
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

As you busy yourself with all there is to do in preparation for Christmas, I do hope you take time to reflect on the “comfort and joy” of Christmas...and really the “comfort and joy” of each day.

Which leads me to announce the theme of my NEW presentation which can also be expanded to a “Comfort & Joy” Retreat (whether a day long or overnight retreat/event). Please watch for more info in future newsletters.



- Are you a Quilter or know of a Quilter/Quilt Group? **PLEASE** see Page 5

- Planning an event? Looking for a speaker in 2020? Check out Page 5

- On **Thursday, September 19**, I was blessed to give CM Presentation to women attending the Fall Regional Gathering of the Presbyterian Westminster Guild-Manitowish Waters, WI...shared CM display, too :) **THANK YOU, LADIES!**

The quilts above were made and donated to CM by the Texas Grace Quilters, better known as “Deede’s Quilters.”

Check out their Story on Page 7...written by my daughter, Rachel Halldorson - Love you, Honey!

Thank You, Ladies!
Thank You, Deede!

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.

- **Weekend of November 8-10**, my husband and I were very blessed (along with our son and family who currently live in Germany) to attend the Reformation Retreat of the European Confessional Lutheran Christian Ministry held in Wittenberg, Germany. CM brochures were shared with each of the attending families. **SO THANKFUL!**

- **Thursday, November 14**, I was invited to share the CM Prayer Gathering with ladies of WINGS (Women in God’s Service) at St. Peter’s Lutheran Church-Schofield, WI. **THANK YOU!**

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

With a Thankful Heart . . .

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

As of November 22, 2019, 130 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 22 states and one Canadian province have made 681* comforters that have comforted over 891* 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
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	11
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2
		Tennessee	2
Arizona	2	Texas	104
California	1	Utah	1
California (QG)	1	Virginia	6
Colorado	2	Washington	9
Florida	1	West Virginia	2
Georgia (QG)	1	Wisconsin	379
Illinois (QG)	1	Wyoming	1
Illinois	1		
Iowa	1	Idaho	2
Kansas	1	Illinois	28
		Indiana	9
Michigan	7	Iowa	14
Minnesota	6	Kansas	7
		Kentucky	12
Minnesota (QG)	2	Maryland	1
Nebraska	3	Michigan	52
		Minnesota	95
Nevada	1	Mississippi	2
North Carolina	1	Missouri	4
North Dakota	2	Montana	1
Ohio	2	Nebraska	12
Ohio (QG)	1	Nevada	6
South Dakota (QG)	1	New Jersey	2
		New York	5
Texas	4		
Texas (QG)	3	North Carolina	9
Utah	1	North Dakota	3
Washington	1	Ohio	10
Wisconsin	50	Oklahoma	10
Wisconsin (QG)	16	South Carolina	1
Wisconsin (LGP)	2	South Dakota	9
Wyoming	1		
Ontario, Canada (QG)	1		
		Australia	1
		Caribbean	1
		Japan	1
		Ontario, Canada	6
		Switzerland	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

- ♥ **Mom and Dad-Arbor Vitae, WI - Thank you, dear ones, for helping with the Autumn 2019 CM Newsletter mailing.**
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since August 25, 2019 - **Linda S-Appleton, WI; Marge S-Hazelhurst, WI; Bev C-Woodruff, WI; Presbyterian Gathering at Community Church-Manitowish Waters, WI; Bill C-WLC, Milwaukee, WI; Gail O-Waupaca, WI; Janet L-Shelby Township, MI; Linda H-Johnson Creek, WI; Lisa K-Green Bay, WI; Carol L-West St. Paul, MN; St Peter Lutheran WINGS-Schofield, 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

Please Note: Please double check the address when requesting a Comforter Ministry quilt and journal be sent to a CM recipient on your behalf...I have had some difficulty with the Post Office over incorrect or incomplete mailing addresses. THANK YOU!

Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since August 25, 2019 - [Phyllis F](#)-Mukwonago, WI; [Kathy D](#)-Shawano, WI; [Ellie G](#)-San Jose, CA; Trinity Quilters-Minocqua, WI; Judy A-Wisconsin Rapids, WI; Joyce N-Bonduel, WI. WELCOME, SANDRA B-IXONIA, WI! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at www.comforterministry.com, click More-Photo Gallery. THANK YOU, QUILTERS!

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

COMFORTER MINISTRY EVENTS YOU MAY WANT TO CONSIDER IN 2020

■ **Comforter Ministry Display and/or Presentation with Power Point**

- Quilt Groups (Church, Club, Stores)/Quilter Retreats
- WELS Churches/Women’s Organizations/Women’s Retreats
- WELS Lutheran Girl Pioneer
- WELS Lutheran High Schools
- WELS Lutheran College Women (Campus Ministry)
- WELS Homeschooling Organization(s)
- Pastor/Teacher Conferences & Retreats
- LWMS (Congregation, Circuit, and Annual Convention)
- WELS Leadership Conferences/Events
- WELS Women in Ministry/Mission Conferences/Events
- OTHER?

■ **Comforter Ministry Prayer Gathering with Prayer Bible Study**

- WELS Women’s Organizations/Women’s Retreats
- WELS Lutheran College Women (Campus Ministry)
- WELS Quilt Groups/Quilter Retreats
- WELS Women in Ministry Events
- OTHERS?

A NEED FOR MORE QUILTS!!!

If you are a quilter, please consider making and donating quilts to the Comforter Ministry. I am low on quilts at this time and would appreciate receiving your “labors of love” as you are able to provide them. “Without quilts, there is NO ministry/mission.” THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

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 4 of 4

LIVING WITH CANCER - A DAY AT A TIME

Realize how scary recovery can be. “You’re in remission!” Since your diagnosis, you’ve longed to hear these words. But when the final chemotherapy round is completed and your last doctor visit is scheduled, don’t be surprised if you’re again flooded with strange feelings.

During treatment, you teamed up with doctors, nurses, therapists, and friends who ministered to your physical and emotional needs Suddenly this army of cancer fighters begins to disarm and maybe even to disband. If you’re feeling abandoned by your support system, take heart.

When you go into remission, it’s natural to experience a sense of loss. One more time you are redefining your role as a patient. Though you will be forever changed by your experiences with this illness, remission is a time to gather your forces and learn a new identity. You are no longer just a cancer patient - you are a cancer survivor.

You may need to assemble a new personal support team. Again, mental health professionals are skilled in guiding people through the strange anxiety that often comes with remission.

On your journey through the experience of cancer, you will inevitably have times when you feel you don’t have even an ounce of strength left to get yourself through the ordeals of that day. When that happens, go ahead and give it all up - to the faithful God who walks beside you every step of the way. God will give you the strength you need to get through that day...and the next...and the next...and the next...

Sources of additional help

Books: *The Cancer Conqueror: An Incredible Journey to Wellness* by Greg Anderson, Kansas City, MO, Andrews & McMeel, 1988. *Cancervive* by Susan Nessim and Judith Ellis, Boston, MA, Houghton Mifflin Company, 1991. *From Victim to Victor* by Harold H. Benjamin, Ph.D., with Richard Turbo, Des Plaines, IL, Dell, 1987.

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

When the ladies of Deede’s Quilters at Grace Lutheran in Scroggins, TX talk about Deede Zahrt, whom their group is named after, their eyes light up and they speak of her as if they were with her yesterday. Deede has been in heaven for almost five years but the memories and love her friends have for her is still fresh and living. Her friend, Pam, recalls, “I can’t count the number of people that Deede touched with unconditional love. Not only love from her, but she never shied away from sharing her love of her Heavenly Father.”

Deede’s friends laugh when they recall how passionate she was about fabric and how Deede never could pass by a fabric store without stopping in to buy more to add to her already healthy collection! Before she passed away from cancer in 2014, she entrusted her stacks of fabric to her friend Linda, who found herself suddenly surrounded by boxes and boxes of bins to sort and arrange while grieving over the loss of her dear friend. Deede had expressed her wish that this fabric continue to be used to bless others. Linda and fellow members of Deede’s Quilters take that desire very seriously and look for ways to honor the memory of their friend through their projects.

Deede had been a big encourager to Su and supporter of the Comforter Ministry. Su recalls how Deede would always lament how she kept meaning to make a quilt for the ministry but it seemed like she always had another project going whether it was for a family member, the WELS Mexican or Apache Mission, or a local charity. Su would reassure her that she completely understood and appreciated her prayers just as much! Deede would later become a recipient of one of those CM quilts when cancer threatened her earthly life.

Fast forward to 2018. Deede’s Quilters continued to go strong! When Grace welcomed their new Pastor and family, they invited their new pastor’s wife to join them. She wasn’t a sewer but her twelve year old daughter was! Hosanna was homeschooled and her schedule could accommodate a day to sew with the church ladies. She was thrilled to join them and they were thrilled (and surprised!) to have her. Suddenly these ladies that bore the titles of Great Aunts, Grandmas, and Great Grandmas had a fresh, young talent in their midst to mentor!

Hosanna blended right in and soon she started bringing a friend. And then another friend. And then twins. And then another friend! Suddenly Deede’s Quilters had a full on class! Their love of sewing was unexpectedly being shared with another generation and they began to work on ways to organize this new band of preteen sewers.

Many of their projects that first year were worthy recipients of Deede’s fabric as the girls were making baby quilts for charity. They learned how to make personal projects like snap purses, microwave bowls, and table runners. Many quillows (part quilt, part pillow) were made as presents to family members that Christmas and Deede’s fabric had been included in many of them.

Last fall, Grace received some visitors to church. Hosanna’s grandma Su came for a visit! She gave a presentation to the members of Grace about the Comforter Ministry of which they enthusiastically got behind. They immediately started brainstorming ways to support this ministry and decided that it would be the recipient of their February “mystery quilt weekend”. Six weeks after that, Deede’s Quilters donated 11 quilts to the Comforter Ministry many of which were the Texas Windmill pattern made from Deede’s fabrics.

Now a year later, some of those non member quilting ladies have joined the Bible class that follows sewing class. A devotion is also included for the girls during class time. Two of the girls are attending a weekly preteen class on apologetics. The mentor relationships between teacher and student have given opportunities to share God’s truth with the girls. Grace is building a reputation in the surrounding community as open, welcome, and friendly - giving back to the community through their quilt donations and sewing classes. And in the end, Deede’s desire came true ... she **did** make a quilt for the Comforter Ministry through her fabric and the hands and hearts of Deede’s Quilters.

Words of Comfort...

The following meditation is the first of twelve. Each meditation is based on one of the 12 Biblical passages of comfort found in the Comforter Ministry Journal. Originally written for and printed in 12 Comforter Ministry Newsletters, they are being reprinted here and in the following 11 issues of CMN.

Healing, Guidance, and Restoration

I have seen his ways, but I will heal him; I will guide him and restore comfort to him.

Isaiah 57:18

Wounds - Whether emotional, psychological, or physical, we've all experienced wounds in one form or another throughout our lives. Some of us wear our wounds rather obviously; others of us have become quite adept at hiding our wounds so well no one would ever suspect we were *wounded*. I have dealt with my own personal wounds in a variety of ways. I would guess you have, too.

In most cases, wounds heal and we can be relatively healthy, once again. We obey the doctor's directions, we take the medication prescribed, we read the book suggested, we listen attentively to well-meaning friends, we follow well-given advice, we faithfully work at strengthening weakened parts of our body and minds in therapy sessions, etc. These are things we can do to help our wounds heal, and we are thankful for them.

But there is a *wound* that is so deep I can never begin to try and heal it and it is the underlying reason for all other wounds. It is called *sin*. Only God can take the proper care of this wound necessary for complete healing. He did this by sending His Son, Jesus, to earth to suffer and die for the sins of the entire world. It was through Jesus' wounds that we are healed. Then with His amazing resurrection He conquered death and offers all people eternal life in heaven. Because of my faith in Jesus and what He has done for me, God forgives and restores me, creating praise on my lips for who He is and for what He has done. After He heals me with His forgiveness, He continues to guide me in His ways. His leading puts me on the right paths, paths of righteousness. Like a good shepherd, He will not forsake His sheep. He will lead me to *green pastures* and *quiet waters*. No matter what life throws at me, I know I have a Physician who has healed my greatest wound through my Savior Jesus, I have a Good Shepherd who will continue to guide me through life and death, and I have a Comforter who will restore comfort to me in every time of need.

What a blessing to know and believe in the Savior who brings comfort and healing to this wounded world and specifically to my personal, wounded life. Although the misery of this earthly life will remain, I will feel the consolation and comfort of God's mercy as I read and study His word, the Bible, where I'm continually reminded of God's promises to me; His promises of grace, healing, guidance, restoration, and comfort.

Dear One, I pray you know and believe in Jesus. I pray you are able to recognize the *good health* you already possess as a believer. The wounds we endure now will someday be forgotten when we experience *perfect health* in heaven as we live eternally with our Living Savior. If you don't know Jesus as your Savior, I pray you will come to know Him soon and experience the healing, guidance, and restoration only He can give. The truth is, there is no true comfort in this life without complete healing and full restoration through Jesus, the sinless Son of God.

Thank You, Lord, for Your healing, guidance, and restoring comfort through Jesus. Amen.

Biblical References to Read and Study: Psalm 23, Psalm 51:10-12; Psalm 73:24-26; Isaiah 40:11; Isaiah 49:13; Isaiah 53:5; Isaiah 57:18-19; John 3:16; John 11:25; 1 Peter 2:24-25