
NEWSLETTER

Comforter Ministry, Inc.



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles; so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5

A letter from Su

I hope you had a lovely summer - a summer filled with family, friends, and fun. Dave and I enjoyed having our Canadian daughter and grandchildren here. Son-in-law had to stay back in Ottawa but will come, Lord willing, for American Thanksgiving. We are already looking forward to their November visit :)

Visits from TX and MN friends and IL cousins were a wonderful part of this summer, as well as, my visit to friends in IN, FL, and NC.

Not everyone, however, has had a fun-filled summer. For some, the summer included health issues, treatments, and emotional struggles. Please remember these precious souls in your prayers, dear reader.



Generational Blessings!

My parents and my granddaughter together this summer at our log home in northern Wisconsin looking at Hosanna’s Memory Book she put together herself about her family’s trip to Germany this past May.

What a blessing for Great Opa, Great Oma, Hosanna, AND me!

Thank you Lord!

I would like to make mention of the quilt picture on the cover of

A mission of comfort and compassion, reaching out to women with cancer with God’s Word and the love of the Comforter through journals and quilts.

this Autumn issue of CMN - Congratulations, Phyllis F of Mukwonago, WI for making and donating the 500th CM quilt! She and her husband enjoyed an anniversary trip to Africa a couple of years ago and she brought back African fabric. CM has been the recipient of several of her unique, African themed quilts!

Autumn Blessings!

Su

With a Thankful Heart . . .

I thank my God every time I remember you. Philippians 1:3-5

As of September 1, 2017, 118 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 509 comforters that have comforted over 690* women with cancer from 38 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, and Japan. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

Quilters.....		Recipients.....			
Alaska	2	Alaska	4	Tennessee	2
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	6	Texas	78
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	5
Arizona	1	California	17	Washington	7
California	1	Colorado	9	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	297
Colorado	2	Florida	18	Wyoming	1
Florida	1	Georgia	3		
Illinois (QG)	1	Idaho	2		
Illinois	1	Illinois	27		
Iowa	1	Indiana	8	Australia	1
Kansas	1	Iowa	11	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	6	Japan	1
Michigan	6	Kentucky	7	Ontario, Canada	5
Minnesota	5	Michigan	43		
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	65		
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	3		
		Montana	1		
Nevada	1	Nebraska	9		
North Carolina	1	Nevada	6		
North Dakota	2	New Jersey	1		
Ohio	2	New York	4		
Ohio (QG)	1				
South Dakota (QG)	1	North Carolina	8		
		North Dakota	3		
Texas	3	Ohio	8		
Texas (QG)	2	Oklahoma	7		
		South Carolina	1		
		South Dakota	7		
Washington	1				
Wisconsin	46				
Wisconsin (QG)	15				
Wisconsin (LGP)	1				
Wyoming	1				
Ontario, Canada (QG)	1				

*Several comforters have been given on behalf of the Comforter Ministry, but I have not been given further information as to names of recipients, addresses, etc.

QG=Quilt Group

LGP=Lutheran Girl Pioneers

Prayers . . .

The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective. James 5:16

- ♥ Pray for a cure for CANCER
- ♥ Pray for women who have been diagnosed with cancer
- ♥ Pray for the Comforter Ministry

Gifts Received . . .

And whatever you do; whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3:17

- ♥ **Dad and Mom N**, Arbor Vitae, WI for helping me with the mailing of the Summer Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter – **Thanks so much, Dad and Mom!**
- ♥ **Linda J**, Manitowoc, WI for lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you!**
- ♥ **Carla B**, Elkhorn, WI for more lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you!**
- ♥ **Jackie S and friends**, Bay City, MI for making and donating MORE lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you, ladies!**
- ♥ **Nancy O**, Cleveland, WI for MORE lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank You!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since June 1, 2017 – **Jarret and Karen G**, Duluth, MN; **Elise S**, Two Rivers, WI; **Jan K**, Blomkest, MN; **Donna B**, Mishicot, WI; **Barbara S**, Inver Grove Heights, MN; **Gertrud K**, Cocoa Beach, FL; **Margo S**, S. Milwaukee, WI; **Beverly K**, Pine River, WI. **Thank You! Thank You!**

CM Basics

Requester's Basic Instruction

- If you know of a woman with cancer whom you would like to receive a CM comforter and journal you may contact Comforter Ministry, Inc. and request they be sent to her, providing the recipient's name and complete mailing address. A cover letter will be included, stating YOU are the one requesting they be sent.

Quilter(s) Basic Instructions

- Make your quilt according to CM “Criteria for Making and Donating a Comforter” (criteria by request to CM or go to CM Website). Make sure your name, city, state and date you finished your quilt are displayed in some permanent method on the back of your quilt.
- Request CM journal, and fill out “Greetings from the Quilter” page of journal.
- Provide three (3) colored pictures (preferably all the same) of your quilt.
- Send Quilt, Journal and Pictures to Comforter Ministry, Inc.
- All materials, including postage are covered by Quilter(s).

Recipient's Basic Instructions

Between the cover letter and CM journal all details are provided and explained, including the following:

- who made the request CM comforter/journal be sent to you
- brief explanation of CM
- what to do with the comforter/journal
- when ready to do so, you or your family have several options, including 1) sending comforter/journal back to Comforter Ministry, Inc. 2) sending them on to another woman with cancer 3) keeping both – With option 1 or 2, postage is covered by recipient or recipient's family.
- what to do with the comforter/journal before sending them back to CM or on to another woman with cancer

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit” (Romans 15:13).

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since June 1, 2017 - **Lorraine S and St. Paul Quilters**, Algoma, WI; **Heidi B**, Neenah, WI; ***500th Quilt-Phyllis F**, Mukwonago, WI; **Elenore G**, San Jose, CA; **Carolyn J and Faith In Action Quilters**, Rochester, MN; ***Nancy O**, Cleveland, WI.
Thank you, Ladies! ***Welcome, Nancy!** Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click **More-Photo Gallery**.



54th Annual LWMS Convention in Orlando, FL June 22-25, 2017 -

I attend this convention regularly each year but the first time the CM Display was included in the LWMS Display Room along with other WELS mission endeavors and ministries. I pray I will be included in future LWMS Conventions :) Thanks to my husband, Dave, for helping me “man” the display and CM recipient, Carla B from Rowlett, TX, as well!

THANK YOU, QUILTERS - KATHY D, SHAWANO, WI; PHYLLIS F, MUKWONAGO, WI; JUDY A, WISCONSIN RAPIDS, WI; KATHY M, AURORA, IL - YOUR QUILTS COVERED MY DISPLAY TABLE AND WERE ADMIRER BY ALL!

WORDS TO SHARE

Thank you so much for this ministry...Marilyn M called today and thanked me. I can't believe how many lives you have touched and how many people are being prayed for. Marilyn was thankful there are so many prayers going up. Thank you, Jan K

THANK YOU, JAN, FOR YOUR WORDS OF SUPPORT AND ENCOURAGEMENT!

THANK YOU, CAROLYN J AND FAITH IN ACTION QUILTERS - ROCHESTER, MN!

Ladies, remember to check out the CM Prayer List on the CM Web site, under News, Notes, and Newsletters, and pray, pray, pray! It is very much appreciated by many!

Dear Su, I humbly thank you and the ladies at Emmauel Lutheran Church for sending us this beautiful quilt. The colors are so brilliant and it was also functional to keep my mom's feet warm. Your care and prayers have touched my heart and I will pray for your continued efforts on this wonderful ministry. May God keep you in His care. Susan P

THANK YOU, SUSAN, FOR YOUR WORDS AND PRAYERS!

THANK YOU TABITHA QUILTERS FROM EMMANUEL LUTHERAN, OWATONNA, MN!



A sincere THANK YOU to Jane P, Ginny A, and Mom N!
One lovely June day, I served them lunch and afterward they helped me with several CM projects needed for my CM Display Table at the LWMS Convention in Orlando, FL being held later that month...a productive and pleasant day!

Sharing What I Know . . .

Because the Comforter Ministry’s mission is to reach out to women with cancer, each Comforter Ministry Newsletter will include information about a specific cancer or a related subject. By being better informed about cancer, my hope is that readers will be aided in detecting cancer in regard to themselves and others and, if necessary, know where to go for further information and qualified assistance.

BREAST CANCER

For a number of years October has been known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. I thought I would use this Autumn Issue of CMN to focus on the subject - nothing exhaustive as there is plenty of information out there for you to read and digest.

Five Things to Tell Your Friends About Breast Cancer -

1. All women can get breast cancer - even those who have no family history of the disease.
2. The two most important factors for breast cancer are being a woman and growing older.
3. Women diagnosed with early breast cancer, when the cancer is small and has not spread, have a high chance of surviving it. Mammograms are the best way to find breast cancer early. Get one every year starting at age 40. If you notice any breast changes, tell your doctor without delay.
4. You can help reduce your chances of developing breast cancer by engaging in regular physical activity, maintaining a healthy weight, and limiting alcohol intake.
5. Through early detection and improved treatments, more women than ever are surviving breast cancer.

Three Steps to Finding Breast Cancer Early -

1. **Mammograms**

Yearly mammograms are recommended starting at age 40 and continuing for as long as a woman is in good health.

2. **Clinical Breast Exam**

Clinical breast exams by your doctor or nurse should be part of a periodic health exam, about every three years for women in their 20s and 30s, and every year for women 40 and older.

3. **Breast Self Awareness**

Women should know how their breasts normally feel and report any breast change promptly to their doctor or nurse. Breast self-exam is an option for women starting in their 20s.

Women at Increased Risk

Women at increased risk (e.g., family history, genetic tendency, past breast cancer) should talk with their doctors about the benefits and limitations of starting mammograms earlier or having additional tests such as breast ultrasound and MRI.

American Cancer Society
www.cancer.org

REMEMBER - IF YOU KNOW OF A WOMAN DIAGNOSED WITH CANCER AND WOULD LIKE ME TO SEND HER A COMFORTER MINISTRY QUILT AND JOURNAL, PLEASE CONTACT ME



Another fun thing this past summer was the visit of two different CM supporters and their husbands. Julie B from Neenah, WI came bearing a lovely quilt for CM and Carla B from Elkhorn, WI (Carla and I in picture) brought handmade note cards/envelopes that she and friends made and donated to CM. I loved that they felt comfortable calling to say they would be “in the area” and would like to stop by the cabin :)

QUILTS***QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*****QUILTS*******

The need for quilts for the Comforter Ministry is on-going, as you can imagine - without quilts there is NO quilt ministry/mission. I can never state enough, on a practical level or emotional level, what quilters and their dedication to CM with their labors of love mean to me. More importantly, though, is what it inevitably means to CM recipients, those women who have been diagnosed with cancer, women CM can touch with the love and comfort of God through a tangible thing such as a quilt. Spiritually speaking, the CM journal offers an immediate and eternal comfort only God, the source of all comfort, can provide. What a privilege we have to serve others! As I have mentioned before, I can purchase quilts if absolutely necessary (I have funds for that set aside) BUT I prefer sending a quilt made by someone who has a heart of compassion for others, that human touch that touches the soul of another which is such a beautiful part of this ministry/mission. THANK YOU, DEAR LADIES!

OTHER WAYS YOU CAN HELP...

- Display a CM poster at your church, school, quilt club, etc.
- CM brochures to add to tract racks, bulletin inserts, etc.
- Know of an event that could include a CM display
- CM Presentation and/or CM Prayer Gathering opportunities

...CONTACT ME! I am always looking for ways to get the word out about the Comforter Ministry and the blessing it offers women diagnosed with cancer. **WILL YOU HELP ME?**

THANKING GOD FOR THESE BLESSINGS!

Donation and encouraging note received from Abiding Faith Lutheran in Ft. Worth, TX

Free-will Donation from the women of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran in Tucson, AZ from a summer fellowship event held in June

A visit from Bill and Jean C-Milwaukee, WI, discussing some exciting plans to partner with Wisconsin Lutheran College for possible CM project funding and publicity (more on that in future CMN issues)

Words of Comfort . . .

This meditation and several to follow in future newsletters are reprinted with permission from a book written by Reverend Mark Gass. *Be Still 45 Days of Living in God's Stillness* is a “deeply personal devotion book...Pastor Mark Gass shares his 42-day journey at the bedside of his wife as she lay in a coma after surgery on a brain tumor. E-mails shared with his congregation and a network of supporters take readers inside the journey of a family holding on to Jesus' reminder to 'Be still' in all of life's troubles...” Let me know if you would like a copy of this book by Pastor Mark Gass.

“Cast all your anxiety on him for he cares for you.” 1 Peter 5:7

DAY 19

In his book *Lectures to my Students*, famous preacher Charles Spurgeon warns about the dangers of depression and discouragement in the public ministry: “Fits of depression come over most of us... The strong are not always vigorous, the wise not always ready, the brave not always courageous, and the joyous not always happy.”

Pastors are not immune to the temptations of discouragement. The greatest example of this is the prophet, Elijah. Having just accomplished a great victory over the prophets of the false god, Baal, and with many people turning back to faith in the true God, Elijah suddenly became depressed and ran away. Frank Graeff, a lively and exuberant Methodist preacher around the turn of the 20th century, faced his own struggle with depression after suffering from a series of heartaches. As joyful as he had once been, so great now was his darkness and sorrow. In the midst of that painful experience, he wrote the words of the hymn “Does Jesus Care?”

*Does Jesus care when my heart is pained
Too deeply for mirth or song,
As the burdens press, and the cares distress,
And the way grows weary and long?*

*Does Jesus care when my way is dark
With a nameless dread and fear?
As the daylight fades into deep night shades,
Does he care enough to be near?*

*Does Jesus care when I've tried and failed
To resist some temptation strong;
When for my deep grief I find no relief,
Though my tears flow all the night long?*

*Does Jesus care when I've said “goodbye”
To the dearest on earth to me,
And my sad heart aches till it nearly breaks -
Is it aught to Him? Does He see?*

The thing about this hymn is that each verse has a refrain to it. This hymn was really inspired by today's verse from 1 Peter, which encourages us to cast our cares on our God. In other words, we are to commit our burdens to the Lord. Philippians 4 reminds us not to be anxious about anything, but to come to the Lord in prayer. Spend time in the Word, and you will find a promise for every one of your needs. Does he care? Yes - we know the answer to be yes. How do we know? Take a look at the cross, and you see that he cares, as Graeff expressed in his hymn's refrain:

*Oh, yes, He cares, I know He cares,
His heart is touched with my grief;
When the days are weary, the long nights dreary,
I know my Savior cares.
(“Does Jesus Care?” from Songbook: Then Sings My Soul)*

