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## NEWSLETTER

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*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*

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## A Message from the Comforter Ministry Team

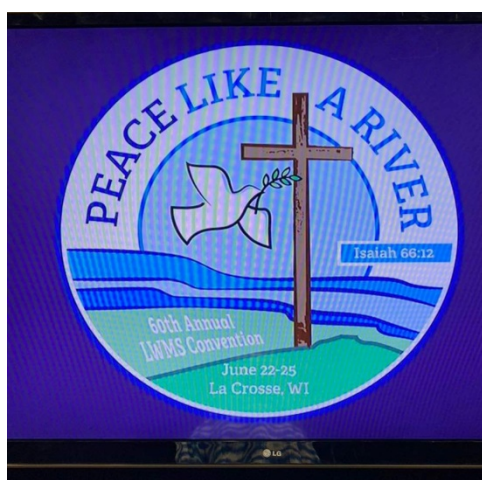
First, we need to welcome new readers of The Comforter Ministry newsletter. Through our exhibit at the Material Girls Quilt show and the LWMS Convention, we gained new supporters who want to follow the work of this special ministry.

Welcome! We are thankful for your support.

Remember, prayer is the greatest support you can give. Please pray for the Comforter Ministry, the comforter recipients, the quilters, and a cure for cancer.

In June we attended the LWMS Convention in La Crosse, WI and had an amazing experience meeting many current supporters and developing new relationships. It was encouraging to talk to so many people and to have them share the impact the Comforter Ministry has made. We celebrate and give thanks for the encouragement we received.

Here are a few photos from the Convention.



We had a wonderful visit with Su and were blessed to have had our husbands join us. They are our greatest supporters, and we could not do this work without them beside us. Praise the Lord!

The theme of the LWMS was "Peace Like a River" Isaiah 66:12. Many of the presenters talked about how they witnessed God's word giving peace to so many people around the world. Like a river that travels and provides lifesaving nourishment, it is the mission of the Comforter Ministry to reach



women who are battling cancer with the message of peace and comfort that only our God can provide. We pray for guidance on reaching these women by offering the comforting words of the Master Comforter, a quilt, and a journal. We hope to reach women who know their Lord and even more, those who don't.

What's next? Gather everything we learned during the convention and improve our efforts to reach women battling cancer and prepare for two upcoming presentations we have been asked to attend.

On October 14, 2023, we will be in Savanna, IL presenting at the LWMS Great River Circuit Fall Rally.

November 11, 2023, we will be in Jackson, WI presenting at David's Star Lutheran Church Women's Retreat.

As always, don't hesitate to contact us through our website [comforterministy.com](http://comforterministy.com) or by email at [comforterministyinc@gmail.com](mailto:comforterministyinc@gmail.com).

God's Blessings.

Mary, Judy, and Christine

The Comforter Ministry Team

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.

## With a Thankful Heart...*I thank my God every time I remember you.* Philippians 1:3-5

**Since May 12, 2023, 143 Quilters/Quilt Groups from 25 states and one Canadian province have made 936+ comforters that have comforted over 1,187+ women with cancer from 40 states (USA), one Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland.**

Quilters from the states of Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Nebraska, Nevada, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, South Carolina, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Wisconsin, and Wyoming have at one time or another made and donated at least one quilt since 2005. As I share the following information with you, my heart overflows with thankfulness to God for each of you.

### Recipients...

Alaska	4	Montana	1	Wyoming	1
Arizona	13	Nebraska	14	Hawaii	1
Arkansas	2	Nevada	7		
California	28	New Jersey	3		
Colorado	18	New York	8		
Connecticut	2	North Carolina	10		
Florida	34	North Dakota	5		
Georgia	13	Ohio	11		
Idaho	2	Oklahoma	18		
Illinois	37	Pennsylvania	2	Australia	1
Indiana	10	South Carolina	5	Caribbean	1
Iowa	14	South Dakota	11	Japan	1
Kansas	7	Tennessee	5	Ontario, Canada	7
Kentucky	15	Texas	125	Switzerland	1
Maryland	5	Utah	1		
Michigan	64	Virginia	11		
Minnesota	134	Washington	10		
Mississippi	2	West Virginia	2		
Missouri	6	Wisconsin	527		

**Prayers...***The prayers of a righteous man are powerful and effective.* James 5:16

- ❖ Pray for a cure for CANCER
- ❖ Pray for women who have been diagnosed with cancer
- ❖ Pray for the Comforter Ministry and the Comforter Ministry Team

**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

- ❖ **Gifts of Money** received since May 12, 2023 - **Gail O**-Waupaca, WI; **Jane R**-Sun Prairie, WI; **Peggy S**-Pittsville, WI; **Lisa K**-Green Bay, WI; **Judy A**-Wisconsin Rapids, WI; **Dan&Vicky K**-Holmen, WI; **Anne H**-Baxter, MN; **Gwynn M**-Novi, MI; **Carla B**-Elkhorn, WI — **Thank You! Thank You!**

## Words to Share

*"She was overwhelmed with gratitude and emotions that there was such a ministry as yours. It drew us together in a way we have not been able to talk about in a very long time."* (From Christine, a family member of a comforter recipient)

## Thoughts to Share

- ❖ **New Quilts** received since May 12, 2023 - **Elenor G**-San Jose, CA (2); **Betty K**-Jeffersonville, IL (3 quilts plus 16 tissue packs); **Mary S**-Spartanburg, SC (5); **Anne H**-Baxter, MN (1); **Gwynn M**-Novi, MI (1); **Carla B**-Elkhorn, WI (1); **Cheryl S**-Peever, SD (6)— **Thank You, Quilters!**  
**Check out the CM website to see photos of CM quilts at [www.comforterministry.com](http://www.comforterministry.com).**

## QUILTERS, PLEASE NOTE...LONG ARM QUILTERS

There are two long arm quilters that have generously offered to long arm quilts for Comforter Ministry. As the top maker, you would be responsible for making the top, providing a backing that is 4" larger than the top in all directions and shipping them to the long arm quilter. They will provide the batting, long arm quilting and return shipping to you. If interested please contact them to discuss.

**Heidi Bork** - Neenah, WI - [quilterazzi@gmail.com](mailto:quilterazzi@gmail.com) or call 920.205.7213

**JoAnn Maedke** - Eden, WI - [jamaedke@gmail.com](mailto:jamaedke@gmail.com) or call 920.948.3727

## Sharing What I Know

**Because the Comforter Ministry's mission is to reach out to some 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.**

### **KIDNEY CANCER - Part 1**

#### KIDNEY CANCER: TREATMENT

Many people with kidney cancer want to take an active part in making decisions about their medical care. They want to learn all they can about their disease and their treatment choices. However, shock and stress after the diagnosis can make it hard to think of everything they want to ask the doctor. It often helps to make a list of questions before an appointment. To help remember what the doctor says, people may take notes or ask whether they may record the conversation. Some also want to have a family member or friend with them when they talk to the doctor - to take part in the discussion, to take notes, or just to listen. The doctor may refer the patient to a specialist, or the patient may ask for a referral. Specialists who treat kidney cancer include doctors who specialize in diseases of the urinary system and doctors who specialize in cancer. Getting a second opinion can be another option before deciding on treatment.

#### METHODS OF TREATMENT

People with kidney cancer may have SURGERY. Some questions the patient may want to ask are: What kind of operation do you recommend for me? Do I need any lymph nodes removed? Why? What are the risks of surgery? Will I have any long-term effects? Will I need dialysis? Should I store some of my own blood in case I need a transfusion? How will I feel after the operation? How long will I need to stay in the hospital? When can I get back to my normal activities? How often will I need checkups? Would a clinical trial be appropriate for me? ARTERIAL EMBOLIZATION: Why do I need this procedure? Will I have to stay in the hospital? How long? What are the risks and side effects? Would a clinical trial be appropriate for me? RADIATION THERAPY: Why do I need this treatment? What are the risks and side effects of this treatment? Are there any long-term effects? When will the treatments begin? When will they end? How will I feel during therapy? What can I do to take care of myself during therapy? Can I continue my normal activities? How often will I need checkups? Would a clinical trial be appropriate for me? BIOLOGICAL THERAPY: Biological therapy is a type of systemic therapy. It uses substances that travel through the bloodstream, reaching and affecting cells all over the body. Biological therapy uses the body's natural ability to fight cancer. For patients with metastatic kidney cancer, the doctor may suggest interferon alpha or interleukin-2 (also called IL-2 or aldesleukin). The body normally produces these substances in small amounts in response to infections and other diseases. For cancer treatment, they are made in the laboratory in large amounts. CHEMOTHERAPY: Why do I need this treatment? How does it work? What are the expected benefits of this treatment? What are the risks and possible side effects of treatment? What can I do about them? When will treatment start? When will it end? Will I need to stay in the hospital? How long? How will treatment affect my normal activities? Would a clinical trial be appropriate for me?

#### SIDE EFFECTS

Because treatment may damage healthy cells and tissues, unwanted side effects are common. These side effects depend mainly on the type and extent of the treatment. Side effects may not be the same for each person, and they may change from one treatment session to the next. Before treatment starts, the health care team will explain possible side effects and suggest way to help the patient manage them.

**PLEASE NOTE: Su's new email address is [susymail@yahoo.com](mailto:susymail@yahoo.com) and check out "Su's Corner" at [www.comforterministry.com](http://www.comforterministry.com)**

## Words of Comfort

This meditation is the fourth in a series based on the supporting scriptural references of the Comforter Ministry Mission Statement, found in the Comforter Ministry journal, and previously printed in Comforter Ministry Newsletters. They are being reprinted here and in following issues of CMN.

*Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." Acts 2:38*

### What Shall We Do?

"*Peter replied...*" Replied to what? Replied to whom? What was the question? Why was the questions asked?

In the previous verses, Acts 2:22-36, the apostle Peter had been reviewing some past events involving those listening to him and specifically "*fellow Jews and all of you who live in Jerusalem,*" point out their part in the killing of Jesus, the Son of God. Once these hearers understood and accepted the truth of what Peter said, once they realized their sin and felt deep and compelling sorrow over their sin against God, each hearer was then personally *convicted* of his sin and *convinced* he needed soul-healing through God's holy and complete forgiveness, but how? "*What shall we do?*" (verses 37,38) was their desperate and anxious question.

Peter is quick with a response in answer to their helpless plight. He tells them to *repent*, truly and sincerely admit your guilt before God (Proverbs 28:13). Be *baptized, everyone of you, in the name of Jesus Christ*. Because of Jesus' work - His complete obedience to God the Father, obedience which included living a holy and perfect life; suffering and dying for the sins of the entire world for all time; rising from the dead to show His victory over death and the devil - the gift of baptism gives the forgiveness of sins (Titus 3:5-7).

Through the waters of baptism, through the power of the Word that is in and with the water, forgiveness of sins, as earned by Jesus Christ, is transmitted to the believer. Baptism *effects* forgiveness. The Greek preposition indicates *purpose* for the forgiveness of sins. The Holy Spirit works through baptism, a means of grace, which produces faith in the believer (Acts 8:12; Acts 18:8), who receives forgiveness as a gift. Baptism (by God's Word connected with the water), forgiveness and the Holy Spirit cannot be separated in this sacrament" (Concordia Self-Study Bible Notes, page 1659, Concordia Self-Study Bible, NIV). Jesus, Himself, considered the importance of baptism and included it in His instructions to His disciples who would continue to spread Jesus' message of forgiveness and salvation (Matthew 28:18, 19). Later we read that 3,000 believed the Word (the message of Peter), repented and were baptized (Acts 2:41).

So what does this mean for you, dear reader? "How does Acts 2:38 relate to me?", you may be asking yourself. Well, nothing has really changed since the days when Peter and the other disciples of Jesus lived on this same planet 2,000 years ago and obeyed the words and instructions of Jesus to *teach* and *baptize* (Matthew 28:18, 19) *in his name*. The world is still filled with sinners who sin and are in need of forgiveness. When sinners ask, "*What shall we do?*" Christians still reply, *Repent and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ*. Baptism still gives forgiveness of sins and produces faith. Through Word and sacrament the Holy Spirit convicts, convinces and converts. He works saving faith in the hearts of those called to repentance and continues to enable believers to bring forth fruits of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22). His counsel and comfort are confirmed as absolute truths, complete in every way.

**Dear Reader: "*What shall we do?*" Recognize the answer will never be found within ourselves but always and only found in Jesus and the forgiveness of sins He has already earned for us.**