



# NATIONAL QUILTING DAY 2019

*“Those who sleep under a quilt, sleep under a blanket of love.”*

**MARCH 16, 2019 IS NATIONAL QUILTING DAY**, and we at Lutheran World Relief have a LOT to celebrate!

For nearly 70 years, compassionate people just like you have put their faith into action and made quilts for people in need around the world. And not just a few quilts – hundreds of thousands of quilts every year. These gifts of love make life brighter, softer, and a bit more comfortable for our neighbors around the world struggling with displacement, chronic poverty, illness, natural disaster and conflict.

This amazing ministry is one that blesses the lives of quilters and those who receive quilts, and by inviting others to join us, in turn, blesses even more people! LWR will be hosting four regional events to celebrate quilters, quilting, and the ministry of LWR Mission Quilts. If you aren't close enough to join one of those events, we invite you to host your own! Here are some tips for organizing a National Quilting Celebration in your community.



## PLAN AHEAD

- Check with the church office to make sure the Fellowship Hall or other appropriate space is available for the event, and get it on the church calendar. Make sure to hold the date on the calendars of your quilting group members, too!
- Do you have Thrivent members in your congregation or group? Have one of them apply for a **THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANT** to help cover some of the costs of hosting the event. Visit [lwr.org/thrivent-action-teams](http://lwr.org/thrivent-action-teams) to learn how to apply.
- Order a few copies of the **Quilt & Kit Ministry Guide** from the Resources section of LWR's website to have on hand to share with newcomers who are interested in getting started on their own Mission Quilts.
- Order a couple bags of **LWR Farmers Market coffee** to help fuel the event. Go to [lwr.org/coffee](http://lwr.org/coffee) to order.



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## CHOOSE YOUR EVENT FORMAT

Do you want to have a quilting demonstration? Invite non-quilters to learn how to make Mission Quilts and be able to join in on making quilts? Set aside time to learn more about LWR's quilting ministry? Share best quilting practices with other quilters in your area? Decide what you want the focus to be and narrow the focus of your event for ease of planning.

Ask others in your church family to help out with pieces of the day — taking pictures or posting updates to social media or managing the table of treats and coffee. This is a great way to include folks who may want to support your ministry but who aren't interested in learning how to quilt.

Browse the quilting videos at [lwr.org/nqd](http://lwr.org/nqd) and choose one to download or stream at your event to introduce LWR's quilting ministry to newcomers. Look through the blessings and litanies linked on the page and choose one to use to wrap up your event.

## INVITE YOUR COMMUNITY

- A month before the event, put an announcement into your church bulletin or in announcement slides and request that they appear weekly until the event.
- Put an invitation and brief article about the event and your group into the church newsletter.
- If your congregation has a Facebook page, ask the page administrator to set up an event on the page to share with everyone who follows the page — and allow folks to share the event with their own networks.
- Contact congregations in your area (Lutheran and non-Lutheran!) and invite them to join in the celebration. You can call, send individual invitations, or ask your pastor to reach out to their colleagues at other churches.
- Reach out to your local synod and district offices and ask to include an invitation about the event in those communications.
- Post your event on the LWR Quilters and Kit Makers Community Facebook page.



## CELEBRATE!



Set up your space and your day around your chosen event format. Use or adapt the suggested outline of the day found below, or create your own.

## SHARE!

Share your stories, photos, and fun tips via social media that weekend, and tag **Lutheran World Relief** (@[LuthWorldRelief](https://www.facebook.com/LuthWorldRelief) on **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram**). You can also use the hashtag **#NQD2019** to join the wider conversation!

## SAMPLE EVENT OUTLINE

**8:30 a.m.** — Set out treats, start the coffee, and finish any last-minute set-up of your event space. If you applied for a Thrivent Action Team grant, set out that sign-up sheet in a prominent place along with nametags and a marker. Make sure all your members have nametags on, too!

**9 a.m.** — Welcome your guests! Get started with your demonstrations or inviting new folks to help with various tasks. The conversation will start to flow – go with it! Don't forget to take pictures and post some of them to social media to join in the national celebration.

**9:30 a.m.** — Pause and formally welcome everyone to the event. Open with a prayer of thanksgiving. Share briefly about Lutheran World Relief and your quilting ministry, and explain the structure of the day. Point out the sign-in sheet, nametags, resources – and of course the treats and coffee!

Share a video about LWR's quilting ministry, and then get back to quilting and fellowship.

**11:45 a.m.** — Pause again and thank everyone for coming. Invite all present to join in a prayer of blessing or a litany for the quilts completed and started during your event.