
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 pray this newsletter finds you well, dear reader. I have missed not being able to communicate with you these past several months but have much to share with you NOW!

Please note the picture to your right - A caring display of items made and donated by a LGP group from Brookfield, WI. I was overwhelmed by their caring hearts!



Other items to bring to your attention include:

- International Request - Quilt sent to a CM recipient in Switzerland!
- CM PowerPoint Presentation completed - I am looking forward to being invited to your next event and present CM :) Thank you, Sally V for making this possible!

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.

- Women with a heart for prayer, please pray regularly for CM recipients - List on CM Web site under News, Notes, and Newsletters (scroll down to list) or contact me for list.
- CM Display at LWMS Convention in Green Bay, WI June 21-24 - **COME SEE ME in the Display Room!**

Caring Hearts!

The girls of Christ the Lord Lutheran School, Lutheran Girl Pioneers (LGP) made and donated the above to CM along with quilt requests for 3 others, including a 3 year old Julia!

“Continue to grant them caring hearts, dear Lord Jesus, as they grow and serve You in all they do. Amen”

Summer Blessings!

Su

With a Thankful Heart . . .

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

As of June 1, 2018, 121 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 559 comforters that have comforted over 745* women with cancer from 38 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland. 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	86
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	6
Arizona	2	California	19	Washington	7
California	1	Colorado	10	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	327
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	13	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	6	Japan	1
Michigan	6	Kentucky	8	Ontario, Canada	5
Minnesota	6	Michigan	44	Switzerland	1
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	72		
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	3		
		Montana	1		
Nevada	1	Nebraska	10		
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)	16				
Wisconsin (LGP)	2				
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 diagnosed with cancer-See www.comforterministry.com under News, Notes, and Newsletters and scroll down to Prayer List
- ♥ 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 Winter Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter – **Thanks so much, Dad and Mom!**
- ♥ **Janelle, Sharon, and Rosie**, Tomahawk, WI for the beautiful note cards - **Thank you, Ladies!**
- ♥ **Lynnette H**, Manassas, VA - book of postage stamps and lots of words of encouragement - **Thank you, dear friend!**
- ♥ **Kathy Z, Christ the Lord Lutheran School, and Lutheran Girl Pioneers**, Brookfield, WI for handmade note cards, quilt cases, fabric Kleenex purse holders, and bookmarks - **WOW! Thank you, All!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since December 1, 2017 – **Gail O, Carol's Secret Pals**, Waupaca, WI; **Joanne R**, Lake Tomahawk, WI; **Cliff and Becky D**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Anita S**, Cottage Grove, WI; **Carol S**, Saginaw, MI; **Bill C**, Milwaukee, WI; **Carne A**, Boulder Jct., WI; **Cindy G**, Hastings, MN; **Leslie and Barb**, Inver Grove Heights, MN in memory of Jerome Mandel; **Tom and Karen M**, Inver Grove Heights, MN; **Helping Hands of St. Paul Lutheran**, Alexandria, MN; **Redeemer Ladies Guild**, Tomahawk, WI; **Peace Lutheran Circle of Peace**, Wautoma, WI; **Joyce M**, Appleton, WI; **Liz B**, Iowa City, IA; **JoAnn N and family**, Neenah, WI; **Anne H**, Baxter, MN; **Paula R**, Whitefish Bay, WI; **Loving Shepherd Lutheran Ladies Guild**, Milwaukee, WI; **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

SPECIAL GIFTS -

Trinity Endowment Fund

Comforter Ministry was granted a generous gift of money from the Trinity Endowment Fund, Trinity Lutheran Church-Minocqua, WI. I am so appreciative of their kindness and support of this ministry/mission. **THANK YOU FRIENDS!**

ThedaCare - Helping Hearts Program

Kathy D, Shawano, WI participated in a work-related program at ThedaCare, Appleton, WI, donating a generous gift of money to Comforter Ministry Inc. Kathy has supported CM in this way several times in the past. **THANK YOU, KATHY AND THEDACARE!**

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

“My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever” (Psalm 73:26).

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since December 1, 2017 - Phyllis F, Mukwonago, WI; Carolyn J & Faith-In-Action Quilters, Rochester, MN; Joyce N, Bonduel, WI; Barb S & St. Michaels Mission Quilters, Bloomington, MN; *Mary W & Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Quilters, Tucson, AZ; Tabitha Quilters-Emanuel Lutheran, Owatonna, MN; Lori N and Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Quilters, Surprise, AZ; Christine H, Milwaukee, WI; Lorraine S, Algoma, WI; Elenore G, San Jose, CA; Karen S, Prairie du Sac, WI; *Anne H, Baxter, MN; Thank you, Ladies! *Welcome, Mary W and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Quilters, Tucson, AZ and Anne H, Baxter, MN. Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery.

Abiding Word Lutheran Women's Retreat

Houston, TX

January 26-27, 2018

I had the blessing of attending and participating in the 32nd annual women's retreat at Abiding Word Lutheran Church in Houston, TX this past winter. I shared the Comforter Ministry Display and gave a short presentation to the group. Thank you, Abiding Word! While in Houston I had the opportunity to work with my friend Sally V on CM projects, including my first ever COMFORTER MINISTRY POWERPOINT PRESENTATION!
I NOW LOOK FORWARD TO BEING INVITED TO VARIOUS EVENTS :)

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.

CANCER OF THE LARYNX (Part 2 of 3)

Symptoms

The symptoms of cancer of the larynx depend mainly on the size of the tumor and where it is in the larynx. Symptoms may include the following:

- Hoarseness or other voice changes
- A lump in the neck
- A sore throat or feeling that something is stuck in your throat
- A cough that does not go away
- Problems breathing
- Bad breath
- An earache
- Weight loss

These symptoms may be caused by cancer or by other, less serious problems. Only a doctor can tell for sure.

Treatment

People with cancer of the larynx often want to take an active part in making decisions about their medical care. It is natural to want to learn all you can about your disease and treatment choices. However, shock and stress after a diagnosis of cancer can make it hard to remember what you want to ask the doctor. Here are some ideas that might help:

- Make a list of questions.
- Take notes at the appointment.
- Ask the doctor if you may use a tape recorder during the appointment.
- Ask a family member or friend to come to the appointment with you.

Your doctor may refer you to a specialist who treats cancer of the larynx. . . You can also ask your doctor for a referral. Treatment usually begins within a few weeks of the diagnosis. Usually, there is time to talk to your doctor about treatment choices, get a second opinion, and learn more about the disease before making a treatment decision.

Methods of Treatment

Cancer of the larynx may be treated with radiation therapy, surgery, or chemotherapy. Some patients have a combination of therapies. You may have questions before treatment begins -

- Where is my cancer and has it spread?
- What are my treatment choices? Which do you recommend for me? Why?
- What are the benefits of each treatment?
- What are the risks and possible side effects of each treatment?
- How will I look after treatment?
- How will I speak after treatment? Will I need to work with a speech therapist?
- Will I have problems eating?
- Will I need to change my daily activities?
- What is the treatment likely to cost? Is this treatment covered by my insurance plan?
- Would a clinical trial (research study) be right for me? Can you help me find one?

Words to Share...

Dear Susanne, It was great talking with you this morning...We so appreciate being able to send a gift of comfort to our dear friend, Nancy...Your ministry is a great blessing to many. You are a “modern-day Tabitha”...helping us wrap our loved ones in warmth (quilts) as your words of God’s love through the journals reassures them of their true comfort! “May the Lord’s unfailing love be my comfort.” (Psalm 119:76) God’s richest blessings to you and your ministry as you faithfully serve Jesus, our Savior, with your selfless labors of love. With Jesus love, D&C

Thank you, Quilter Kathy D, Shawano, WI whose quilt was sent to Nancy!

Thank you, D&C, for those kind and encouraging words...**This ministry/mission is the culmination of MANY so I pass these words along to ALL of YOU, too!**
PRAISE BE TO GOD!

Susanne, One of our Lutheran Girl Pioneer leaders, Stacey S, contacted you this fall about how our pioneer group could help your ministry. You sent her some ideas on how the girls could help. So, at one of our meetings, the girls made bookmarks, notecards, and pillowcases for holding the quilts. The girls range in age from 1st to 6th grade...We explained what your ministry does and they were excited to help. They also talked about two members of our congregation that have been struggling with cancer...The first is a girl of just 3 years old who has a rare form of eye cancer. So rare, she has to travel to New York for treatment. She unfortunately lost one eye to the cancer and now is getting treatment to save the other. The girls thought it would be nice if she got a comforter...Shortly after we completed this project, one of our Pioneer Leader moms was diagnosed with breast cancer and had surgery and starting radiation. The girls do not know about this yet, but I would also like to request a comforter for her...Thank you for your ministry and thank you for letting our Pioneer girls help contribute. They certainly put a lot of love into the project. Sincerely, Kathy Z, Christ the Lord Lutheran School, Lutheran Girl Pioneers, Brookfield, WI

THERE IS SO MUCH I WISH TO ADD TO THIS...

- **The girls also added another request for a woman in their congregation! Thank you Quilters Carolyn J and Faith-In-Action Quilters, Rochester, MN for two quilts!**
- **A HUGE thank you to Barb S and St. Michael’s Mission Quilters, Bloomington, MN for having a child’s quilt made and ready to send...I don’t normally have anything age appropriate for a three year old but Barb and her group had just finished several for Ronald McDonald House, I believe she told me. I so wanted to be able to fill this heartfelt and special request and my prayers were answered through Barb and group :)**
- **I plan to provide more information in the future for other LGP groups to participate in CM - A PERFECT SERVICE PROJECT, LGP LEADERS!!!**

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.

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.

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?” Psalm 42:1-2

DAY 31

We have been focusing on the “Stillness of the Lord,” as I call it. That stillness stems from those great words in Psalm 46, “Be still, and know that I am God.” Just stop, be silent, be still - and see the Lord filling your life with living water. We spend so much time wondering why some sickness, sorrow or crisis has entered our lives. We spend so much effort on trying to find the cause of our troubles or the person who’s to blame. Politicians and news reporters want to point the finger. Quarrels between couples sap energy as each tries to blame the others. Such negative energy is destructive - especially when that negative energy leads to blaming God.

Instead, let us focus our energy on the results. In all problems of life, our Lord would lead us to “pant after him.” The psalmist points out how the deer pants for water. Even more so, when sorrows or conflicts overtake our lives, let us thirst for that which can truly quench our thirst. Let us be still before the Lord and know that he will fill our mouths, our lives, our souls with that living water that is always fresh.

There have been any number of times that I have stopped by a member’s house and they have said, “Pastor, I am so glad you stopped, I have been waiting for you to share a little word with me. I need some comfort from God’s Word.” Often, I visit someone the night before their surgery and give them the Lord’s Supper. They not only need it - they want that spiritual food. They are “panting” after the Lord.

Our problem is that we “pant” for many other things of life that do not fill us up. I love a good salad. But an hour later, I am hungry again. Earthly treasures are like salad. They do not fill us up. Living in the stillness of the Lord is to remove the frantic searching for the things of the world and take time to listen to our Savior. Oftentimes, it takes some kind of sickness or trial in life to slow us down and let us be still and be filled with the living water of his love and forgiveness and his care and concern.

*As pants the heart for cooling streams
When heated in the chase,
So longs my soul, O God, for Thee
And thy refreshing grace.*

*For Thee, my God, the living God,
My thirsty soul doth pine;
Oh, when shall I behold thy face,
Thou Majesty Divine?*

(The Lutheran Hymnal 525)