

Ideas to "Live Love" during Winter of 2013-2014

The "Live Love" project is to give practical examples of how we can show genuine love and compassion to those around us in an effort to live out the goal of loving God and loving others. *"Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds."* Hebrews 10:24

**These suggestions can be done as a family, individual or with a small group.
Print some in your church bulletin or posted them a bulletin board.**

Holiday Photo: Give a photograph to those who don't have the resources to take photos of themselves. (Homeless, single parents, military vets, etc.) Visit locations where these folks live or frequent to take the photos. Then print and deliver before Christmas. Not a photographer? Help with the cost of printing.



Candy Cane Bombs: People will explode with joy as you share these inexpensive treats by scattering them throughout a parking lot on the windows of cars; on the doors of a retirement home; in hospital waiting rooms; on desks of your city offices; etc. Place them in a bag with the message: "Sharing the Joy of Jesus with you this Christmas". Include your church information.

Christmas for Abused Women: Purchase an inspirational Christian music CD and write an encouraging note including encouraging Bible verses. Drop it by a shelter for abused women. The director will know which woman will benefit the most from your gift.

December 21 is "Look on the Bright Side Day": Literally looking on the bright side may be a bit difficult on the 21st as it is the shortest day of the year. This is a day to be optimistic. Often, a bad experience has positive lessons to be learned. Use this day to send cheerful emails, cards, or music to those who often struggle to see the bright side of life.

Love and kindness are gifts with no strings attached.

Celebrate National Hot Tea month in January by: asking a friend to de-stress by enjoying a cup with you; hosting a tea party at a retirement home; leaving your favorite tea bags at a cancer treatment center; or inviting a young teen to join you in testing new varieties and bridging the generation gap.



Winter Warmth: Purchase hats, gloves & mittens at a discount store and keep them in your car. When you see someone who needs one of these items, stop and give them one. Smile and say "I'm just sharing God's love in a practical way."

Coupon Clipping: Clip, then go to the store and tape it to the product as a surprise treat for someone.

National Compliment Day is January 24th: Create a sheet like you see on bulletin boards when people have something to sell and list their phone number on tear off tags at the bottom. Title your sheet "Free Compliments – take one for yourself or to share". Then write several across the bottom for people to take. Example: You should be so proud of yourself! You look great today! You make me smile. Your kindness overwhelms me. You made my day! Your courage inspires me. You are a faithful friend.

"Unexpected kindness is the most powerful, least costly, and most underrated agent of change."



February 16th is "Do a Grouch a Favor Day": Everyone is a grouch at one time or another. Some people seem to be grouches all of the time. Others are just occasionally when influenced by events in their lives, the weather, etc. Look around for someone who is in a grouchy mood today. Then give a smile, share some encouragement, offer assistance, a gift card for ice cream, whatever you feel will cheer up their day.

Cards of Thanks: Write a letter to the people who have made a difference in your life. Tell them about how they helped you get where you are, and why you are thankful for their support.



Valentines: You know those funny cards that come 24 to a box? The ones you sent to everyone in your class back when you were in school? Bring cheer to someone's day by mailing or secretly handing them out, but keep it to yourself whom it's from. ☺

We encourage these suggestions to be a whole church challenge.

Fill a Furnace: Go to your local oil company and ask who in the community is behind in their bill; then pay their bill for them. What a wonderful surprise this would be for folks having a difficult time and feeling they don't have hope for the future. This could be a life changing Christmas gift!

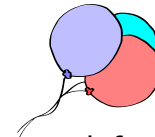
Polish & Paint: Take finger nail polish and supplies to a nursing home and offer to trim and paint nails for any ladies who are interested. While you paint ask questions about their lives and you will gain a wealth of wisdom. If you can't take time to volunteer; just donate the supplies and the aids will be happy to make use of them to brighten their day.

Valentine Meal for Widows and Widowers: There's nothing that says Valentine's Day has to be limited only to couples. It is a hard holiday for many. Plan a meal at your church inviting those in your community who are without a 'valentine'. Have the kids or youth decorate and provide the music & games.

Create a Kindness Blog or Facebook Page: Church members and friends could post the random acts of kindness they do and those they experience to encourage your congregation to continue to 'live love' together in Christian fellowship.

Love is a language that the deaf can hear and the blind can see.

"LIVE LOVE" Ideas Especially For Kids



For a Soup Kitchen or Shelter:

- Divide powdered laundry detergent in Ziploc bags so that each bag is enough for 1 load of laundry.
- Trail Mix: Chex type cereals, raisins, M & M's, pretzels, mini marshmallows, Cheerios, dried cranberries, fish crackers, chocolate chips, etc. in a big bowl then scoop into small Ziploc bags.
- Make seasonal or holiday table or wall decorations to make a plain room more attractive.

For Sick or Needy Children: Hospital, doctor's office, abuse shelter, human services

- Make a Necklace – Cut drinking straws into small lengths to string on lengths of yarn to make a necklace and/or bracelet. Tape instructions to Ziploc. Add yarn and cut straws to bag.
- Puzzle Fun – Color a page from coloring book. With adults' help cut each sheet into 5-6 puzzle pieces. Put pieces into Ziploc bag for sick child to enjoy putting the puzzle together.
- Sticker & Coloring Fun – Children put crayons, drawing paper, pencil, jokes & sheets of stickers in large Ziploc bags. Stickers can be used and reused on the outside of the Ziploc bag.

Make Encouraging Goodies for Sun. School teachers/staff: 1. Giving hugs & kisses because we love you! 2. Starbursts to give you a burst of energy! 3. You are an important piece of this church. (Reece's' Pieces) 4. Giving you a cup of hot cheer because we love your warm smiles. (Hot cocoa)

"What do we live for, if it is not to make life less difficult for each other?" – George Eliot

Passing this along with our prayers for you as you Live Love in your church and community.

The IAYM Christian Education Board