

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDE

2026 - 2027



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF



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Your Love Is Reaching Our Neighbors

The gifts you give are an immeasurable blessing to families near and far. A little girl is warmer because of a quilt sewn. A mother is happy because her children received school supplies and a bag to carry them. A father is learning a new skill that will provide income for his family because he's learning to sew using a Fabric Kit he received. A grandmother has regained her dignity because she was able to bathe using the soap inside a Personal Care Kit. And a baby is sleeping soundly because he is swaddled in a soft blanket from a Baby Care Kit.

Thank you for sharing your love with our neighbors in need and letting them know they are not alone.

We want your quilting and kit-making stories!

Your projects and pictures could be featured in one of LWR's publications!

Please include the name of your group/ congregation, mailing address, email address, phone number, contact person's name, the LWR projects you participate in, and comments. High-resolution photos are greatly appreciated!

Send your **information** to: quiltsandkits@lwr.org or

Lutheran World Relief
Attn: LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry
700 Light Street
Baltimore, MD 21230 USA

For additional copies of this booklet, other materials or more information about LWR, contact us at:

800 597 5972 | lwr@lwr.org
lwr.org/qkguide

LWR's Quilt & Kit Ministry is a great project for:

- Campus groups
- Confirmation students
- Co-workers
- Day camps
- Families
- Men's groups
- Outdoor Ministry groups
- Retirees
- Student service groups
- Sunday school classes
- Vacation Bible School
- Women's groups
- Youth groups



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Cover: Natalia Chernenka is a resident of Tsyrukny, Ukraine, where LWR did a quilt and hygiene kit distribution.

Left: Eva Douglass and Janet Smith tying quilts at Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, Alabama.



General Assembly Instructions

LWR Quilts and Kits are highly regarded throughout the world because of their quality and consistency. Your careful adherence to the instructions in this guide will ensure that all LWR Quilts and Kits are:

USEFUL. We work closely with our domestic and overseas partners to determine the best contents to include in kits. Your kits will do the most good possible when they contain only the items listed in these guidelines.

CONSISTENT. Keeping quilt sizes and kit contents consistent helps our partners plan properly for distributing a shipment, and keeps domestic and international shipping processes cost-effective and efficient. Kits with missing or extra items must be disassembled and repacked at the warehouse, causing costly delays.

FAIR. When all kits contain the same items, recipients are treated equally and fairly, which is important for those who have already experienced a great deal of injustice or tragedy.



Be sure to visit lwr.org/quilts and lwr.org/kits for resources to make your quilting or kit-making project a success!

For quilts and all kits, please also follow these guidelines:

- **Please give new items only, except where handmade items are allowed.** Sending top quality items shows the greatest care and respect for the dignity of the recipient. Quality items also withstand the harsh conditions many recipients face.
- **Please donate only completed quilts and kits.** If you have extra components left after an assembly, consider keeping them to get a jump start on next year, or donate them locally to a shelter or school.
- **Please do not donate items with any religious holiday symbols, messages or your congregation's name.** LWR provides quilts, blankets and kits based on need, regardless of religion. Religious references may be misinterpreted by the governments of the receiving countries, jeopardizing the delivery to the people who need the items most. Secular symbols such as rabbits, eggs, and poinsettias are acceptable.
- **Please do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols, or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.** LWR and our overseas partners have access to areas of the world others do not because we are impartial humanitarian organizations. If our intentions are misinterpreted as being politically motivated, it puts our work, our partners, and the people we assist at risk.



After a bridge collapsed in Baltimore, your quilts and kits were delivered to seafarers trapped in the port.

Mission Quilts

Imagine the comfort and care you feel when you snuggle under a comforter or wear a piece of clothing made or worn by a loved one. That's the feeling you share through an LWR Quilt. In a simple combination of fabric and thread, you reach out to people in their time of greatest need with a strong message of hope — you are not alone.

First and foremost, recipients use their LWR Quilts to shield against the cold and rain, and for warm bedding. But their versatility also makes quilts useful as simple tents, floor coverings, or a wrap to hold a baby on a mother's back.

Please review the General Assembly instructions on Page 1 before beginning your quilting project.

How to Make an LWR Quilt in Three Easy Steps

- 1 Place a piece of fabric measuring 64" X 84" right side down on the table, followed by a filler measuring 60" X 80", and then another piece of fabric, also measuring 60" X 80", right side up on top of the filler.
- 2 Tie the layers together using crochet thread or embroidery floss, or machine-quilt them together.
- 3 Bring the edges of the 64" X 84" piece over the top, pin and machine-stitch the edge, using a zigzag stitch if possible.

LWR Quilts should measure 60" X 80". This size best serves adult recipients and children as they grow older. Please donate only 60" X 80" quilts. The machine that bales (tightly compresses) the quilts was specifically designed for quilts/blankets measuring 60" x 80", so please stay close to these dimensions.

The ultimate purpose of a quilt is to provide warmth, so please choose your fabrics and filler accordingly.

Even in warmer climates, temperatures can drop dramatically at night, requiring a quilt with sufficient filler. For tips on finding affordable filler for quilts, visit lwr.org/quilts and click on **Get Quilt Filler Tips**.

Please don't sew a church's name or a message into your quilt.

UPDATED SHIPPING NOTE:

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver one quilt near and far is \$4.00. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

Although LWR Mission Quilts are highly preferred due to their handmade quality and warmth, LWR also accepts new and like new (no stains or tears) store-bought blankets measuring approximately 60" X 80". Standard twin-size blankets are acceptable. Please do not donate electric blankets, fleece or afghans/throws. Pack blankets separately from Mission Quilts when shipping to LWR.

*"Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God."
Isaiah 40:1 NRSV*



THE BEST CHRISTMAS GIFT

Imagine the challenges of overcoming homelessness and addiction. You're so close to starting fresh, then a devastating hurricane threatens to rip everything apart.

This was the story of our neighbors living in a shelter in Asheville, North Carolina, when Helene struck — flooding the residence and leaving them without power for days and water for months. Many of the men felt defeated. Then, just in time for Christmas, **your love surrounded them with the warmth of quilts**, reminding them how much others cared.

"The gratitude was palpable," one volunteer said. "Time and time again we were told, 'This is the nicest Christmas I have ever had in my life.'"



Where did your quilts and kits go last year?
Visit lwr.org/qkmap to learn more.



“THANK YOU FOR NOT FORGETTING US.”

Natalia Chernenka, 67, had nowhere else to go when Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022. So she stayed in her home, even during the harrowing time when soldiers occupied her community. And she stayed in her home even after a missile blew off her roof, shattering all her windows and destroying everything in its path with force and fire. Whatever belongings didn't burn up have since turned moldy, because rain leaks under the tarps she uses as a roof.

“We built everything,” she said through tears, “and now we have nothing.”

For months, she had no electricity, no gas, no water, no heat. She survived on whatever foods she could grow herself, and that first winter of the war was brutally cold.

At the distribution, she clutched her new quilt to her chest and said, **“This quilt is very important to us, because the bedding that didn't catch fire is all ruined. At least we can cover ourselves, thank God.”**

There's a reason LWR Mission Quilts have been part of our humanitarian response since 1945: they are practical, comforting and a sign that even on their darkest days, our neighbors are not alone.

“Thank you for not forgetting us,” Natalia added.
“Thank you very much.” ■

Tips

- Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric or any type of patchwork pattern of smaller squares sewn together using a suggested half-inch seam allowance to make a 60" X 80" top or 64" X 84" bottom.
- Keep in mind that LWR Quilts will be washed frequently against rocks or hard surfaces and used for many purposes. We recommend washable fabrics such as cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, polyester knits, and donated upholstery and drapery samples. **Please** do not use fiberglass, fleece, or polar fleece. **Ensure** that there are no stains or holes before using fabrics.
- Crochet thread or embroidery floss is preferred for tying, although durable yarn is acceptable. Ties spaced 6" to 10" apart and stitched through the material twice make for sturdy quilts.
- No religious holiday symbols or flags from any country on the quilts. If there is any doubt, please err on the side of caution and leave it out. We want to make sure the country officials who inspect the quilts in overseas shipments have no concerns.
- Please check the quilt website page lwr.org/quilts for any updates/changes that may take place prior to the next issue of the Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide. Our goal is to provide ample notice before any changes go into effect.



▲ **STORAGE TIP:** The Christian Crafters at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Croton-on-Hudson, New York roll their finished quilts to keep them tidy until they are blessed and sent to the warehouse. “It reminds us of our childhood camping days when we would roll our sleeping bags,” group leader Lois Leonard says.

School Kits

Education is one of the strongest tools a community has for breaking the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that girls attend school, especially in places where their access is deprioritized, has even stronger results. School Kits contain essential supplies to help children – and in some cases, adults – continue learning in the face of serious obstacles. That learning leads to a better life for them, their families and their communities.

Please review the General Assembly instructions on Page 1 before collecting items for the School Kits.

*“But be doers of the word,
and not merely hearers who
deceive themselves.”*

James 1:22 NRSV

Include the following items in each School Kit:

- Four 70-80 sheet **SPIRAL** notebooks (280-320 sheets total) of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8" X 10½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (**NOTE: when packing, place the ruler inside the notebook to prevent sliding**)
- One pencil sharpener
- One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- Five **unsharpened** #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2½" eraser
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14" X 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks); preferred fabrics include sturdy cotton, canvas, denim, and twill

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.

All items should be new and in good condition. Remove any excess packaging. Pack all items in bag and close. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Visit lwr.org/schoolkits or call **800 597 5972** for an easy-sew backpack-style bag pattern, tips for purchasing pre-made bags, and printable signs to help with your next assembly.

UPDATED SHIPPING NOTE:

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver one School Kit near and far is \$4.00. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling School Kits!





SCHOOL KITS REACH DISPLACEMENT CAMPS IN MALI

Imagine two very different worlds.

In one, a **gathering of Lutherans** flocks into a church rec room. In the corner, there are piles of colorful drawstring bags, poised and ready to be filled with notebooks, crayons, pencils and other school supplies. The smell of coffee and welcoming chatter fill the room as everyone settles in. This is their favorite time of the month: gathering with their friends to make School Kits. They will never meet the children who will ultimately receive their handiwork, but they think about and pray for them just the same.

Thousands of miles away, another group gathers. The colors here are also bright, vibrant blues and lush reds against the dusty brown sand. The children in the crowd

light up with joy, hugging backpacks filled with much-needed school supplies.

While these worlds are oceans apart, your boundless love bridges even the greatest divides.

Here, in the **Bete Displacement Camp in Mali**, gifts like School Kits are life-changing. Immense hardship has brought them to this desolate camp. Conflict and violence have been nearly constant throughout their entire lives, and they have also known drought, flooding, loss, illness and hunger. For these children, the gift of a School Kit means they can continue their education. It means **there is hope that they will have a future** worth studying for. And it means **someone like you cared enough** to help make that future possible. ■



School Kits in Tanzania

In 2022, you made sure all 161 students at Isede Primary School in Tanzania had School Kits. Teacher **MARIA TINDA** says this kindness has made a huge difference for students and teachers alike. Teachers used to dread telling the children to ask their parents to buy them supplies. In turn, students were often absent when they had nothing to bring. But since the kits were delivered, attendance has greatly improved. “It also blesses us and helps us do our job well,” she reflects. “I am grateful.”

Watch the video at

lwr.org/maria

Personal Care Kits

Cleanliness may not actually be next to godliness, but it certainly helps a person feel more human. When families find their homes destroyed, or must flee for their safety, soap and a towel rarely make the cut for what they can carry. Arriving in a refugee camp or other place of safety, they are scared, vulnerable and dirty from the travel. The simple items included in a Personal Care Kit provide much-needed self-care, critical germ fighting, and the chance to regain dignity amid situations of fear and uncertainty.

Please review the General Assembly instructions on Page 1 before collecting items for Personal Care Kits.

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One lightweight cotton or cotton blend bath-size towel (20" to 27" X 40" to 52"), dark color recommended
- Two or three bath-size bars of soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel size bars
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*
- One sturdy comb. There are many different types of hair texture, so no picks or fine-toothed combs; remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business-size envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.

All items should be new and in good condition. Wrap all the items in the towel and secure with ribbon or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

UPDATED SHIPPING NOTE:

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver one Personal Care Kit near and far is \$4.00. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

"We always give thanks to God for all of you and mention you in our prayers, constantly remembering before our God and Father your work of faith and labor of love and steadfastness of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ."

1 Thessalonians 1: 2-3 NRSV

WANT TO GET THE MOST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK?

Buy in Bulk!

Purchasing kit items in bulk saves time and money. Here are some tips to get started:

ONLINE: Many websites carry items appropriate for LWR kits and often have sales. Inspect items carefully to make sure they meet LWR guidelines and are of good quality.

CLUB STORES: Does anyone in your congregation have a membership to a wholesale club? You can get bulk prices for kit items from these stores.

ASK: Some local stores may be willing to place a bulk order for you and even cut you a discount if they know that you'll be using the supplies to help people in need. It never hurts to ask!

Visit lwr.org/buyinbulk for a list of resources to help you buy supplies in bulk.



Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Personal Care Kits!



COMFORT AND DIGNITY AFTER LOSING EVERYTHING

When Emsal's family lost everything, your generosity brought them the gift of dignity — and a message that they were not forgotten.

Sometimes, a small gift can be an enormous comfort.

After massive earthquakes in Türkiye destroyed their homes, Emsal Koyuncu and her family had to start a new and different life. Emsal now lives in a tiny container home with eight other people, including her husband, her daughter and son-in-law, and five grandchildren. Next door, a second container houses another daughter, along with her husband and four young children.

It's an unbelievably cramped space, and they are living on very little. Emsal says they could not retrieve anything from their collapsed homes — “not even a matchstick.” And although there are several adults in the family, there is little income because all the workplaces were destroyed during the earthquake. Their electricity comes and goes, and they use buckets to go to the bathroom.

Emsal says, “It's not a good place to live, but what should we do? Where can we go? We have nowhere else to go.”

When a delivery of LWR Personal Care Kits, Quilts and Baby Care Kits reached their doorstep, Emsal and her daughter-in-law Kader were deeply thankful.

“After everything, you thought of us,” Kader said. “Even a small thing makes us happy. You are doing something we can't do, buying something we can't buy. God bless you. I mean, we can't do it. Everything depends on your [donations] right now.”

Emsal added a special message to you: “We thank them for their help. God bless them ... Thank you very much.”

All told, **16,275 Personal Care Kits reached our neighbors in Türkiye** after the earthquakes — providing thousands of moments of dignity and comfort when they were needed most. ■

Amid the ashes, neighbors find compassion

In January 2025, **wildfires ravaged southern California**, destroying 18,000 homes. Your Personal Care Kits were a vital part of Lutheran World Relief's broader relief efforts. Other support included Quilts, School Kits, Fabric Kits, food, bottled water, clean up kits, clothing, gift cards for essential needs, and trauma counseling for people who were directly affected by this devastating disaster. Quilts and kits were distributed in partnership with the Los Angeles Regional Food Bank — which asked for LWR Personal Care Kits by name **because they filled a critical need.** ■



Kits were distributed at a resource fair, where families could choose needed supplies from various stalls.

Baby Care Kits

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Caring for a young child in the midst of a natural disaster can be challenging. Keeping a new baby or young child healthy, clean and comfortable can take a lot of resources.

The items included in a Baby Care Kit provide the basics a family needs to care for their littlest members in the way they hope. Worry will always be present for parents, but having some essentials allows them to enjoy and get to know their little ones and introduce them with pride to the world.

Please review the General Assembly instructions on Page 1 before collecting items for the Baby Care Kits.

Include the following new or handmade items in each Baby Care Kit:

- Two lightweight cotton T-shirts (no Onesies®)
- Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet) or a top and bottom set (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, minimum 36" to maximum 52", square or rectangular (Can mix and match)
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater, sweatshirt or cape with hood, or include a baby cap
- Two new pairs of socks
- One new cotton or cotton blend hand towel, dark color recommended, sized 15" to 18" x 25" to 30"
- Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap equaling 8 to 9 oz, any brand, in original wrapping. No mini or hotel size bars
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed.

All items must be new or handmade. The only exception is donated and/or thrifted items in "pristine" or "like-new" condition. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins or large safety pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. No fleece, polar fleece or microfiber.

Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used. Varying the sizes of the clothing items included will make the Baby Care Kit useful as the baby grows. Gender neutral colors preferred.

UPDATED SHIPPING NOTE:

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver one Baby Care Kit near and far is \$4.00. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Baby Care Kits!



Lutheran partners in Florida distributed quilts and kits on your behalf after the hurricanes

Helping a mother and baby in crisis

Hurricanes Helene and Milton put the southeastern United States in crisis. This disaster also marked the first time LWR Quilts & Kits were distributed domestically after we announced our U.S. expansion in 2024.

One of our first recipients, who asked to be called CJ, is the mother of an infant and a survivor of domestic violence. She was preparing to move out of her abusive home and into a new apartment with her baby in Tampa, Florida, when the hurricanes flooded parts of the city.

As CJ waited for a new path to open, she received a **Baby Care Kit, a Quilt and a Personal Care Kit** to help her start fresh. Through our broader relief effort, she also received cash support to purchase diapers and other essential supplies for her baby. ■

Left to right: Betty Landorf, Kendall Landorf, Sandy Hess, Kate Pinnella, Alexa Amato, Joann Kudelka and Marcia Patterson at the 2025 Baby Care Kit assembly day



An African proverb says, “It takes a village to raise a child.” The same is true when your goal is to make 500 Baby Care Kits every year.

Betty Landorf coordinates the Baby Care ministry at Our Saviour’s Evangelical Lutheran Church in Naperville, Illinois. About 30 people from the congregation support this effort, collecting supplies and making blankets for their annual assembly event in September.

This is a lot of work, especially because the group ensures one of the blankets in every kit is handmade. Betty explains, “A regular receiving blanket is thin, so this way every bundle also has a thick, warm, quality blanket.”

Fortunately, they don’t do it alone. This year, they received 55 quilts from Gloria Day Lutheran Church in Downers Grove, Illinois, after a church member responded to one of Betty’s posts on the **LWR Quilters & Kit Makers Community** on Facebook.

Another 100 came from quilter Stella Papachek in North Dakota — a connection LWR’s Mary Tereskiewicz made after Stella asked where she might donate her baby-sized quilts.

And this year, several afghans came from Betty’s granddaughter Kendall Landorf, 25, and three of her friends in Chicago. Betty said Kendall asked her for crocheting lessons, and the rest is history.

“A week or two later, she called me up and said, ‘Grandma, all my friends want to make blankets too!’” So, Betty hosted a crochet party for them, “and they really took off.” Given that most Baby Care group members are 60-80 years old, Betty is excited the next generation is getting involved.

And finally, a woman in Kentucky named Paula Lee, whom a church member met through an online craft supply swap group, makes all their cloth diapers. Betty says, “She even folds and ties them for us. I cannot believe it!”

In this way, help from many sources — including a Thrivent grant for transport and donated boxes from a church member — comes together to be the village for mothers and babies in need. ■

Tips

- In place of sleepers or gowns, pajama sets, tops and pants may be substituted.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted or made from heavy double knits or flannel. No fleece. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or by recycling adult T-shirts. Both materials must be in very good condition.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel/cotton blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- You may include a knitted or crocheted baby cap along with a sweater or jacket that has no hood.
- Visit lwr.org/babycarekits or call **800.597.5972** for diaper, gown, jacket, and hooded cape patterns.



Fabric Kits

Sewing is a valuable skill that can help men and women earn reliable income. Fabric Kits provide fabric and thread for vocational training programs teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors and seamstresses to launch their sewing businesses.

Please review the **General Assembly instructions on Page 1** before assembling Fabric Kits.

Include the following items in each Fabric Kit:

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Pieces do not need to match each other.
 - 2 ¼ yards of 58"-62" wide fabric, or
 - 3 yards of 42"-45" wide fabric, or
 - 4 yards of 34"-37" wide fabric

- Two spools of matching or neutral-colored general purpose thread, totaling a minimum of 500 yards to a maximum of 800 yards. Combinations could include, but are not limited to:

- 2 spools of 400 yards
- 1 spool of 400 yards + 1 spool of 200 yards

Fabric should have no stains or holes. Pieces do not need to match in size, color or pattern. Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second fabric piece and tie with yarn, sturdy string, ribbon, rubber bands, or a strip of fabric. Do not enclose the Fabric Kit or any of its contents in a plastic bag.

UPDATED SHIPPING NOTE:

LWR's approximate cost to transport, process, store and deliver one Fabric Kit near and far is \$4.00. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



Visit lwr.org/kitvideos to watch a video with tips and tricks for assembling Fabric Kits!

Everybody needs clothes, bags and other items that can be stitched together or mended with a needle and thread. **LWR FABRIC KITS** provide tools for aspiring tailors to learn and practice sewing skills, as well as a much-needed refresh of supplies for individuals (primarily women) who maintain their family's wardrobes or sew for income. In 2025, Lutheran World Relief sent **9,368 FABRIC KITS TO MALI** and all three regions of the **UNITED STATES** where we responded to disasters last year.



NO FLEECE

Since 2020, LWR has not accepted fleece-tied blankets, fleece as filler for quilts, or fleece in any kits. Fleece causes environmental concerns and may contaminate drinking water. We encourage you to take any fleece items to a local shelter, hospital or nursing home in your community.

NO BULK SOAP

Due to decreased demand by our partners, LWR is no longer accepting bulk soap. Many partners are sourcing soap within their country, which benefits local economies. **Please note there will still be individually wrapped soap included in Personal Care Kits and Baby Care Kits**, but we have discontinued bulk soap collection.



Resident Diane Amati chooses thread for a Fabric Kit.



Resident Marilyn Hansen and Auxiliary member Linda Paquette work together.

▲ **DR. BARBARA MORTON** says she's always been civic-minded. So, when she retired and moved to Arlington Heights, Illinois, it made sense to volunteer with the Lutheran Home Auxiliary. (Plus, as Professor Emeritus and former Dean of the School of Education at Concordia University, Irvine, she's used to keeping busy!)

One of her first tasks was to clean out the storage closets in the common room where residents of Hearthstone, the community's assisted living facility, do arts and crafts projects. As she organized the space, she looked for ideas for new projects to engage the residents. To her surprise and delight, Barbara discovered 19 boxes of fabric.

She decided to create an opportunity for residents to love their neighbors by making Fabric Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief. This project involves selecting and sizing the fabric, adding two spools of thread, and folding and rolling everything into a little package, tied securely with ribbon or yarn.

On Saturdays, the room buzzes with volunteers and residents working together to assemble these colorful, useful bundles.

"It's a great opportunity to show others we are never too old to serve," Barbara says. ■



Residents and volunteers work together to assemble Fabric Kits.



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



Visit

[lwr.org/facebook](https://www.lwr.org/facebook)

to join today!





Edee Anderson drove from Montana to Oklahoma — and back! — to ensure congregations could maximize their quilt production.

What lengths would you go to love your neighbors?

In June, Edee Anderson drove **2,800 miles across six states** in a Ford F-250 pickup truck, towing a **27-foot RV full of quilt batting**.

“You might be interested to know I’m 78 years old,” she says. “But I’ve driven it plenty of times camping, and I can even back it up!”

Edee began her journey in Deer Lodge, Montana, where she makes quilts and kits with St. John Lutheran Church and serves as the Key Leader of four Ingatherings across the state. Her first stop was the Lutheran Women in Mission National Convention in Omaha, Nebraska, where she enjoyed the event with thousands of women, including her sister and a cousin.

From there, she took I-29 North to Oklee, Minnesota — home of Oklee Quilting Supply, Inc. “They have the best batting for LWR quilts, because it’s specially made at sixty inches wide and has the best price,” she explains. “But the shipping is expensive.”

One roll of batting, which makes 25 quilts, costs roughly \$100. The cost of shipping is nearly half that. To maximize

the number of quilts they can make, she says, “That’s my focus: get quilt batting back to Montana and save us on the shipping charge.”

But she didn’t just pick up her own church’s batting. Edee worked with 12 congregations throughout Montana to coordinate their deliveries. Then the staff at Oklee, knowing her mission, asked if she would deliver to two additional churches on her route to save them money as well.

In total, Edee hauled 48 rolls of batting back to Montana — 12 in the truck bed and the rest piled to the RV’s ceiling. After her first delivery, she was able to fold down a bed and sleep in the RV at night, surrounded by batting.

“When I travel, I hate paying the cost of motels,” laughs Edee, ever the money saver.

On her way back to Deer Lodge, she stopped at churches in Billings, Bozeman, Butte, Fairview, Hamilton, Helena, Polson and Ronan.

“The gals at Oklee calculated how much we saved on shipping. It was almost \$1,400!” she said. “Plus, it was a fun adventure.” ■

Packing your Quilts and Kits

- Pack completed quilts and kits separately in boxes. Please pack like items together (pack School Kits separately from Personal Care Kits, etc.).
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.
- Do not mail partial kits.
- Do not mail to the LWR office at 700 Light Street.



Shipping or delivering Quilts and Kits



The development and field testing of a more accessible, user-friendly tracking system is well under way. Stay tuned. In the meantime, please continue to create your own label, or write on your boxes in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS**:

- Church name
- LWR
- Church address
- Type of item & quantity

For more packing information go to lwr.org/pack.

Bring your boxed items to an Ingathering near you. Visit ingathering.lwr.org for details as sites are added and updated regularly. Additionally, you can send your items prepaid to or drop them off at the **single, consolidated LWR warehouse in Minnesota**:

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

The Minnesota warehouse accepts items year-round. If you are dropping items off, please call ahead for driving directions and hours of operation.

Use Thrivent Action Teams™ to make LWR Quilts & Kits!



Ruth Fikes, Jane Dreiske and Marge Ruffolo from Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, CA

If you're a member of **Thrivent Financial**, you have access to an amazing benefit that can help boost your quilt and kit-making efforts — **Thrivent Action Teams™!**

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:

- 1 Apply online at the Thrivent Financial website to lead a one-time fundraiser or service project that can be completed within 90 days.
- 2 If approved, Thrivent Financial will get you started with seed money, along with supplies to promote your event!



That's it! See how easy it is to form a **Thrivent Action Team™** to make **LWR Quilts & Kits** by visiting thrivent.com/actionteam or calling **800.847.4836** today.

NOTE: Thrivent grants may not be donated toward the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

MINNESOTA PREPARES FOR AN INFLUX OF LOVE

The Quilt & Kit Ministry has persevered for more than 80 years, all because our quilters, kit makers and staff work hard and adjust when needed.

One recent adjustment is that **materials are no longer being accepted at the New Windsor, Maryland, warehouse.** In November 2025, our partners there ceased their receiving and processing operations. Fortunately, we have an amazing team in South St. Paul, Minnesota, ready to fill the gap.

“Our crew is very, very efficient,” says Matt Tuneberg, Minnesota warehouse manager. “We couldn’t do anything we do here without them.”

Already, they process about 1 million lbs. of donations per year — the equivalent of about 330,000 quilts, if we were to calculate that number in terms of one item. Matt says their volume could increase by up to 70% now that they are the sole processing facility. But he’s not worried.

“We’re prepared for that number,” he says. “We’ve seen a noticeable uptick in donations so far, and we can staff accordingly once we see what kind of freight we’re going to get.”



But he does have one small request. “During Ingathering season, I ask for patience. During this busy time, we’re all unloading, so there is not always somebody in the building to help with donations. We do have a shed outside for evening or weekend drop-offs or high-volume times.”

He says anyone can always call him with questions, and if you want to take a tour, you can set up an appointment. “I love it when people come visit,” he says.

Although change is inevitable, Matt says one thing has stayed the same for a long time. He explains, “The reason we do fall and spring Ingatherings is because of the agricultural industry 60 years ago. Back then it was always the local farmer who pulled for the church, and that’s when they had trucks available. October is when the harvest is done, and May is when planting is finished.

“I started working for LWR in late 1980s,” he recalls, “and I can remember some pretty smelly horse trailers and dump trailers bringing boxes in. They had just been used to haul livestock and grain, and now they were delivering quilts and kits.”

No matter how the world changes or what adjustments we need to make, we’re always grateful we can count on you to wrap your neighbors in love and comfort! ■



Each year, the Minnesota warehouse processes about 1 million pounds of your quilts and kits, a number that could increase by 70% now that it is the sole processing facility.

LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

When you make LWR Quilts and Kits, you join countless other servants of Christ who reach out to people in need around the world through this ministry.

Together, we distributed more than an incredible \$20 million worth of quilts and kits in 2025! LWR currently spends about \$3.3 million annually to operate this program. We do our best to steward funds efficiently, but our behind-the-scenes operating costs have increased in recent years. (This is largely due to the significant rise in shipping costs since 2020.)

You can ensure LWR has the financial resources we need to distribute quilts and kits where they're needed most by donating to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. This is also a great way for your congregation to support your quilt or kit ministry.

UPDATED

LWR's Approximate Cost to Transport, Process, Store, and Deliver Quilts and Kits Near and Far

Per item..... \$4.00

Ideas to Support the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund:

Sponsor a Quilt or Kit: On your Quilt & Kit Dedication Sunday, attach an envelope to each completed quilt and kit and display them. Members can choose which quilt(s) and kit(s) they would like to "sponsor" by placing the corresponding Shipping Fund amount in the attached envelope.

Donate proceeds from a rummage or bake sale

Auction off one or two quilts and donate the proceeds from the auction

The Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza: Gifts to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund of \$500 or more may be commemorated with an engraved brick on the Good Samaritan Quilt Plaza at LWR headquarters in Baltimore. The engraved and colorful bricks make a pattern called "Many Trips Around the World" and represent the distribution of millions of quilts and comfort-giving kits to people who have lost everything to a natural disaster or war, or who struggle with endemic poverty.

**Mail monetary gifts to Lutheran World Relief,
PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061**



AN EVER-EXPANDING LOVE

Quilts and kits reach thousands of U.S. neighbors

Last year, your faithful compassion opened a new chapter for Lutheran World Relief: **expanding the Quilt & Kit ministry to serve neighbors here in the United States.**

For those facing wildfires, hurricanes, floods and tornadoes, your gifts of love have surrounded families who have lost everything — **reminding them that hope is never lost.**

Our first domestic distribution followed **Hurricanes Helene** and **Milton**, which decimated communities across the Southeast in October 2024. Even before these storms made landfall, 10 shipping containers — filled with more than **60,000 quilts** and **76,000 kits** — were en route across **six states**. You also provided more than **\$1 million** in cash grants to trusted local partners. Cash allows families to purchase exactly what they need most — food, medicine, housing or gas — restoring dignity and choice in a time of chaos.

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

And because of you, love doesn't just arrive quickly — it stays longer. It enables partnerships with local organizations who care for our most vulnerable neighbors: the unhoused, veterans, children and the elderly. In **North Carolina**, you helped launch the **Faith360 Network**. This effort unites congregations, faith-based organizations and volunteers to coordinate relief efforts and prepare for future crises.

Because of you:

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

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

Quilt & Kit Blessing



After the work of creating, stitching, collecting, sorting, packing is complete, you are invited to bless the work your hands created and pray for those who will receive your outreach of love. This blessing can be adapted for use as a part of worship, a small group gathering, or in whatever setting makes sense for your group.

A mother and daughter in Mali with their new School Kit and LWR Quilt.



LEADER: God, you call us to love our neighbors as ourselves. Send forth your Spirit today as we call upon you to bless our work and make it holy. Help these quilts and kits, our offerings of hope, travel across distances near and far to reach to reach our most weary neighbors and surround them with your grace and peace.

CONGREGATION: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, we give you thanks for the pieces of fabric, thread, sewing machines, and the items collected for the kits. May their presence be a sign of your faithful promise, may these quilts wrap our neighbors in unending love, and may these kits offer dignity and healing.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, we give thanks for all those who have taken part in creating these quilts and kits. May you guide us to greater empathy for our neighbors in crisis, for the mothers that struggle to feed their hungry children, for the fearful, the anxious, the isolated. May these quilts and kits provide comfort and relief to those who are downtrodden around the world.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: God, be with those who will receive these gifts — neighbors we have never met, neighbors who are near and far away, neighbors who, like us, long for your grace and mercy. May the work crafted from our humble hands serve as a beacon of light and hope to those who are desolate and hopeless and fill them with the peace that is only found in you.

C: JESUS, OPEN OUR HEARTS TO LOVE OUR NEIGHBORS.

L: We thank you for this ministry of service, for the opportunity to comfort those in their darkest hours, to remind our neighbors in Christ of your loving presence. Bring us ever closer to your heart and our neighbors in need throughout the world. We pray all this in the name of Jesus, the one who is our hope.

C: AMEN.

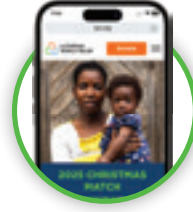
SENDING

L: Emboldened by God's eternal and unconditional love for all people, let us go and do likewise, and share our blessings with neighbors near and far. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **AMEN.**

There are lots of great ways to love your neighbors through Lutheran World Relief. Join us to fight poverty, injustice and human suffering — until your love reaches every neighbor.



LWR CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES
Show your congregation how their love is reaching neighbors around the world. Resources at lwr.org/congregations are updated regularly.



STAY CONNECTED
We love sharing the stories of how your love is reaching every neighbor. Be sure to visit us at lwr.org and also:

-  facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief
-  instagram.com/LuthWorldRelief
-  lwr.org/blog
-  youtube.com/LutheranWorldRelief



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS™ AND CHOICE DOLLARS®
Thrivent Financial helps guide members to live generously. Through volunteer programs like Action Teams, you can access funds to support your community's quilt and kit ministries. Choice Dollars® enable members to direct charitable funds to different organizations.

thrivent.com/actionteam
thrivent.com/choice

NOTE: Thrivent grants may not be donated toward the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund



Gifts of Love
Gifts of Love supply everyday necessities that help women and men build lives of independence, self-sufficiency, sustainable income and real hope.

giftsoflove.org



ORDER YOUR QUILT & KIT AFFINITY PIN
Your LWR Quilts and Kits blanket the world with God's love. To thank you for your faithful service, we'd like to send you this gift. Order your pin at lwr.org/qkpin.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230
800 597 5972 | LWR.ORG/QUILTS | LWR.ORG/KITS

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LET YOUR LOVE FLOURISH

If you knew you could extend your love for generations to come, WOULD YOU?
It's possible with planned giving.

Leaving a gift in your will is a **bold action of faith and proclamation of love**. And it can transform the lives and futures of neighbors like Pabanbati and her family in Nepal.

To **request our free guide** or to share a future gift intention, visit lwr.org/yourguide or contact Planned Giving Manager **Lee Grant** at **410 230 2827** or LGRANT@LWR.ORG.



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