

Ministry Spotlight

Lutheran World Relief Quilts and Kits – In 1945, World War II left an estimated one-fifth of the world's Lutherans homeless. Here in the United States, Lutheran churches in at least 20 states mobilized to help in Europe through a new agency called *Lutheran World Relief*.

The recipients of LWR's aid have changed — as has much of their operation — but in thousands of congregations, in millions of offerings and in uncounted prayers, U.S. Lutherans have supported LWR's work ever since.



Lutheran World Relief
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT. LASTING PROMISE.

Over the course of 70 years, LWR has learned a lot about walking with people who set out to better their lives and communities. They have learned that the future in health, agriculture and education often lies with the hearts and hands of women; that disaster can sometimes be prevented or withstood by effective development programs; and that, when disasters do occur, LWR partners may be on the spot well before the world notices and still needed long after the crisis no longer commands front-page headlines.

For more than 30 years, St. John members have donated materials, sewn hundreds of school bags and assembled quilts, school kits, personal care kits and baby kits to send to Lutheran World Relief for their "Boxcar collection." These items are combined with those from other churches and shipped to people in need all over the world.

LWR has partners around the world who are on the ground working closely with people in the projects they support. Those partners send requests for Quilts and Kits when they see a particularly great need or opportunity for the items to make a real difference. LWR weighs those requests against their supply at the time and sends the Quilts and Kits where they are most needed. They also reserve a certain number in their warehouses for emergency relief efforts so that they are able to respond immediately to an event such as an earthquake.

Currently St. John is supporting this effort with quilts, school kits and personal care kits.

Quilts - Imagine the comfort that comes from a hug at the time when you need it most. That's the feeling you can share with an LWR Quilt. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread, you can 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 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.



Ministry Spotlight *(continued)*

School kits - Imagine having to choose between purchasing a meal for your family or a notebook for your child. School Kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Pencils and paper can help write a positive future.



Personal Care kits – Imagine having to leave everything behind, to not have even a toothbrush to brush your teeth or a bar of soap to wash. Personal Care Kits are shared with people who have lost everything due to a natural disaster or escape from life-threatening violence. Additional soap is also distributed to people in need. A brand new bar of soap lets someone present himself or herself with dignity, keep hands clean and stay healthy. These simple things are some of the very building blocks to success. Give hope through a bar of soap.

How you can get involved - Look for a list of needed supplies elsewhere in this issue of *The Voice*. Help is also needed in October to assemble and pack kits and transport them to the boxcar pickup location.