
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 wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, friends!

I pray you will enjoy this last issue of 2017 and first of 2018.

As I have done in the past, I would like to take this last issue of 2017 to thank the many who help make the Comforter Ministry what it is for so many - quilters, donors, helpers, Pastor Gass for Words of Comfort from segments of his book, Shellie D Breast Clinic Coordinator-Marshfield Clinic, Minocqua for including CM materials in her packet of breast cancer materials to women diagnosed with breast cancer



in our area, ALL who use this ministry/mission as a special way to reach out to friends and family in a tangible way when cancer comes, those who have requested CM presentations, supporters in

a variety of creative ways, and those with praying hearts. THANK YOU, ALL!

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.

A special focus for the New Year is one that has been on my heart for some time...prayers for CM recipients. Are you a woman with a praying heart? Check out the “call” inside for Women of Prayer.

Praying Hearts!

A Special Focus in the New Year...And Forever!

“Help me, Lord, to be a woman with a praying heart.”

May the Lord grant us a Blessed New Year!

Su

With a Thankful Heart . . .

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

As of December 1, 2017, 119 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 527 comforters that have comforted over 707* 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	79
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	6
Arizona	1	California	19	Washington	7
California	1	Colorado	9	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	305
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	12	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	6	Japan	1
Michigan	6	Kentucky	7	Ontario, Canada	5
Minnesota	5	Michigan	43		
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	68		
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)	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 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 Autumn Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter – **Thanks so much, Dad and Mom!**
- ♥ **Linda J**, Manitowoc, WI for lovely handmade note cards/envelopes - **Thank you, again!**
- ♥ **Kathy D and her mom, Shirley S**, Shawano, WI for more beautifully made note cards - **Thank you, ladies!**
- ♥ **Yvonne P**, Tomahawk, WI for even more note cards and so creative - **Thank you, Yvonne!**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since September 1, 2017 – **Dan and Carol K**, Greenfield, WI; **Willing Workers of St. Paul’s Lutheran**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Kristie S**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Janice S**, New Brighton, MN; **Donna B**, Mishicot, WI; **Peace Lutheran Boy and Girl Pioneers**, Wautoma, WI; **Bill C**, Milwaukee, 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

“This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins” (1 John 4:10).

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since September 1, 2017 - **Lois A**, Bancroft, MI; **Judy A**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Barb S and St. Michaels Mission Quilters**, Bloomington, MN; ***St. Luke's Lutheran Quilters**, New Lisbon, WI; **Carolyn J and Faith-In-Action Quilters**, Rochester, MN; **Phyllis F**, Mukwonago, WI; **Diane M**, Wrightstown, WI; **Trinity Quilters**, Minocqua, WI; Thank you, Ladies! *Welcome, St. Luke Quilters! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery.

Willing Workers Ladies Group St. Paul Lutheran Church Wisconsin Rapids, WI



On Monday, September 18, 2017 I was invited to give a Comforter Ministry presentation to the ladies of St. Paul's in Wisconsin Rapids, WI. I opened their evening meeting with a short devotion on “comfort” and had the next hour to share CM with 20 women in attendance. I was able to set up the CM display, as well as answer a few questions. Judy and Mike A were kind enough to host me overnight at their lovely home (full of quilts and quilt projects). Judy sent me home with a beautiful quilt she made for CM. **THANK YOU, JUDY AND LADIES OF ST. PAUL!**



WINGS St. Peter Lutheran Church Schofield, WI

WINGS, Women in God's Service, a ladies group at St. Peter in Schofield, WI invited me to present the Comforter Ministry on Thursday, November 9 at 1:00 pm. Area churches were invited, as well. Again, I was able to set up my display and answer questions following the presentation. I have already been invited back next year for their November meeting to present a CM update :) **THANK YOU, LADIES OF ST. PETER!**

WELCOME!

St. Luke Lutheran Quilters of New Lisbon, WI is the latest quilt group to participate in the Comforter Ministry. I pray they will continue to support CM with future prayers and quilts.

I am ALWAYS looking for quilters and ALWAYS stating the fact that there is NO Comforter Ministry without quilters and their quilts!!!! I am thankful for these ladies and ALL the faithful quilters of CM. YOU KNOW WHO YOU ARE!

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 1)

Who’s at Risk?

No one knows the exact causes of cancer of the larynx. Doctors cannot explain why one person gets this disease and another does not. We do know that cancer is not contagious. You cannot “catch” cancer from another person.

People with certain risk factors are more likely to get cancer of the larynx. A risk factor is anything that increases your chance of developing this disease.

Studies have found the following risk factors”

- **Age.** Cancer of the larynx occurs most often in people over the age of 55.
- **Gender.** Men are four times more likely than women to get cancer of the larynx.
- **Race.** African Americans are more likely than whites to be diagnosed with cancer of the larynx.
- **Smoking.** Smokers are far more likely than nonsmokers to get cancer of the larynx. The risk is even higher for smokers who drink alcohol heavily.

People who stop smoking can greatly decrease their risk of cancer of the larynx, as well as cancer of the lung, most, pancreas, bladder, and esophagus. Also, quitting smoking reduces the chance that someone with cancer of the larynx will get a second cancer in the head and neck region. (Cancer of the larynx is part of a group of cancers called head and neck cancers.)

- **Alcohol.** People who drink alcohol are more likely to develop laryngeal cancer than people who don’t drink. The risk increases with the amount of alcohol that is consumed. The risk also increases if the person drinks alcohol and also smokes tobacco.
- **A personal history of head and neck cancer.** Almost one in four people who have had head and neck cancer will develop a second primary head and neck cancer.
- **Occupation.** Workers exposed to sulfuric acid mist or nickel have an increased risk of laryngeal cancer. Also, working with asbestos can increase the risk of this disease. Asbestos workers should follow work and safety rules to avoid inhaling asbestos fibers.

Other studies suggest that having certain viruses or a diet low in vitamin A may increase the chance of getting cancer of the larynx. Another factor is having gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD), which causes stomach acid to flow up into the esophagus.

Most people who have these risk factors do not get cancer of the larynx. If you are concerned about your chance of getting cancer of the larynx, you should discuss this concern with your health care provider. Your health care provider may suggest ways to reduce your risk and can plan an appropriate schedule for checkups.

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 TO SHARE

Hello! Each year our Boy and Girl Pioneers pick an organization to donate money raised at a pie auction to and this year we picked Comforter Ministry. Thank you for the work you do to support women going through cancer. Please use this money to help off-set any costs you have. Christine B and the Boy and Girl Pioneers of Peace Lutheran Church, Wautoma, WI
WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR THE GENEROUS GIFT OF MONEY!

Su, Here’s a check for your ministry. Thanks for what you do. Its a great service to women in need. It either introduces or reinforces that the Lord is there for us in time of need to comfort us. Janice S
EXACTLY! THANK YOU, DEAR FRIEND!

CAN YOU HELP?

I have a quilt donated to CM that needs some finishing work. It appears that the quilter started to machine quilt her quilt project but did not finish it. She has since passed on from breast cancer and her husband donated the quilt to CM. If you would be willing to finish this quilt for CM I would appreciate hearing from you. THANK YOU!

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?**

CALLING ALL WOMEN WITH A PRAYING HEART

Are you willing to set aside a few minutes each day in order to pray for Comforter Ministry Recipients, CM women who have been diagnosed with cancer?

I have had it on my heart for some time to really focus on prayer for the recipients of this special ministry. The Prayer List is on the CM Web site, www.comforterministry.com, under News, Notes, and Newsletters, and a prayer is provided to get you started.



Please prayerfully consider being a Comforter Ministry Woman with a Praying Heart (more on this in future 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.

“Give us today our daily bread.” Matthew 6:11

DAY 21

In the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer (Luther’s Small Catechism), we are instructed to pray for what we need “this day.” Later in Matthew 6, Jesus says, “Do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” How often we are tempted to look ahead to the next day. Living in the stillness of the Lord means we do not look to tomorrow with fear and worry. Rather, we live today in thankfulness for what we have.

As I have served God’s people for the past 23 years, I have had the privilege to become friends with some awesome children of God. One of the ladies who will always stand out as a cherished friend is Ethel Nyberg. At 99 years of age, Ethel endured many trials and challenges in life. Yet, a more cheerful and godly lady I have not met. I once mentioned to her that we just take one day at a time. “Oh no, Pastor,” she responded, “for me - I take one hour at a time.” May we all have the same attitude of trust and confidence as dear Ethel, who now lives forever with her Lord.

Karolina Sandell, daughter of Swedish pastor Jonas Sandell, also knew what it was like to live day by day. Though frail in body, she had a strong spirit, feasting on the artistic, literary and religious influences of her home life. But tragedy struck when she was 26. She and her father were enjoying a boat trip on the east coast of Sweden when suddenly the ship lurched. Before her eyes, her father was pitched overboard and drowned. Returning home alone, Karolina began using Scripture to process her grief. In the hymn “Day by Day,” she gives us insight into her personal experience with the daily strength the Lord provides for His struggling children:

*Day by day, and with each passing moment,
Strength I find, to meet my trials here;
Trusting in my father’s wise bestowment,
I’ve no cause for worry or fear.
He whose heart is kind beyond all measure
Give unto each day what he deems best -
Lovingly, its part of pain and pleasure,
Mingling toil with peace and rest.*

*Every day, the Lord Himself is near me
With a special mercy for each hour;
All my cares He fain would bear, and cheer me,
He whose name is Counselor and Power.
The protection of his child and treasure
Is a charge that on Himself He laid;
“As thy days, thy strength shall be in measure,”
This is the pledge to me He made.*

(“Day by Day” from Songbook: Then Sings My Soul)

