
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

You may have noticed that once again I missed getting a newsletter out. My husband and I were able to take a winter break spent in Texas during the time I would have been working on a Spring Issue of CMN.

Since January, quilts from several faithful CM quilters and new-to-CM quilters have been received. An amazing blessing! I believe 26 have been received since January 1, plus 10 already here but waiting for journals to be filled out for each. 36! I so appreciate each of you!

THANK YOU, ALL!

I would like to encourage everyone and express my deepest desire that people USE this wonderful ministry/mission. My prayer is that when you learn of a woman who has been diagnosed with cancer, you will immediately remember CM and request a quilt and journal be sent to her on your behalf. My Quilt Cupboard is BURSTING, just waiting for requests :)

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.

In this issue, I am highlighting a group of high school girls from Michigan who made and donated one quilt for CM and gave another they made to the mom of a graduate who was diagnosed with cancer...**THANK YOU, GWYNN**

M, CM SUPPORTER AND ORGANIZER!



Thank you to WELSNA for inviting me to bring the CM Display to their Spring Conference in Madison, WI on Saturday, April 27.

Check out their Web site at welsnurses.net to learn more about this outstanding group of Lutheran nurses.

The Lord bless and keep you!

Enjoy this Summer Issue!

With a Thankful Heart . . .

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

As of May 20, 2019, 124 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 638* comforters that have comforted over 825* 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	8	Texas	99
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	6
Arizona	2	California	20	Washington	8
California	1	Colorado	12	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	351
Colorado	2	Florida	18	Wyoming	1
Florida	1	Georgia	10		
Illinois (QG)	1	Idaho	2		
Illinois	1	Illinois	28		
Iowa	1	Indiana	9	Australia	1
Kansas	1	Iowa	13	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	7	Japan	1
Michigan	7	Kentucky	10	Ontario, Canada	6
Minnesota	6	Maryland	1		
		Michigan	47	Switzerland	1
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	84		
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	3		
Nevada	1	Montana	1		
North Carolina	1	Nebraska	11		
North Dakota	2	Nevada	6		
Ohio	2	New Jersey	2		
Ohio (QG)	1	New York	4		
South Dakota (QG)	1				
		North Carolina	9		
Texas	4	North Dakota	3		
Texas (QG)	2	Ohio	9		
		Oklahoma	10		
Washington	1	South Carolina	1		
Wisconsin	47	South Dakota	8		
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

- ♥ **Carol L**, St. Paul, MN - Thank you, Carol, for the handmade bookmarks :)
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since January 1, 2019 – **Huron Valley Lutheran High School**, Westland, MI; **St. John’s LWMS**, Fremont, WI; **Diane T**, DePere, WI; **Bill C**, WLC-Milwaukee, WI; **Gail O**, Waupaca, WI; **Elaine S**, Memphis, TN; **Lois S**, Manitowoc, WI; **Craig and Becky Z**, Charlotte, NC; **Lisa K**, Green Bay, WI; **Carol L**, St. Paul, MN; **Janice S**, New Brighton, MN; **Dad and Mom N**, Arbor Vitae, 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

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!

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since January 1, 2019 - [Roxanne M and Faith-in-Action Quilters](#)-Rochester, MN; [Lorraine S](#)-Algoma, WI; [St. Paul Quilters](#)-Algoma, WI; [Phyllis F](#)-Mukwonago, WI; [Barb S and St. Michaels Mission Quilters](#)-Bloomington, MN; [Christine H](#)-Milwaukee, WI; [Kay A](#)-Lenexa, KS; [Lois A](#)-Bancroft, MI; [Lois S](#)-Middleton, WI; [*Mary B](#)-Sachse, TX; WELCOME, MARY!; [Trinity Quilters](#)-Minocqua, WI; [Judy A](#)-Wisconsin Rapids, WI. Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery.

QUILTERS, please NOTE

***** DO YOU HAVE A TOP MADE THAT YOU WOULD LOVE TO DONATE, BUT IT NEEDS TO BE LONG ARMED? HEIDI BORK HAS OFFERED TO LONG ARM UP TO TWO QUILTS PER MONTH ON A FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. AS THE TOP MAKER, YOU WOULD BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAKING THE TOP, PROVIDING A BACK THAT IS 4” LARGER THAN THE TOP IN ALL DIRECTIONS AND SHIPPING TO HEIDI IN NEENAH, WI. SHE WILL PROVIDE THE BATTING, LONG ARM QUILTING, AND RETURN SHIPPING TO YOU. IF INTERESTED CONTACT HER AT

Quilterazzi@gmail.com or 920.205.7213

THEY HAVE NEVER MET BUT...

Dear Su, This is to inform you that I am forwarding my quilt to...Jess is a 35 year old mother of three little ones recently diagnosed with State IV colon cancer. A mutual friend put us in contact with each other. While we have never met, we have formed a bond through cancer and through our common faith in Jesus. I experienced a recurrence of ovarian cancer in January 2017 (first diagnosed in August 2014) and am again in remission and thankful for every day! Love in Christ, Becky L

AND THEN...

Hi Su, I just want to thank you for this Comforter Ministry - what an amazing gift! I wanted to let you know that I am forwarding this on to Sheila...she's become a treasured friend and we're fighting the same disease. Thank you, again!...Love, Jess

Thank YOU, Jess and Becky, for sharing your stories!

Thank you, Quilter Kathy D-Shawano, WI

I have seen my mother in law go through cancer first hand and while she went through her treatments, a close friend of hers had a comforter from CM sent to her and it made a big impact on her. She took it to every chemo treatment and the days that she went by herself, she would look at the quilt and feel so much love surrounding her. I want my friend Michelle to make sure that she is not alone during this journey in life and thought a comforter from CM would be the perfect gift. Liz T (from Comforter Ministry Contact Form Request)

THANK YOU ROXANNE AND FAITH-IN-ACTION QUILTERS, ROCHESTER, MN

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.

The following is offered not only to those reading this newsletter who currently have cancer BUT also for all of us who have friends and loved ones who have cancer so we can better understand “living with cancer - a day at a time.” **“Living With Cancer - A Day at a Time”** by Clair Bradshaw, is taken from CareNotes. Visit www.carenotes.com, or call 1-800-325-2511 for more information and to order their complete catalog.

PART 2

LIVING WITH CANCER - A DAY AT A TIME

Use anger to your advantage. *Anger, or even rage, is a healthy reaction to the mourning that comes with any serious illness. And as uncomfortable as it may feel, anger can become one of your best assets in your battle.*

A radiology technician I know says he can predict which cancer patients are going to survive by observing them during their radiation treatment. He says a person’s will to fight is almost more important than his or her medical prognosis. He also notes that those who appear most angry, ironically, seem to have the best chance at recovery.

After a biopsy revealed malignancy in both her breasts, Laura remembers her despair. “All I could think was that I wouldn’t be able to see my little grandson grow up,” she says. “Then my reaction changed to ‘I am going to see Brett grow up.’” That was seven years ago. Now Laura and her husband look forward to many more years of enjoying life and their grandson. True, a fighting spirit does not guarantee a cure. But if you are struggling to overcome your anger, maybe it’s time instead to channel it into your fight for survival. A mental health professional or pastoral counselor can help you learn how to use all your emotions to your advantage.

Make plans. *As cancer patients wrestle against the personal threat that the illness presents, life may seem to stand still for them and their loved ones. Others continue to go to school, change jobs, have babies, take vacations. But with tentative feelings about the future, those stricken with cancer may stop living their lives fully. They may even unconsciously give up.*

“Without making plans for a dinner party, a movie night out, or that family reunion, I had nothing to look forward to,” says Pete of the darkest time during his chemotherapy for bladder cancer. “Finally I realized that though I was physically and mentally slower, I was able to do many of the things I loved doing before. Making plans gave me a sense of control and hope about my future.”

If you haven’t set goals lately, do it now. Write down some short-term and longer-range plans. If you’ve always wanted to learn how to paint, why not investigate that watercolor class today?

When Laura was faced with her mortality, it prompted her to try new things. She and her husband have traveled extensively since her surgery. She also learned how to use a computer and fulfilled her ambition of becoming a published writer. “Since that time, I’ve done some of the most exciting and creative things of my life,” she says.

COMFORTER MINISTRY, INC. WAS THE RECIPIENT OF A DONATION from Huron Valley Lutheran High School’s Volleyball “Pink Out” event. The school held a breast cancer awareness event in October 2018. Athletic Director, Brian Kasten called me early September to learn more about CM and if I was interested in being considered the recipient of proceeds raised from T-shirts and event ticket sales resulting from their “Pink Out” event held the following month.

After the event, Brian emailed me to inform me that the event went even better than estimated and they raised a substantial amount as a gift to CM. He also shared with me that they had their “volleyball girls write passages on pink squares so that a comforter could be made” and would be given “to a mother of graduate” from there a couple years ago who was just diagnosed with breast cancer.

In the end, the girls, under the leadership of Gwynn M, finished TWO quilts and one was donated to CM!

Gwynn shared the following, “The quilts did make a couple stops before I put them in their respective boxes. The Hobby Lobby ladies called others over to see them. The lady at JoAnn Fabric who is a 7 year survivor took your info, a picture, and gave me a big hug to send to you!!! (and trust me she is NOT one who hugs customers...”



Gwynn also shared that “the girls are having so much fun with this project, I just had to share these 2 photos with you... **THANK YOU HVLHS! What a unique and fun partnership!**

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.

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith - and this not from yourselves, it is a gift of God - not by works, so that no one can boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

DAY 41

There was once a rather eccentric evangelist named Alexander Wooten, who was approached by a flippant young man who asked, “What must I do to be saved?” “It’s too late!” Wooten replied, and went about his work. The young man became alarmed, “Do you mean that it’s too late for me to be saved?” he asked. “Is there nothing I can do?” “Too late!” said Wooten. “It’s already been done! The only thing you can do is believe.”

Imagine the Lord saying that to you, “It is too late! There is nothing you can do to be saved.” In effect, that is what our Lord is saying to us right now in this great letter to the Ephesians. There is nothing you can do. In fact, when the preacher above said, “The only thing you can do is believe,” he made an unfortunate word choice. Even our faith is not something we do.

Look closely at the beautiful words of this passage. First comes the word “grace.” Grace is such a huge word! It is God’s undeserved love for sinners. I recently read a devotion in which the writer spoke of grace in this way: When we ran away from our Lord, he ran faster to catch us. If I see my child running from the house toward the street, where there is a truck speeding around the corner, what am I going to do? I am going to run after my child faster than my child is running away from me. Why? Because I love my child. Even though my child is disobeying my command to never go into the road, I am not going to say, “Go ahead - get hit by the truck because that is what you deserve since you are disobeying me.” Instead, I am going to expend all of my energy to reach my child before he or she reaches the road. On an even greater level, this is what our Lord has done for us. How many times we have raced away from him, and yet he races even faster after us. He expended his energy on the cross so that we could be rescued. Why? Because he loves us. That’s grace.

But then how do we receive that love? That’s faith. And how do we get faith? The passage above reminds us - “it is a gift from God.” Faith is a gift, and through this gift, we receive all the other gifts of love from our God. Jesus once told his disciples that our faith is to be like that of a little child.

*Six months after our wedding, my wife had a miscarriage. This happened in the middle of the night. She needed to remain in the hospital for several days. The morning after the miscarriage, I went home to pick up my oldest daughter, who was about seven at the time. On the way to the hospital, I explained to her as simply as I could what had happened. Obviously, this was a traumatic time for us. Immediately, these words came from daughter’s mouth: “don’t be sad, Dad, God has a plan for all this.” Wow! From the mouth of babes we are often taught great lessons in life. This girl had no idea of the big picture at that time. But she didn’t need it. She had been taught that her Savior has won the victory on the cross, and that he is in control of everything - simply that the Savior loves us. That’s all she needed to know. As adults, our minds often get in the way, and we want to know all the answers. Instead, let Ephesians 2, let our Lord’s word from the cross - *tetelestai* - and let our Lord’s love be enough for us to say: “God has a plan.” Rest in the stillness of knowing that our Lord’s plan for us is centered in his grace. **Amazing grace-how sweet the sound-That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but now m found, Was blind but now I see. (CW 379)***