

## *History of the Prayer Shawl Ministry*

The ministry was begun at West Des Moines United Methodist Church by a church member, Mary Terp, after she learned of the power of the prayer shawl from a former member, Rich Luze, who is now a part of the Manchester United Methodist Church in St. Louis, Missouri.

Rich was seriously struggling with cancer, and the church gave him a prayer shawl. He shared with Mary how powerful it was in his healing.



## *Be Part of a Prayer Shawl Ministry*

You may wish to form your own ministry team to get together once or twice a month at your church to discuss the ministry work, work on the shawls, and pray for those who will receive them.

You may also join the group which meets the second Friday of every month at Serenity Home to create Prayer Shawls.

Some crochet, others knit. If you do not know how to do either, it's a simple pattern, easily taught. Everyone can cut fringe pieces. Some work on their shawls at home; others wait until the group gathers together.

## *Blessings for Creating a Shawl*

Loving God, as I create this shawl, may it be worn with love and compassion by the Hospice patient and family in their time of need. May it be a sign of hope and caring from our families of faith. Amen.

Loving God, as I work to create this shawl, may it become a sign of Your love and concern as its recipient faces the days ahead. Amen.

As I create this shawl, may You guide my hands and my thoughts. I pray for its recipient in his/her time of need, trusting that this gift will be a reminder to them of Your love and concern which surrounds us all our days. Amen.

## *Blessings for a Completed Shawl*

God of grace and God of glory, You alone know what this patient and family need at this time. Surround them with Your loving peace that they might find solace and comfort in You. Amen.

God of love, surround this patient and family with your tender mercy in this time of struggle and sorrow. May this shawl be a source of comfort and warmth with the promise of Your love for the days ahead. Amen.

Loving God, may the rhythm of the rows and stitches all tied together be a sign to this patient and family of the tie that binds us all together - that of Your love and mercy. Amen.

# *Prayer Shawl Ministry*



❧ *Serenity Hospice  
and Home* ❧

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## *What is a Prayer Shawl?*

Simply put, a Prayer Shawl is a soft, warm shawl, knitted or crocheted, which will be given to Serenity Hospice and Home patients or family members at Serenity Home. It will provide comfort and warmth to families who are in the midst of a crisis.

Before the shawl is delivered to Serenity Home, it is prayed over by the ministry team who created it and sometimes by clergy. When the shawl is received at Serenity Home, we add a card with this message :

*This Prayer Shawl was made especially for you with love and prayer. It is a gift from a prayerful believer and Serenity Hospice and Home. We have asked God to bless this shawl. It is our prayer that you receive comfort and solace as you wear it and that it will encircle you in God's love and peace, now and always.*

## *Are All Shawls the Same?*

There is no right or wrong way to create these gifts of love. They do not have to look alike nor be the same color, length, or width.

The patterns are simple and each shawl is one-of-a-kind.

Shawls are either knitted or crocheted.

Each shawl takes three skeins of Lion Brand Homespun Yarn.  
(or any yarn you would like to use)

The pattern is simple:

knit 3, purl 3, with the following meanings:

The Trinity: Father-Son-Holy Spirit,  
Human existence has 3 stages: birth-life-death,  
Time has 3 divisions: past-present-future,  
Virtues mentioned together: faith-hope-love,  
Human being has 3 parts: body-mind-spirit,  
The pattern of 3 can be found in every religion  
and society.

Shawls will be given to Serenity Hospice and Home patients and family members at Serenity Home to keep around their shoulders for comfort, healing, warmth, and love as a reminder of all their friends at your church and Serenity Hospice and Home who are lifting them up in prayers.

## *Prayer Shawl Pattern Ideas*

*These are only guidelines. You can make shawls any way you choose.*

### **Knitted Prayer Shawls**

Use size 13 needles

(These needles provide a loose weave and make the project go fast.)

Begin by casting on 57 stitches.

**Pattern:** Knit 3, purl 3, to the end of the row.

Turn and repeat the pattern. Each row will begin with knit 3. Before you begin your 3rd skein, set aside the yarn you will need for making the fringe for both ends of the shawl.

Then, knit until you finish the yarn.

### ***Attach fringe.***

The fringe is made by cutting lengths of yarn about 8 inches long. Hold together and fold in half. This creates 4 ends.

Pull through and knot.

### **Crocheted Prayer Shawls**

Use a 10mm hook

For fringe, cut at least 108 pieces of yarn, 8 in. long before beginning to crochet.

ch 53. Turn. sc for 3 rows. Turn.

In the second sc from hook, \*do 3 dc, sk 1 st; sc in next st, sk 1 stitch; in next stitch, rep from \* for width of shawl. ch 2. Turn. You should have 13 dc shells across.

Note that the 3 dc shells are done in the center of the dc group in the row below. Repeat this row until shawl is the desired length.

End with 3 rows of sc.

Attach fringe to shawl.

