

"Wrapped in the Love of the Comforter"



Comforter Ministry Team Message

Brrrrrrrr!! At the time this is being written it is -15 degrees in Central Wisconsin. While it is dangerous for us to be outside for more than a few minutes without proper attire, the chick-a-dee, sparrow, and other small creatures move about with ease. It is simply amazing how God cares for His creatures in all circumstances—and how much more He cares for us!

As the Comforter team takes refuge in the warm safety of our homes, we have time to examine where we can improve the operation of the ministry. Over the past few months, we have been busy reviewing our process and have made a few additions and updates.

Once again, we worked with Quality Plus Printing here in Wisconsin Rapids and designed an 8"x10" poster. Like the Comforter Ministry brochure, the poster will be used as an effective tool in reaching those who are affected by having a loved one diagnosed with cancer and not sure what they can do.

If you would like a card stock poster to display at your church, shop, fellowship hall etc.... contact us at ComforterMinistryInc@gmail.com or it can be printed from our website ComforterMinistry.com.

We have updated a few things on the website. "Request a Comforter and Journal" now has its own tab. Our hope is that when someone wants to request a comforter and journal, the process will be more visible and easier to access.

We also made a few minor changes to the "Criteria for Making and Donating a Comforter". For our quilters, attached below is the list with the changes. If you are not a quilter, share it with one. This is also posted on our website.

As always, if you see something we can improve, we would love to hear from you.

Always rejoice in the Lord,
Mary, Judy, and Christine

Spring 2025

We exist to share the comfort and compassion of God's Word to women battling cancer, through the gift of a quilt and a journal.

TAKE A LOOK INSIDE

- ♡ Meet Abby
- ♡ Recipients of a Comforter
- ♡ Words to Share
- ♡ The Comforter Ministry Quilters
- ♡ Special Gifts Received
- ♡ Meditation

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Meet Abby

Last Fall the Comforter Ministry was approached by Abby H., a nursing major at Wisconsin Lutheran College. For a Leadership class project, she chose to plan and lead a fundraiser and donate the proceeds to the Comforter Ministry. Abby had a goal to raise between \$1,000 and \$2,000.

We were honored to have Abby consider the Comforter Ministry and we gave our approval for her to represent the ministry.

Abby organized and led an event on the Wisconsin Lutheran College campus on November 12, 2024, where she ran a basket raffle, with tickets costing \$1.00.

She raffled two baskets that contained the following donated items:

Basket 1: Handmade quilt, Owala water bottle, mini JBL speaker, Uno No Mercy game, Lego sunflowers

Basket 2: Handmade Christmas quilt, Owala tumbler, mini JBL speaker, mini-Christmas tree with ornaments

Additionally, Abby appealed to two WELS churches to place a collection box, asking for donations without the raffle component.

Abby was able to raise an amazing \$220.00 from the basket raffle and an additional \$410.00 from the two WELS churches. Giving a total donation of \$630.00 to the Comforter Ministry!!!!

While Abby did not reach her goal, she accomplished so much more for the Comforter Ministry. We are proud of her promoting the ministry, and extremely grateful for her efforts to help spread the word of reaching out to women battling cancer. The heightened awareness resulting from Abby's project is much more valuable than the money raised.

In addition, Abby noted that her mom and grandma are both avid quilters and have previously donated to the Comforter Ministry. Their support inspired her to help the ministry by way of the fundraiser.

In Abby's own words --"Quilts mean a lot in my family, and I wanted to help spread that love to those who need it most."

Please join us by giving thanks for the work Abby did and pray for her success in her education and career.

Thank you, Abby, for choosing the Comforter Ministry!



Abby's display at Wisconsin Lutheran College, November 2024



Judy and Abby meeting in February 2025

Recipients of a Comforter

With the guidance from our loving Lord, the ministry has comforted over 1,342 women throughout the USA, a Canadian province, Australia, the Caribbean, Japan, and Switzerland.

Recipients throughout the United States

Alaska 5 - Arizona 14 - Arkansas 2 - California 32
Colorado 18 - Connecticut 2 - Florida 38 - Georgia 13
Idaho 4 - Illinois 40 - Indiana 11 - Iowa 14 - Kansas 8
Kentucky 16 - Maine 2 - Maryland 11 - Michigan 73
Minnesota 149 - Mississippi 2 - Missouri 6 - Montana 1
Nebraska 17 - Nevada 7 - New Jersey 3 - New York 8
North Carolina 10 - North Dakota 6 - Ohio 11
Oklahoma 19 - Oregon 1 - Pennsylvania 3 - South Carolina 8
South Dakota 12 - Tennessee 7 - Texas 136 - Utah 1
Virginia 13 - Washington 16 - West Virginia 2
Wisconsin 588 - Wyoming 1 - Hawaii 1

Recipients outside of the United States

Australia 1 - Caribbean 1 - Japan 1 - Ontario, Canada 7
Switzerland 1

***“The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.”
James 5:16***

Please continue to support the ministry in your daily prayers.

- ♡ Pray for a cure for cancer.
- ♡ Pray for women diagnosed with cancer.
- ♡ Pray for the Comforter Ministry.

To personalize your prayers, go to ComforterMinistry.com for a list of current recipients.



Words to Share



We often receive cards, and emails with words of thanks for doing the work we do. We want to share a few with you because we are just one part of this ministry. This ministry would not be able to continue without our generous quilters and supporters.

Here are just a few we received.

“Just wanted to thank you for all you do for women battling cancer. My cousin was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She will need prayers and support. Knowing other women will be praying for her too is such a comfort”

“I can’t thank you ladies enough for the stunning quilt! It literally moved me to tears.”

“I want to thank you all so much for the beautiful comforter. What a wonderful gift. I was kind of down the other night, so I took the comforter and laid it on me, and it made me feel secure in my beliefs, and brought me comfort.”

“Thank you so much for the beautiful quilt and journal you sent to my friend. She was so touched by the kindness. It is heartwarming to know there are people like you that are willing to give of themselves to help others.”

**Your prayers, your work and your support is valued.
Thank you for all you do!**

The Comforter Ministry Quilters

Our gifted 145+ Quilters/Quilt Groups throughout the United States and Canadian province have made and donated over 1071 beautiful quilts.



Quilts received since Nov. 23, 2024:

- ♡ **Mary S.** - Spartanburg, SC
- ♡ **Michelle E. and Scott K.** - Onalaska, WI
- ♡ **Trinity Quilters** – Minocqua, WI
- ♡ **Sue R. Karin M. Nola M. and Hearts and Hands Quilters** - Marquette, MI
- ♡ **Phyllis F.** - Mukwonago, WI
- ♡ **Gwynn M.** – Novi, MI

Thank you for serving in this special ministry.

To view the quilts received, visit the Photo Gallery on our website, ComforterMinistry.com.

Quilters – There are minor changes to the process of “Criteria for Making and Donating a Quilt”. Attached is a document with the changes. If you have any questions, please reach out to us.

We have two longarm quilters that have generously offered to longarm quilts for the Comforter Ministry. You are responsible for completing the top, supplying a backing that is 4" larger than the top in all directions and shipping to the longarm quilter. They will supply the batting, longarm quilting and return shipping to you. If interested, please contact them to discuss.

Heidi Bork from Neenah, WI
Email: Quilterazzi@gmail.com or call 920.205.7213
JoAnn Maedke from Eden, WI
Email: jamaedke@gmail.com or call 920.948.3727

Thank you, Heidi, and JoAnn!

*“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*

Special Gifts Received



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

The Comforter Ministry has been blessed with generous financial support that has allowed us to reach women with cancer and provide them with God’s word and the gift of a comforter and journal.

Gifts received since Nov. 23, 2024:

- ♡ **Mary & Ed S.** - Spartanburg, SC
- ♡ **Trinity Lutheran Women’s Society** - Aberdeen, SC
- ♡ **Shirley A.** - Mt. Pleasant, TX
- ♡ **Diane T.** - De Pere, WI
- ♡ **St. Paul’s** - Appleton, WI
- ♡ **Jane R.** - Sun Prairie, WI
- ♡ **Becky D.** - Wis. Rapids WI
- ♡ **Lisa K.** - Green Bay, WI
- ♡ **Lois S.** - Manitowoc, WI
- ♡ **Carla B.** - Elkhorn, WI
- ♡ **Debra K.** - Wis. Rapids, WI
- ♡ **Janeen S.** – Wis. Rapids, WI

Thank you for giving to this special ministry.

Remember: The Comforter Ministry is a Non-Profit Organization. Upon request a 501(c)(3) Organization Donation Receipt can be provided.

THE JOY OF THE LORD

*Nehemiah said, "Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the LORD is your strength."
Nehemiah 8:10*

It has been said that a parent can only be as happy as their unhappiest child. Perhaps this is true since happiness has to do with circumstances. If our child is not doing well, empathy causes us to take on their negative emotions. But is it God's will that another person should dictate our enjoyment of life? There must be a better way.

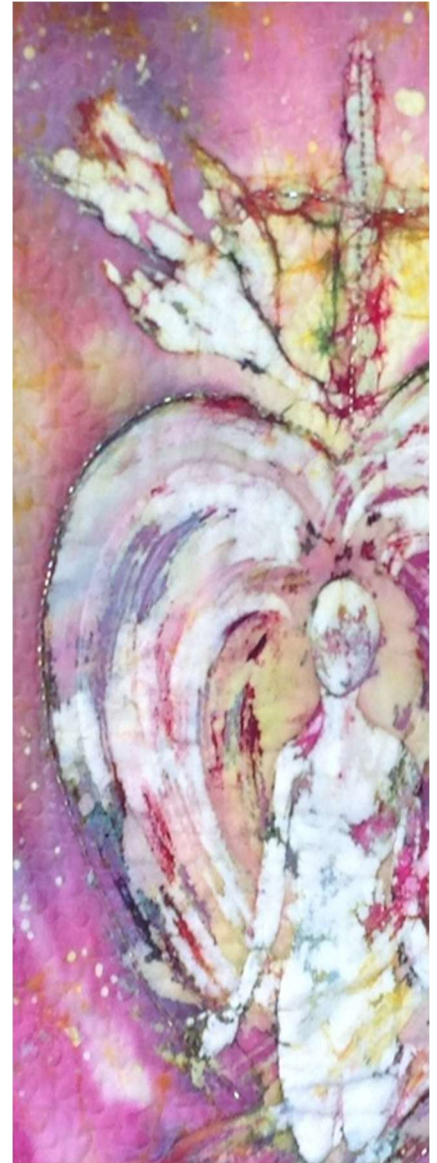
Believe it or not, inner joy can be experienced regardless of our circumstances. We may be battling cancer, going through a divorce, or enduring the travails of a prodigal child. Certainly, our circumstances are painful and troubling.

Yet joy is available to every believer when we choose to focus on Him. Joy is a gift from the Lord—a fruit of His Spirit. The joy of the Lord is our strength! So don't allow external circumstances to dictate your emotional state of well-being. Choose to focus on the Lord and experience inner joy in the midst of your current situation.



*Dear Lord, I seek joy that can only be found in You. Happiness is fleeting, but Your joy is constant. Help me keep my eyes on You today.
Amen*

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*"Praise be to 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*



CRITERIA For MAKING and DONATING A COMFORTER

- ♥ The size of the comforter should measure approximately 57"x70". Often called a lap quilt.
- ♥ Fabrics and batting that are 100% cotton are encouraged due to skin sensitivity.
- ♥ Embellishments such as buttons, beads and rhinestones are discouraged to ensure easy care and comfort.
- ♥ The quilt can be hand quilted, machine quilted or tied.
- ♥ The quilter's name, city, state, and date the comforter was completed should be on the back of the comforter, using a permanent method.
- ♥ **Optional:** Include at least one (1) heart on the front side of the comforter.
- ♥ Be active in prayer as you make this special gift of love and comfort.
- ♥ When the quilt is near completion, contact the Comforter Ministry for a Comforter Ministry Journal page "Greetings from the Quilter".
- ♥ Fill out the "Greetings from the Quilter" page with words of encouragement, Bible verses, a little about yourself, a prayer, or whatever wishes you would like to pass along to the recipient of the comforter.
- ♥ Develop three (3) colored photos of the completed comforter, preferably all the same.
- ♥ At the quilter's expense, send the completed comforter, the "Greetings from the Quilter" page and the three (3) photos to:

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For additional information regarding the Comforter Ministry, visit **ComforterMinistry.com**, email **comforterministryinc@gmail.com** or call **715-213-9050**.