

# FAITH IN *action*



## WHAT'S INSIDE

### THE COMFORT OF YOUR QUILTS:

*"You'd think we've handed  
them a bar of gold."*

The power of three

**BIG NEWS:** Quilts  
and Kits will now reach  
neighbors in the U.S.



FIAP24-34K-0924

**LWR HEADQUARTERS:**  
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**QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:**  
[lwr.org/quilts](http://lwr.org/quilts) | [lwr.org/kits](http://lwr.org/kits)

## Important Contact Information

**PACKING UPDATES**  
Barcode labels are no longer used, so how should  
you identify your boxes? Create your own label or  
write on your boxes in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS:**  
• Name and Address of Church or Group  
• LWR: Type and Quantity of Item  
For more packing information go to [lwr.org/pack](http://lwr.org/pack)

**FIND AN INGATHERING**  
Fall Ingathering Season is upon us!  
Visit [lwr.org/ingathering](http://lwr.org/ingathering) to find one near you.

## Packing your quilts and kits



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**  
700 LIGHT STREET  
BALTIMORE, MD 21230 USA  
LWR.ORG

Nonprofit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Permit #201  
Dulles, VA

## Dear Quilters & Kit Makers,

*And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you.*

### 1 THESSALONIANS 3:12 NRSV

If there are any words that describe this group, they are **abounding in love**. Your hearts, your passion for service and each other, your steadfast dedication — it abounds in love, and grows with each season.

With this issue of *Faith in Action*, you will see the impact of this ever-growing love! You will see that it stretches far, reaching across oceans, embracing neighbors living amid war and destruction. And you will see that **faithful and dedicated people like you are the reason we can now expand our reach to comfort and care for neighbors here at home, in the United States.**

Thank you, dear friends. We couldn't be more excited about this news! You are indeed abounding in love.

We are incredibly grateful for your partnership in joyfully sharing God's love and your handiwork with others.



Joy & Blessings,

*Martha Piedrasanta*  
**Martha Piedrasanta**

Quilt & Kit Ministry

**P.S.** We look forward to hearing from you. Please share your Fall Ingathering photos with us!

## WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In our last issue, we asked about your Quilt & Kit Ministry group names — and the stories surrounding them. Here are a few we've received to date.

Share yours by emailing [quiltsandkits@lwr.org](mailto:quiltsandkits@lwr.org).

### ◆ TACK & PACK, SNACK & YAK

St. Martin's Lutheran Church  
Austin, Texas

### ◆ PEACE BY PIECE

Lutheran Church of the Redeemer  
Chimacum, Washington

### ◆ STITCH N' GIVE

Christ the King Lutheran Church  
Fallbrook, California



## OUR GIFT TO YOU:

### THE LWR QUILT & KIT AFFINITY PIN

This beautiful pin was created especially for YOU, our beloved quilters and kit makers. This pin symbolizes Christ's love spread by the work of your hearts and hands in making quilts and kits for some of the world's most vulnerable. It's a small token of appreciation for your faithful service.

TO ORDER YOUR **FREE** PIN, GO TO [LWR.ORG/QKPIN](http://LWR.ORG/QKPIN)

# THE POWER OF



**LEFT:** From left to right, Jennie Just-Lightfoot, LouAnn Perkins and Joyce Provenzano, the small but mighty quilting group at Trinity Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Iowa. They are shown here with just a few of the **200+ quilts** they make each year.

The number three often signifies unity and harmony. Think of a three-legged stool or a triangle, for example. And of course, and most significantly, there is the Holy Trinity — God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit.

At Trinity Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Iowa, three holds its own significance. It's exactly the number of members in the church's Quilting Ministry. **Call them small if you must, but the group — consisting of LouAnn Perkins, Jennie Just-Lightfoot and Joyce Provenzano — has an immense impact.**

The sun has barely started its ascent, and the women of Trinity Lutheran are already hard at work. They meet early each Wednesday morning, year-round. United in purpose and faith, the trio makes about 250 quilts for Lutheran World Relief each year. Last year, they made 265.

Each of the women have their role, and over the years they've become a well-oiled machine. LouAnn does the majority of the sewing, making most of the tops, although on occasion they receive a donated top from the congregation. Jennie helps by sewing some of the bindings. Joyce and Jennie tie the knots.

Thankfully, the group never worries about affording supplies.



**Fabric just shows up at the church. There's never a note. So, we've just decided that it drops from heaven. God provides.**

The congregation is very supportive, buying and transporting rolls of batting whenever the group needs it. Volunteers drive the finished quilts to the Ingathering, located some 40 miles away in Des Moines.

The women feel so very blessed, thankful that God has given them the ability to help their neighbors in this way, grateful for a supportive congregation and the fellowship they found with each other.

We at LWR are thankful, too. **Three may be a small number, but this trio is the mightiest in heart. ■**





BALTIMORE, MD

# LONG-DISTANCE NEIGHBORS IN OUR OWN BACKYARD

**ABOVE:** Chief Officer Hu Xin Peng with the Rev. Joshua Messick. Chief Officer Peng welcomed a child two months before his journey. He's excited to go home and wrap his baby in his new quilt.

As a Quilter and Kit Maker, the fruit of your love reaches our neighbors in the **most remote corners** of the world, the **people that need it the most** and in their **most urgent times**.

**But did you know that our hardest to reach neighbor can be right in our own backyard?**

Most shipments of **Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits** start at the Port of Baltimore, only a few miles from our Maryland headquarters, before making their way to neighbors across the globe.

But following a horrific accident, the ships themselves became the final destinations — and the seafarers were the intended recipients.

On March 26, 2024, a cargo ship named the *Dali* crashed into the Francis Scott Key Bridge, causing the bridge to collapse and tragically killing six construction workers. This accident trapped 10 other ships and their crews in the port for weeks. Without visas to leave their ships, these crews lacked essential supplies and access to get them.

**The Reverend Joshua Messick**, an Episcopalian minister and chaplain, is the executive director of the **Baltimore International Seafarers' Center**, an organization that supports crews at the port every day during normal circumstances. Following the Key Bridge collapse, they became the primary point of contact for aid and support — making them an ideal partner for managing the distribution of your **Lutheran World Relief Quilts & Kits**.

“You'd think we handed them  
**A BAR OF GOLD**  
when we gave them these  
Personal Care Kits.  
Thank you!”  
- REV. JOSHUA MESSICK

## Did you know?



**Last year, Lutheran World Relief shipped  
551,700 Quilts & Kits to 14 different countries!**



“Most seafarers are men,” Rev. Messick says. “They usually have one towel and can’t wash it often because fresh water is scarce when you’re surrounded by saltwater.”

**Your compassion brings comfort and support for seafarers far from home.**

“Thank you for your generous donation,” Rev. Messick says. “It has meant so much to the men who have been stuck here this whole time. They have been so thankful and appreciative of everything that you’ve done.” ■

**BELOW:** The Francis Scott Key Bridge in Baltimore collapsed, and our hardest-to-reach neighbors became the ones right in our own backyard.



Watch the video online at [lwr.org/backyard](https://lwr.org/backyard) and hear from Rev. Joshua Messick what it’s like to serve some of our most forgotten neighbors.



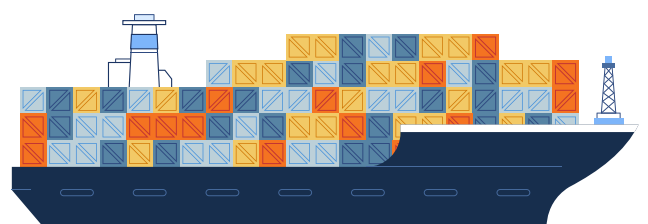
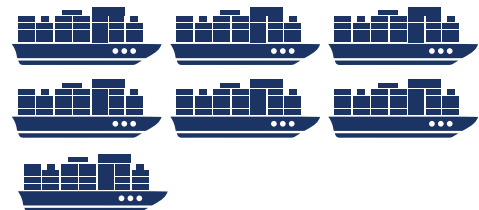
**ABOVE:** Zhu Cong Xiang, crew master of one of the ships trapped in the port of Baltimore, accepts a Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kit.



**150 Quilts & Kits**



**Distributed across 7 Ships**





# Who is my neighbor?



Emsal Koyuncu and her grandson Süleyman Atay have been living in a makeshift shelter since the earthquake in Türkiye. Your quilts and kits surrounded them in their time of greatest need.

**F**or nearly 80 years, you have been the heart and soul of Lutheran World Relief. Your quilts and kits were one of our first ministries, and even now, they serve as a lifeline for so many of our neighbors in need. You are Christ's hands and feet in the world.

But with so much need in our broken world, have you ever wondered how we determine where your quilts and kits go? It's a **strategic and prayerful process** that looks at several factors. See the next page for a few considerations. —>



◆ **MOST VULNERABLE:** We believe that every person is holy, created in the image of God to be joyful and flourish. And while we won't stop until we reach every neighbor in need, our priority is on the ones who most often bear the brunt of crises — women, children and the elderly.

**RIGHT:** Girls in places like Sierra Leone often face tremendous barriers to things like health care, education and income.



◆ **LOCAL PARTNERS & PARTICIPANTS:** We need our neighbors as much as they need us. We need their experience, their knowledge and their vision. So, we commit to walking alongside them in times of hardship rather than trying to lead or dominate. Local partners and staff provide context, relevance and wisdom not always easily seen from headquarters. Working this way allows us, together, to build something lasting, and truly life-changing.

**RIGHT:** Working with local partners and participants (as pictured here in Türkiye) strengthens our credibility and broadens our reach.



◆ **GREATEST IMPACT:** We prioritize challenges that require comprehensive, integrated solutions, because that's where your love shines the brightest. This kind of holistic approach allows us to address root causes and not just apply band-aids. **It makes an impact strong enough to break the cycle of poverty.**

**RIGHT:** Your love empowers our neighbors in Nepal and around the world to not just survive today but fully thrive tomorrow.



◆ **COMPASSION OF FRIENDS LIKE YOU:** The vision we have for the future, the change that is transforming lives today, all of that is achievable only because of you.

**RIGHT:** Kathleen Ultis hands Megan Hazen a box to be loaded at the Seattle Ingathering.



We are committed to creating a world free of poverty, injustice and human suffering, until we reach every neighbor. As you read in the Seafarers story on **page 3**, sometimes the hardest to reach, most in need may be right under our noses.

**Because of the incredible generosity of our faithful quilters and kit makers**, we are thankful that you are bringing us closer to that world every day. ■





# BIG News!

## The Quilt & Kit Ministry is expanding to reach neighbors in the United States.

**ABOVE:** A quilt blessing at Immanuel Lutheran in Independence, Iowa.

We are thrilled to share the news with you that the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry is expanding to reach neighbors in need in the United States. This means that quilts and kits will now comfort families here in the U.S. — and abroad, as they always have.

This expansion is possible entirely because of **faithful people like you**, who contribute your time and talents to make and assemble quilts and kits.

In fact, LWR Quilts and Kits are already on the way to partners in the U.S., with the first distributions expected to happen later this year.

The Quilt & Kit Ministry is our longest running program, born in 1945 — the same year as Lutheran World Relief. Over these last 80 years, the ministry has grown considerably, which means we can now expand our reach to comfort and care for more of our neighbors, both near and far.

**Together, we serve a God of incredible abundance! Thank you.**

You'll be happy to know that our U.S. partners are thankful, too. Humanitarian and social services organizations —

including our newest partners **Lutheran Services of the Carolinas** and **Lutheran Family Services of the Rocky Mountains** — are eager to share your gifts of care and comfort with children, women and men in their communities. These organizations reach people who are affected by disasters, coping with crises or struggling in poverty.

We are tremendously grateful to you and the entire Quilt & Kit Ministry community for making this significant and historic expansion possible. Please continue to make quilts and kits for neighbors in need around the world, including at home in the U.S.

**Thank you and God bless you!**

We know you may have questions — we have answers! For example, you may be wondering if there are changes to the quilt and kit guidelines. The answer is no, there are no changes. All guidelines will remain in place to allow maximum flexibility for reaching our neighbors in need at any given time and in any country.

Please visit [lwr.org/expansion](https://lwr.org/expansion) for more information and for answers to frequently asked questions.