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# NEWSLETTER

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**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, I missed getting a newsletter out in December so now I have much to share in this Winter Issue of the Comforter Ministry Newsletter, dear supporters of Comforter Ministry, Inc. :)

I appreciate each and every donation and, throughout this newsletter, I have thanked several groups and individuals. This past Christmas, CM was blessed to receive several more kind and generous donations -

### **THANK YOU, ALL**

- St. Paul’s Ladies Aid from Bark River, MI
- Trinity Lutheran Ladies Aid from Coleman, WI
- St. Paul’s Lutheran Ladies Aid from Appleton, WI
- Hope Lutheran in Louisville, KY chose CM as the mission



Comforter Ministry Quilt #600

*A small gift was sent to Quilter, Barb S from Bloomington, MN for making and donating the 600th CM Quilt! Congratulations, Barb!*

*A huge thank you to Barb for also making and donating small child sized and themed quilts/totes for future CM requests (check out the CM Photo Gallery on the CM Web site)*

**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.**

recipient of their annual church fund raiser “Craft and Bake” sale along with the proceeds of the youth “Italian Lunch”

As we begin 2019, I would again like to encourage each of us to continue as *WOMEN WITH PRAYING HEARTS.*

Please use the CM Prayer List to remember CM recipients with your regular prayers...May the Lord hear and bless our prayers...**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

## With a Thankful Heart . . .

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

**As of January 1, 2019, 123 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 20 states and one Canadian province have made 610\* comforters that have comforted over 796\* women with cancer from 39 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.**

<b>Quilters</b> .....		<b>Recipients</b> .....			
Alaska	2	Alaska	4	Tennessee	2
Alaska (QG)	2	Arizona	8	Texas	94
Arizona (QG)	1	Arkansas	2	Utah	1
				Virginia	6
Arizona	2	California	20	Washington	8
California	1	Colorado	11	West Virginia	2
California (QG)	1	Connecticut	2	Wisconsin	343
Colorado	2	Florida	18	Wyoming	1
Florida	1	Georgia	8		
Illinois (QG)	1	Idaho	2		
Illinois	1	Illinois	28		
Iowa	1	Indiana	9	Australia	1
Kansas	1	Iowa	13	Caribbean	1
		Kansas	6	Japan	1
Michigan	7	Kentucky	9	Ontario, Canada	5
Minnesota	6	Maryland	1		
		Michigan	47	Switzerland	1
Minnesota (QG)	2	Minnesota	76		
Nebraska	3	Mississippi	2		
		Missouri	3		
Nevada	1	Montana	1		
North Carolina	1	Nebraska	11		
North Dakota	2	Nevada	6		
Ohio	2	New Jersey	1		
Ohio (QG)	1	New York	4		
South Dakota (QG)	1				
		North Carolina	8		
Texas	3	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](http://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

- ♥ **Everyone who sent me Christmas cards with notes of encouragement!**
- ♥ **Linda J**, Manitowoc, WI - Thank you, Linda, for the beautiful, handmade Book Marks!
- ♥ **Brenda K and Connie A**, Manitowoc, WI - Thank you, ladies, for the lovely handmade Cards!
- ♥ **Gifts of Money** received since September 1, 2018 – **Carne A**, Boulder Jct, WI; **Carla B**, Elkhorn, WI; **Norma S**, Houlton, WI; **Phyllis H**, Appleton, WI; **Bill and Jean C**, Milwaukee, WI; **Margaret L**, Cleveland, MN; **Bill C**, Milwaukee, WI; **Gail M**, Powers, MI; **Lyn S**, Larsen, WI; **Kathie C**, Scroggins, TX; **Lois G**, Farminngton, MI; **Gwynn M**, Novi, MI **Becky D**, Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **THANK YOU! THANK YOU!**

*A very special “thank you” to those who stepped forward with donations to help cover the printing cost of 100 Comforter Ministry Journals - Carne, Carla, Norma, Phyllis, and Bill and Jean. 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

### Thoughts to Share . . .

New Quilts Received since September 1, 2018 - [Trinity Quilters](#)-Minocqua, WI; [Carolyn J and Faith-In-Action Quilters](#)-Rochester, MN; [Judy A](#)-Wisconsin Rapids, WI; [Barb S](#)-Bloomington, MN; [Emmanuel Tabitha Quilters](#)-Owantonna, MN; [\\*Gwynn M and Huron Valley Lutheran High School \(HVLHS\) Volleyball Teams 2018](#)-Westland, MI; [Cindy G](#)-New London, WI; [Elenore G](#)-San Jose, CA; [Kathy D](#)-Shawano, WI; [Anonymous](#) through Kathy D. WELCOME, Gwynn and HVLHS Volleyball Teams 2018! Check out the CM web site to see photos of these quilts at [www.comforterministry.com](http://www.comforterministry.com), click [More-Photo Gallery](#).

#### ATTENTION!

#### LGP (LUTHERAN GIRL PIONEER) LEADERS!

Are you looking for a new LGP “Service Project” option and/or creative idea for your girls earning an LGP Sewing Badge?

Please consider the Comforter Ministry as there are several areas where LGP could serve and/or sew -

1. **Bookmarks** - These could be made with paper (poster weight), crocheted, fabric, etc. and decorated with stamps, stickers, colored pens/pencils; Bible passage; fabric are just a few ideas. I can include bookmarks inside the Comforter Ministry Journal for the recipients to use along with their CM journal.
2. **Note Cards** (blank inside) - Be creative! I use note cards to write a personal, handwritten note to each recipient when I send her a CM quilt and journal.
3. **Pillowcases** - Use permanent ink fabric pens to write, draw, etc. Fabric pieces can be used to decorate...Use your imagination! I can use to store and protect CM quilts from dust and sunlight while waiting to be sent to a recipient.
4. **Purse-size Tissue/Fabric Holder** - Variety of fun and/or pretty fabrics are nice. CM recipients can take them with to cancer treatments or have bed-side as needed :)
5. **Quilt** - Check out the CM Web site under How the Ministry Works, and clicking How to Make and Donate a Quilt for brief criteria and instruction.
6. **Funds, Prayers for CM and CM Recipients!**

Please consider inviting me to a future LGP National Committee meeting to share how the Comforter Ministry might “partner” with LGP. I also would be honored to attend a future annual Lutheran Girl Pioneer Convention and give a Comforter Ministry Presentation to LGP Leaders.

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*TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH-MINOCQUA, WI*

*Trinity congregation was pleased to support CM with a generous gift through their Endowment Fund once again this year. THANK YOU VERY MUCH*

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## 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](http://www.carenotes.com), or call 1-800-325-2511 for more information and to order their complete catalog.

### PART 1

#### LIVING WITH CANCER - A DAY AT A TIME

*Today may be the first day you’ve had to live with the diagnosis of cancer, or it may be one of the many days you have survived this disease. Either way, you have probably found out that cancer has changed your life in significant ways.*

*You must cope with changes in your emotions, your health, your body image, your support system, your whole outlook on life. Yet just as cancer has changed your life, the way you live your life can also change your cancer - from a monstrous threat to a manageable condition.*

*Medical advances are leading to new cancer treatments every day. Even with promising breakthroughs, however, cancer is often a chronic illness - or at least the fear of recurrence is always there. Cancer is something you may have to live with for a long time. This CareNote offers some insights from courageous cancer survivors to help you live with cancer a day at a time.*

**Build a support team.** *If your diagnosis of cancer is fairly new, the shock of it may leave you emotionally shaky. Ironically, this can be a time when friends and family find it hard to understand your struggles. They may not know what to say or how to react to your intense emotions. In their confusion they may even avoid you.*

*Feeling alienated from others during this time is common. But now is not the time to go it alone. Try to remember that your loved ones’ emotional equilibrium has been shaken too. Maybe they just don’t know how to comfort you. Maybe they don’t want to face their own fears about losing you.*

*Communicating your needs and desires to family and friends can be painstaking work. If you’ve talked and you’re still not feeling “heard,” try putting your thoughts in a letter. Often just writing about your frustrations can provide relief.*

*A support group of others with cancer can be a great source of comfort and practical advice. Your local newspaper, hospital, or cancer society are good plans to start looking for such a group.*



Saturday, September 22, 2018, I had the privilege to present my CM Power Point Presentation to over 100 women at the Lake Superior LWMS Circuit Fall Rally. It was a lovely autumn day in Daggett, MI at Holy Cross Lutheran Church. I was also able to include the CM Display and Banner! Thank you, ladies, for the invite and generous donation. I am deeply appreciative of your support! **THANK YOU!**

Sunday, October 28, 2018, while visiting our daughter and family in East Texas, I had the opportunity to present the CM Power Point Presentation to members of Grace Lutheran in Scroggins, TX. After a festive Reformation Potluck Dinner, many remained to hear about CM. Enthusiasm ran high with the Grace Quilters and they are currently working on a quilt for CM. **THANK YOU, ALL, FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND INTEREST!**

Thursday, November 8, 2018, I gave a CM update to the women of WINGS at St. Peter-Schofield, WI at their monthly afternoon meeting. I was invited last November to speak to them about CM and they invited me again this year. I gave my Comforter Ministry Power Point Presentation and featured the CM Banner. I have been invited back again next November to lead a CM Prayer Gathering. **THANK YOU!**

**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](mailto:Quilterazzi@gmail.com) or 920.205.7213

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**To the Prayerful Women in my Life - KEEP PRAYING**

**Live your life in such a way that when your feet hit the floor in the morning, Satan shudders and says...”Oh, no! She’s awake!”**

**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.

*“If the Lord delights in a man’s way, he makes his steps firm; though he stumble, he will not fall, for the Lord upholds him with his hand.”* Psalm 37:23

### DAY 34

*While Kris was learning to walk all over again, there were times of stumbling. But our Lord held her up. We did not fall from grace. God upheld us by his powerful hand. Have you stumbled? What is it that is causing you to trip on your journey of life? We all do, but we do not fall from grace. Why?*

*Jesus stumbled under the cross, but he did not fall from his task of accomplishing our salvation. Though weakened and bruised, he did not give up but was upheld by the power of God. It was his extreme love for us that motivated him to endure to the end. This grace is what holds us up, as the hymns declares:*

“It was grace in Christ that called me, Taught my darkened heart and mind, Else the world had yet enthralled me, To your heavenly glories blind. Now I worship none above you; For your grace alone I thirst, Knowing well that, if I love you, You, O Father, loved me first.” (The Lutheran Hymnal #37)

*In the Psalms, God’s Old Testament people are constantly told to remember- remember how God brought them up out of Egypt. Remember how God brought them up from bondage and gave them their own country, where they could live in freedom before the Lord.*

*Our Egypt - our bondage - is slavery to sin, death and the devil. Yet the Lord rescued us and brought us into his kingdom - his family of believers. Being part of the family of believers - the invisible church - implies special blessings. It is a glorious thing to be a part of the church - the body of Christ - His family. In this family, we have received God’s grace. A long-forgotten hymn speaks to us today about the glorious blessings of being in Christ’s family:*

“Glorious things of Thee are spoken, Zion, city of our God; He whose word cannot be broken Formed thee for His own abode. On the Rock of Ages founded, What can shake thy sure repose? With salvation’s walls surrounded, Thou mayst smile at all thy foes.”

“See, the streams of living water Springing from eternal love Well supply thy sons and daughters and all fear of want remove. Who can faint while such a river Ever flows their thirst to assuage - Grace, while like the Lord, the Giver, Never fails from age to age?” (The Lutheran Hymnal #369)