

FaithBIT



A Sewing Miracle for the COVID Front Lines

Reflection by Jeanne Roudabush, Linda Herzog, Ruth Lunde

"Greetings from the COVID front line." Jeanne Roudabush, an Immanuel member, recently wrote these words. She went on to say, "My team works in senior assisted living and memory care and experienced an outbreak of COVID-19 in May. With PPE (Personal Protective Equipment) at a premium and often unavailable, the Minnesota Department of Health recommends turning to friends for homemade gowns."

After an exceptionally tiring shift Jeanne shared her feelings on Facebook when writing, "I am tired... tired of having to reuse my isolation gown... I am hopeful... I am prayerful. More than ever before I know I need to lean on God because I am terrified and tired."

Linda Herzog, another Immanuel member, heard Jeanne's prayer and was moved to act. Linda said, "The reality of COVID is sobering. So, I contacted Jeanne and asked her if I could make some isolation gowns for her." Jeanne responded, "We need so many gowns that it would be nearly impossible." Linda pressed her and asked, "In a perfect world how many would you want?" Jeanne replied, "25. Go big or go home, right?"

Linda needed help to get that number done so she reached out to the quilting group at church. And Linda said, "That's when a sewing miracle started happening."

Ruth Lunde, one of the sewers said, "In the recent weeks/months, with all the troubling things in the news, I have asked God, 'What can I do to help?' Then things mobilized quickly. About a dozen women from Immanuel volunteered to cut and sew isolation gowns needed to protect healthcare workers. God was at work through the quick response from all willing to help."

As of June 10, thirty-two gowns have been delivered to Jeanne! Thanks to Linda, Jody, Mimi, Julie, Clare, Becky, Pat, Gwen, Jan, Coleen, and Ruth! (Linda has also made 10 gowns for her daughter, Lindsey, and the facility where she works, with 10 more on the way with help from Gwen, Ruth, and Coleen).

Jeanne concludes, "What a fabulous group of sewers I have encountered here at Immanuel! Thanks for keeping us safe during this unprecedented time in healthcare! We are so grateful! And you have made a huge difference!"