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A YEAR OF REACHING OUR
U.S. NEIGHBORS

CLOSING CONGREGATION
PLANTS NEW SEEDS OF LIFE

AND MORE!



LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF

Love IN ACTION



Neighbors in Mississippi lost everything after catastrophic tornadoes and floods. Your Quilts and Kits reached those most in need, like this grateful recipient in the Delta region. Photo Credit: Mississippi Food Network.



DIVINELY TIMED EXPANSION REACHES COAST TO COAST IN FIRST YEAR

ONE YEAR AGO, your faithful compassion opened a new chapter for Lutheran World Relief, **expanding our beloved Quilt & Kit Ministry to our neighbors in crisis here at home** – in addition to those your love has always surrounded abroad. For those facing devastating wildfires, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, your quilts, kits and support have been

a lifeline – a true godsend. **Your faith in action embraces those who have lost everything and restores hope.**

When disaster strikes, your love is the first to surround our hurting neighbors. After **Hurricanes Helene and Milton** decimated communities across the Southeast, your gifts were already on the move. **Even before**

landfall, 10 shipping containers – filled with more than **60,000 handmade quilts** and **76,000 essential kits** – were en route across **six states**. You also provided more than **\$1 million** in cash grants to trusted local partners. This allows

“The quilts were not only warm but beautifully made. The quality was amazing, and it felt like a gift of love in every stitch.”

— Hurricane survivor and displaced mother in Florida





Dear Partners in Christ,

For 80 years, your compassion has reached our neighbors around the globe. This past year, in a significant expansion of that legacy, you brought that same generosity to neighbors right in our own backyards.

When disasters strike – from hurricanes in the Southeast to floods in Texas – **your love is the first to arrive.** You make it possible for us to reach the hardest-to-reach places, providing not just tangible comfort through your quilts and kits, but also flexible cash grants that restore dignity.

Your congregation's support creates a network of hope through local partners, bringing communities immediate relief and then staying longer to help build back stronger and more resilient.

As needs grow, your leadership is more vital than ever. Thank you for guiding your congregations in this life-changing service. **With your steadfast support, we'll continue this mission-driven work...until your love reaches every neighbor.**

In gratitude,



Daniel Speckhard
**AMBASSADOR
DANIEL SPECKHARD**
President and CEO



families to purchase exactly what they need most – food, medicine, housing or gas – restoring dignity and hope in a time of chaos.

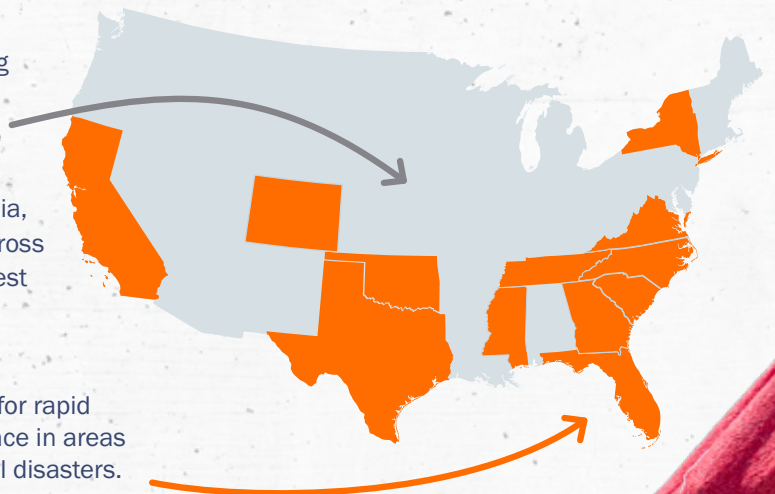
In **Central Texas**, your compassion reached neighbors devastated by horrific flash flooding at record speed. Within **12 HOURS**, LWR Quilts and Kits were in the hands of those who needed them the most.

Because of you, love doesn't just arrive quickly – it stays longer. It enables partnerships with local organizations creating safety nets for our most vulnerable neighbors: the unhoused, veterans, children and the elderly. In **North Carolina**, you helped launch the **Faith360 Network**, uniting congregations, faith-based organizations and volunteers to coordinate efforts and build resilience and hope.

Here's what you've made possible:

Neighbors reached coast-to-coast including those impacted by:

- **Hurricanes Helene and Milton**
- **Wildfires** in California,
- **Severe weather** across the South and Midwest
- **Flooding** in Central Texas



Partners in **12 states** for rapid deployment of assistance in areas with reoccurring natural disasters.



21 shipping containers of quilts and kits shipped



Over **\$1 million** in cash grants distributed

Above: Faith leaders affected by Hurricanes Helene and Milton comfort each other. Your support helped launch the Faith360 Network, a network of congregations, faith-based organizations and volunteers who collaborate on responding to disasters.

Right: Kit distribution to families affected by California wildfires





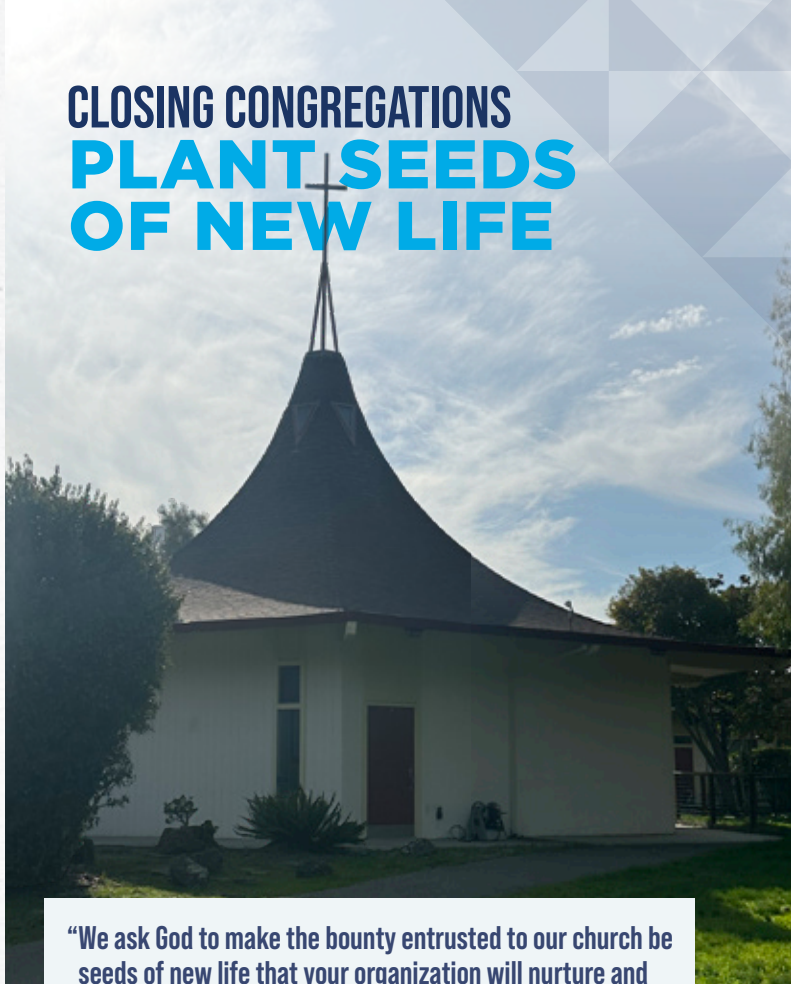
**LWR KITS
DONATED BY
YOU TO HELP
FAMILIES IN
MISSISSIPPI**

“These types of items are rarely, if ever, received, and the recipients were very appreciative. It was a pleasant surprise to have items that are so needed.”

— Partner in Mississippi that distributed LWR Quilts & Kits after severe tornadoes and flooding.

Because of you, a network of hope is spreading. Your continued support ensures that when a neighbor is in crisis, your love will be the first to arrive, bringing comfort and the promise of a brighter tomorrow.

THANK YOU!



CLOSING CONGREGATIONS PLANT SEEDS OF NEW LIFE

“We ask God to make the bounty entrusted to our church be seeds of new life that your organization will nurture and multiply for good in this world. Thank you for all you do. Blessings abound!” — Linda Headrick, Holy Redeemer

The difficult decision to close a church is always accompanied by grief. And yet as Christians, we cling to the resurrection promise that *from death comes new life*.

And there’s no better embodiment of this promise than the legacy of compassion and hope left by **Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church of Newark, California**. When Holy Redeemer closed its doors after 60 years of faithful service, the congregation found comfort in gifting a portion of its legacy to the **Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund**. This transformative gift became the seed that helped make our U.S.-based disaster response work possible.

The generosity of churches like Holy Redeemer allowed us to extend your compassion to neighbors affected by wildfires, hurricanes and other extreme weather from coast to coast.

Holy Redeemer Council member Linda Headrick is thrilled to be able to see the long-standing ministry of her church live on in this transformative way.

We are so very grateful for Holy Redeemer and the lasting impact their gift makes possible. If your congregation is discerning its own legacy, know that your gift to Lutheran World Relief can ignite hope and extend your ministry’s blessings to countless lives. Your choice to plant such seeds of new life will help ensure your congregation’s impact lives on, touching those who need it most, near and far. **◇**

Above: Holy Redeemer Lutheran Church of Newark, CA.

Your love

BRINGS QUILTS & KITS TO DISPLACED SCHOOL CHILDREN IN MALI

Imagine two very different worlds.

In one, Lutherans gather in a church fellowship hall. Bright fabric squares spread across tables; empty drawstring bags wait for notebooks, crayons, pencils. Friends stitch and pack with joy, sharing God's love with neighbors they'll never meet.

Thousands of miles away, another group gathers. The bright colors of quilts and School Kits — and the bright smiles of the children receiving them — pop against the dusty brown ground that goes out in all directions.

Here, in the Bete Displacement Camp in Mali, gifts such as these are life changing. After fleeing unfathomable violence at home, they arrive only to face hunger and uncertain futures. Your compassion surrounds them with comfort in their time of need.



A child in Mali with her new School Kit and LWR Quilt.



Schoolchildren with their new School Kits

Your impact across Mali (in one year alone!)


51,975
QUILTS


19,500
SCHOOL KITS



15,000
PERSONAL CARE KITS


6,000
BABY CARE KITS


1,568
FABRIC KITS

For the children, School Kits allow them to continue their education. For parents, your quilts ensure their families will stay warm in harsh winters.

Though you are separated by oceans, you are connected to the neighbors you serve through a profound invisible thread of God's love.

Thank you for your ministry, and for bringing joy and hope to our neighbors in Mali. 

You are caring for
your congregation.

LET US BE THERE FOR YOU!

Visit lwr.org/congregations for:



WAYS TO MAKE
A DIFFERENCE



INSPIRING VIDEOS
TO SHARE



HANDS-ON
SERVICE IDEAS



SIGN UP FOR OUR
CONGREGATIONAL
LEADER LIST



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