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Submitted by: Eileen Lane, Quilting Ministry Volunteer at St. John Lutheran Church, Allentown

The results are in for our Quilt Survey - and it is AMAZING the wonderful gifts of comfort and love that our congregations across the Synod share with others. Each year more than 1000 quilts, lap blankets, baby quilts and other blankets are made and donated to a host of charities from the 17 congregations who shared their stories. And the wonderful stories we have to tell!

The **oldest** quilting ministry was shared by **Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Lehigh** - Trinity Knotters. They started in 1965 from an article about using coats and suits to make quilts. Initially, they started sewing at home and then moved into Luther Hall where they still meet today. They have a brick on the Good Samaritan Plaza at the Baltimore LWR Headquarters. Their quilts are shared with Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and locally for graduating students, Carbon County Action Committee, Sanctuary for Veterans and others. In addition to quilts, they make baby, personal care and school kits for LWR.

Our Quilting groups have posted some very impressive numbers! The most annual quilt volume was posted by **Christ Lutheran in Hellertown** providing 180 quilts and lap quilts to a variety of organizations including Project Linus, Hospice, Habitat for Humanity, their internal faith community and fundraising. **St. James Lutheran in Coopersburg** – started in 2013 - reported 155 annual quilts donated to Turning Point, Bethany Ministries and to LWR prior to the pandemic. They have also made baby and personal care kits for LWR. **St. John's Lutheran in Slatington** reported 135 quilts and lap robes donated to LWR and to Chemo Bag, Gracedale, Topton Lutheran Home, Ripple, Sayre Center for Children, Kids Peace, Light House and Rescue Mission. **St. John's Lutheran in Hamburg** reported 100 quilts donated to LWR and the Topton Home.

Our Quilters are very talented, making a host of additional items to benefit our community. **Trinity Ev. Lutheran in Topton** – Compassionate Crafters - makes a wide variety of crafts including fidget blankets and sleeves, crafters critters, prayer lap blankets and shawls in addition to quilts! Their handmade items are donated to LWR, Lutheran Home, Lehigh Valley and St. Luke's Hospitals and Arden Court. Newly started in 2022, the Compassionate Crafters donated 114 items that year and 218 items in 2023!

Our quilts are shared near and far – across the USA and around the world. **St. Peter's Ev. Lutheran in Reinerton** – Tyers of Comfort - have made over 2000 quilts since their start in 1999. Among the groups to whom they donate quilts is the Navajo Lutheran Mission in AZ and LWR. The group is led by Kathryn Lewis, founder and chairperson, who is 90 years old and going strong! Tyers of Comfort also have a sidewalk brick at the LWR Warehouse in Maryland.

These are just a few of the stories from our Quilting family across the Synod and there are more stories to tell from the rest of the groups – we will include them next time. On **September 21st**, to facilitate donation of quilts and kits to Lutheran World Relief, we are hosting our **first LWR Ingathering at the Synod Office**. If Allentown is a convenient drive from your location, we will be collecting boxed quilt and kit donations from

9AM till Noon. A truck will be parked at the Synod office for you to drop off your donations. We will also have refreshments so you can meet other quilters and kit makers while you are there. Let's see if the NEPA Synod can fill the truck!

