



BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH



WOMEN'S MINISTRY 2019-2020

— RESOURCE GUIDE FOR WOMEN'S MINISTRY — 2019-2020

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BETHEL WOMEN'S MINISTRY

We hope that the women's ministry at Bethel will provide opportunities to strengthen the connections that women have with God, with their church, and with each other.

Bethel's women's ministry provides a variety of opportunities for service, study and fellowship. All of the women of Bethel are welcome at any and all groups and activities in the women's ministry. Come join us. You'll find that the women in our groups are friendly and welcoming.

Check the women's ministry section of the Bethel web site for more information about current events and groups. www.bethel-madison.org

WOMEN'S COORDINATING COUNCIL

Women's Coordinating Council (WCC) is an assembly of the leaders of all of the groups that are a part of the women's ministry at Bethel: our circles, Blanket workshop, and Lutheran World Relief kits. WCC meetings are scheduled four times each year.

Members of Women's Coordinating Council plan events and projects so that all groups can participate and have a voice in the activities of the women's ministry at Bethel. WCC coordinates activities so that members of all the women's groups at Bethel can work together to contribute support for our church, our mission projects and the Women of the ELCA at the national and synod levels.

WCC serves as a link to the South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization (SWO), as well as to the Women of the ECLA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America) national organization.

In 2019 WCC is scheduled to meet on these dates:

January 9 – 11:45am
April 9 – 11:45am
July 9 – 11:45am
October 8 – 11:45am

You can read about the women's ministry on the Bethel web site (bethel-madison.org) under the CONNECT heading. Information about our women's ministry is also shared by emails sent to a WCC email group. If you would like to receive a copy of WCC minutes and notices, contact Deacon Lisa to be added to that email group.

Contact us with questions or suggestions regarding our women's ministry:

WCC President: Kris Fansler, 586.419.3455 or krisfansler@gmail.com

Staff Contact: Deacon Lisa Huber, 608.257.3577 or lisa@bethel-madison.org

WCC Officers:

WCC President	Kris Fansler	586.419.3455
WCC Secretary	Sharon Moses	608.233.7173
WCC Treasurer	Deacon Lisa Huber	608.257.3577
Bethel Staff Support	Deacon Lisa Huber	608.257.3577

Groups Represented at WCC:

Abigail Circle	Judy Grobe
Blanket Workshop Group	Jeanette Pochebut or Patty Saxe
Blessings Circle	Nancy Beck
Celebration Circle	Janet Johnson
Compassion Circle	Faith Kelley, Jeanne Gill or Patty Saxe
Dorcas Circle	Judi Griffin or Betty Ingwell
Grace Circle	Carolyn Ninedorf
Hope Circle	Anne Murphy
Inspiration Circle	Lynne Krainer
Joy Circle	Sharon Moses or Gisela Kutzbach
LWR Kits	Patty Saxe
Rejoice Circle	Margie Czechowicz
Renew Circle	Cristel Gjerde or Kathy Kube
Seekers Circle	Judy Olson
Serenity Circle	Marti Treutelaar
University Hill Farms Circle	Jeanne Moren

CIRCLES

A circle is a small group of women who meet monthly for Christian fellowship and study. A circle offers women a community of friends within our large church.

Some circles do a Bible study from Gather, a magazine published by the Women of the ELCA. Others do a Bible study using a variety of books. Some circles meet at church and some meet in their homes.

Read through the description of each circle in this booklet. You will see that the circles at Bethel have a variety of special mission projects, service programs or unique ways to give back to our community.

If you know of a circle you would like to join, just call or email the circle president.

If you would like to learn more information about joining a circle, contact Deacon Lisa Huber at 608.257.3577 or lisa@bethel-madison.org. We are always happy for an opportunity to welcome new members into one of our women's circles.

Circle Offerings & Gifts

Circles typically collect offerings at their meetings. Circle donations are always voluntary. Money collected at circle meetings is donated to charities and missions chosen by the circle members.

Some offering opportunities are organized through Women's Coordinating Council to allow groups within the women's ministry to process donations together. These include:

Gratitude Gifts: This is a contribution toward the annual giving projects of the Bethel Women's Ministry. It's a way we can show gratitude for our wonderful church and give back. Money collected from the Gratitude Gifts is used to provide support to Bethel with a women's ministry mission project. The 2019 Gratitude Gift will go toward the purchase of albs and ties for communion servers. A reminder notice is sent in April.

Blessed to be a Blessing offering: Donations to “Blessed to be a Blessing” are given to charities in Dane County. A WCC subcommittee selects different charities each year. The 2018 offerings went to Heartland Farm Sanctuary, Literacy Project, and Operation Fresh Start. A reminder notice is sent in August.

Women of the ELCA (WELCA) offerings: These offerings, also known as thank offerings and worship offerings, support the work of the Women of the ELCA at the synod and national levels. A reminder notice is sent in November.

For more information about offering opportunities and details about how to process the necessary paperwork for your circle to participate, contact Deacon Lisa Huber, the WCC treasurer, at lisa@bethel-madison.org or 608.257.3577.

— THERE ARE 14 CIRCLES AT BETHEL: —

ABIGAIL CIRCLE

Meeting: 3rd Wednesday of the month at 9:30am, Sept through June.

Meeting place: A meeting room at Bethel

Special projects: Hymn Sings at Oakwood East and West

Contact: Judy Grobe

Abigail Circle is one of the original circles of Bethel Lutheran Church. Over the years there have been many changes as we continue to serve with our monthly meetings, connect with one another to serve God, study the Bible, donate offerings, and fellowship with one another.

We are always happy to welcome new members to Abigail. We keep in touch and support our members with phone calls, emails, visits, cards, gifts, and a monthly coffee on the first Wednesday of each month at 9:30am.



Members:

Ahrens, LaVerne
Berkan, Ruth
Borke, Judy
Cleveland, Marilyn
Erickson, Jean
Gilbertson, Joan
Griffin, Judi
Grobe, Judy
Hanson, Myrna
Marquardt, Vel
Mathwich, Lila
Nelson, Connie
Olson, Margaret
Ryan, Shirley
Savall, Mary
Stern, Carol
Tweed, Jan
Unverzagt, Jean
Weinreis, Nancy

Blessings Circle

Meetings: 1-3pm on the 2nd Thursday of the month.

Meeting place: Members' homes or Bethel

Bible study: *Gather* magazine

Contact: Nancy Beck

At our first circle meeting in 2007, we chose the name Blessings to help us thankfully remember our many blessings and also to acknowledge our first Bible study topic, the Beatitudes.

For 5 years we coordinated the Lutheran World Relief projects at Bethel, distributing information and preparing baby care, school and personal care kits. We continue to support this effort with time and donations.

Members of our circle have become good friends as we share our lives through Bible studies, prayer, and fellowship. We also share the blessings God has given us as we contribute to the ELCA Thank offering, the Skaalen Home, Blessed to be a Blessing, and the Oakwood Service League. We participate in Women's Ministry projects such as the Advent by Candlelight service.

Individual members are active in many ways at Bethel. Some of these services include Altar Guild, the church library and the Homeless Ministry. We welcome and encourage new members to join us as we celebrate God's blessings to each of us.



Members:

Beauchaine, Lois

Beck, Nancy

Dewey, Joyce

Elzy, Dorothy

Hanson, Beverly

Holmen, Deb

Przywara, Deb

Schmidt, Noreen

Stephen, Bev

Celebration Circle

Meeting: 3rd Thursday of the month at 7pm

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Gather magazine

Special projects: LWR personal care kits, Monthly offerings to financially support many Bethel and community programs

Contact: Janet Johnson

Celebration Circle centers its purpose of connecting members with God through prayer and monthly Bible Study taken from Gather magazine. By discussing God's word and praying together, members are empowered to cope with the challenges and joys of daily living as they are in relationship to family, friends, and co-workers in jobs and volunteer activities.

Members of our Circle are committed to caring, listening to the concerns of our member's emotional, physical, social, and spiritual needs of themselves, their families, friends and career colleagues. The group participation is supported by a monthly prayer list. We also gather socially with our significant others for a potluck picnic in August, and four other times a year at a restaurant. Joyous laughter, smiles, and humor are present with every gathering.

CELEBRATION CIRCLE



Members:

Borgwardt, Joanne
Dunn, Heather
Fahl, Nancy
Hahn, Sherri
Hrovat, Jeanne
Johnson, Janet
Kennedy, Kris
Kruse, Helen
Mowbray, Alice
Richardson, Jeannette
Sprecher, Flora
Starkey, Sharon
Thomley, Jo
Young, Nancy

Compassion Circle

Meeting: 2nd Wednesday of the month at 6pm

Meeting place: Bethel

Bible study: Books selected by circle members. Currently we are using the Life Guide Bible study titled *Parables*.

Special projects:

- Lutheran World Relief Soap Collection and Personal/Baby/School Kit participation
- Socks for Love in memory of Pastor Curt Everson to benefit Homeless Ministry
- Volunteer at Second Harvest Food Bank and our Bethel Food Pantry

Contact: Jeanne Gill, Patty Saxe or Faith Kelley

Compassion Circle's purpose is to strengthen our faith and understanding of the Bible by reading and studying together, supporting one another, praying together and reaching out to others with care and compassion. We are always open to new ways to show our compassion. New members are always welcome!

Financial Support:

- Sponsor campership for Bethel Horizons
- Contribute to Women of the ELCA missions and ministry and other Women's Ministry Offerings



Members:

Eckblad, Judy

Gill, Jeanne

Harp, Nicole

Huber, Lisa

Jackson, Holly

Kelley, Faith

Pohlman, Betty

Saxe, Patty

Semmann, Lisa

Smith, Kathy

Wood Holmes, Karyn

Dorcas Circle

Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9am (none in June, July & August).

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Books chosen by circle members. Our current Bible study is a Life Guide Bible studies book: *Miracles, Signs of God's Glory*.

Contact: Betty Ingwell

Dorcas Circle came into existence in 1964 with the purpose of Bible study, mission and friendship. There are various mission projects which we support such as School and Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief, school supplies for homeless children of Madison, Bethel's Homeless ministry, in need Bethel families, camperships for Bethel Horizon, plus many other projects as we see a need.

Another part of our mission is to support each other during times of emotional and spiritual needs. We are there to lend a hand wherever it is needed.

Bible study is an important part of our meeting to strengthen our faith and confirm our beliefs. The blessings we receive with the friendship we share are a very significant part of our lives.



Members:

Derauf, Nancy

Dopkins, Barbara

Gordon, Barb

Griffin, Judi

Herritz, Nancy

Ingwell, Betty

Leverentz, Donna

Nicholson, Mary Jane

Pochebut, Jeanette

Grace Circle

Meeting: 1st Monday of the month at 5pm

Meeting place: local restaurants

Bible study: *Gather* magazine

Special projects: Potluck picnic in summer and a Christmas party

Contact: Carolyn Ninedorf

Grace Circle was first organized in January 2003. We chose the name of “Grace” for our circle so we would remember that we are saved by God’s grace not by works. (Ephesians 2:8 “For by Grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God—not because of works, lest any man should boast.”)

Our Circle has chosen to support the Bethel Food Pantry as our mission opportunity. Our circle is very involved with the Bhutanese ministry. Grace Circle is accepting new members.



Heavenly Members: Lee Henke, Margaret Gray & Carisa Stanek

Members:

Clarke, Carol
Ellingson, Joanne
Harrison, Sandy
McKinney, Betsey
Ninedorf, Carolyn
Stoikes, Joan
Tyne, Mary Lou

Hope Circle

Meeting: Selected Sundays 10:05–11:05am

Meeting place: Bethel

Contact: Anne Murphy



Members:

Boettinger, Karen
Borgelt, Amie
Campbell, Emily
Collins, Mya
Derr, Jill
Fitzpatrick, Faith
Genskow, Martha
Jolly, Michelle
Moe, Melinda
Murphy, Anne
Paradisin, Anne Marie
Stoneman, Jane
Straus, Stephanie
Thompson, Tonya
Young, Kate
Zabel, Janine

Inspiration Circle

Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month at 9:30am

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Gather Magazine

Contact: Lynne Krainer

Inspiration Circle started in 2002 meeting on the 2nd Thursday of the month in our homes. Our Gather Magazine Bible Study strengthens our understanding and confirms our belief in God. We reach out and support each other in close friendships, sharing joys and challenges. All members volunteer in a wide range of significant activities, giving time, energy, love and service as we see need.



Members:

Bernhardt, Carrie
Bromley, Joyce
Bulgrin, Susan
Christenson, Judy
DeMets, Kathy
Floeter, Jan
Hansen, Alice
Krainer, Lynne
Kulke, Bonnie
Pielage, Kathy
Prine, Connie
Ullsvik, Sue
White, Sally

Joy Circle

Meeting: 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Gather Magazine

Contact: Sharon Moses or Gisela Kutzbach

Joy Circle was formed in 2003. Once a month, we gather at one of our member's homes, scattered all over the city, for fellowship, much laughter, some tears, and tempting desserts. We strengthen our relationship with God and each other through Bible study and prayer. Throughout the year, our individual members experience the joy of service through a great many and diverse Bethel service and mission activities.



Members:

Hayes, Virginia (Ginny)

Kutzbach, Gisela

Leon, Ann

Meredith, Diane

Moses, Sharon

Wanless, Nancy

Rejoice Circle

Meeting: 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:15pm

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Books selected by circle members

Special projects: Bethel's Resettlement & Church Ladies Ministries, international women's projects

Contact: Margie Czechowicz

Rejoice Circle has been meeting for 30+ years for worship, discussion and laughter. Some projects we support are Lutheran World Relief, ELCA Good Gifts, Circle of Love, the Resettlement Ministry and Bethel's Church Ladies Ministry. Everyone is welcome.



Members:

Bunting, Candy
Czechowicz, Margie
Dzick, Mary Lou
Fox, Donna B
Gangstad, Liz
Gould, Karen
Murray, Sue
Poulson, Lori
Shanda, Jacqui
Stein, Sue
Thommesen, Kris
Tyne, Mary Lou
Ulteig, Donna
Wegert, Susan

Renew Circle

Meeting: 2nd Thursday of the month at 7pm

Meeting place: Bethel Sanctuary Lounge

Bible study: Gather magazine

Contact: Cristel Gjerde or Kathy Kube

The women of Renew Circle gather together for fellowship, Bible study, and service projects once monthly. We find that our time together, under the loving gaze of God, provides us with spiritual renewal and the energy to continue God's work in the world.

We have deliberately chosen to meet in the Bethel Sanctuary Lounge and keep the atmosphere relaxed, so that our time together and with God is not stressful or rushed.

Members:

Gjerde, Cristel
Kacvinsky, Aileen
Kube, Kathy
Lien, Joanne
Lund Rice, Dana
Natvig, Alice
Reagan, Dana

Seekers Circle

Meeting: 2nd Monday of the month at 1:30pm

Meeting place: Room 120 at Bethel

Bible study: Gather magazine

Contact: Judy Olson

Each year our special ministry centers on two big projects to provide extra items for the children whose families visit the Bethel Food Pantry.

1) We donate backpacks filled with school supplies to children of food pantry families each August.

2) We coordinate the collection and distribution of winter hats, scarves, mittens and gloves from the congregation each December. Child-size items are given to children of families visiting the Bethel food pantry. Adult size items are given to the people in our homeless ministry at Bethel.

Individuals in our circle are active in many ways at Bethel, including the Food Pantry, Horizons, sewing baptism blankets, the Homeless group, Feed & Read, Bethel Book Women, ushers, communion server, brat fest, Women's Coordinating Council, community meal program and Bethel Choir. Members of Seekers participate in the Caring For Social Justice group, the Financial Resources Team, and the Human Resources Team.

If you are interested in joining us, please contact one of us to confirm the location of our upcoming meetings. We are always happy to welcome new members to Seekers Circle.



Members:

Aradine, Carolyn
Bredlow, Donna
Fansler, Kris
Goff, Shari
Hanson, Ruth
Harding Weaver, Ruth
Holmes, Geri
Knoop, Sharon
Leibbrandt, Judy
Olson, Judy
Primus, Jan
Smith, Mary Anne
Willis, Mary Jo

Serenity Circle

Meeting: 3rd Monday of the month at 7pm

Meeting place: Culver's on Todd Drive

Bible study: Books chosen by circle members

Contact: Marti Treutelaar

**SERENITY
CIRCLE**



Members:

Bulgrin, Susan
Chybowski, Elly
Forde, Kathy
Hrovat, Sandy
Leonhart, Linda
Linehan, Fay
Moen, Heather
Orvick, Bonnie
Tennant, Renee
Treutelaar, Marti
Troutman, Helen

University Hill Farms Circle

Meeting: 4th Thursday of the month at 12:30pm

Meeting place: Members' homes

Bible study: Varies with Programs and Guests

Special projects: Christmas decoration set-up and take down at Oakwood University Woods

Contact: Jeanne Moren

After many years of shared Bible study and service, our University Hill Farms Circle remains an active Circle. We have scattered in our living locations but continue friendship and support to each other. We have grown and matured in our faith and invite others to join us.

Members:

Armstrong, Barb
Brennan, Mary
Buege, Cathy
Christenson, Judy
Evans, Jane
Forest, Betty
Halverson, Joan
Hansen, Alice
Hilsenhoff, Jane
Knuti, Sigrid
Kutzbach, Gisela
Moren, Jeanne
Munkwitz, Ruth
Napier, Barbara
Nelson, Marlin
Olson, Darlene
Rose, Sarah
Six, JoAnn
Suby, Donna
Underkofler, Dorie
Weihofen, Donna
Westervelt, Lu
White, Carolyn
Woit, Kathleen
Zingale, Joan

BLANKET WORKSHOP

This group began in 1969 and has assembled a total of 9,154 quilts for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The quilts can be used for warmth, as part of a tent, as a mat, room divider, poncho or pallet. Quilts have also been repurposed as a wedding dress and used to bury a loved one. Quilts are also given to hospital patients to provide comfort.

No sewing or quilting experience is necessary to join this group.

The Blanket Workshop meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, 9am–2pm at Bethel (two meetings in August on the 2nd and 4th Thursday and none in December). It is not necessary to be present the entire time or every time. Bring a sack lunch if you do stay through the lunch hour; coffee will be provided.

Quilt kits are available to sew at home to make quilt tops for the Blanket Workshop. These quilt kits consist of 48 (10.5 inch) squares to sew in a 6 X 8 block arrangement. Please contact Patty Saxe if interested in sewing a quilt top.

Contact: Jeanette Pochebut (608.244.8067) or Patty Saxe (608.835.9531 or buckygrad2@charter.net)



DONATIONS WELCOMED BY THE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

Here is a list of items that would be appreciated to help support Blanket Workshop. Clean out a closet, help the earth with recycling, and put your items to good use at Bethel.

Items that can be used by the blanket group to make blankets (quilts) for Lutheran World Relief:

- Fabric
- Any size clean blankets (regular or electric blankets are OK)
- Any size clean mattress pads
- Any size clean flat sheets (not fitted sheets)
- Draperies
- Thread
- Yarn

If you have items you want to donate, bring them to the reception desk at Bethel.

— Opportunities for New Women's Groups —

Would you like to be a part of a small group of women with similar interests? A great way to feel a closer connection with Bethel and make some new friends is to attend meetings of a special group.

The women's ministry at Bethel is always open to the idea of forming new groups – to volunteer together, to explore ideas, or to work on a project. Possibilities could include holistic health discussion, knitting group, mothers of school age children, prayer group, or hiking.

Contact WCC President Kris Fansler if you would like to participate in starting a new women's group.

Volunteer Opportunities in the Women's Ministry

1. Are you interested in leading a Bible study group? If you think you might like to be a leader of a Bible study, contact WCC President Kris Fansler to express your interest and discuss some options.
2. Do you know how to knit or crochet? Your skills could be put to good use in a couple different ways.
 - a. If you visit www.bethel-madison.org, in the women's ministry area you can find directions for making baby hats or baby sweaters to be included in the Lutheran World Relief kits that are assembled each fall for distribution throughout the world. Patterns are also available from the Reception Desk.
 - b. Winter hats, scarves, gloves and mittens are collected each December and donated to people who attend our homeless ministry and to families who visit the Bethel food pantry. Look for information in the *Bethelite* in November and December.
3. Warm socks for the homeless can be donated to the "Socks Of Love" collection in memory of Pastor Curt Everson in February.

Special Events

Women's Retreat: Each year the women's ministry at Bethel holds a retreat. The retreat is usually held at Bethel Horizon's camp. It is an opportunity to meet new Bethel friends, hear an inspirational speaker, and enjoy some of the activities unique to Horizons. Look for announcements in the *Bethelite*.

Advent By Candlelight: Our Christmas season event, Advent By Candlelight, is held in early December. This very popular event always includes an inspiring speaker, beautiful Christmas table decorations, some good desserts, and Christmas music. You can participate as a guest, as a table hostess, or as a member of the planning committee.

Other events may be scheduled during the year. Check www.bethel-madison.org and the *Bethelite* for information about all events.

Women of the ELCA

The Women's Ministry at Bethel is affiliated with the national Women of the ELCA, the South Central Wisconsin Synodical Women's Organization, and the East/West conference.

What is W-ELCA? It stands for Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. This organization includes Lutheran women who gather in over 7,000 locations in the U.S. and the Caribbean, for service, study, advocacy, fellowship and more!

Purpose: As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action, and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society, and the world.

Mission: The mission of the Women of the ELCA is to mobilize women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

Volunteers in ELCA churches across the country carry out the work of Women of the ELCA organization. The national W-ELCA office is in Chicago. This organization belongs to the women; it is self-incorporated. No money from the ELCA budget is given to Women of the ELCA; all monetary support comes from the women themselves.

At their triennial convention, W-ELCA delegates lift up issues they would like the organization to address. The next triennial convention is July of 2020 in Phoenix, AZ. Many resources are available through the Women of the ELCA. Visit their web site to find a variety of resources and inspiration (womenoftheelca.org).

South Central WI Synodical Women's Organization (SWO)

SWO, the Synodical Women's Organization, is a legislative and programmatic entity that assists the women's ministries in affiliated congregations to fulfill the purpose of Women of the ELCA. The South Central Wisconsin SWO is divided into nine conferences: Baraboo, Barneveld, Beaver Dam, Beloit, East/West, Elkhorn, Monroe, Southlake, Southwest.

South Central WI SWO has a convention every two years. Each active church unit sends one delegate. At this Biennial Convention, SWO board officers and delegates to the Triennial Convention are elected.

The South Central SWO publishes *The Trumpeter*. It is a quarterly newsletter providing information about women's ministry activities in our synod. Women who are part of the Bethel Women's Ministry email group receive the Trumpeter by email. To join that email group, contact Deacon Lisa Huber or the WCC President or email welcatrumpeter@gmail.com.

In 2019 the president of the South Central W-ELCA Synodical Board is Helen Sheahan of Madison. She can be contacted at 608.692.7553 or sheahan1@sbcglobal.net. New officers and board members are elected at the Biennial Convention, held in odd-numbered years.

East/West Conference

The WELCA East/West Conference was established at the 1999 biennial convention of the South Central Wisconsin Synod Board as a merger of the Eastlake and Westlake conferences. The coordinator of this group is Polly Carter of Madison. She can be contacted at cutey@chorus.net. Events and activities are announced in *The Trumpeter*.

Lutheran World Relief Projects

Thousands of women, men, and children are – in very real ways – using the time, talents and treasures that God has blessed them with to serve our neighbors around the world. They are making quilts, assembling School, Personal Care, Baby Care, and Fabric kits, and gathering new bar soap. In parishes and homes, they are drinking Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, and, Hot Cocoa, and eating Fair Trade Chocolate. They are purchasing fairly-traded handcrafts to give as gifts and use in their own homes.

Please follow these guidelines for all LWR kits.

Do not add other items, or omit any items listed! All items should be in new and good condition with the exception of gently used, clean and unstained baby clothes. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags. Remove all excess packaging, paper and plastic tags.

Do not donate items with any religious symbols, messages or a congregation's name. Do not donate any items decorated with a U.S. flag, patriotic or military symbols or references to the armed forces, including camouflage.

School Kits

A School Kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war. School Kits may help parents continue their children's education, even while living in a refugee camp. A School Kit may also be used in adult literacy classes.

Include the following items in each school kit (absolutely no extra supplies):

- Four 70 sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8" x 10 ½"; no loose-leaf paper
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- One 30-centimeter ruler or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other (preferably flat; no hump in the middle)
- One pencil sharpener
- Five new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers, secure together with rubber band
- Five ballpoint pens (no gel ink), secure together with rubber band
- One eraser approximately 2 ½" long
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One sturdy drawstring backpack approximately 14"W x 17"H with shoulder straps, no standard backpacks. (Blessings Circle will provide Bethel's drawstring backpacks or make your own using the pattern at the LWR website at <https://applications.lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/SKAssemblyInstructions-2018.pdf>.) Pack all items compactly at the bottom of the backpack, cinch the top opening closed and fold over.

Personal Care Kits

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. A Personal Care Kit can help children, men, and women who are refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Include the following items in each personal care kit:

- One lightweight bath towel (between 20" x 40" and 27" x 52"), dark color recommended
- Two bath-sized bars (4-5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-sized toothbrush, in original packaging (Toothbrush multi-packs may be repackaged by enclosing one toothbrush per sealed business envelope)
- One sturdy WIDE-TOOTH comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers, attached file optional; remove packaging (do not substitute just a metal file)

Wrap items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

Fabric Kits

Fabric Kits supply vocational training programs with fabric for teaching sewing, and for newly trained tailors to launch their sewing businesses. The training programs have sewing machines so fabric and thread are priorities.

Include the following items in each Fabric Kit:

- Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (no knits or 100% polyester). Fabric should have no stains or holes and be cut into pieces measuring:
 - 2 & 1/4 yards of 60" wide fabric or
 - 3 yards of 44" wide fabric, or
 - 4 yards of 36" wide fabric
- Two spools of matching, general purpose thread, 250-300 yards each

Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second piece of fabric and tie with STURDY string, ribbon, yarn, or a strip of fabric.

Note: The two pieces of fabric don't have to be the same in width as long as the pieces are of the specified length and width.

Baby Care Kits

In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world, gifts of Baby Care Kits convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers. Baby Care Kits are also distributed as part of LWR health initiative programs to encourage prenatal care.

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) OR romper defined by LWR as a one-piece garment with leg coverings (without feet), preferably with bottom and leg snaps for diaper changes OR top/pant sets (Please note shorts are not acceptable as part of top/pants set)
- Two receiving blankets, medium weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn (Minimum 36" and up to 52" square)
- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One sweater, jacket or sweatshirt with a hood or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- Two bath-sized bars (4-5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original packaging (pediatrician recommends Dove)
- Two diaper pins or two large, metal safety pins
- One hand towel, dark color recommended

Clean, gently used and stain-free baby clothes may be substituted for new.

Wrap all items in one of the receiving blankets and secure compact bundle with diaper pins.

Baby Care Kit Tips:

Sizes 6 to 24 months may be used. Varying the sizes is useful.

Sweaters may be knitted or crocheted from leftover yarn, or made from heavy double knits or fleece. Select a pattern that suits your skill level. Preferred styles have buttons or ties down the front. If knitting or crocheting receiving blankets, including one knit/crocheted and one flannel blanket will provide maximum versatility.

Diapers can be made from flannel or even by recycling t-shirts. See instructions and pattern at <https://applications.lwr.org/wp-content/uploads/BCKAssemblyInstructions-2018.pdf>. See LWR Diaper Tip Sheet.

Onesies or footed sleepers can be converted into t-shirts and footless sleepers by simply cutting and hemming or serging the waist or ankles.

Easy patterns for crochet and knit hats and regular cardigan and hooded sweaters are available on Bethel's website at www.bethel-madison.org/post/lutheran-world-relief-baby-carekits.

Soap Project

People in many parts of the world cannot buy soap because it is unavailable or too costly. Without soap, maintaining the level of cleanliness necessary to reduce disease and infection is very difficult, especially where people live in close quarters, like in refugee camps.

Early in Lutheran World Relief's history, diligent Lutherans collected all kinds of soap to send far and wide around the world -- new soap, used soap, homemade soap, soap slivers, motel soap, convention soap, any kind of soap that could clean soiled hands, wash weary bodies, and help people in distress.

Current Soap Demand:

Although the supply here continues to be strong, demand overseas is changing. Soap use overseas includes schools, hospitals, clinics, households, and refugee camps. New bars of unwrapped soap can be used in any of these places. Used soap and homemade soap, as lovely as it is, is judged by some to be inappropriate for surgical scrub or other sensitive medical uses. In addition, health officials in some countries simply ask that all soap be new.

Current LWR Policy:

A brand new bar of soap contributes to dignity and cleanliness. LWR accepts new bars of any brand soap in its original wrapping. All bar sizes are accepted, however bath-size bars (4-5 oz.) are highly preferred.

Shipping Costs

Lutheran World Relief's approximate cost to handle and ship overseas:

- 1 school kit \$1.40
- 1 LWR Fabric Kit \$1.00
- 1 LWR Baby Care Kit \$1.30
- An 18-pound carton of soap \$11.00.
- 1 Mission Quilt \$2.25
- 1 personal care kit \$2.65

LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund: Donating to the LWR Quilt and Kit Shipping Fund is another way to participate in Lutheran World Relief. See the following web address for information on how to donate: <https://lwr.org/donate/shippingfund>.

"The greatest among you will be your servant."

Matthew 23:11