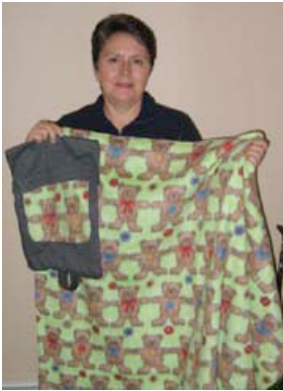


CARING FOR KIDS

"Quilts, Coins and Prayers for Children"

What then should we do? Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do like wise. Luke 3:10-11



Description

Caring for Kids is a project that will assist our companions, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Malawi (ELCM), in caring for the increasing number of orphans in Malawi. In *Caring for Kids*, prayers will be a focal point of the project. People in the NW Synod of Wisconsin will make a simple, child-sized quilt and a tote bag to carry it in.

"Coins" collected will be used to cover shipping costs of the blanket/bag to Malawi (when not hand carried by travelers), to purchase in Malawi personal care items such as tooth brushes/paste, combs, etc. as deemed appropriate by the ELCM, and to cover any shipping tax or surcharge that might be incurred. By purchasing the personal care items in Malawi, it will assure that all items are the same while helping the economy of Malawi and keeping the weight of the quilt/totes down.



Resources-People

In the NW Synod of Wisconsin, the project leader (Kathy Wohlers) will implement and maintain *Caring for Kids*. The project leader will also coordinate and arrange for shipping of the quilt bags (designated drop off points will be established, or provide instructions to congregations desiring to ship them on their own.) The project leader will be available to make presentations to interested groups. In Malawi, Diakonia Services will distribute the quilt bags during their regular visits to the feeding centers.

Resources-Financial

Each person or group sewing a quilt and tote bag will be responsible for purchasing the material or finding funding from others who perhaps may not sew but would like to support the project in this manner. A suggested dollar amount is requested for each bag to cover the cost of shipping and personal care items.



"Coins" collected for the personal care items will be sent to the synod office where it will be wired directly to the ELCM. Until shipping costs and dollar amounts needed for personal care items are determined a suggested amount is \$5 to \$10 for each quilt/tote bag. Decorated cans or boxes could be made available in individual congregations for anyone wishing to make donations to *Caring for Kids*.

Suggested prayer before beginning:

Loving God, Father of all, we are called to be the hands and feet of Jesus. Bless the work of our hands and hearts as we help to care for the children of Malawi. Grant that we may be filled with compassion, increasing our understanding of our companions through our labor of love, as our faith continues to grow. For as it has been told to us - "whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none. And whoever has food must do likewise." As the children hunger, may their bodies be fed. May these quilts be a symbol of your comforting love. Embrace them in the warmth of your love. In the name of Your Son, our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Suggested prayer to include tote pocket:

When I lie down. I go to sleep in peace; you alone, O Lord, keep me perfectly safe. Amen. Psalm 4:8

This would be a wonderful opportunity to involve the Sunday School children of your congregation by encouraging them to write simple prayers to be included in the tote pockets.

A photo of those who have made the quilt/tote could also be included in the pocket of each tote bag.

Caring for Kids---Blanket and Tote Bag

Supplies needed: 1 2/3 yard of fleece

Equal amount of lining for blanket back

(used upper or bottom sheets, light weight yard goods---nothing stretchy)

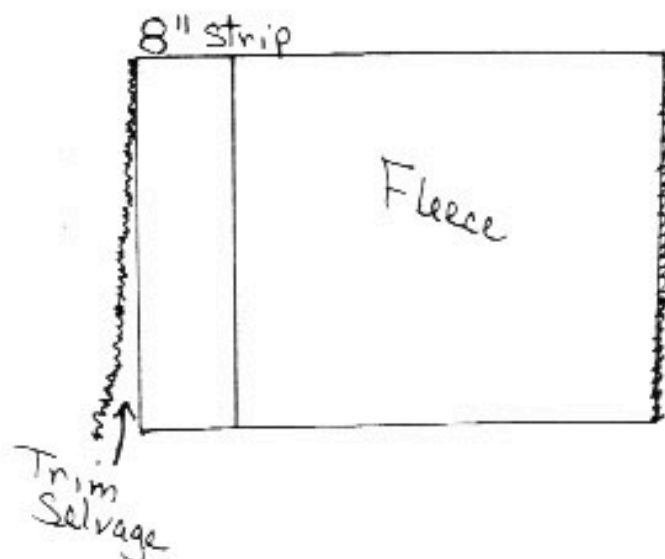
1 yard non-stretchy, sturdy fabric for tote bag* (not denim or corduroy)

*******This yardage will make two (2) tote bags if this is 45" wide**
however the second handle will have to be made from
the lining fabric

1 inch section of velcro

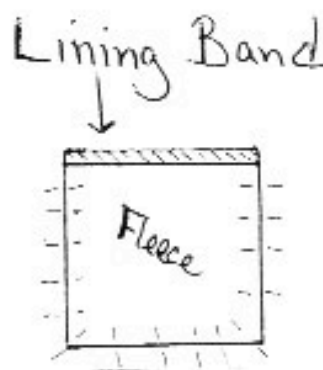
Blanket and pocket preparation:

1. Trim off the selvage from one edge of the fleece fabric.
2. Cut an 8" strip off that same edge.



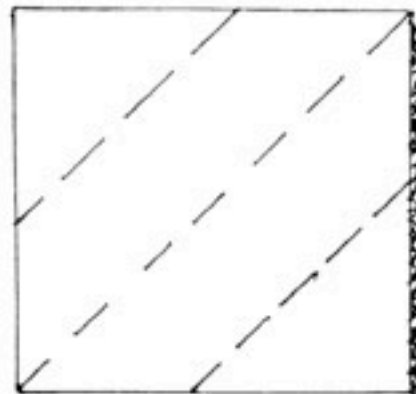
Pocket:

1. Cut one pocket 8"x8" from the 8" strip listed above.
2. Cut a lining piece to measure 8" x 10" from the same fabric you will be using for the blanket backing.
3. Layer these two pieces of fabric--wrong sides together matching three edges. Form a band on the top edge of the pocket by folding over the excess lining fabric twice. Edge stitch in place. See illustration:
4. Pin the remaining open edges of the pocket together and set aside without sewing.

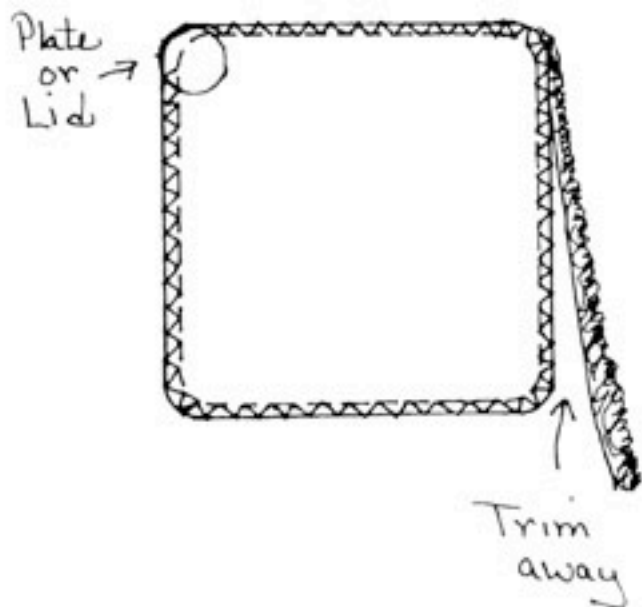


Blanket:

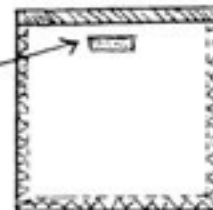
1. Layer the large piece of fleece and an equal amount of lining with **wrong** sides together. Keep the lining side toward you. **Do not** square off edges at this point.
2. Secure both pieces together in several places with safety pins or straight pins.
3. On the lining fabric draw three lines on the diagonal. Sew along these lines. See illustration:



4. Square off the edges of the blanket by marking with a pencil or light marker. Blanket should measure approximately 46" x 56". For ease in sewing you may round the corners of the blanket by using a large jar lid or small plate as a pattern. See illustration:



5. Pin around the outside edges of the 2 layers and sew together following the drawn lines. Either serge the edges or use a straight stitch followed with a zig zag stitch. (You may either straight stitch, trim to a scant 1/4" then zig zag **OR** straight stitch/zig zag and trim afterward using a pinking shears.
6. Now sew the three open edges of the **pocket** in the same manner as in step #5 above.
7. Sew a piece of velcro to the pocket front as shown in the illustration.



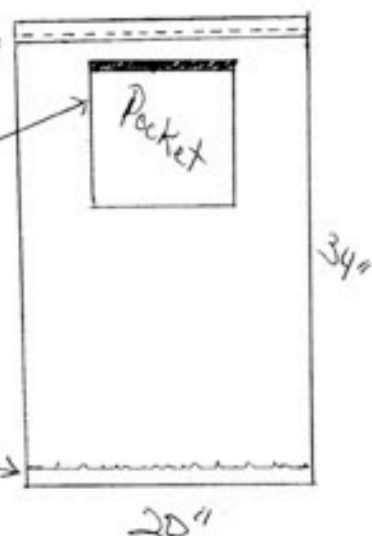
Tote Bag:

1. Cut a piece of fabric to measure 20" X 34".
(use 34" for the lengthwise grain of fabric)

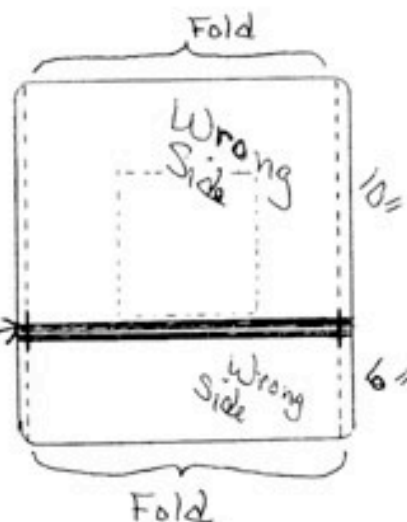
2. On one end fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ " two times and press.
Sew along the open edge.

3. On this end, on the outside, measure down 1".
Place the open edge of the pocket here.
Center it to the bag. Sew in place.

4. On the opposite end of the bag fold in $\frac{1}{2}$ " one
time and press. Do not sew at this point.

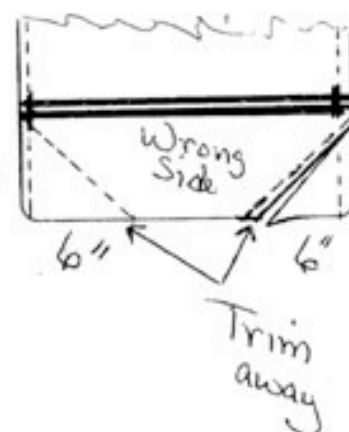


5. Fold the pocketed end back so right sides of tote bag
are together. This fold-over should measure about 10 inches.



6. Fold the opposite end back (right sides together) to meet
the edge of the first folded piece. This is approximately
a 6" fold. Pin the sides seams in place and sew both seams.
Reinforce seams where the two edges meet—both sides of bag.
See illustration.

7. Measure in 6" from the corners of the smallest end.
Draw a line. Sew across the slants, trim seams
and corners. See illustration.



8. Turn the bag right side out, press the smallest end flap and
edge stitch around the outer edge as well as the inner opening.



