

# PRAYER SHAWL



## **DESCRIPTION/OVERVIEW:**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is made up of women and men who enjoy knitting, crocheting, praying and who enjoy each other's company. This ministry offers warmth, comfort and unconditional love to parishioners and their family, and friends who are in need of healing. Shawl makers begin each shawl with a prayer and continue praying throughout their creation. Upon completion the group lays hands upon the shawl and prays for blessings for the recipient. This ministry is open to new members and are willing to teach anyone who is interested to learn to knit or crochet.

## **ACTIVITIES:**

- Knit and crochet prayer shawls for parishioners and their families and friends
- Open and close each session with prayers for all recipients of our prayer shawls
- When shawls are completed and ready to be delivered, all members lay their hands on the shawls and pray for the recipient
- Members are willing to teach anyone who is interested to learn to knit or crochet.

## **EXPECTATIONS:**

- Members meet either Tuesday afternoons from 2-4 PM and/or Thursday evenings 6-8 PM in the conference room at OLM when they are available. No commitments are required.
- Members may work on their shawls at home.
- Pray with other members for recipients of the shawls

### **Witness Statement 1:**

The prayer shawl has touched me numerous times. When my father was losing his battle to cancer nine years ago, the ministry delivered a shawl to him. When he was well enough to be up in the living room, he would sit with shawl around him. It was comforting to know that he received solace while wrapped in our Lord's loving embrace. Towards the end, when Dad was confined to bed and sleeping most of the time, I would sit in his chair in the living room with the shawl around me. I still visit my mother's house and often grab the shawl (still in the same place). The shawl makes me feel like Dad is there with me.

My little sister has a shawl too. She has a mental illness diagnosis and faces challenges on a daily basis that most of us cannot imagine. My sister was so excited when she received her shawl from the ministry. When it gets over bearing for her, the shawl eases the pain. When she has comfort, I have peace.

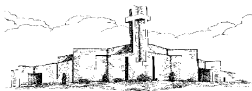
Lastly, I have my own shawl. I became a recipient while I was battling cancer for the second time. In addition to the comfort and peace the shawl itself brings, there is also a safe feeling that comes from knowing how much the ladies from the ministry must care. I know from their actions, that we are all family. They pray for me as I pray for them. They stand behind me as I stand behind them. I see Christ in their eyes. I hope they see Christ in my eyes too.

### **Witness Statement 2:**

A parishioner called me to say that an older widowed gentleman from our parish, who live alone, was on chemo and going through a difficult time. I had the girls pray on his shawl and put his name in our book of recipients so we could continue to pray for him. When I delivered it, I introduced myself and told him about our ministry. He explained how weak he felt and that a nurse was coming so to administer his chemo. I asked him if I could wrap him in the shawl and pray for him. He warmly accepted our shawl.

When I had to leave after the nurse come, I assured him he was not alone....that God and our ministry would be with him in love and prayer. He had a bad reaction to the chemo and ended up in the hospital and then a nursing home. He kept his shawl around him, and even asked his son to be sure he was buried with it. What a wonderful testimony that he felt God's love and prayers through our shawl, and that it gave him such comfort.

Kay Kaeberlein



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