



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

FAITH IN *action*

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE
ACROSS THE WORLD

YOUR IMPACT:

Wrapping our Ukrainian neighbors in love

TIPS & TRICKS

For your Quilts (and Kits!)
to go the distance



FIAF23-30K-1023

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

Your hard work and generosity are as needed and appreciated as ever! **Barcode labels are no longer used**, so how do you identify your boxes? Create your own label or write on your boxes in **LARGE, BLOCK LETTERS**:

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

For more packing information go to lwr.org/pack

QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDELINES:

LWR HEADQUARTERS:
Lutheran World Relief
700 Light Street | Baltimore, MD 21230
Phone: 800.597.5972 | Email: lwr@lwr.org | lwr.org/quilts | lwr.org/kits



LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF

700 LIGHT STREET
BALTIMORE, MD 21230 USA
LWR.ORG

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #201
Dulles, VA



Packing your quilts and kits

DEAR QUILTERS & KIT MAKERS,

I am so incredibly grateful for all the ways your love has gone the distance in reaching our most vulnerable neighbors.

Look at the infographic below – millions of quilts and kits, made by your caring hands, have been distributed to 95 countries. That's nearly half the world!

It is nothing short of a privilege to work with you and witness the incredible impact you have on others. And that gratitude extends beyond the team here at Lutheran World Relief.

At a recent distribution in Ukraine, we heard "Thank You," over and over and over again. From those without heat, for the

warmth of your quilts. From those with little resources, for the preciousness of your kits. From those who feel isolated and alone, for not forgetting them. Your love. Your faith. You are reaching your neighbors, no matter how far.

In service and gratitude,

Martha Piedrasanta



MARTHA PIEDRASANTA
Quilt & Kit Ministry
Senior Manager

ON THE COVER: A woman happily displays her LWR quilt during a recent distribution in Tsyркuny, Kharkiv, Ukraine. Your generosity has reached across the miles, providing tangible comfort and warmth to those living in uncertainty.

SPREADING GOD'S LOVE ACROSS THE WORLD

Your kindness is reaching our neighbors in need in every distant corner. In the past 25 years, LWR quilters and kit makers have spread God's love across the world in incredible ways.



9,191,127
QUILTS

These would cover 11 square miles
... or **5,324 football fields.**



9,493,141
KITS

This is more than the populations
of Minnesota, North Dakota, South
Dakota and Nebraska combined.



95
COUNTRIES

Nearly half the world!

When you make quilts and kits for neighbors in need, you are the hands and feet of Christ in the world. "We will tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the Lord and his might and the wonders that he has done." Psalm 78:4 NRSV

Your compassion can reach farther with a gift to the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund. Please make your gift in the enclosed envelope or by visiting lwr.org/flagive.

**Until your love reaches
every neighbor.**



OUR GIFT TO YOU: THE LWR QUILT & KIT AFFINITY PIN

This beautiful pin was created especially for **YOU**, our beloved quilters and kit makers. This pin symbolizes Christ's love spread by the work of your hearts and hands in making quilts and kits for some of the world's most vulnerable. It's a small token of appreciation for your faithful service.

TO ORDER YOUR **FREE** PIN, GO TO LWR.ORG/QKPIN



QUILTS FOR CHRIST WEAVES TOGETHER GENERATIONS

ST. PAUL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL HELPS EVERY AGE PUT THEIR FAITH INTO ACTION

The room is filled with a mélange of sounds and movement. The whirring of sewing machines. The gleeful chatter of middle school students as they pin vibrant quilting squares together. Some hunch slightly as they iron finished products.

This is Quilts for Christ, a quilting group started by St. Paul Lutheran Church and School in Hilton, New York. Founded and led by Lois Kane and Carolyn Hurlbutt, the group meets at different times during the month — evenings for those who work, lunch time for others, after school to mentor students through Quilts for Christ Junior.

HOW IT BEGAN

In addition to hosting an annual Ingathering, St. Paul started Quilts for Christ Junior in 2009. First intended for 7th and 8th graders, it now includes 4th-8th graders.

Jocelyn Slynko, the school's art teacher and Quilts for Christ member is joined by Lois, Carolyn, Patty Wright, Nancy Trimmer and Sharon Smith. They teach the basics of quilting — threading a needle, winding a bobbin, ironing and using a sewing machine — while sharing fellowship and stories.

“Quilting is a tactile way to feel the love of Christ as you are using God's gifts to help others,” Lois said.

USING GOD'S GIFTS TO HELP OTHERS

The students said they have grown in many ways in their time in the group. They enjoy spreading Jesus' love and thinking of others as well as learning patience, leadership and respect.

The students aren't the only ones benefiting from the experience. The adults expressed joy in getting to share their love of both Christ and quilting and connecting with the younger generation.

“It was and still is so important to us to show the junior members how to make the quilts because we feel that we are planting the seeds of future mission work,” Patty said. ■



▲ Lois Kane guides students in the Quilts for Christ Junior quilting group.



▲ Members Sharon Smith, Joanne Edgett and Nancy Trimmer.



▲ During sessions, the students learned about Ukraine (pictured above) and saw virtually how far their love can reach.

YOUR IMPACT: WRAPPING OUR UKRAINIAN NEIGHBORS IN LOVE


When the war in Ukraine broke out, we sat watching the horrific images on our screens, hearts aching. While many longed to help, they felt helpless to do so.

You took action.


The thousands of quilts and kits made by your caring hands serve as a tangible expression of compassion. Quilts can be used as warm bedding, simple tents or floor coverings. Personal Care Kits restore dignity to those who have lost everything. This is how you are reminding our Ukrainian neighbors of God's loving presence. ■

“The quilts and kits are not just a material possession,” said LWR's Rev. Tim Krick, who attended the distribution.

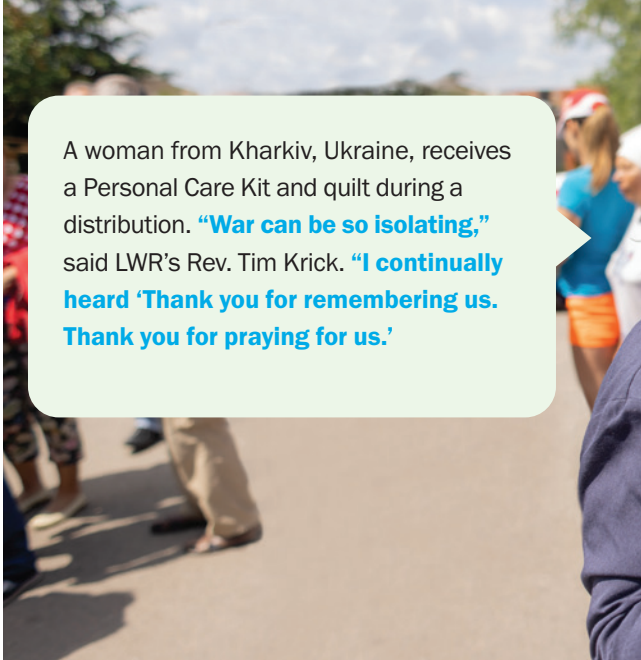
“They really do represent love and kindness and hope that there are other people in the world who care.”



Yurij Butrin lives with his wife near the Russian border. Your kindness distributed warmth in the form of a stove and a quilt. **“When it was cold during the winter, there was nothing,”** he said. **“And then the potbelly stove was delivered. It helped us survive.”**



Conflict forced Tetiana Besedina to flee with her family twice in the last several years. Your generosity welcomed them in their direst moments. They now live in an LWR-supported sanatorium. **“We have a place to sleep at night, a roof over our heads, we're given food, and we're treated well,”** she said. **“We're really grateful for that.”**



A woman from Kharkiv, Ukraine, receives a Personal Care Kit and quilt during a distribution. **“War can be so isolating,”** said LWR's Rev. Tim Krick. **“I continually heard ‘Thank you for remembering us. Thank you for praying for us.’”**



Natalia Chernenka **“ran out of everything” during the war. She didn’t have water, electricity or gas, even resorting to cooking on bricks and planting her own garden to eat.** When she received her LWR quilt, she said, **“Thank God. Thank you for not forgetting us. Thank you very much.”**



GOING THE EXTRA MILE: Minnesota Retiree Assembles MORE THAN 100,000 LWR School Kits

By Emily Sollie

Some retirees golf; some travel. Werner makes School Kits. These were the words of Pastor Jay Dahlvang, Lead Pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Mankato, Minnesota, at a special event honoring church member Werner Fick. **Werner has assembled more than 100,000 School Kits for Lutheran World Relief.**

“Education is really one of the most important tools that a community has to break the cycle of poverty,” Pastor Dahlvang continued. “In some parts of the world, a lack of school supplies can lead to a loss of education. Some kids will not go to school if they don’t have school supplies. When Werner heard this, he decided to do something himself.”

What started out as a small-scale service project some 13 years ago when Werner retired has grown into quite a professional operation. He estimates he spends three to four hours a day, six days a week, on his School Kit ministry: bulk-buying supplies, assembling kits, recruiting helpers and making deliveries to the LWR warehouse in Minnesota. Werner purchases nearly all the supplies himself, taking advantage of bulk purchasing during back-to-school sales.

He splits his time between Mankato, Minnesota, and Kalona, Iowa, where his son lives. His enthusiasm is contagious. Werner has friends and helpers in both towns who pitch

in on a regular basis. **While in Iowa, he once recruited members of the adult Vacation Bible School at Zion Lutheran Church to assemble about 500 kits in a week’s time.**

“

As we go forward, let us dream big, be bold in our efforts, be gracious, be generous, lead with love and never forget to say thank you.”

— Werner Fick

Werner is quick to turn the attention to the children around the world who benefit from his work. Standing next to a photo of a young girl from Central America who had received an LWR School Kit, Werner broke down in tears. **“The girl in the picture is probably six or seven years old,” he said. “It might be the first time she gets a School Kit. And the picture on that poster inspires me every day.”**

In addition to his labor of love assembling School Kits for children around the world, Werner is also a generous donor to Lutheran World Relief and has identified LWR as a recipient in his will, ensuring his legacy of love will continue. ■

4 TIPS & TRICKS FOR GOING THE DISTANCE

How far will you go to put your faith in action?

The love and dedication you put into every single quilt and kit travel thousands of miles, surrounding our most vulnerable neighbors with reminders of God’s presence. Here are some ideas for how you can grow your group while bringing relief and comfort to the hardest to reach.

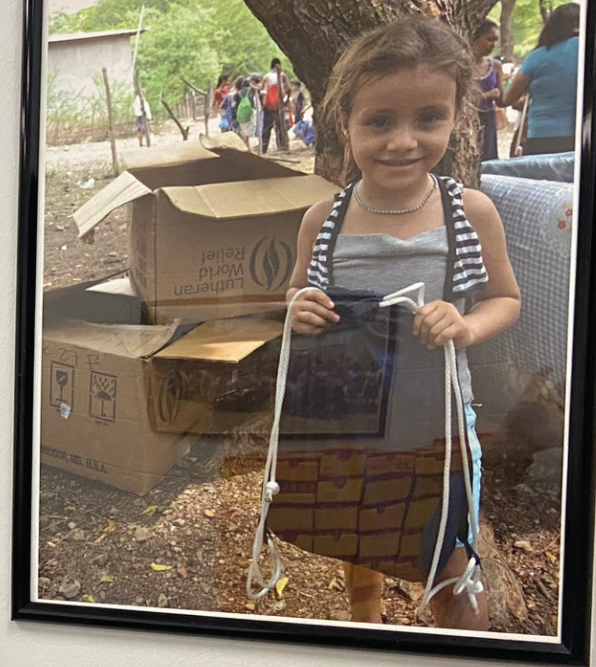
1 GET OTHERS INVOLVED, EVEN THOSE WHO DON’T SEW

Even non-sewers can be vital contributors. One volunteer drives **5 HOURS** from her Wisconsin church to the warehouse in St. Paul, Minnesota to deliver her church’s quilts. Look for the not-so-obvious skills needed for your group’s success, and recruit others!

2

RALLY YOUR GROUP AROUND A GOAL

Back in 1989, the Faith Lutheran quilters in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, started counting the number of quilts they made. Recently, they celebrated completing their **7,000TH QUILT**. That’s 7,000 families whose lives have been impacted for the better. Having a goal serves as a unifier and drives motivation.



Werner Fick standing in front of his source of inspiration, a child from Central America.



By leaving a share of your estate to Lutheran World Relief, your love can join Werner's in leaving an enduring footprint in the future and creating a better world for children everywhere. Visit [LWR.ORG/WILL](https://www.lwr.org/will) to create a free and legally-binding will today.

3 WELCOME THE CHILDREN

When Susan Mayer of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Knoxville, Iowa, first used the LWR sewing pattern for school bags, she exclaimed, "It's so easy that even children can do it." Recently her quilting group was joined by Meggi, one of the members' granddaughters. Meggi proved Susan right and completed her bag in **ONE session**. Welcoming children is a way to ensure both your group and love keep going the distance.



4 RECRUIT OTHERS, TRAIN UP NEW LEADERS

Everything is better with friends! Joel Bock and Arvold Mikkelson have over **50 YEARS of combined experience** organizing the First United Lutheran Church Ingathering in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Joel started 30 years ago, recruited Arv, and they've been a team for the past 20 years. Reflect on your various networks and identify who would make a great teammate. It's an excellent way to train up new leaders and make sure your group continues to make a difference.

Reflection and Prayer

“...and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8b NRSV

Jesus gave this charge to his disciples before he ascended into heaven — a far bigger mission than they likely anticipated. Jerusalem made sense. This was close enough to their home turf. Judea expanded their call to the greater region, a place where Jesus’ ministry was rejected. But Samaria? This was a place where the disciples would have felt out of place and even avoided so that they wouldn’t have to associate with the Samaritan people. And to the ends of the earth?

Despite the daunting challenge Jesus charged them with, moved by the Holy Spirit, the disciples put aside their doubts and got to work. You too are sending God’s love to the very ends of the earth. No matter how far away your neighbor lives, your quilts and kits are reaching them and wrapping them in comfort and hope. May God’s promise keep you steadfast in your work so that all may feel God’s love.

PRAYER: Creator God, you have entrusted us to be your witnesses in the world and you give us the tools to do this work. Thank you for the skills to create beautiful quilts that will wrap our neighbors in your love. Thank you for hands that put together kits to care for families in need. Bless the recipients of our gifts and help us to continue to care for our neighbors all around the world, even those who are far away and sometimes hard to reach. **Amen.**

