



**God's work.**  
**Our hands.**

## “God’s Work. Our Hands.” During a Pandemic

“**God’s work. Our hands.**” Sunday is set this year for Sunday, September 13. In the past, this has been a wonderful time for generations to work together for a common purpose. What happens to this event in a time of COVID-19? Some of us may be in locations that are relatively free of the virus and open, while others may continue to face restrictions that keep us from coming together even in small groups. What can we do to still participate in the ELCA tradition?

The board members of the Christian Education Network of the ELCA put their collective heads together, drew on their years of experience, and put together the following ideas for your consideration:

### Organizing:

1. Use the promotional items found at <https://elca.org/Resources/GWOH-Sunday> to get the word out about your plans.
2. Have people sign up online, pledging what they are planning to do.
3. Ask people to wear a specific color, t-shirt, or other identifying symbol to develop a sense of community that day.
4. Provide a platform where people can send pictures of themselves participating in the service day and/or comments about how their day went.
5. Consider an online get-together at the end of the day to share stories.

### Service While Staying at Home:

1. Serve immediate neighbors. Encourage people to take in their neighbor’s trash cans for them or help with yardwork.
2. Write a card and compliment your neighbors on something you have noticed about them.
3. Clean out your drawers and cupboards and see what you can donate that others might be able to use.
4. Send cards to residents of a local assisted living facility or other communal living home.
5. Advocate for social justice issues by contacting your local, state, and national representatives. Go to <https://www.elca.org/Resources/Advocacy> to find out more. Need templates for letters? There are four different advocacy letters, providing everything you need to write them easily. Click here for the link to the templates:



[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020\\_Day\\_of\\_Service\\_Advocacy\\_Template\\_Letters.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/2020_Day_of_Service_Advocacy_Template_Letters.pdf)

6. Have a walk-a-thon or rock-a-thon where people participate at their homes and raise money for ELCA World Hunger. Go to <https://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Relief-and-Development/ELCA-World-Hunger/Ways-to-Give>
7. Organize wellness phone calls to those in your congregation and/or community who are isolated, especially seniors and others at risk.

*Service as Individuals & Small Groups outside in the Community:* (appropriately masked and socially distanced)

1. Help sort food at a local food pantry.
2. Do porch/driveway visits to those individuals who are isolated.
3. Participate in a contactless delivery of home-cooked meals for the elderly.
4. Design and place prayer/blessing flags on people's lawns or front doors to let them know you care.
5. Bake a batch of cookies or other goodies for others and drop them off at the house or business with an encouraging note. Or take them to the local hospital for your medical care providers. Show how much you appreciate the work that they do.
6. Donate blood or plasma, wearing your GWOH shirt!