

God's Love IN ACTION

EMERGENCY HELP IS NEEDED!

Floodwaters and COVID-19 cases are rising in India and Nepal. Learn how your congregation can help vulnerable families.

PLUS

Visit our new suite of resources to help your congregation love our global neighbors.
lwr.org/congregations



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Jake Lyell for LWR

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A newsletter to
connect Lutheran
leaders with God's
love in action
around the world.

NEW



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

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DEAR PARTNER IN MINISTRY,

As COVID-19 has impacted the life of your faith community, it has also devastated some of the most forsaken places of the world. Yet just like you have transformed how your congregation worships and engages in ministry, your love can transform the lives of our neighbors around the world.



Our work together has never been as important as it is now. At a time when global travel has been halted, our local staff is still on the ground ensuring that the love of U.S. Lutherans continues working to end poverty, injustice and human suffering.

But we can't do the work we do without the support of you and your congregation. This new quarterly newsletter is one of the important ways we are committed to staying connected with you and sharing stories of God's Love in Action around the world. Many of you will still receive our Faith in Action newsletter specifically designed for quilters and kit makers. Be on the lookout for a new edition of that publication packed with incredible stories and details about upcoming quilt and kit collections.

We also built a website specifically for congregational leaders like you to find powerful videos and resources to share with your congregation. Our goal is to equip you to tell the stories of how your congregation's love can reach our most vulnerable neighbors around the world. I hope you'll visit lwr.org/congregations today.

At Lutheran World Relief, we are honored to be in partnership with you, helping your congregation see how they are a part of bringing God's kingdom into this world. May God be with you in this ever-changing season of ministry.

REV. LISA KIPP

Sr. Manager, Congregations
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P.S. As a brief introduction, I joined the team at LWR just over six months ago after nearly 20 years of parish ministry in Rochester, Minn. I've always been passionate about mission, most recently having led my congregation to launch and sustain a local food truck outreach and deepen a partnership with a hospital in rural Tanzania. It is my deep joy and privilege to connect Lutheran congregations with our neighbors around the world. Please don't hesitate to reach out.



LWR Ambassador Program

Is there someone in your congregation who is passionate about sharing love with our neighbors in need around the world?

In a world of plenty, where those who have the very least are the most forsaken, we rely on strong partnerships with our Lutheran congregations to share God's love. This year, we're launching a new LWR Ambassadors program to help connect Lutheran congregations with our neighbors around the world. As a leader of your congregation, we know your responsibilities and time-commitments run deep.

This is why we're seeking lay leaders to become the connectors between your congregation and God's love in action around the world.

Do you have someone in your congregation with:

- A passion for loving God's people?
- A desire to help your congregation make a difference in a world of need?
- A willingness to tell the stories of God's love in action around the world?
- An eagerness to invite local neighbors to share their love with their global neighbors?

Visit lwr.org/congregations to learn more and begin to identify a possible LWR Ambassador for your congregation.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

AMBASSADOR



Jake Lyell for LWR

Your love can rise above the floodwaters and COVID-19 in India and Nepal

Rajendra Kushwaha and Nikky Devi woke up to find water pouring into their bamboo and mud home. They did what they always do when the river floods its banks: they grabbed their young daughters and ran.

In the darkness, Rajendra and Nikky struggled to carry their children through the water as debris slammed into their legs. When they finally made it to higher ground, their neighbors' cries told them that others were not as lucky.

The river, which creates a natural border between India and Nepal, makes the land fertile for growing crops. But when the water rises, as it often does, it is devastating for the families who can't afford to live anywhere except the floodplains.

Floods frequently wash away their wheat and rice fields and drown their livestock. Afterward, hunger and illness loom. Right now, COVID-19 cases are rising, and the pandemic lockdown has made it hard to purchase seeds. Without time to get seeds in the ground before the monsoons hit, widespread hunger is feared.

But your congregation's love can overcome even the highest waters to reach neighbors like Rajendra and Nikky in their time of need.

For them, your love sounds like an announcement made through a megaphone, letting them know a flood is coming. This early warning system urges their entire village to evacuate well before the floodwaters arrive. Your love can

teach them new farming techniques — like growing food on rooftops or in hanging baskets — so their vital crops don't wash away. Your love can share information about how they can stop the spread of coronavirus.

The need is urgent; they have so little left to lose. But when your congregation puts faith into action and loves these neighbors generously, you proclaim that nothing — not floodwaters or hunger or poverty — can separate us from the love of God.

Emergency help is needed. Will your congregation share God's love with Rajendra, Nikki and their community by making a gift? See the enclosed envelope for ways to give.

Lutheran World Relief is here to carry the love of Lutheran congregations to the world...
until your love reaches every neighbor.

WATCH AND SHARE

Meet Rajendra and see the early warning system in action at lwr.org/congregations. Then share the video with your congregation to show them how their generosity changes lives in real ways.



Together, we will overcome COVID-19

How Lutherans are caring for a world in crisis

Lutherans are reaching our neighbors living in some of the poorest conditions around the world, where physical distancing is not an option. For Dolphine and David, a young couple who live in a crowded slum in Nairobi, Kenya, your gift means that local clinics are stocked with protective equipment, and that medical staff recognize symptoms and know what to do when patients are infected with COVID-19.



YOUR LOVE is the clean water that flows from the taps of newly-installed hand washing stations in poor, rural neighborhoods in **Colombia**. Preventing the spread of COVID-19 is so important in rural areas because local hospitals have such low capacity to treat sick patients, especially those requiring intensive care.

In **El Salvador**, **YOUR LOVE** delivers emergency food to families living in hard-to-reach communities where market shelves are empty. When you put your love into action, families won't have to put their children to bed hungry.

Across Africa — in Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Rwanda, Kenya, Uganda and Nigeria — Lutherans are helping our Christian Health Association partners equip medical workers at more than 2,000 clinics care for our poorest neighbors during the pandemic. **YOUR GIFTS** mobilize church and community leaders to spread the word to families about how to protect themselves, and when and how to seek care.





Quilts & Kits are needed more than ever!

The coronavirus pandemic is creating serious health and economic challenges for families living in fragile settings. That's why **we need your LWR Quilts & Kits more than ever.**

When disaster strikes or poverty closes in, **LWR Quilts & Kits** give families in need some of life's essentials, as well as a reminder that even in the midst of crisis, they are not alone. Though you may not be able to meet in person right now, please keep sewing and assembling quilts and kits at home!



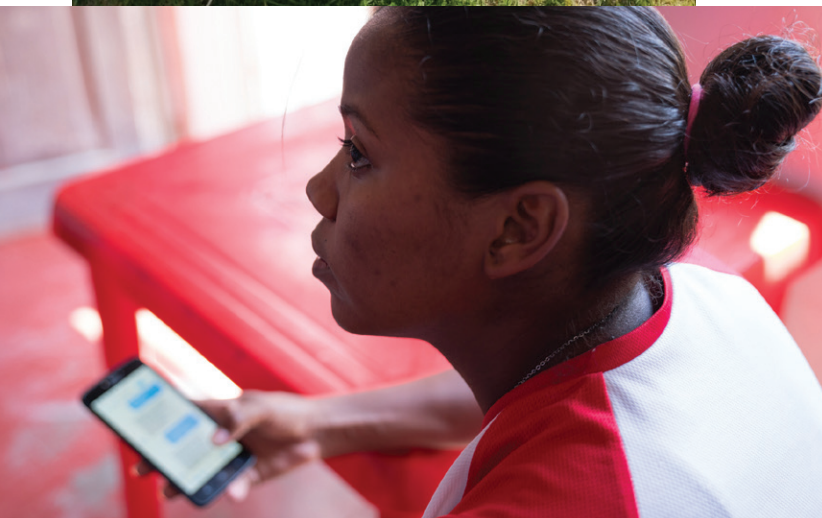
NEW!

To help stop the spread of COVID-19, LWR is also collecting homemade cloth face masks to distribute in communities we serve.

Will you help us meet our goal of 150,000?

Learn more about making and shipping your quilts, kits and masks at

lwr.org/congregations.



In **Peru** — a COVID-19 hotspot and home to many Venezuelans who fled the economic turmoil in their home country — Lutherans are ensuring families get critical safety information through an easily accessible mobile platform.



QUILTS AND KITS DESTROYED IN BEIRUT EXPLOSION

Unfortunately, the August 4 explosion in Beirut, Lebanon, destroyed three of our 40-foot shipping containers, holding more than 22,500 Mission Quilts, 3,500 School Kits, 19,500 Personal Care Kits and 2,250 Baby Care Kits. We grieve the loss of life in the explosion and this tragic loss of supplies for our vulnerable neighbors.

Learn how you can help at lwr.org/congregations.

THANK YOU. Even as you dramatically changed your life to protect yourself and your congregation from the coronavirus, you took action to protect others in great need. Right now, your generosity is hard at work saving lives and stopping the spread of COVID-19.



Honoring 75 years of faithful service

This year, we are celebrating 75 years of faithful impact — and the work that lies ahead. For three generations, you and your parents and grandparents have been a light in the deepest darkness for those in need around the world.

In honor of this milestone, we invite you to dedicate one Sunday in 2020 to celebrate and galvanize your congregation for the work that lies ahead.

Special 75th Anniversary Sunday resources are available for worship and your education hour at lwr.org/congregations.

RESOURCES INCLUDE:

- 75 years highlight video
- sermon illustrations
- worship prayers
- bulletin inserts
- Bible study
- and more!

“Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”

— Galatians 6:9

Exciting new look.

Powerful Lutheran World Relief history.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

To commemorate 75 years of helping those who have the very least, and to reflect our expanding work around the world, Lutheran World Relief has a dynamic new logo. We are still the same strong, efficient, faith-based, international relief organization your congregation has always supported. While our look may have changed, our roots in Lutheran values have not. And, together, we will continue to respond to God’s call to be the Body of Christ in the world, reaching further, staying longer, standing faithfully alongside our neighbors in need.

NEW!

SPUR ONE ANOTHER TOWARD LOVE

Our suite of resources can help you show your congregation how powerful it is to share God’s love with our global neighbors through Lutheran World Relief.

To find videos, worship aids and new ways to give and get involved, visit lwr.org/congregations.