

Seattle LWR Ingathering Quilters, kit-makers, box-packers, materials buyers, drivers -

SPRING 2025 Seattle LWR Ingathering will be May 2 & 3 at Our Redeemers' Lutheran Church, 2500 NW 85th.

Potential impact of government cost cutting on LWR Quilts and Kits

Some have been asking if the Elon Musk cost cutting efforts might affect LWR quilt and kit (Q&K) distributions. The short answer is "no," at this time and hopefully in future. The Quilt & Kit program has always been self-funded - donations - and has not used governmental grants or subsidies. LWR's work also includes medical treatment and supplies, livelihoods, and emergency response. That situation is still evolving, and we're staying in close contact with LWR about the ongoing changes.

LWR has been around for 80 years; they now have several short, informative videos and articles reminding us of how much LWR, through you and previous generations, have done since WWII. Click on [Going Farther, Staying Longer: Celebrating 80 Years of LWR](#). There are 20 seconds of our Fall 2022 Ingathering towards the end.

In addition, following are three informative LWR Quilt and Kit related videos. The first one starts out talking about Ukraine, but then goes to the Baltimore warehouse and shows the entire quilt packing process. I think all quilters would be interested. The warehouses squash 35 quilts to remove air, and then bundle them in shrinkwrap for shipping. The title is :

Have you ever seen 13,000 Quilts at once? My Visit to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse; the link is

[Have you ever seen 13,000 Quilts at once? My Visit to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse](#). Minutes 5-13 show the quilt packing process if you want to skip through.

The next two videos are LWR videos. You may Google YouTube searching for Lutheran World Relief to find more. [How do LWR Quilts & Kits get from the U.S. to the places they're needed?](#) is 13 minutes and covers a lot. The next 3 minute video explains how LWR Quilts helped solve medical issues for children in a cold part of Tanzania.
<https://photos.lwr.org/?r=43383&k=621af2c820>

Attachments:

1. Seattle Spring 2025 Loading Form. Print on Legal for largest print format. Reverse has kit instructions.

2. The attachment "LWR2024_QKMG.pdf" is where shipments went overseas in 2024. Seattle's quilts and kits have always gone through the Maryland warehouse.

LWR is still working on modifying the bar-code system. However, in the interim there is no longer a bar code system.

All boxes going on our Seattle containers need your church name and address (at least city) - there are a lot of First Lutherans or St Pauls' Lutheran Churches. Please write "Quilts" or "School" or "School Kits" or "Personal CK" etc on each box, so the warehouse personnel know which room to send the box to without having to open it first. Please list number of items in that box. I am guessing most of us already hand-write "quilts" and "5" as we pack five quilts. That is part of our process at my congregation to ensure we count correctly. Prior to bar codes being introduced, many of us created "address labels" for our church mailing label, including type and number of items. That is an option.

Rich's thoughts on buying Personal Care Kit Supplies in 2025

Our QALC LWR Kit Making effort depends upon help from many of you who purchase items. The following was excerpted from my church newsletter. Some comments may not apply to your community or nearby stores. If you have ideas, or suggestions, please let me know. The prices are from my last order.

Personal Care Kit Supplies: My congregation purchases most Personal Care Kit Supplies online, in bulk. The combs, fingernail clippers and tooth brushes are uniform, tooth brushes individually wrapped. If in doubt, use larger combs (7+ inches with handle, 4+ inches without). **Combs** need to be long enough to control them in your hand. I order combs from Medline At Home; 144 of the 7" combs for around \$82 including shipping (I order MDS137209). Ensure **tooth brushes** are soft, and will hold up for a month or more - I tested mine at home. I order SmartSmile Adult Toothbrushes (72 count, individually wrapped, 144 for \$71) from American Dental Accessories,

Inc. I order 72 pack **nail clippers** from Amazon (diane brand)

Bath towels need to be minimum of 20"x40" (hotel size) up to 27"x 52". They should be dark colored - hard to clean white towels in a refugee camp without washing machines. They do not need to be thick and plush - need to air dry in hot, humid climates. Target's bath towels (dark gray) have consistently cost \$2.50 to \$3.00.

Four ounce bars of soap are best, since each kit must have 8-9 oz of soap. We send two 4oz bars. The 3 or 3.5 oz bars are fine - you just must pack three bars We prefer Ivory. Yes prices have increased a lot. I am paying around \$1 per 4oz bar. ordering on line from WebRestaurant Store.

Purchasing batting for quilts:

The question often comes up, where do you buy your batting? Because of shipping cost, Queen Anne Lutheran has been getting batting from PerfectFit out of Portland. If you carefully read their website they have a 60" wide batting. It comes in 2 weights. QA uses the lighter weight. It is cheaper if you buy 6 rolls. Shipping is like \$15.00. Sometimes you can go in with another church to buy the 6 rolls for the cheaper price. **To get the cheaper price (not the full price listed on line) you need to call and tell them that you are a church making quilts as a mission project. The online price is almost double.**

Fabric Samples: Please email Candy Mathes at lwrmathes@aol.com or call/text her at 206-919-7330 if you want to arrange to pick up fabric samples either at the Ingathering, or anytime at Queen Anne Lutheran Church.

Reminders from LWR Baltimore

1. No more fleece blankets - they are not biodegradable.
2. Please ensure your boxes can support the weight inside, and please limit school kits to eight in a box - which is 30 pounds. When we are stacking boxes 9.5 feet high, heavy boxes are more difficult for the average 6 foot male. My church uses apple boxes - each holds eight school kits.

HANDY LWR VIDEOS FOR ASSEMBLING KITS:

www.lwr.org/kitvideos is a link from LWR that takes you directly to the Melanie Gibbons videos on kit assembly. The videos are quite useful, because we all need to ensure that those who help with assembling quilts twice a year are using similar good practices. If possible, have someone show these videos at your church as an aid to assembling kits. They are great for viewing right before you assemble the kits. Last fall, before my Men's Group assembled Personal Care Kits, one person said "I had forgotten some of the details from 6 months ago."

You can also just input "LWR Personal Care Kit video," "LWR School Kit video," "LWR Baby Care Kit video" or "LWR Fabric Kit video" in Google search bar. If you pack school kits, please refer to Melanie Gibbons wonderful YouTube video - "LWR School Kits: Tips & Tricks". There are also videos for other kits on YouTube.

Please pass on the above to your groups and friends, even if you will not participate this spring. If you want to get off of this email, please let me know. And if you need to add someone, please let me know. I do mail hard-copy to those without Email if you notify me.

Thank you

Rich Mathes