



Bellevue Church Newsletter

Volume 1 • Issue 5
July 2020

Sewing For The Community

By Amanda Whiting

Karen Locke and her mother, Kathy Locke, have both been sewing since they were children. Karen was inspired to start making masks earlier this year when she heard about the need and realized she could help. Kathy is a retired nurse and had made cloth masks before. Karen and Kathy found some patterns online and got to work! They had been blessed with over 5,000 yards of fabric from Marian Forschler when she and her husband Kerry had to downsize a few years ago. (You can read more about Marian in [Vol. 1, Issue 3](#) of this newsletter.) Karen & Kathy shared some of the fabric with a local Boy Scout troop so they could make masks too.

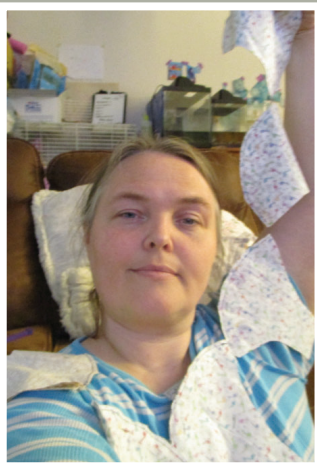
Karen, Kathy, and Karen's two daughters, Sophie and Naomi, all have sewing machines, so they filled their spare time making masks. Karen realized that other people in the area were probably helping in similar ways, and she found a local group called Ravishing Women. The group donates the masks all over the Eastside, and if people pay for the masks the money goes towards supplying PPE for doctors and nurses, food for homeless shelters, and other community needs.



Clockwise from top Ben Gish (Gayle's brother) wearing one of Gayle's masks. An array of styles sewn by the Locke's. Keith sporting a new mask.

Karen has also been mailing masks to people in other states who need them. She even customizes the ties if needed, because she knows that some people are allergic to elastic. Karen purposefully makes the masks colorful so they are less scary, especially for kids. She says "We hope it's enough to make a difference. You can do a lot with a sewing machine and some cloth."

Gayle Woodruff has also been making masks! She found out that a low income manufactured home park needed masks, and so she made some for them. Then Kathy Locke shared some of the fabric that she and Karen were using, and Gayle has continued to make masks. She says "From the way things are going it looks like masks will be with us for a while. Now that the weather is warmer the challenge is to figure out what is acceptable, yet lighter weight. It's always fun to connect with others who are trying to make good things happen in the community."



Clockwise from top Karen and her mask patterns. Naomi sewing masks. A completed mask.