



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDE

2021





LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Thank You for Your Partnership!!

For over 75 years, the Lutheran World Relief Quilt & Kit Ministry has worked with caring people like you to share God's love with families around the world.

From earthquakes to hurricanes, from global pandemics to extreme poverty, our world is full of challenges and suffering. Your quilts and kits are urgently needed to care for neighbors in need and show them that even in their most trying times, they are not alone.

The gifts you give through these projects are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. Thank you for your dedication, your generosity and your love for your neighbors!

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

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

Tell us about your quilting and kit-making projects!

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

Please send: name of group/ congregation, mailing address, email address, phone number, contact person's name, the LWR projects you participate in, and comments. Photos are always appreciated!

Send your information to:
lwr@lwr.org or

LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry
Lutheran World Relief
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



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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. LWR works closely with our 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 international shipping processes cost-effective and efficient. Disparity in kit contents can cause 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 otherwise noted.** 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 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.



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.

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 or afghans/throws. Pack blankets separately from Mission Quilts when shipping to LWR.

Tips

- Quilt tops and bottoms can be made from whole pieces of fabric or any type of patchwork pattern of smaller squares. Twelve 21-inch squares or 48 eleven-inch squares sewn together using a half-inch seam allowance make a 60" X 80" top.
- Keep in mind that LWR Quilts will be washed frequently and used for many purposes. We recommend washable fabrics such as cotton, cotton blends, twill, corduroy, polyester knits, and donated upholstery and drapery samples (no fiberglass). Please ensure that there are no stains or holes before using fabrics in a Quilt.
- Use crochet or similar cord or embroidery floss for tying. It is easier to thread and pull through than yarn and is more durable. Ties should be no more than 8 to 10 inches apart.

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 or similar cord, 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 approximately 60" X 80". This size best serves adult recipients and children as they grow older. Please donate only 60" X 80" quilts.

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.

Shipping Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one quilt overseas is \$2.25. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



Follow quilts and kits on their journey from a congregation to a community!
lwr.org/videos/quilt-kit-pipeline





“Remember your word to your servant, in which you have made me hope. This is my comfort in my distress, that your promise gives me life.”

Psalms 119:49-50

St. Luke Ministries in Chicago, Illinois, brings together quilters across the age spectrum to make LWR Mission Quilts to share with people in need around the world.

The intergenerational effort started around 2000, and matches up middle schoolers with experienced quilters to teach them how to make LWR Quilts. Over time, the students gain enough experience and confidence to make the quilts on their own.

Being part of such a meaningful service project is very moving for the youth involved. “This was the first time I did something with my hands that would help people. I know other people will be using it to keep warm,” says 13-year-old quilter Giselle Escamilla. ▼



▲ Since Georgia established independence from the Soviet Union in 1991, families there have struggled with high levels of unemployment and endured periods of violent conflict.

LWR Mission Quilts, along with Personal Care, School, and Baby Care Kits, bring comfort to families living in poverty, including those who are displaced due to past conflict between Georgia and Russia.

The quilts and kits are distributed through soup kitchens, elderly care centers and schools that serve children with special needs.

“Commodities like quilts can be hard to find locally, and all of these people are very poor, so this support really helps them save money to cover their immediate needs,” says Irakli Saralidze, program manager at UIHP, LWR’s partner in Georgia.



Jonathan Larbi puts together quilts on a sewing machine he has learned to operate as part of a quilt-making project.

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.

Include the following items in each School Kit:

- ☐ Four 70-80 sheet notebooks (280-300 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
- ☐ 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); recommended 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.

Shipping Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one School Kit overseas is \$1.40. See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.



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

Visit facebook.com/groups/lwrquilters to join today!





◀ In northern Iraq, many families were unable to buy school supplies for their children when returning to their homes after years of ISIS conflict. The students couldn't complete their schoolwork; some skipped school entirely because they lacked basic supplies.

Thanks to a shipment of more than 13,000 LWR School Kits, students of all ages received what they need to continue their education and return to the normalcy of a regular school routine. As school absences decrease and schoolwork is completed, students are beginning to heal from the trauma of witnessing violence and conflict.

*“Keep hold of instruction; do not let go;
guard her, for she is your life.”*

Proverbs 4:13



In just two hours one Sunday afternoon, the members of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lionville, Pennsylvania, assembled 599 LWR School Kits for children around the world.

The Social Ministry Committee spent six months planning for the kit-making event, involving the congregation and the wider community. The quilting group made the drawstring backpacks while other members shopped sales to gather supplies. At the event, the local Boy Scout troop packed the finished kits into boxes for shipping.



Sunday school children organized the supplies into stations. Then on the big day some 40 volunteers, age 5 to 89, created an assembly line, passing the bags from one station to the next until each bag was complete.



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

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 amidst 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 light-weight bath-size towel (20" X 40" to 52" X 27"), 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 (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, yarn, or rubber bands. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Shipping Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one Personal Care Kit overseas is \$2.65 (including the addition of a tube of toothpaste). See Page 15 to learn how to support the LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

"For the needy shall not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the poor perish forever."

Psalm 9:18

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, such as overstock.com, 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 Costco, Sam's Club or BJ's? 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!





Cambridge Lutheran Church in Cambridge, Minnesota, lives their faith in service in big ways. Each year, they donate around 1,500 quilts and kits to LWR as a gift of love to their neighbors around the world.

Congregational leaders for the congregation's Quilt & Kit Ministry come in all ages, and have one thing in common: passion for sharing God's love with the world.

Christian Wiebe, a young man who volunteers assembling Personal Care Kits, says "I believe these kits do have impact. For one, I don't like having dirty hands, and two, I don't like getting sick. I cannot imagine...not having access to something as simple as soap. If I can change [that for someone], I will try."



▲ In rural Guatemala, families struggle to earn their living from farming, and often can't afford basic hygiene and school supplies for their children.

At the start of the school year, LWR's local partner Food for the Hungry organized a distribution of LWR Personal Care and School Kits for children and their families.

The Personal Care Kits are used to teach children proper hand washing and dental hygiene.

"What I appreciate the most...is to see that every kit comes with its own personal touch, which helps us reflect with the students and their parents that behind every kit is a family far away that they may never meet...happy to know that they are contributing to their education and helping them achieve their dreams," says Angelica Villatoro, FFTH's Guatemala country director.

BECOME AN LWR AMBASSADOR

You're already a valued member of the LWR family. Do you want to help your congregation do even more to help in a world of need? Take your relationship with us further and become an LWR Ambassador!

lwr.org/ambassador



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF
AMBASSADOR

Baby Care Kits

Bringing a baby into the world can be a difficult and scary thing for a mother living in poverty. Keeping a new baby 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 new members the way they hope to. Worry will always be present for all 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 items in each Baby Care Kit:

- ☐ Two lightweight cotton T-shirts (no Onesies®)
- ☐ Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- ☐ Two swaddling blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, 36" to 52" square
- ☐ Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ☐ One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or *include a baby cap*
- ☐ Two pairs of socks
- ☐ One hand towel, dark color recommended
- ☐ 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. Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

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.

Shipping Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one Baby Care Kit overseas is \$1.30. 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!

More than one million people in Ethiopia have been displaced from their homes because of ethnic conflict in the East African country. Among them is Emebet Elias, a 35-year-old mother who now makes her home at an IDP (internally displaced persons) camp along with 5,000 others.

Many of those living in the camp walked more than a week to get there. Though they are now safe from violence, food supplies are scarce, as are jobs, and many of the children have not had a change of clothes since arriving at the camp.

LWR and our local partner, People in Need, conducted a distribution of Baby Care Kits so that mothers like Emebet have the basic necessities they need to care for their babies. Families also received Quilts and Personal Care Kits.





Our Savior's Lutheran Church's Baby Care ministry is committed to serving the youngest in need both globally and locally. Since 2008, they've hosted a weekend every September to assemble Baby Care Kits for families in need around the world.

The event kicks off on Friday when all the supplies are gathered at the Naperville, Illinois, congregation's main campus. On Saturday, volunteers organize the 15,000 items that will go into the kits. Then on Sunday in just a few hours 1,000 kits are assembled.

The Baby Care ministry partners with Thrivent Financial and uses Thrivent Action Team™ funds to help purchase supplies (see Page 16 for more information). Local Thrivent Financial consultants also pitch in to help at the event, and sponsor lunch for the Saturday volunteers and coffee for the Sunday assembly.

Tips

- In place of sleepers or gowns, pajama sets, tops and pants may be substituted.
- Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front.
- Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling T-shirts.
- If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knitted/crocheted blanket and one flannel/cotton blanket will provide maximum versatility.
- Visit lwr.org/babycarekits or call **800.597.5972** for diaper, gown, and hooded cape patterns and a Diaper Tip Sheet.



*"As a mother comforts her child, so
I will comfort you; you shall be
comforted in Jerusalem."*

Isaiah 66:13



Pulling hope from the ashes in Beirut

On August 4, 2020, a massive explosion destroyed the port in Beirut, Lebanon. Lutheran World Relief was devastated to learn that as many as 190 people died and more than 300,000 people lost their homes in a city where a serious economic crisis and a growing outbreak of COVID-19 were already causing widespread suffering.

Shortly after the blast, LWR learned that three shipping containers holding more than \$600,000 worth of quilts and kits, intended to help refugees and other vulnerable communities in Lebanon, had arrived at the port just six days before the explosion. Initial reports from authorities said the containers had been destroyed — just when their contents could be of most use to families in crisis.

It took weeks for LWR's staff and partners to gain access to the blast site. In addition to the overwhelming humanitarian need they found throughout the city, the port itself was chaos, and safety and security were a challenge. But once officials were able to dig their way through the wreckage, a blessing arose out of the ashes: they found that the containers full of LWR quilts and kits had been shielded from the blast by a large concrete building.

While the containers were damaged, the seals were intact and the materials inside had been spared. In just the right place, at just the right time, hope rose out of the darkness.

Our team and partners rejoiced and acted as quickly as they could to mobilize distribution for the most-affected families. Primarily, these families were refugees from Palestine and Syria, who had already fled harrowing situations in their home countries — only to meet more struggle and crisis in Lebanon.

Tonight, more than 24,000 children, women and men are wrapped in your love, and blessed to know that even in a difficult time, they are not alone.

We are so deeply grateful for the outpouring of support you, our Quilters and Kit-makers, showed to our neighbors in Beirut throughout this crisis.

In addition to the quilts and kits you lovingly made and supplied, your generous financial gifts also provided emergency food, helped families to repair and return to their homes, distributed appliances and cooking supplies to help them restore normal life, and more.

Thank you for sharing your love — God's love — with your neighbors through your quilt and kit ministries!



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 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). Each piece should match one of the sizes below. Pieces do not need to match:
- ☐ 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, 250–300 yards each

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.

Shipping Note: LWR's approximate cost to handle and ship one Fabric Kit overseas is \$1. 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!

Fabric Kits stand out among LWR projects in their application as tools to help people gain a skill they can use to earn an income. In 2020 alone, more than **12,000 FABRIC KITS** were shared with people in seven countries. Among these were more than 4,000 kits distributed in **Zambia** and over 2,400 kits distributed in **Mali**, to provide our neighbors with tools to build a brighter future for themselves and their families.

NO FLEECE-TIED BLANKETS

LWR is no longer accepting fleece blankets, as we've received information that they cause environmental concerns. We encourage you to take any completed fleece blankets to a local shelter, hospital or nursing home in your community. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and we deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity.

NO BULK SOAP

LWR is no longer accepting bulk soap due to decreased demand by our partners. (In 2020, we received no requests for soap.) Many partners are sourcing soap within their country, which is good for the local economies. We know some of you have already collected soap, and we ask that you donate it to local organizations or shelters that can utilize it immediately. Please note there will still be soap included in personal care kits and baby care kits, but we will discontinue bulk soap collection.

TRAVELING TREASURES:

Tracking Your Quilts and Kits Across the Globe



Since its inception in 2013, more than 2,280 congregations have used the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker to see where their gifts of love go and who they help.

Every year, Julie Tyler works with the Mid-South District LCMS to coordinate seven Ingatherings across two to three states. During these “CARE-VAN” Drives, as they call them, trucks pick up quilts and kits from their respective locations on the same day and transport them to the LWR warehouse in New Windsor, Md. “My congregation, Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church, has participated in the LWR CARE-VAN Drive for many years. I used the Tracker to follow our shipments back in 2018 and found that our Personal Care Kits were shipped to El Salvador. It’s a wonderful feeling for our Lutheran Women’s Missionary League ladies to know that the kits we donate are helping those in need.”

The LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker is one way we try to make the world between us a little bit smaller, by connecting the tireless efforts of people who make quilts and assemble kits with the people around the world who receive them with joy and gratitude.

Step 1 Log in

In order to use the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker, you must log into the system by visiting lwr.org/tracker and clicking the teal **Quilt and Kit Tracker** text under Step One. You’ll be redirected to the Tracker portal, where you’ll use the following information to log-in:

Username: Donor01

Password: 2012BSC

Step 2 Find your congregation’s Donor ID

To find your congregation’s Donor ID number:

1. Click on **Find our Donor ID**.
2. Enter your zip code and click on View Report.
3. Your ID number will pop up on a second tab. Please remember to write your ID number down. *Note: if your congregation does not appear, please contact LWR and we will add you to the system. It’s best to plan ahead to make sure everything is in place when you are ready to print your labels.*

Step 3 Create bar codes for your boxes

In order to accurately track shipments you’ll need to print a barcode for each box you wish to follow.

IMPORTANT: You must include all the information for the box in the barcode. If you write in any information later, the scanners at the warehouse will not be able to read the handwritten information.

To create a barcode label for a complete box:

1. Click on Print Barcode Box Labels.
2. Enter your ID number at the top and fill out the fields at the top according to what’s in the box. Recording the weight of the box is optional. *Note: if you have several boxes that are the same — for example 10 boxes of five Quilts each — you may make high quality copies of the same label for each of those boxes. It is critical that the quality of the copies is good so that the scanners can read them.*
3. When you’re finished click **View Report**.

To print the label:

1. **IMPORTANT:** Do not simply use the print feature in your browser to print the screen. Parts of the label will be cut off and will not be scannable.
2. Click on the small, square disk icon in the center of the page (just above the bar code report).
3. Select PDF from the drop down menu.
4. A PDF will open and you can print from there. *Note: If your browser is set to block pop-up windows, the PDF may not open without your approval. Look around the perimeter of the window to see if there are any notes about approving pop-ups.*

Again, items must be sorted into boxes by item type and each box must have its own barcode to ensure accurate tracking.

To begin a new barcode for a new set of items, simply repeat the steps in this section.

Once you’ve printed the labels, cut the page in half on the dotted line – each half should look identical. Tape one half on the outside of the box and place the other half inside the box. From there, you can deliver your boxes to your local Ingathering or one of LWR’s warehouses (see Page 14 for instructions).

Step 4 Track how much you've donated

Another great feature of the Quilt & Kit Tracker is that you can track how much you've donated since you began using it. To do so, log onto the Tracker portal and click "Our Total Donations." Then, do the following:

1. Clear the area where it says Donor ID and then place your ID number there.
2. For the date range enter the date you first started using the Tracker (you can estimate) and the current day. You can also adjust this range to narrow your results. Be sure to include the year.
3. Once you've entered your dates click **View Report**. You can also keep this report to share! Use the instructions from Step Three to print or save your report.

Please note that your gifts will not appear online until they are scanned at the warehouse in Maryland or Minnesota.

Step 5 Tracking where your donations went

To track where your donations travel in the world, log in to the Tracker portal and click **Where Our Quilts and Kits Have Gone**. Then, do the following:

1. Clear the area where it says Donor ID and place your ID there.
2. Enter the range of dates you're interested in seeing. If you want to see just where the last batch of donations went, make the range narrower (the date of your Ingathering and today's date, for example). If you want to see where your quilts and kits have traveled since you started using the Tracker, then enter an earlier start date. Be sure to include the year.
3. Once you've entered your dates and click **View Report** you should see where your quilts and kits have gone! You can also print or save this report so you can share it with everyone in your community!

LWR has pioneered an effort to inform donors about the final destination of their donated items. We understand how important and heart-warming it is to know who received a quilt or kit. Unfortunately our current system has faced many challenges over the years. We apologize. Your feedback has been crucial to our ongoing efforts to improve the Tracker System. We are exploring alternative methods for tracking items and we hope to have the research completed soon. In an effort to be transparent, please know that current use of the Tracker System is inconsistent. Your continued feedback is helpful.

Quilt & Kit Tracker Frequently Asked Questions

The most frequent question LWR receives from our quilters and kit-makers is, "Where do our quilts and kits go?" Thanks to LWR's Quilt & Kit Tracker, it's now easier than ever to see where your gifts are making a difference around the world.

Here are some of the most frequently asked questions about the Tracker — and answers!

1. DO WE HAVE TO USE THE QUILT & KIT TRACKER?

No, the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker is not a requirement for donating. It's simply a way for you to know where your gifts go around the world. We encourage you to give it a try!

2. HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE FOR QUILTS AND KITS TO APPEAR IN THE TRACKER?

It could take six to nine months for your quilts and kits to appear in the Tracker system. This is because the Minnesota and Maryland warehouses must first scan the barcodes. The scanning process can take a little longer during the peak months of March, May, October and November.

3. WHY DOESN'T THE NUMBER OF QUILTS AND KITS ON THE TRACKER WEBSITE MATCH THE NUMBER OF GIFTS WE SENT?

Sometimes your quilts and kits are not processed together, which means that some gifts are separated and shipped to different countries during different times of the year.

4. WHY CAN'T WE FIND OUR CHURCH IN THE TRACKER SYSTEM?

Your church's information may not have been added to the system. We're happy to update your information if you give us a call at **800.597.5972**.

5. CAN THE SAME LABEL BE USED ON EACH BOX?

If the contents of each box are exactly identical (for example, six School Kits in each box), then you may make high-quality copies of the same label for each box. If box items are not identical (do not contain the same amount or type of item), please use a new label for each box, listing the box contents.

**To learn more about the
LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker,
visit lwr.org/tracker.**



Help us fill these bare shelves with love!

If anyone is keenly aware of how COVID-19 has disrupted the LWR Quilt & Kit Ministry, it's the warehouse staff in Maryland and Minnesota who receive, process and prepare your quilts and kits to distribute around the world.

Since March 2020, many quilting and kit-making groups have been unable to meet, and a large number of Ingatherings have been postponed — and it shows on the shelves.

“In September 2020, we didn’t have a single thing to pack,” said Matt Tuneberg, who manages LWR’s Minnesota warehouse. “Nothing came in and nothing went out for the first time in 27 years.” He estimates that since the pandemic began, they’ve received about 40% of their normal amount of donations.

In Maryland, warehouse manager Loretta Wolf said the shelves have never been this empty. “Normally both our building and our storage containers are full after fall shipments,” she said, “but there is a strong concern that we won’t have enough on hand to fulfill the upcoming needs in 2021 and beyond.”

Meanwhile, our neighbors need your love more than ever. We know many of you are doing everything you can to continue your ministry safely. Please keep it up — we are so grateful for you! You are always so generous, and we know that in God’s timing the pandemic will be under control — and our warehouse shelves will be overflowing once again with your love and blessings for our neighbors in need.

LWR Ingatherings

An Ingathering is a regional event where quilters and kit-makers can drop off their donations to be shipped to LWR’s Maryland or Minnesota warehouse. Ingatherings allow many people to ship their donations of quilts and kits together in a coordinated and efficient manner, saving time and money. If you haven’t before, consider bringing your spring or fall donations to one of the Ingathering sites listed on lwr.org/ingatherings.

No Ingatherings near you? Consider starting one! New volunteers are always welcome to help organize local gatherings. Call **800.597.5972** or e-mail lwr@lwr.org to learn about starting an Ingathering in your area.



LWR Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund

When you make LWR Quilts and Kits, you join countless others across the country who reach out to people in need around the world through this ministry.

LWR spends around \$1.3 million to operate this program, distributing about \$13 million worth of quilts and kits each year. Those funds, combined with the generosity of donors, ensure LWR has the resources needed to move these items around the world. You can help!

Encourage your congregation to support your quilt or kit ministry by donating to LWR's Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund to ensure that LWR can continue working with partners around the world to deliver your gifts.

LWR's Approximate Cost to Deliver Quilts and Kits Overseas

One Quilt	\$2.25
One School Kit	\$1.40
One Personal Care Kit	\$2.65*
One Baby Care Kit	\$1.30
One Fabric Kit	\$1.00

**Includes the cost of toothpaste to go with the Personal Care Kit*

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. Simply pool the money and send a check for the total to Lutheran World Relief specified for the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund.

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.

Visit lwr.org/donate/shippingfund or call 800.597.5972 for more information.



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.).
- Label contents in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS** on the outside of the boxes.
- Use strong cartons secured with packing tape, not to exceed 40 pounds.
- Do not use plastic or paper bags to pack donations.



Shipping or delivering your Quilts and Kits

Include the name and address of your congregation on each box, label contents and send prepaid to or drop off at the LWR warehouse closest to you:

Lutheran World Relief
398 East Richmond Street
South St. Paul, MN 55075
USA
651 457 9009

Lutheran World Relief
601 Main Street
PO Box 188
New Windsor, MD 21776
USA
410 635 8795

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

Use Thrivent Action TeamsTM to make LWR Quilts & Kits!



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 TeamsTM**!

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! Check out for yourself how easy it is to form a **Thrivent Action TeamTM** to make **LWR Quilts & Kits** by visiting **thrivent.com/actionteam** or calling **800.847.4836** today.



Members of St. James Lutheran Church in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania gather to bless a quilt they have completed.

A Blessing for Quilts and Kits... Love in the Time of Covid

Gracious God, in this extraordinary time, we, with all peoples across the globe, face a pervasive and persistent illness which threatens breath and life. Morning and night the news worldwide tracks its progress and mourns its victims. In the midst of this peril, you inflame our hearts and empower our lives with this yearning:

Until our love reaches every neighbor.

The resources to combat and conquer the virus vary widely among your children. In all our worry and caution, we know we are surrounded by medical personnel, technology, knowledge, economic strength and government support that we may resist and find the safety we seek. In Christ you have given us a compassion that knows no borders, which will not be satisfied:

Until our love reaches every neighbor.

Throughout this pandemic, the perennial troubles assault your children still: poverty and war, hurricane and earthquake, drought and flood. Mindful of such need, and stirred by your grace, sometimes our love takes the shape of quilts/kits:

Until our love reaches every neighbor.

We give thanks for those whose hands and hearts have fashioned these. We pray that we all might find in these offerings example and motivation for advocacy and care, employing your gifts and goodness in each of us:

Until our love reaches every neighbor.

We're grateful, too, for the staff and partners of Lutheran World Relief who will utilize these quilts/kits where dearly needed, that through their proficiency and dedication we come closer to this commitment:

Until our love reaches every neighbor.

We pray for those who will receive these offerings, wherever they may be, that in this season of challenge made double or more, these signs of our care may ease their hardship and increase their hope, and by your grace may be an instrument binding them and us together in our longing and labor for your promised peace.

In the name of the One who makes neighbors of us all,

Amen.

Pastor Ed Whetstone

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



LWR SUNDAYS

Celebrate being part of 75 years of ministry to neighbors around the world by hosting an LWR Sunday in your congregation.

lwr.org/lwr-sunday



LWR CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

Engage your congregation to put God's love in action with a suite of free resources, updated quarterly.

lwr.org/congregations



THRIVENT ACTION TEAMS™ AND CHOICE DOLLARS®

Thrivent Financial helps guide members to live generously.

Through volunteer programs such as Action Teams, communities are able to burst into action by completing 90-day projects. Choice Dollars® enable members to direct charitable funds to different organizations.

thrivent.com/actionteam

thrivent.com/choice



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



BUY LWR FARMERS MARKET COFFEE

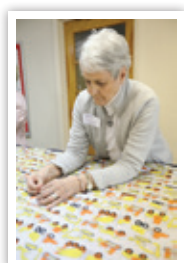
LWR Farmers Market Coffee is sourced directly from farmers participating in LWR projects. Every delicious cup helps transform poor communities that depend on their coffee crop to feed their families. Farmers get a strong up-front price for their coffee beans and a portion of the profit. lwr.org/coffee



STAY CONNECTED

We love sharing the stories of how your gifts change lives. Be sure to visit us on the web at lwr.org and also

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



SEND US YOUR PHOTOS

Be sure to capture the moments of quilt and kit making. Your photos may be shared in a future publication. For best quality, please send us the JPEG version of the photo. Also, include the name of the person in the photo, so we may publish it. Please send your photos to lwr@lwr.org.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230
800 597 5972

Have you ordered your Quilt & Kit Affinity pin?

You make LWR Quilts and Kits. You blanket the world with love. That is why we'd love to send you the brand new LWR Quilt & Kit Affinity pin. As you wear it, know that we will always be a community. It's our special gift of appreciation to you for being a faithful member of this ministry.

Order your **FREE** pin at lwr.org/qkpin.

