

“In the name of the Father, the Creator, the giver of Life...” and so begins another prayer shawl. This prayer shawl may go to a cancer patient, a stroke patient, a person struggling with depression or pain that cannot be controlled. It may go to a daughter whose father is dying and she can't be with him. It may go to a child whose parents are going through divorce. It may be a member of St. John Lutheran Church, it may not be. Who it goes to is often unknown when a prayer shawl is started, but who makes it knows that their prayer for healing and hope will go with it.

History

Bette Shellhorn of All Saints Lutheran Church in Mason Michigan began this ministry of knitting, crocheting and prayer in 2000. Since then it has spread across the nation to churches of almost every denomination. The Prayer Shawl Ministry has been active at St. John since the spring of 2002. A simple suggestion by a member planted the ministry at St. John with unbelievable results. Within the first six months over 30 shawls had been delivered to members or friends of the congregation.

Who Are The Shawls For?

There are no set guidelines for receiving a prayer shawl from the church. Often times the staff hears of someone with a particular need and sees that they get one. Sometimes a family member will ask if their loved one could have one. Some have gone to adults and some have gone to children. Anyone who is in need of prayer, hope, comfort and love of a community may have a shawl.

How The Shawls Are Made

The shawl envelopes the recipient in warmth and prayers from the community of St. John. As the craftsperson creates the shawl the prayer of healing is prayed so that the prayer is literally woven into the yarn. When the shawl is delivered, a card with the same prayer is delivered and read aloud to the recipient.

A limited supply of yarn is available at St. John. If you are interested in supporting this ministry, but don't knit or crochet, you may give a monetary donation that will be put toward the purchase of more yarn. If you would like to make a shawl, but don't know how to knit or crochet, give the church a call and we will try to connect you with someone who can teach you!

If you are aware of someone you feel could benefit from the warmth and prayers that come with a shawl, please help yourself to those displayed on the rack in the St. John atrium.

Directions for Making Prayer Shawls

Knitting Directions

Materials:

3 skeins Lion Brand Homespun yarn or any soft worsted weight yarn
Size 11 or 13 knitting needles

Pattern: Cast on 57 stitches.

First row: Knit (k) three, Purl (p) three, to the end of the row.

Following rows: Turn. Knit the purl and purl the knit. You will begin every row with knit.

A weave pattern will develop. Knit about 2 2/3 skeins in the pattern. Use the rest of the yarn for fringe. The fringe can be as short as 3 inches or as long as 8 or 9 inches. Finished size is about 30" X 6', plus fringe.

Crochet Directions

Materials:

3 skeins Lion Brand Homespun yarn or any soft worsted weight yarn
Size N Crochet Hook

Pattern: Chain 91 loosely

Row 1: (Right side): (dc, ch 2, sc) in fourth ch from hook, * skip next 2 chs, (2 dc, ch 2 sc) in the next ch. Repeat from * across.

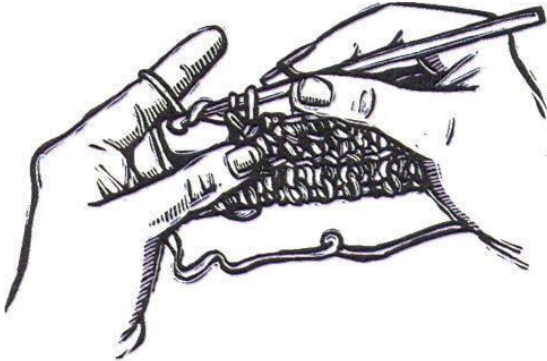
Row 2: Ch 2 turn. (2 dc, ch 2, sc) in first ch 2 sp and in each ch2 space across.

Repeat Row 2 until you have used 2 2/3 skeins of yarn (or the piece is about 6 foot long). Do not finish off.

Last Row: Ch 2, turn * sc in first ch 2 sp, ch2. Repeat from * across and end with a sc. Finish off.

Fringe: Add fringe to first and last rows as desired with remaining yarn.

Weave prayers into the shawl as you make the shawl. Begin with a prayer for blessing the shawl. Then, pray for the person who will receive the shawl as you make it.



A Mantle of Caring

“In the name of the Father, the Creator; the giver of Life; in the name of Jesus, the Savior, the Healer and the Lifter of pain; in the name of the Spirit, the Comforter and the Sustainer of Life, this shawl was created as a mantle of caring, of protection, of strength, of healing and of patience. May it enfold you, encircle you, warm and comfort you when you are weak and weary. O, Christ, who heals the broken in body and spirit, be with all who suffer today. Be with the doctors, nurses, technicians and all who care for others. Be with the families and friends of those who comfort. May your gentle yet strong touch reach out to heal all the broken and hurting people and places in the world. Amen.”

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Prayer Shawl Ministry



*Prayers and love are
in each stitch made
from beginning
to the end*