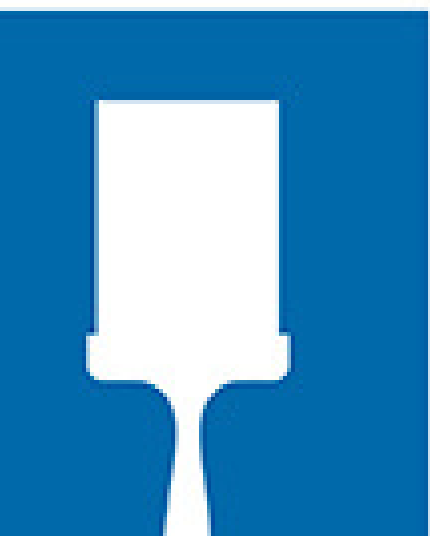


EVERYDAY



God's work. Our hands.



September 13
2026

God's Work Our Hands Sunday is a great way to connect the Behold the New project's focus on our baptismal promises with congregational service work.

Pick any day this fall, perhaps a Wednesday night or a Sunday after church. Plan to spend some quality time - a couple of hours or so - doing some good in your community as you live out being disciples and following the example of Christ.

Plan several tasks and projects so folks can choose what works best for them. Make sure to have both inside and outside options to choose from.

- **Visiting and delivering treats or cards to the nursing home**
- **Teaching the next generation to tie quilts or packing LWR school kits**
- **Cleaning up a cemetery or community park**
- **Washing windows or raking leaves for a neighbor**
- **Collecting and delivering food for the food shelf or shelter**

(There are many more ideas and resources on the ELCA website.)



Criteria: 1. Does the project reach beyond your church building and beyond your own members? 2. Have fun and reflect on how these activities connect with the five baptismal promises.

PLANNING AND LOGISTICAL IDEAS FOR YOUR EVENT

1. Consider a joint worship service for a parish setting. A shorter worship service, blessing and sending folks out for a couple of hours of work on local projects in the community followed by a simple lunch or potluck could work well.
2. Perhaps you could designate a Saturday morning as your God's Work Our Hands Day.
3. Consider a menu of service options. Plan time for connecting with any local businesses or organizations to set up the details for your service work.
4. Figure out the logistics. Make charts and sign up forms. Will folks sign up ahead of time or on the day of your event? Transportation to work site? Number of people, tools and supplies and skills needed to complete the job?
5. Use Thrivent Action Team funds for supplies and food!
6. Focus on "Theology of Response". Service work is a response to the love and grace we receive through our baptismal promises.
7. Highlight that EVERY DAY is God's Work Our Hands, Feet, Voices and Hearts Day.
8. Teach, explain, and use biblical examples of our call to serve our neighbor in Jesus' name. Don't assume folks know WHY they are doing what they are doing.

EVERYDAY



**We do God's Work with Our Hands,
Feet, Voices and Hearts too!**

God's Work Our Hands (*feet, voices, hearts*)...

EVERY DAY THROUGHOUT THE YEAR - not just Sunday September 13, 2026!!!

Together in Jesus Christ we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly and serve joyfully.
“God’s work. Our hands.” is the ELCA’s day of service.

Through our acts of service, we bear witness to the love and concern God’s people have for one another. Our congregations do this work every day — loving their neighbors and improving their communities.

Service to our neighbor allows us to explore one of our most basic Lutheran convictions: ***All of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God’s grace.***

If your congregation cannot participate on Sept. 13, please find another time that works best.
For more details, information and resources, go to the website:

https://cdn.elca.org/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Gods_Work_Our_Hands_Sunday_Toolkit_2026.pdf



BEHOLD
the new has come

POSSIBLE WORSHIP RESOURCES

The following resource ideas have been adapted from and inspired by the ELCA God's Work Our Hands with added emphasis on our baptismal promises. Created by the Behold Team!

PRACTICES TO USE THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. Five Baptismal Promises Litany;
2. Vocation and Blessing of Hands for Ministry;
3. Blessing and Sending for Mission.



All of these serve as worship elements you could use regularly, perhaps once a month in worship to reinforce the BEHOLD Baptismal Promises.

1. FIVE BAPTISMAL PROMISES LITANY

WE, OUR FAMILY AND THE CONGREGATION MAKE FIVE PROMISES AT OUR BAPTISM. SO, WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- I will live among God's faithful people;
- I will hear the word of God;
- I will proclaim the good news of God in Christ;
- I will serve all people following the example of Jesus;
- I will strive for justice and peace.



Use the following litany as a call to worship, after a sermon, as the sending. Use it as often as you like to reinforce the baptismal promises. The parts for “Leader”, “Youth”, and “All” can be adjusted to reflect your congregations makeup. For example: Youth could be a choir, the assistant minister, left side/right side of or another small group in your congregation.

A Behold The New Has Come! Resource
from the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, ELCA

LEADER: TO LIVE AMONG GOD'S FAITHFUL PEOPLE

YOUTH: SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ALL: IT MEANS I WILL HANG OUT WITH OTHER CHRISTIANS AND LOVE ALL MY NEIGHBORS AS LOVED CHILDREN OF GOD AS I USE MY GIFTS TO BUILD UP THE CHURCH AND MY COMMUNITY.

LEADER: TO HEAR THE WORD OF GOD AND SHARE IN THE LORD'S SUPPER

YOUTH: SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ALL: IT MEANS I WILL READ AND LISTEN TO THE BIBLE AND SERMONS. IT MEANS I WILL EAT THE BREAD AND DRINK THE WINE OF HOLY COMMUNION AND REMEMBER GOD LOVES ME AND I'M FORGIVEN.

LEADER: TO PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD IN CHRIST THROUGH WORD AND DEED

YOUTH: SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ALL: IT MEANS I WILL FIND WAYS TO LIVE OUT MY FAITH IN JESUS AT WORK, AT HOME, AT SCHOOL, IN MY COMMUNITY, AND ON SOCIAL MEDIA AS I SHARE THE LIGHT OF CHRIST WITH OTHERS OUT IN THE WORLD.

LEADER: TO SERVE ALL PEOPLE, FOLLOWING THE EXAMPLE OF JESUS.

YOUTH: SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ALL: I WILL CARE FOR THE NEEDS OF AND TREAT MY NEIGHBORS WITH LOVE, RESPECT, MERCY AND COMPASSION LIKE JESUS DID.

LEADER: TO STRIVE FOR JUSTICE AND PEACE IN ALL THE EARTH

YOUTH: SO WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?

ALL: I WILL USE MY HANDS, FEET, VOICE AND HEART TO SPEAK FOR THOSE IN NEED, CARING FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE WORLD GOD MADE, WORKING FOR PEACE FOR ALL HUMANITY.



BEHOLD
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FIVE BAPTISM PROMISES LITANY

2. VOCATION AND BLESSING OF HANDS FOR MINISTRY

Leader: We are called to proclaim the good news:

ALL: God is at work!

L: This good news is not left in some history long ago or a place far away:

A: God is at work in the world still today!

L: In us and through us, God is glorified in our work.

A: When we offer a helping hand, God is praised.

L: When we share of our abundance, God is known in the world.

A: God is at work in us!

L: In our service today and in our daily lives,

A: let us live out what God has called us to in baptism.

A: God is at work through our hands, feet, voices and hearts!

I invite everyone to come forward and receive a blessing on the back and palm of your hands.

Make a sign of the cross on the backs of the hands:

God bless your hands and your work,

Make the sign of a cross on the palms of the hands:

that through you God's love may be known. Today and everyday. Amen



3. BLESSING AND SENDING FOR MISSION

Leader:

Friends in Christ: Today we give thanks to God and seek God's blessing as we are sent out to live faithfully in our everyday lives.

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.

You made the whole earth for your glory; all creation praises you.

We lift our voices to join the songs of heaven and earth

in thanksgiving for the many blessings you have given us.

Renew in us the commitment to use our gifts in the service of others, especially of those in need.

Let us be your hands, holy hands to feed the hungry, shelter the homeless,

clothe the naked, comfort the weary and outcast. Send us out on holy feet to welcome the stranger and care for creation. Send us out with holy courage to be your voice for those who are not heard.

Send us out with a heart of love for You and to be a loving neighbor to all people.

Sending of people

Bless those who go out from here to serve in Jesus name

at home, school, work and the community. Prosper the work of their hands.

Bless those who receive them and the fruits of their labor,

and may those who are sent receive blessing in return.

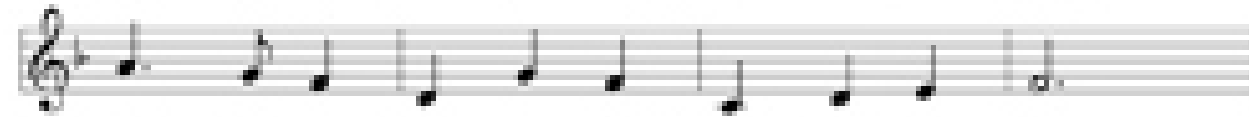
May the gifts they use and share be signs of your love to all people. AMEN



God's Work, Our Hands



1 God's work, our hands: work - ing to - geth - er,
2 God's work, our feet: trav - 'ling to - geth - er,
3 God's work, our voice: sing - ing to - geth - er,
4 God is at work in and a - round us:



build - ing a fu - ture, re - pair - ing the world,
fol - low - ing Je - sus to plac - es un - known,
prais - ing, pro - claim - ing to all who will hear,
seed - lings are sprout - ing and bread's on the rise!



rais - ing up homes, plant - ing new gar - dens,
walk - ing as friends, march - ing for free - dom,
pray - ing for peace, shout - ing for jus - tice,
Washed and set free, hum - bled and hon - ored,



feed - ing the hun - gry and shelt - 'ring the cold,
run - ning the race with God's fu - ture the goal,
claim - ing God's love for the lost and the least,
gift - ed by grace, we re - spond in God's love.



Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
Bless, God, our feet as we fol - low your way,
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
Bless, God, our lives as we an - swer your call,



shar - ing the good news of your Gos - pel.

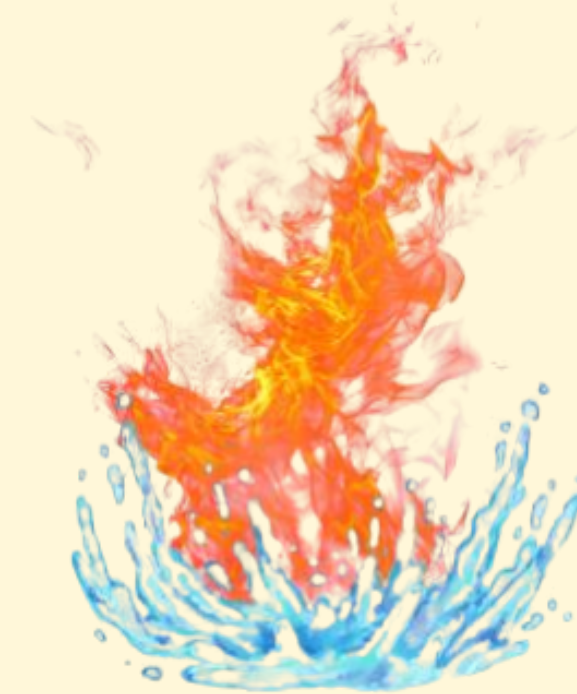
Text: Wayne L. Wolf

Music: God's Work, Our Hands, Wayne L. Wolf

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Use this hymn after the sermon
or as the sending song.



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Gathering Hymn ACS 1000 God's Work, Our Hands (all verses)

God's work, our hands: working together,
building a future, repairing the world,
raising up homes, planting new gardens,
feeding the hungry and shelt'ring the cold.
Bless, God, our hands as we work in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

God's work, our feet: trav'ling together,
following Jesus to places unknown,
walking as friends, marching for freedom,
running the race with God's future the goal.
Bless, God, our feet as we follow your way,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

God's work, our voice: singing together,
praising, proclaiming to all who will hear,
praying for peace, shouting for justice,
claiming God's love for the lost and the least.
Bless, God, our voice as we speak in your name,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

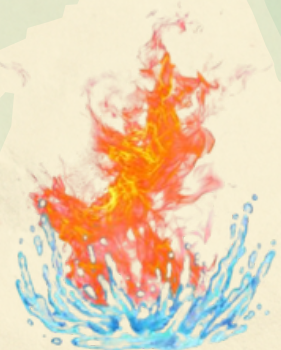
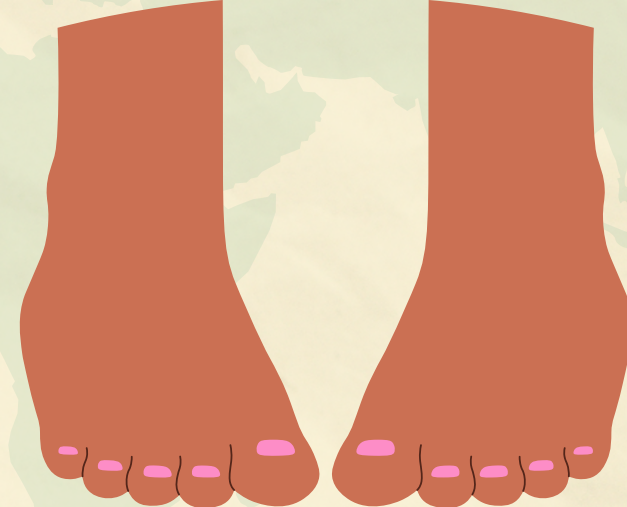
God is at work in and around us:
seedlings are sprouting and bread's on the rise!
Washed and set free, humbled and honored,
gifted by grace, we respond in God's love.
Bless, God, our lives as we answer your call,
sharing the good news of your gospel.

Text: Wayne L. Wold, b. 1954



https://cdn.elca.org/cdn/wp-content/uploads/Gods_Work_Our_Hands_Worship_Resource_2026.pdf

Lots of hymn suggestions and words for worship here.



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GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS, FEET & VOICES

