained



17 babies born with the help of skilled midwives



7,265 children vaccinated against measles



5,408 consultations for communicable diseases



8,972 outpatient consultations



Above: Health worker Charity Jamba unpacks lifesaving medicines delivered by boat.

In many cases, **yours is the only help** that is reaching these communities.

A boat to go the extra mile

For worried mother Nyaluit and her sick children, your congregation's compassion offered a unique solution. To bring health care within reach, you purchased a motorboat. This boat **carries medical supplies** between sites and serves as an **ambulance** to rush emergency cases to the hospital — **cutting a five-hour journey down to one.**

This means fewer women are dying from complications during labor. It means affordable transport is available when needed. And it means little Nyayien and Mar got the lifesaving treatment they needed, just in time!



Left: Nyaluit and her children, ranging in ages from 9 months to 14 years old, outside their family's tent in the camp.



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700 LIGHT ST
BALTIMORE, MD 21230



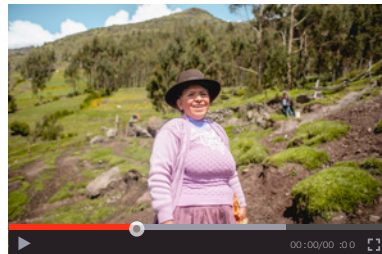
RESOURCES FOR YOU

Busy fall ahead? We've got you covered! ***Who will your love reach next?*** is a suite of ready-to-use, easily adaptable resources created just for pastors.

View the videos below and other helpful resources today at lwr.org/mission.



UNTIL YOUR LOVE REACHES EVERY NEIGHBOR



NO MATTER HOW FAR



FAITH ON THE FRONTLINES



FAITHFUL CARE FOR A HUNGRY WORLD

WHO WILL *Your Love* REACH NEXT?



SMALL GROUP
STUDY GUIDES



BULLETIN
INSERTS



INSPIRING
VIDEOS



QUILT & KIT
BLESSING LITANY



CHILDREN'S
MESSAGE PROMPTS



AND
MORE!



SHARE YOUR CONGREGATION'S LOVE.

Share restoring hope with God's children by giving online at lwr.org/congregations or by mailing a check to **Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061.**

To receive updates, join our email list for congregational leaders at lwr.org/congregations.