



LWR QUILTS

The quilts we bless today are a part of a long tradition of quilting and kit making dating back to 1945, when the Lutheran World Relief (LWR) distributed its first quilts to families in war-torn Europe following the World War II.

"Over the past 25 years, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has distributed over 9,191,127 quilts, which would cover 11 square miles or half of Manhattan AND 9,493,141 school bags, enough for more than one to every person in Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Nebraska combined. They've been shipped around the globe where needed most."

Eventually, these quilts and school kits we bless today, will be distributed anywhere in the world where there is a need. In time, over one hundred countries have already benefited by these ZLCW gifts of love. If there is a need among refugees, disaster survivors, or vulnerable communities these quilts will find a new home. They are not only practical items that provide warmth and comfort, but also become symbols of love and solidarity with those in need. They perhaps will be used as blankets, tents, floor coverings, curtains, wall-dividers or even as a way to carry belongings.

Maybe most important, is what we bless today as a congregation, is to recognize Christ at work through the dedication and ministries of ZION Lutheran Church Women.



**LUTHERAN
WORLD RELIEF**

BLESSING OF THE QUILTS

LEADER: We gather today in the name of our compassionate Savior, to give thanks for the Women of ZION Lutheran Church and friends of our congregation; like the Biblical Dorcas, who use their willing hands to give comfort and life's necessities to those in need.

ALL: We thank you, Father, for Dorcas of old and the women who follow in her footsteps, using their talent with needles and thread.

LEADER: To you, Merciful Lord, we give thanks for all the faithful women who, alone in their homes or in small groups, cut and sew together the colorful scraps of fabric to form tops of spectacular patterns and hues.

ALL: Lord, we ask your blessings for these women as they create their labors of love.

LEADER: Lord, Source of all Comfort, we express our gratitude for the caring women who gather in members' homes and in church basements and fellowship halls to quilt, tie, and bind the "comforters."

ALL: We thank you for the quilters and ask you to bind our hearts in love for the people these quilts will comfort in times of stress.

LEADER: Father, we now dedicate this rainbow of quilts, blankets and sewing kits to the glory of God and ask that you shower blessings upon the people of many colors who will use them for warmth, for shelter, for luggage, for graduated high school students, for sustaining life.

ALL: Lord, teach us, also, to use our talents to reach out to the world's downtrodden people as these quilters have learned to do.

LEADER: Jesus, we ask that you continue to bless the work of the quilters of our congregation, the ZION Lutheran Church Women and Lutheran World Relief.

ALL: Bless their work, O Lord, and may it draw people to you.

LEADER: For to You, O Lord, is the glory forever and ever.

ALL: Amen