



## FAITH IN *action*

### SUPPORTING HURRICANE SURVIVORS IN SOUTHEASTERN U.S.

TIPS FOR GROWING YOUR GROUP — NO MATTER HOW SMALL!

COMFORT AND HOPE IN EASTERN CONGO

### Find an Ingathering!

It's time to start making your Summer/Fall Ingathering plans!

Visit [lwr.org/ingathering](https://lwr.org/ingathering) to find one near you.

### Important Contact Information

#### LWR HEADQUARTERS:

Lutheran World Relief

700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230

Phone: 800.597.5972 | Email: [lwr@lwr.org](mailto:lwr@lwr.org)

#### QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

[lwr.org/quilts](https://lwr.org/quilts) | [lwr.org/kits](https://lwr.org/kits)



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF





Your LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry Team:  
(L to R) Martha Piedrasanta, Leo Verrochi and Mary Tereszkiewicz.

## Dear Quilters & Kit Makers,

Wow! You haven't missed a step — or a stitch — in 80 years! **Since 1945, you've been the heart of Lutheran World Relief.** Because of you, we have been able to reach our neighbors when they need it most. From World War II to devastating hurricanes and wildfires, you've been there.

With this issue of *Faith in Action*, you will see how that love has reached the unreachable, whether they are facing war in Eastern Congo or disaster in the United States.

As we celebrate our compassionate history, we also look to a hopeful future. Helping us prepare for that is **our new Operations and Engagement Manager, Leo Verrochi**. He will be organizing Ingatherings and donation pickups nationwide. You will also catch him engaging with church volunteers that make it all happen. Join us in welcoming him to the team!

## Joy & Blessings,



*Martha Piedrasanta*

**MARTHA PIEDRASANTA**

Senior Manager,  
Quilt & Kit Ministry

**P.S.** We look forward to hearing from you. Please share your Fall Ingathering photos with us at [quiltsandkits@lwr.org](mailto:quiltsandkits@lwr.org)!

## CELEBRATE 80 YEARS

and continue the Lutheran  
legacy of love in 2025

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ in a hurting world through your support of Lutheran World Relief!

**Watch and share** our 80th Anniversary video. See and celebrate how our ministry together is walking alongside families so that all God's children have a chance to thrive. [lwr.org/80](http://lwr.org/80).



## Order your Quilt & Kit shirt today!

Show your pride in being an LWR Quilter and Kit Maker and order your t-shirt today. **This limited edition second printing is only available for order through July 13, 2025.**

**VISIT [LWR.ORG/ORDER](http://LWR.ORG/ORDER) OR SCAN  
HERE TO PLACE YOUR ORDER!**



**BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND**



# CONSISTENCY IS KEY

Tips to grow your group  
*no matter how small!*



The Troup family joined the kit-making activities at St. Matthew Lutheran Church. 'Everything's about community,' Keith (center) said.

When St. Matthew Lutheran Church in Hanover, Pennsylvania, assembled over 820 Personal Care Kits in 45 minutes, it looked like a **sprint**. But the day was part of a marathon, **13 years in the making**.

## HUMBLE BEGINNINGS

In 2011, the church's Women of the ELCA leaders assembled 65 kits. Every year, they increased their goal. When they began inviting the wider congregation to help, their numbers really began to grow. Plus, they learned the **universal appeal of kit-making**. Everyone loved getting involved.

Through small, consistent steps over time, the kit-making group grew into the congregation-wide ministry it is today!

The Troup family welcomed the opportunity to help their neighbors.



## "Start from the littlest to the little at heart."

— Melissa Smith, Family & Children Ministry Director

"We wanted to be a part of something bigger," Jen Troup said.

Her son, Ryder, 10, feels more connected to his global community.

"People need help. We help them, especially the people who don't ask for help," Ryder said. "We can help everybody get through life."

And they're ready to keep it going for the long run.

## ..AND DON'T FORGET!

- Shop back-to-school sales and buy in bulk for the best prices!
- Pack completed quilts and kits separately in boxes. Please pack like items together (School Kits separately from Personal Care Kits, etc.).
- Create your own label OR write on your boxes in LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS.
- Check the Ingathering Map at [ingathering.lwr.org](http://ingathering.lwr.org) for your closest location.

### LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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





# HEALING AFTER HURRICANES

Hurricanes Helene and Milton devastated our neighbors in North Carolina and throughout the southeastern US. Because of your enduring love, **help was on the way before the hurricanes even reached land** — and that support continues, as many families are still in need.

*Patty Kauffman distributing LWR Quilts & Kits in Asheville, North Carolina.*



Here is a snapshot of how your gifts have helped our neighbors so far:

136,848 QUILTS AND KITS IN 3 STATES						
	QUILTS	PERSONAL CARE KITS	BABY CARE KITS	SCHOOL KITS	FABRIC KITS	TOTAL BY STATE
FLORIDA	43,520	26,908	10,990	3,306	0	84,724
NORTH CAROLINA	13,645	13,403	4,738	2,288	0	34,074
TENNESSEE	3,300	8,250	840	3,900	1,760	18,050
TOTAL BY ITEM	60,465	48,561	16,568	9,494	1,760	136,848

Cash grants totaling more than **\$500,000** helped local organizations expand their response.

THE COMFORT OF QUILTS & KITS

As forecasters tracked the paths of the storms, our warehouse team packed and shipped **truckloads of LWR Quilts & Kits** to key locations across the Southeast.

In total, more than **60,400 quilts and 76,300 kits were distributed** to neighbors whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

When the pastor of St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Asheville, North Carolina, called LWR quilter Linda Kinsinger (pictured on the cover) to help with a distribution for homeless veterans whose shelter flooded, she didn’t hesitate to show up ... even though she had no power or water at home.

“We spend every Tuesday morning making [quilts], but we never see what happens after they get shipped off,” Linda reflected. “It’s really heartwarming and fulfilling to see the work of the hands of so many women and people across the country being used right here locally in North Carolina, where we’ve had such a devastating storm.”



Above: Lutheran partners in Florida ready to distribute LWR Quilts & Kits for neighbors whose homes were damaged or destroyed.

BOTTLED WATER

FOOD

HOUSEHOLD ITEMS

BUILDING SUPPLIES

DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

QUILTS, KITS & MORE

In addition, because of the generosity of donors like you, more than **\$500,000 in grants** have been provided **to local relief organizations in affected communities**. These trusted partners bulk purchase essentials like **bottled water** and **cleaning supplies** locally and distribute them to families in need.

They also offer **direct cash assistance**, allowing families to buy the **supplies they need most** — such as food, gas, clothing, diapers, and medicine.

One recipient of your loving support, who asked to be called CJ, is the mother of a newborn and **a survivor of domestic violence**. She was preparing to move into a new, safe apartment in Tampa, Florida when hurricane flooding disrupted her plans.

As she waited for a new path forward, she received a **comforting Quilt, a Baby Care Kit and a Personal Care Kit**. She also received **cash support** to purchase **diapers** and other much-needed supplies for her baby.

Thank you for loving your neighbors in crisis with your Quilts, Kits and more!

VISIT **LWR.ORG/HEALING**  
OR SCAN HERE TO WATCH  
YOUR LOVE IN ACTION





*Fela and her family received comfort and hope in times of crisis through LWR Quilts and additional support.*

# YOU WRAP THEM WITH LOVE

Fela Mbahibwe used to have a small house and a garden. Her children attended school. Then, last spring, everything went sideways.

Her village in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo was caught in the crossfire of ongoing conflict in the region. Her husband was tragically killed.

“I lost my life just like that,” she said. “We just ran. We didn’t carry anything. No utensils, we just took the children. Others died while trying to run. We just continued running.”



Tied together by Fela's coat to avoid separation, the family arrived at a displacement camp near the city of Goma. That is where your compassion found this young family.

### **Yours is the only help Fela received.**

Thankfully, we have a long history of working in Eastern Congo. Despite ongoing violence and challenges, your faithful support reached the crowded camps around Goma with desperately needed aid.

### **Your compassion provided LWR Quilts & Kits, AND more.**

It shared food, firewood, kitchen supplies and wash basins, soap and sanitary latrines to prevent the spread of disease. You helped people access savings and loan programs to open small businesses for income. Because of you, Fela opened a roadside stall with her loan.

"Thank you for all the work you did for us," Fela said. "We don't have any other help. We only have you."

### **The hardships are not over...**

In this troubled corner of the world, peace is often fleeting, and conflict remains a constant threat to families' safety. But, amid the turmoil, there are moments when they are reminded they are not alone or forgotten.

For someone who has lost everything, knowing that someone cares for them can be the single inspiration to keep going.

Thank you for being the hands and feet of Christ. Because you put your faith into action, your neighbors in the Democratic Republic of Congo and other areas around the world feel love when they need it most.

Your steadfast support makes it possible for us to work in these communities. And we will persist...

**Until your love reaches every neighbor.**



VISIT [LWR.ORG/MEETFELA](https://lwr.org/meetfela)  
OR SCAN HERE TO WATCH  
FELA'S STORY



## **YOUR LOVE IN EASTERN CONGO**

Among 7 displacement camps  
and 3,030 tented households, **your  
love has distributed:**



**9,090 QUILTS**



**6,060 PERSONAL  
CARE KITS**



*Fela holds the cookstove your love provided.  
Yours was the only help she received.*

# BETTER TOGETHER

## A REFLECTION

*Your love provided comfort to Nina Cherkashyna, whose lost nearly everything in the Russian invasion of Ukraine.*



### 1 CORINTHIANS 12:12-31 NRSV

**“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ.”**

Isn't it incredible to be part of how the Holy Spirit is at work in the world, bringing us closer together? From Pennsylvania to the Democratic Republic of Congo, North Carolina to Indonesia, it can be easy to feel separated from our neighbors.


But as different as our time zones and climates, so are the gifts each brings to the table — resourcefulness, artisanship, courage, creativity, faithfulness, resilience, determination. Different, and yet somehow the same.

**And the heart is the same: love.**

God's love for each of us, woven into our very being, overflowing into our lives in myriad ways.

As we reflect on 80 years of your faithful ministry, showing up as God's loving presence in a hurting world, we are grateful.

As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 12:19, “if all were a single member, where would the body be?” Thankfully, we aren't all the same, as the stories in this issue show us.

How blessed we are, called in a beautiful patchwork of people to be part of God's kingdom — **NOW** — bursting forth into the world. We're here, in this broken and resurrected Body of Christ, together. **Thanks be to God!** 



**As the church is one body with many members, so are our Quilters & Kit Makers. Stay connected with our LWR QUILTERS & KIT MAKERS FACEBOOK GROUP.** 



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to join today!**



**LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF**