

Making God's Work Our Hands

Evangelistic



On the second Sunday of September, many folks across the ELCA will wear their God's Work Our Hands shirts out into the public arena as they serve others. A noble endeavor to serve the community. Many will hope that others read their t-shirts and they will know who it is that is doing the work and why they do it. We need to do more. We need to tell them. Tell them about this Jesus that empowers us and gives us Good News.

WHAT IF? What if we ask them about their lives, listen to hear about their stories, their faith, their joys and their sorrows, and also tell them who we are, why we serve? What if we ask them about Jesus?

- Where have you seen Jesus at work in the community?
- What has Jesus been poking you to do?
- How has Jesus given you hope?

When Jesus sends the disciples out for the first time in Matthew 10 he says: "Go to the lost sheep and tell them 'The Kingdom of God has come near'". Think about ways that your congregation's God's Work Our Hands project will let people know "the Kingdom of God has come near."

Here is a beginning list of ideas – and I hope you might add to it:

- Take worship to where you are serving – a nursing home, park, with first responders, etc.
- Listen to the people being served – listen to joys and sorrows, laments, and struggles
- Bless people – find ways to pronounce a blessing upon the people being served and pray for them
- Invite friends or other family members to serve with you
- Ask those being served or those serving with you: What can we pray for?
- Hold a Welcome Event after God's Work Sunday and invite all the people you encountered to come to the event
- Ask people to tell you their faith journey story – find ways to invite them into further conversations
- Recruit a listening team to accompany workers so some are working/serving and others are listening to those being served
- Ask those being served what they think are things the church should be doing to help the community or what are important community needs
- Do something to honor law enforcement, first responders, health care providers, and others that serve in the community
- Share stories of Jesus together
- Invite people to church activities
- Have a community welcome dinner or picnic

Invite folks into conversation. Listen to their stories. Talk about Jesus. Be transformed!
Invite them to worship or activities the church sponsors.