



"God's work. Our hands." Sunday Hymn creation contest



SUMMARY

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is offering people from across the church an opportunity to submit their original composition to be considered as a hymn for **"God's work. Our hands." Sunday**. Our dedicated day of service is an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the ELCA – one church, freed in Christ to love and serve our neighbor.

What started as a one-day event has expanded throughout the church year as members work every day to help their neighbors and serve those in need.

The chosen hymn will become a year-round worship resource and should reflect on service as an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: *All of life in Jesus Christ – every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life is in response to our gratitude for God's abundant grace.*

"God's work. Our hands." is the official tagline of the ELCA and it continues to be an essential element of our identity. These four words express our life of faith and how we live in service for the life of the world.

God. The most important message we have is not about ourselves, but about what God is doing.

God's work. God is and will always be actively working "for us and our salvation."

Our hands. God joins us in Jesus to a community, the body of Christ. In the life of that body, God is working both in us and through us and our hands. God's Holy Spirit accomplishes what nothing else could accomplish – a life freed from sin and death through Christ, a life where our hands are generous and loving.

HONORARIUM

Entries will be screened by a selection team and one hymn may be selected. The winning entrant will receive a \$500 honorarium.

CONSIDERATIONS

When composing your song, consider the following:

1. The new hymn text to be sung in worship, should give voice to our life of faith and how we as Lutherans live in service for the life of the world.
2. The text should be accessible culturally, musically, and theologically, and that references the variety of ways we serve. The hymn will be used beyond a single day of service.
3. The hymn could be used in a variety of settings:
 - During a Sunday morning service around word and sacrament led by a variety of instruments.
 - Sung a cappella at the site of a service event.
 - Sung together at a communal meal following a service activity.
 - Sung at a synodical or churchwide event.
4. The text may be set to newly composed music and/or set to an existing tune in the public domain. The text and tune may be crafted by two different people but must be submitted as one entry.

SUBMISSION DETAILS

1. Each submission must include the following:
 - A completed submission entry form.
 - A copy of the sheet music.
 - A copy of the lyrics without music.
2. Optionally, an MP3 recording of the hymn may be submitted.
3. The required items may be sent as email attachments to worship@elca.org or by mail: Attention: ELCA Worship, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631
4. Submissions must be emailed or postmarked on or before March 1, 2019.
5. Questions may be directed to worship@elca.org or to 773-380-2554.
6. Entries will be screened by a selection team. Hymns are evaluated musically and theologically and the ELCA reserves the right to not select or release a hymn. Entries are subject to the Policy and Procedures for Review of Liturgical Material of the ELCA.
7. Entries will not be evaluated on the production value or quality of performance of any optionally submitted recordings of the hymn.
8. A hymn may be selected and offered with permission to reproduce for use in ELCA congregations and worshipping communities.
9. All entries will receive a response no later than May 31, 2019.
10. Submitted materials will not be returned.

SUBMISSION ENTRY FORM

Entrant

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Describe the nature of your connection to the ELCA, if any – i.e. congregation member, campus ministry, church musician, etc.

Author of text (if other than entrant)

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Describe the nature of your connection to the ELCA, if any – i.e. congregation member, campus ministry, church musician, etc.

Composer of tune (if applicable)

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Street address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP code _____

Describe the nature of your connection to the ELCA, if any – i.e. congregation member, campus ministry, church musician, etc.

FINE PRINT

1. Submissions from songwriting teams are acceptable, however, only one name may appear as the entrant on the submission entry form.
2. The entrant shall be solely responsible to obtain permission to enter the song into this the contest from all cowriters and other collaborators.
3. The entrant listed on the submission form warrants and represents that nothing in the entry infringes the copyright or any other rights of any third parties, including cowriters, lyricists, composers and all others involved in the collaborative creation of the entry. The entrant agrees to indemnify and hold harmless the ELCA, its affiliates, and sponsors from any and all claims brought by any third party as they pertain to the entry, including, but not limited to, any intellectual property claims.
4. Multiple prizes shall not be given to songwriting teams, cowriters, or other collaborators. Prize money shall be awarded to the entrant listed on the submission from. The ELCA shall have no responsibility to divide prize money.
5. The winning entrant grants the ELCA permission to use their name, voice, image and likeness for future publicity and advertising purposes.
6. The ELCA reserves the right to extend the deadline of the competition.
7. ELCA churchwide employees or immediate family members of employees are not eligible to participate.
8. By entering, entrants agree that if their entry is selected as the winner, they will assign to the ELCA all rights, including sole copyright, and title and interest throughout the world to the entry and to all derivative works that are conceived of, prepared, procured, generated or produced, whether or not reduced to practice or use, and whether or not developed solely or jointly with other works. All rights shall be administered by 1517 Media / Augsburg Fortress. The winning entrant also agrees to waive any right of approval or moral rights they may otherwise have with respect to any modification or combination, or to any other use of the entry.
9. All materials submitted by the winning entrant(s) will be considered a work made for hire as defined in the 1976 Copyright Act. The composer(s) release all claim to the submission and agree that it shall be submitted only to the ELCA.
10. "God's Work. Our Hands." is a service mark of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The use of the ELCA name, emblem and tagline is limited to the ELCA churchwide organization, ELCA synods and ELCA congregations. Other entities may use these only with the agreement and written permission of the ELCA.
11. All entrants must be 18 years of age or older.
12. The contest is open to all individuals, regardless of ELCA affiliation.