

## Lutherans are Recycling



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What do you get when you connect old blue jeans, scraps of material, old curtains, old bed sheets and many volunteer hours? The answer is... warmth. Each year, January to April are busy months for many Lutheran ladies as they eat, chat and recycle used materials into beautiful warm quilts.



Give Lutheran ladies a sewing machine, scissors and food and stand back. The sorting, cutting, sewing and tying quilts at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Clarinda is each Monday, 9:00-2:00 from January to March. Each year, in those twelve short weeks, the amazing group of 12-15 ladies make 150 - 200 quilts. The warmth of their volunteering was shared with Lutheran World Relief, their local community center, Orphan Grain Train and the Omaha Open Door Mission.

Whenever I ask LWML ladies what the best part about quilting is, they smile and say, "The food." The Immanuel ladies take this to a new level. They have a food coordinator! She has the honor of selecting a menu and each person brings an ingredient and the coordinator puts it together for their lunch. Pastor Larry Boye has it made as he is invited to join them for lunch. One of the group's favorite meals is when each takes home a can of food after the label has been removed. They then have to make something from that can and bring it back the next week.



Another group of happy quilters, known as Community Quilters, can be found at Peace Lutheran Church in Glidden. Peace LWML quilters invite women in the community to join them each Tuesday to make quilts.

Great things happen when twenty plus

women get together each Tuesday for five months. The beautiful 110 full size quilts and 153 baby/lap robes made this year are offering warmth to local families, nursing homes, Omaha Veterans Hospital, Abuse Center, Agape Pregnancy Center, Orphan Grain Train, and Lutheran World Relief. Also each child baptized at Peace is warmed in the love of a beautiful quilt that they receive.

What is the 'legal age' for quilting? Many of you may think it is 60 or so. Not true if you are Jo Seltz from St. Paul Lutheran Church in Fort Dodge. For the past ten years, Jo has been the youth director of St. Paul Lutheran Church. Jo works with grades 3-12 conducting after school programming, teaching confirmation classes, teaching Bible classes and leading the high school youth group.

Jo has a very unique after-school ministry on Tuesday and Thursday for grades 4-12. Fifteen youth are involved in making quilts.

Jo said, "A fourth grader may be confused when they start their first quilt in the fall, but there is such a change and so much joy in seeing their confidence and feeling of accomplishment by spring." Jo's goal for the after-school program is to offer fellowship, Bible study and a feeling of accomplishment. The first quilt they make and design, usually 50"X 70", is for them to keep and enjoy. The next ones they make are given to graduating high school seniors who are members at St. Paul. As they receive their quilt, a note to the seniors reminds them that they are wrapped in the love of St. Paul Lutheran Church but more importantly in the love of Jesus Christ.

May 31 will mark the end of Jo's title as youth director at St. Paul. When asked her future plans, Jo said, "I am retiring to destinations unknown at this point." Please check out [http://www.idwlcms.org/publications/the\\_monthly/may/2009/ioway.pdf](http://www.idwlcms.org/publications/the_monthly/may/2009/ioway.pdf) for more unique and amazing ministry ideas from Jo Seltz.

YOU are invited to a different kind of warmth! How about spending a week in sunny California from December 28 - January 4? Be part of the amazing ministry of decorating the only Christian float in the famous Rose Bowl parade.

For information and the registration form: [http://www.idwlcms.org/ministry\\_areas/ioway/information/petal\\_pushers\\_registration\\_2010.pdf](http://www.idwlcms.org/ministry_areas/ioway/information/petal_pushers_registration_2010.pdf)

Special bonus for LWML members: Half of the registration can be paid by a WISHES grant. Register today. First come, first serve.

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