



Clemence Elijah for LWR



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDE

2022 - 23



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

Your Love Is Reaching Our Neighbors

The gifts you give are an immeasurable blessing to families around the world. A little girl is warmer because of 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:

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

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
- Student service groups
- Sunday school classes
- Vacation Bible School
- Women's groups
- Youth groups



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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. We work 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 religious or holiday symbols, 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.

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 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.

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.

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.

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



Quilts in Tanzania

The Erick Memorial Foundation for the Education and Rehabilitation of the Disabled (EMFERD) provides education and rehabilitation, and assists with the general welfare of people with disabilities in Morogoro, Tanzania. Most of the children at the EMFERD orphanage have been abandoned by their parents and caregivers, overwhelmed by the prospect of caring for a disabled child. To help lighten the financial burden of providing care, LWR provided the orphanage 29 Mission Quilts, plus School Kits, rice, beans, tomatoes and bananas. LWR also installed a rainwater catchment system so they can have clean, safe water. ■



Follow quilts and kits on their journey from a congregation to a community!
lwr.org/follow



The quilting group of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Hanover, N.H., formed in the 1980s, meeting monthly to make LWR Mission Quilts from used clothing scraps and donated fabric. After years of making about 15 quilts a year, the group set a goal of 50 quilts in 2004 to mark the congregation's 50th anniversary.

Then, that December, the Indian Ocean tsunami torn into the coasts of Indonesia, Thailand and Sri Lanka, killing more than 230,000 people in a matter of hours. The congregation organized a daylong quilting marathon to make quilts for LWR and invited the community to participate.

More than 67 people — from inside and outside of the congregation — showed up and made 32 quilts. They also caught the quilting bug so the church scheduled three more marathons in the next year.

Today, just like that first quilting marathon, a diverse group of quilters participates. Of the 20-25 quilters who attend regularly, only about a third are church members. The rest come from the community, spanning a wide spectrum of cultural and faith traditions.

"People in our community are concerned with social issues of all kinds, and there's a willingness to help," says Irma Graf, one of a core group of six women who share leadership of the group. "Our group gives women in the community a place to go and something to do."

The quilters make about 250 quilts a year. On quilting days, there are cutting tables, sewing tables and tying tables, and people can pick and choose what they want to do. "Nobody can just tie quilts for four hours," Irma laughs.

As each quilt is completed, it's held up for everyone to admire and applaud. "We know someone will love it," she says. "It will make someone happy." ■

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.
- 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.
- No holiday symbols or flags from any country on the quilts. If there is any doubt, please err on the side of caution and don't include it. We want to make sure the country officials who inspect the quilts 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 a year's notice before any change goes into effect.



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

Include the following items in each School Kit:

- ☐ Four 70-80 sheet **SPIRAL** 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 (**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); 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.



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





▲ School Kits in Honduras

In Honduras, parents are responsible for providing school supplies for their children or they are not able to attend school. For families who are already struggling to put food on the table, even basic items like pencils and pens are out of reach. In the community of Santa Cruz de Yajoa, less than half the children complete sixth grade, making them vulnerable to gang recruitment. Since 2015 our partner has distributed School Kits to **14,000 children** annually in some of the most vulnerable communities throughout Honduras to keep children in school and away from the risk of gangs. ■



At Ascension Lutheran Church in Thousand Oaks, Calif., ▲ the Global Ministries Team is “a group of doers,” according to team member Louise Evenson. “We are one of the most active committees of the church.” In addition to championing many other worthy causes, they make hundreds of School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.

The Global Ministries Team combines financial donations from the congregation and Thrivent Action Team funds to purchase all of the supplies for the kits, working with a local Staples store to order in bulk. Supplies are stored at a team member’s home. But when it comes to assembling the kits, everybody gets involved.

Assembling the kits is an intergenerational effort that includes Sunday school students, the senior Luther League and young adults group, VBS students and their families, and students at the Ascension Lutheran School. The school students also designate their offerings for shipping costs.

Louise, who is a former member of LWR’s board of directors, credits the church’s Children, Youth and Family pastor, and the school’s campus pastor, for the widespread involvement of the congregation. Both pastors have integrated School Kit assemblies into their programming, including the school’s curriculum.

Involving the youngest members of the congregation contributes to their faith development, Louise says. “You plant these little seeds and then nurture them.”

Louise explains that besides the Global Ministries Team’s coordinated effort to assemble kits, other small groups in the congregation also plan their own kit assemblies. A Tuesday morning Bible study group makes about 40 kits themselves. One member sews the School Kits bags and others contribute the supplies and assemble. “We don’t leave anyone behind,” Louise says, “or exclude anyone who wants to be involved.” ■

♥

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

👍

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

♥

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. 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, 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.



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

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.

"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





Sunne Lutheran Church in Wilton, N.D., is committed to sharing God's love both locally and globally. ►

A rural congregation, members come from about a 40- or 50-mile radius, according to Pastor Paul Schauer, who has served the congregation for 29 years. When Pastor Paul started his call at Sunne, the congregation was making Mission Quilts but not involved in any kit project.

Pastor Paul's experiences on two LWR Study Tours to the Philippines and India inspired the congregation to add kits to their LWR engagement. "I was able to tell them, 'Here's how I saw this working,' and that made the connection more personal between the congregation and the people who are helped by LWR kits," Pastor Paul says.

The church started with School Kits, setting an initial goal of 50 and exceeding it by 100 more, and then over time expanded to also make Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits.

"Personal Care Kits are an easy project," Pastor Paul says. The church uses Thrivent grants to purchase supplies, and his wife — whom he lovingly refers to as an "online scavenger" — searches the Internet for good deals on towels, combs and fingernail clippers. The confirmation students assemble the kits. "I like doing it with the confirmation students because they learn to appreciate what they have."

Once assembled, the quilts and kits are packed (the local McDonald's franchise saves their French fry boxes for the church to use), and a crew of volunteers helps load everything into a horse trailer to be taken to the LWR Ingathering in Bismarck, N.D.

Pastor Paul appreciates that LWR kits are "so hands-on" and a way to maintain a connection with the members. "Without meaningful engagement, the more likely people will move away from the church," Pastor Paul says. ■



Personal Care Kits in Lebanon

When an explosion destroyed Beirut's port in August 2020, it was feared that three containers carrying Mission Quilts and kits were destroyed in the blast. But after several weeks, when our longtime partner Anera was allowed access to the port, the three containers were discovered to be fully intact, having been protected from the blast by a large concrete building. The contents of the three containers — along with a fourth container that was still on a cargo ship offshore at the time of the blast — were distributed to families displaced by the explosion, as well as to Palestinian and Syrian refugees. ■

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!



Baby Care Kits in Zambia

When winter comes in Zambia many families are left in the cold, leaving elderly and small children at the greatest risk. We provided our partner World Help with a container of Mission Quilts and Baby Care Kits to provide warmth and encouragement to communities struggling economically because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Following the distribution of Mission Quilts and Baby Care Kits in the rural village of Mazambani, village leaders said most of their community had never heard or seen such a thing — referring to the generous distribution — in their lifetimes. ■



“Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.”

2 Thessalonians 2: 16-17

The Baby Care Mission Team at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in Naperville, Ill., has one mission: to help babies locally and globally. ▲

“There are mothers and babies all over the world. It doesn’t matter where you are — we’re all in this together,” says Jennifer Schuler, who co-leads the Mission Team’s Baby Care Kit assembly with Betty Landorf. “Everybody is so joyful to do something to help others,” Betty says.

The Baby Care Mission Team does its fundraising for the project to coincide with Mother’s Day, and the assembly takes place in September to align with the fall start of Sunday school. In the one-day event, members at both of the congregation’s campuses take part in the “assembly party.”

“It truly is a party atmosphere,” Jennifer says. “There’s an incredible energy in the room.”

Tables are set in a horseshoe shape with all the contents for the kits laid out. Tables in the center are used to bundle the kits together. As a congregation active in missions, many families attend the assembly events, and Betty estimates that 400-500 adults and children help out.

“It’s important to me to teach children that they are connected to a broader world. Thank goodness LWR is present in these places and connects us in impactful ways,” Jennifer says.

Although all the kits are assembled in one day, preparations are ongoing throughout the year. Betty says workshops are scheduled to sort donated baby clothing and assemble the outfits that will go in the kits. VBS kids also help with sorting clothing.

As a large congregation, Our Saviour’s assembles about 1,000 Baby Care Kits each year, but Jennifer stresses that any number of kits make a difference. “It doesn’t matter how many kits we make; we just want to do what we can with what we have.” ■

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 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.



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



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

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.

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 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.

LWR Fabric Kits provide tools to aspiring tailors to learn and practice sewing skills. Families in **BURKINA FASO** use the fabric and thread to mend their clothing and extend the life of their limited wardrobes. In **EL SALVADOR**, women are trained in making clothing for themselves and their children, giving them the personal satisfaction of caring for their families in this way, as is traditional in rural communities. And in **MALI**, vocational training centers teach young women and girls to sew as a means of earning an income, building a brighter future for themselves and their families.



▲ **BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH** in Marysville, Wash., has been active in quilt making and assembling School and Baby Care Kits, but when the Christian Service Group was doing a little spring cleaning in their storeroom, a new project was born: Fabric Kits.

The group is fortunate to have a designated storeroom at the church for their supplies. While cleaning out the room, group members discovered large rolls of fabric that had not been used for quilting or other projects. They realized there was enough fabric to make several fabric Kits.

Twyla Lucas, a group member who is also a retired consumer science teacher, also contributed fabric from her personal collection.

“We had wild prints and more subdued prints, in all different types of fabrics,” Twyla says. Twyla has been a member of the Christian Service Group, which meets monthly, for 15 years.

To complete the Fabric Kits, the group purchased spools of coordinating thread and assembled about 20 kits. The Fabric Kits, along with the church’s quilts and other kits, are delivered to an LWR Ingathering collection about 25 miles away at First Lutheran Church in Bothell, Wash.

“It’s a simple project,” Twyla says, noting that anyone can get involved. “People can donate money or go buy the fabric themselves.” ■

Quick and easy access to LWR Quilt and Kit making information online!

NEW!



Have you struggled with finding the information you need about making quilts and kits on our website? The struggle is over! Now all you need to do is go to lwr.org and look for the Quilts and Kits “quick links” on the very top of the home page. With one click you’ll be taken to a wealth of information on making quilts and kits, packing and sending them to us, and stories about where they’ve gone and the people who’ve received them. **CHECK IT OUT TODAY!** ■

A photograph of Norma Freedom, an elderly woman with short grey hair and glasses, wearing a white button-down shirt. She is smiling and sitting at a table covered with a colorful quilt. The quilt features large green squares and smaller squares with a vibrant floral pattern in red, pink, and purple. A small green ball of yarn sits on the quilt to her right. In the background, there are white closet doors with gold-colored handles.

A QUILTER'S LEGACY

AS CHILDREN, Norma Freedom and her sister Jean shared a bed covered by a quilt their mother had made with fabric patches from their clothing. They would lie in bed at night recounting their lives, remembering the dress or blouse or coat that each patch came from.

Also, as a young girl, Norma would take a nickel each week to Sunday School for the offering plate. “You share what you have,” Norma says.

Those two childhood memories would serve as precursors to a life of service and generosity for Norma.

After Norma’s husband passed away in 2000 and she retired from her career as a high school and college science teacher a few years later, Norma became quite active in her congregation, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Lake Charles, La. Norma has volunteered on the altar guild, sat on the church council, and served as financial secretary. “Everyone works or nothing gets done,” Norma says.

Norma also joined the quilting group at St. Paul, helping to make about 12-15 Mission Quilts a year that are then mailed to LWR’s Minnesota warehouse.

“I enjoy the fellowship with other quilters,” Norma says, “and the satisfaction of knowing something I enjoy doing can also help others.” With her husband, sister and parents all deceased, Norma considers her church her family.

Beyond her many roles in serving the church today, Norma is also blessing the many ministries she loves through her estate plans. In addition to naming her congregation and her alma mater, St. Olaf College, in her will, she has also included Lutheran World Relief as a beneficiary. “I want to spread out the blessings,” Norma says.

Norma hopes the gift from her estate will allow LWR to “continue its great work and spread God’s grace.”

“In hindsight, I’ve realized how privileged I have been and want to help others,” Norma says.

By leaving a gift to Lutheran World Relief in her will, Norma is ensuring her love continues to reach neighbors in need for years to come. ■

Leaving a share of your estate to Lutheran World Relief may be the most significant contribution that you can make to extend God’s love to our most forsaken neighbors. Visit lwr.org/will to learn more and request a free guide to leaving a gift in your will.

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.
- To see where your quilts and kits go, visit lwr.org/tracker and follow the instructions to properly label your donations so you can follow their journey through the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker.



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.

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



Loretta Wolf, warehouse manager, at the Maryland warehouse with boxes of kits and that are ready for the next step in the tracking process.

Two Warehouse Legends

Central to the Quilt & Kit Ministry are the smooth and efficient operations at LWR's two warehouses in South St. Paul, Minn., and New Windsor, Md.

If you've ever visited one of our warehouses, chances are you have met one of two long-serving staff: Matt Tuneberg at the Minnesota warehouse or Loretta Wolf at the Maryland warehouse.

Matt knew early on he wasn't cut out for a typical office job, and he appreciates that each day at the warehouse can be a little different. While some days he does have work in the office to do, other days he is busy helping unload a truck or greeting visitors as they drop off their quilts and kits. Matt especially enjoys giving tours of the warehouse and explaining to quilters and kit-makers how their gifts of love are carefully packaged and prepared for shipping overseas. Seeing the passion of quilters and kit-makers is a highlight of his job, Matt says.

Matt began his career at the warehouse while just a teenager, working during his summer vacations, then during his college days. Matt started working full-time at the warehouse in 1994 and eventually took over the day-to-day operations.

The job has been a natural fit, Matt says, noting that this has been the only full-time job he's had in his life. And he's grateful that this is the type of work he's been able to do. "At the end of the day, you know that you're helping someone else," Matt says.

Loretta first came to work at LWR's Maryland warehouse in 1976 and has had many roles since then, having worked both in the warehouse as well as in office jobs. She's also seen a lot of changes in how the donations of quilts and kits are managed.

"We used to move everything by hand carts," Loretta says, "and everything was done manually." She explains that inventory was tracked by measuring the depth of the piles of quilt bales.

Now inventory is managed in much more sophisticated ways, and quilts and kits are even tracked to their final destinations through the LWR Tracker.

But one thing that has remained consistent, Loretta says, is the people who come to the warehouse to drop off their quilts and kits year after year. "They are like family," she says. The Maryland warehouse also receives volunteer groups to help with processing the quilts and kits, some of whom have been coming regularly for years.

Like Matt, Loretta also feels that working at the LWR warehouse is a good fit for her. "I've sort of grown up here, and I've grown in my knowledge and abilities. Things change constantly and there's always a new challenge." ■



Matt Tuneberg, manager of the warehouse in S. St. Paul, Minn., with boxes of quilts and kits ready for shipment



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 we 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/shippingfund or call 800.597.5972 for more information.





IN Memoriam

SARAH FISHER was one of those people who was always ready to lend a helping hand.

She played piano, organ and flute for church services.

She was active in Women of the ELCA, launching the newsletter for the Indiana-Kentucky Synodical Women's Organization and serving as the editor for several years. And she was active in quilting and kit-making for LWR in the congregations of which she and her husband Lou were members between their years living abroad in Germany, Japan and Switzerland.

When Sarah and Lou made their final return to the US to retire, they joined Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Clifton Park, N.Y. There, Sarah got involved first in quilting, then she and Lou began assembling kits for LWR. Others would donate items for assembling kits, and Sarah would watch for sales to purchase the rest of the needed items.

But getting the quilts and kits to LWR was a challenge due to the distance from an LWR warehouse. And so, Sarah worked with us to organize a collection for upstate New York congregations, making stops in Clifton Park, Syracuse and Rochester. Sarah wasn't new to Ingatherings. Back in the 1990s, when Sarah and Lou's children attended St. John's Lutheran School in Ft. Wayne, Ind., Sarah helped coordinate the collection that took place at the school.

"People are happy to donate quilts and kits, but getting them out the door to the warehouse is a challenge," Lou says, as he remembers Sarah's dedication to the effort. In October 2020, Sarah was diagnosed with leukemia and hospitalized, but that didn't stop her from serving others. Sarah continued to pray for the people on her prayer list, and even organized the details of the LWR collection from her hospital bed. Another church member stepped in to help Lou finish assembling the kits at home.

That December, Sarah passed away. In her last note to her family, she wrote, "Take care of each other, be kind, and enjoy life every day." Through her years of faithful service to LWR and other ministries, Sarah lived out those words to the fullest. Even beyond her time on earth, Sarah's passion for God's people lives on as her family encouraged those who knew Sarah to celebrate her life with a donation to Lutheran World Relief. ■



In Memoriam celebrates quilters and kit makers who have passed on, but whose impact will be felt for generations to come.



Hands and feet

A litany inspired by Teresa of Avila, by Matt Hackworth, Lutheran World Relief's Senior Advisor, Marketing and Communications

Gracious God, you created light in the darkness

You saw that light was good, and separated it
from all that was bad

You created the light in stars to lead
Your people from bondage,

And so that we might see the better way of living,
among one another, and for You

**We are the hands and feet
of Christ in Your world.**

God, you created the very idea of home in a world of chaos
the places where we feel safe, the places
where we sense Your peace

You lead us to share this peace with one another,
and with the world

The peace found in following the one
You sent to lead us, Christ Jesus

**We are the hands and feet of
Christ in Your world.**

God, you created grace so we might
survive the world and its evil

Grace for us, in showing us love even as we are not perfect

Grace for one another, when we offend
and when we commend

Grace for a world that can only feel it
when we are compelled to act

**We are the hands and feet of
Christ in Your world.**

Gracious God, we ask that You take
these gifts of earthly meaning

We ask you to make them Your light in
someone's darkness

We ask you to make them Your comfort in another's chaos

We ask you to make them Your grace so that
Your love can live through us, as

**We are the hands and feet of
Christ in Your world. Amen.**



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

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 CONGREGATIONAL RESOURCES

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



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



STAY CONNECTED

We love sharing the stories of how your love is reaching every neighbor. 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



TRACK WHERE YOUR QUILTS AND KITS GO

To see where your quilts and kits go, visit lwr.org/tracker and follow the instructions to properly label your donations so you can follow their journey through the LWR Quilt & Kit Tracker.



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230

800 597 5972 | LWR.ORG/QUILTS | LWR.ORG/KITS

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- Request a free Guide to Leaving a Gift in Your Will
- Notify us if you've already designated a gift to neighbors in need in your will
- Or use our free online will writing service to create your will

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LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

