

## **World Humanitarian Day**

### **August 19**

The United Nations has designated August 19 as World Humanitarian Day. This is a day to lift up and celebrate the volunteers who do so much to make our world a better place. Around the world and here at home people are getting their hands dirty and going the extra mile for the sake of God's people.

God's Work, Our Hands is a familiar slogan of the ELCA. Volunteers in our communities are often the forgotten servants. Many of the same people volunteer repeatedly to do the work that needs to be done. This month, the Virginia Synod Hunger Team, encourages congregations to recognize volunteers in the congregation and the greater community.

**Prayer:** Good and gracious God, we give thanks for the hands and hearts that are your presence in our world. We praise you for the gift of willing people who volunteer in so many places doing so many tasks. Grant these volunteers perseverance, good health, and the strength to continue your work in the world.

#### **Activities:**

Check out the resources and artwork at the UN resource website:

<https://trello.com/b/CnEDkHDX/world-humanitarian-day-2022>

Write thank you cards to volunteers in your congregation and in your community.

Bring lunch or a tasty snack to volunteers in your local food pantry or homeless shelter.

Begin now to plan a project for God's Work Our Hands Sunday on September 10, 2023. See this link for more ideas: <https://www.elca.org/dayofservice>

Nominate someone in your congregation for the VA Synod Serving Boldly Award. Nominations should be in by March 1 each year. For more information on criteria and how to make a nomination see this synod link: <https://vasynod.org/serving-boldly-award/>