



# VIDEO CONTEST

God's Work. Our Hands:  
Freed in Christ to Serve



Southwestern Minnesota Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## **“Frequently asked questions” about the “God's Work. Our Hands: Freed in Christ to Serve God as Lutherans?” Video contest**

### DO WE HAVE TO BE AN ELCA CONGREGATION TO ENTER?

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Yes. Only ELCA congregations—or a Congregation Under Development—located on the official roster of the ELCA's SW MN Synod are eligible to enter in the Congregation Category. Each congregation must have one contact person who submits the video on behalf of the congregation.

### CAN WE SUBMIT MORE THAN ONE ENTRY?

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Yes, you can submit as many entries as you like. It is likely that only one prize/congregation will be awarded.

### CAN A GROUP FROM WITHING A CONGREGATION SUBMIT AN ENTRY?

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Yes. Groups from within a congregation may submit but the video must be submitted “on behalf of” the congregation.

### WHAT IS THE CONTEST SCHEDULE?

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**Contest Kick-off:**

January 15, 2012

**Submission Window:**

January 15, 2012 to April 9, 2012

**Submission Deadline:**

April 9, 2012

**Judging:**

April 14, 2012 (by the Serving in God's World Board)

Winners will be announced at 2012 SW MN Synod Assembly, June 8-9 in St Peter, Mn (Gustavus Adolphus College)

## HOW CAN I OBTAIN RESOURCES TO CREATE MY VIDEO?

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The SW MN Synod SIGWB will be using resources developed by [www.livinglutheran.com](http://www.livinglutheran.com) for the contest promoted for the 2011 Churchwide Assembly. Refer to the contest Tool Kit at that website <http://www.livinglutheran.com/contest/contest-rules.html> for suggestions about free software, downloads to help you get started, video editing software, images, audio and other helpful links and tips.

## HOW AND WHERE DO WE SUBMIT OUR VIDEO ENTRY?

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Videos will need to be uploaded digitally on YouTube before you officially enter the contest. You create an account. Then send a copy of the URL of your video assigned from YouTube and submit this to the Serving in God's World Board: [Larry.Streng@elca.org](mailto:Larry.Streng@elca.org) and [sara.johnson@swmnelca.org](mailto:sara.johnson@swmnelca.org). Also, on the Contest registration form

## WHAT IS THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ELCA VIDEO CONTEST?

The objective of this contest is to share the faith stories of ELCA members as we "serve in God's World as Lutherans." We want members of our congregations to see themselves "freed in Christ to serve as everyday evangelists," people who serve God by bringing the gospel message with them wherever they go. So, what does this mean for you? What does it mean to "be freed in Christ and to serve" as a Lutheran in your community, to serve Christ in God's world of today? We welcome stories that inspire, make us laugh and make us cry. Think small as well as big: sharing the gospel happens in those little interactions between friends or strangers, as well as in recovery efforts after a natural disaster. Use your creativity to share your faith story!

## HOW LONG SHOULD MY VIDEO BE?

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Videos must be between 30 and 120 seconds in length. (Maximum 120 seconds!)

## WHERE CAN WE SEE IDEAS OF VIDEOS FOR THE CONTEST?

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Visit the website of [www.LivingLutheran.com](http://www.LivingLutheran.com). Here you will find numerous entries from this past summer (2011) when a similar contest was offered. You will find NUMEROUS excellent videos sharing videos made by individuals and congregations. We are limiting our SW MN Synod contest to "congregations." You will get excellent ideas! <http://www.livinglutheran.com/contest/contest-rules.html>

## HOW ARE THE WINNERS CHOSEN? WHAT ARE THE PRIZE AMOUNTS?

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First- second- and third place winners will be determined by the "Serving in God's World Board" of the SW MN Synod on April 14, 2012. Winners will be selected based on how well they meet the **Judging Criteria** (see Judging Criteria) and **Contest Rules** (see Contest Rules). First- second- and third place winners in the contest will receive a \$500 or \$300 or \$200 ministry grants.

## HOW WILL WE KNOW IF WE'VE WON THE CONTEST?

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We will notify the winners directly using the contact information submitted in the contestant registration form. All first-, second- and third-place winners will be announced at the 2012 SW MN Synod Assembly, June 8-9, 2012.

## WHAT ARE THE CONTEST RULES AND GUIDELINES?

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A full listing of rules and guidelines is available on the "Contest Rules" page. Important highlights include:

- All video entries must be received no later than 11:59 p.m. CDT on April 9, 2012.
- Entries must be 120 seconds or less in duration.
- All entries must include the "God's Work. Our Hands: Freed in Christ to Serve as Lutherans" Be sure to check out **Judging Criteria** for more details.
- Starting January 15, 2012 through April 9, 2012 video entries can be submitted digitally online.
- The title of your video must include your full name (as it appears in your registration).
- All the work you enter must be original. Note: Copyrighted hymns/music must receive a "release" to be used.
- We are running a family-friendly contest. Videos with profanity, discriminatory language or other inappropriate content will automatically be disqualified. See the **Contest Rules** for more details.