



Ideas for **Individuals,**
Congregations and
Communities.



Join with others across the ELCIC striving for a deeper discipleship as we live out our baptismal covenants.

National Bishop Susan Johnson encourages a Call to Spiritual Renewal and deeper discipleship within our church, including: regular attendance at worship; daily prayer and scripture reading; yearly involvement in a program of study; regular service in the community (not just the congregation); regular and proportional giving similar to the understanding of the tithe found in scripture; and commitment to sharing the good news with those around us, beginning with our family and friends. A simplified list of this call includes: Pray, Read, Worship, Study, Serve, Give and Tell.

The following are some ideas for individuals, congregations and communities to join in the Call for Spiritual Renewal. Start with one or two new practices and make them a habit before moving on.

PRAY

Individual

- Set aside a bit of time each day (as little or as much as you would like) and devote that time to prayer. It may seem hard to do at first but after a while you will look forward to this time to focus on your prayer life.
- If you don't already pray at meals, consider starting this as a tradition.
- Pray together with your family. One person could offer a prayer each time you are together or you could have everyone offer a petition or prayer so that all feel included.
- Use a bell or chime, a candle or other sign of calling yourself or your family to brief times of prayer in the home, especially with children.
- Bring home the prayers from the Sunday bulletin and make them a part of your daily life.
- Pray silently when you're riding on the bus or waiting for an appointment.
- Use *Eternity for Today* (or similar daily devotional resource) that includes a short portion of scripture and a written prayer. Try the *Eternity for Today* app.
- Purchase a family copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* and use the prayers found on pages 64–87.
- Use the Daily Prayer orders or portions of them (*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, pages 295–331 and especially Responsive Prayer (pages 328–331)).
- Offer to pray for others when you feel they could use a prayer. You'd be surprised how often this will be a welcome gesture.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Create a take-home bulletin insert of the Prayers of Intercession each week.
- Set up a prayer chain/tree.
- Create small groups for prayer.
- Engage the world via the Ecumenical Cycle of Prayer: oikoumene.org/resources/prayer-cycle.html.
- Commit to using the Anglican-Lutheran Cycle of Prayer: elcic.ca/ecumenical/anglicans.cfm.
- Use the prayers found in The Lutheran World Federation's *Give Us Today Our Daily Bread* Bible study series: lwf-assembly.org/explore/biblical-reflections/.
- Offer a prayer workshop for your congregation or community.
- Create intergenerational prayer-partners in your Sunday school.
- Hold a workshop on writing prayers for Sunday morning worship. See *Crafting and Praying the Prayers at*: worship.ca/resource/prayer-devotions.
- Encourage members to find a spiritual renewal buddy or small group.
- Share with your congregation individual suggestions for prayer. Ask others to also share their ideas.
- Post a prayer list, put out a prayer book in church or an electronic prayer list on your church's website for people to list their name or the names of others to be prayed for.
- Invite others to pray for those who are listed and include them in Sunday's worship.

Congregation

- Begin and end every meeting or gathering in the congregation with prayer.
- Invite different people to take turns to pray.
- Make time for silent prayer at worship.
- Ensure that multiple voices—gender and generation—are lifted up in prayer at worship.
- Make sure that concerns of the neighbourhood are reflected in the prayers at worship.
- Use of social media as a place for prayer.
- Consider offering a “prayers for healing” station at worship.
- Help arrange for your congregation to create space for contemplative prayer.
- Create a labyrinth in your church parking-lot (or elsewhere).
- Consider organizing a prayer chain.
- Prayer shawls extend the ministry of many congregations beyond the four walls.
- Create a prayer box outside the worship space.
- Make available “We prayed for you on Sunday” notes.

Neighbourhood

- Offer workshops on prayer that are open to the community. Consider holding the workshops in a community centre instead of at the church.
- Partner with a local representative of the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer (anglicanprayer.org) to offer an ecumenical workshop on prayer.
- Partner with a local religious community having a focus on prayer (Jesuits, Carmelites...) to offer an ecumenical workshop on prayer.
- Put notices in the paper that we are praying for the community. Invite the community to join you in prayer for current issues and concerns locally and globally.
- Hold more prayer vigils, perhaps in public places.
- Offer to gather your community for (ecumenical/interfaith) prayer when new appointments are made (i.e. councilors, mayors, school trustees, etc.). Pledge to pray for them at least once a week.
- Host community prayers for peace in the Holy Land on 24th of each month.
- Open conversation with Jewish and Muslim leaders about participating in prayers for peace in the Holy Land.
- Create a labyrinth having interpretive signs and make it available to the neighbourhood.
- Create a “Pay it forward” prayer chain for the wider community.

READ

Individual

- Set aside a regular time and place for reading the Bible. Perhaps you have time while sitting on the bus on the way to or from work, or in the evenings after dinner.
- Use the ELCIC's *Eternity for Today* resource, or a similar devotional that includes a short portion of scripture and a written prayer. To go deeper, look up the whole *Eternity for Today* passage in your Bible.
- Use the three-year Daily Lectionary found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pages 1121–1153).
- Subscribe to online daily Bible readings. Sign up to have a daily Bible verse delivered to you via email, RSS feed or on Facebook. Some resources you can use include: Canadian Bible Society: biblesociety.ca/content/resources; Sojourners Verse and Voice: sojo.net/blogs/verse-and-voice; or ELCA Daily Bible Readings: elca.org/Faith/DailyBible.
- Listen to the Bible on CD while doing the dishes, driving or walking.
- Read the Bible together with your family or with a friend.
- Don't be afraid to highlight, underline, and write in your Bible. A Bible should be well-loved.
- Try the One-Year Bible. This will involve reading larger portions of scripture every day.
- Sign on to the Book of Faith project: bookoffaith.org. And consider the study methods offered on the site: bookoffaith.org/biblemethods.html.
- Ask questions as you read! Ask who, what, where, when and why.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Create a small group for Bible Study.
- Use the Book of Faith study materials: bookoffaith.org.
- Work with a group to prepare a drama based on the Bible readings.
- Encourage Bible study and devotions at all committee meetings and church events.
- Give the Bible as a gift for occasions such as Baptism, confirmation, weddings, new membership class.
- Explore the work of the Canadian Bible Society: biblesociety.ca.
- Have parents present a Bible to their children during worship as part of the journey to confirmation.
- When giving a Bible as a gift, have significant people in the recipient's life identify a favourite Bible verse (and why) on sticky notes that are placed throughout the whole Bible.
- Publish next week's lectionary readings in your congregation's bulletin and newsletter, and encourage members to prepare the readings in advance.
- Speak publicly about your own spiritual practices for reading the Bible and encourage others within your congregation to do the same.
- Let your love for the Bible shine through your teaching, preaching, conversations and actions.
- Talk about your favourite Bible verse and encourage others in your congregation to do the same.

Congregation

- Consider making the reading of Scripture a part of all meetings and gatherings in the congregation.
- Make time so that staff and other leaders can spend time in Bible study together.
- Encourage people to bring Bibles with them and to read along.
- Consider making pew Bibles available.
- Teach people how to find readings in their Bible.
- Invite people to read verses from different locations.
- Invite people to re-enact the Scriptures when appropriate.
- Encourage learning the Scriptures and particular verses by heart.
- Paint Scripture verses on barns.
- Offer congregational Facebook postings with one line reflections.

Neighbourhood

- Offer Bible studies that are open to the community, possibly in a community centre or other similar venue.
- Offer Bible Study as English as another language (EAL) effort.
- Offer Bible Study jointly or communally with our full-communion (Anglican) or ecumenical (United, Roman Catholic, Mennonite...) partners. Invite the local Ministerial to assist in planning.
- Offer an event that helps your neighbourhood understand what the Bible is.
- Invite people to express the Bible's texts through art. Take lots of pictures.
- Gather for multi-faith discussions on sacred readings.

WORSHIP

Individual

- Commit to attending worship at least once a month. More often, if possible!
- Deepen your participation—sing in the choir, pre-read the lessons, assist as a reader or with communion, greeting, or the offering.
- Join your congregation's worship committee.
- Add a mid-week service to your regular pattern of worship.
- Attend another church to experience the breadth of Christian worship.
- Attend a global music workshop to experience new ways to praise God.
- Attend a local Taizé service.
- Attend a vigil service for justice or peace (e.g. Dec. 6 memorial, peacewalk).
- Ask yourself what it is that you enjoy most about worship?
- Ask your family, friends, community what they enjoyed most about a worship service you all attended together.
- Talk with family or friends over coffee or lunch following worship about what you felt, learned, sensed, missed, shared in worship.
- Read the descriptions in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* about why we worship as we do, what it means, including the introduction (pages 6–9), The Church Year and Calendar (pages 13–15).
- Find an opportunity for interfaith worship.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Make your service times easy to find on the sign outside the church, on a website, on the church answering machine, on the ELCIC/ACC Find a Church page.
- Create a follow-up system for members absent longer than usual and encourage your congregation to practice ministry to inactives.
- Participate in the Back to Church Sunday program: seasonofinvitation.co.uk/ or backtochurch.com.
- Set up a program of taking Sunday Holy Communion to those otherwise unable to participate.
- Encourage people to have their own copy of *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*.
- Encourage your pastor to consider mid-week worship opportunities for your congregation and community.
- Institute a tape/CD/USB key ministry for those unable to attend worship.
- Offer a global music workshop involving local and guest musicians.
- Have the youth host a service, or ask/encourage another willing group of people with a fresh perspective.
- Worship outdoors occasionally.
- Have lunch after worship and discuss what the service meant to you.
- Consider adding a non-traditional service to the worship schedule.
- Invite your music minister(s) and choir(s) to offer seasonal worship or concerts in a nursing home or seniors' facility.

WORSHIP

Congregation

- Encourage people to worship when they are out of town.
- Welcome visitors into your congregation's worship.
- Consider how everything we do flows out of or connects to worship.
- Work toward having a wide variety of participation in worship leadership.
- Build toward the full celebration of all of the Triduum possibilities (Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter).
- Assess your worship in terms of how it assists spiritual renewal.
- Encourage a full partnership of clergy and laity in leading and planning worship.
- Explore how collective worship and individual worship are connected.
- Encourage congregation members to sit in different places and to share their experience.
- Invite the parish visitors to take copies of the Sunday bulletins to shut-ins.
- Set up a regular community of people who visit with the pastor.
- As a group offer your congregation's support to another congregation. (You might visit "their" folks in "your" nursing home and vice-versa.)
- Develop a relationship as a sister congregation to a neighbouring Lutheran, Anglican or other community.

Neighbourhood

- Work ecumenically to invite people to worship in a non-traditional space such as at the local arena.
- Combine worship with focus groups and opportunities for questions and reflections afterwards.
- How can we be more inviting and welcoming to new people coming to worship in our congregations?
- Invite people to a mid-week low cost supper (with invitation to stay for Evening Prayer and/or conversation).
- Take the Palm Sunday Procession with Palms out into the community or the Easter Vigil Lighting of the New Fire to a public park.
- Do a Stations of the Cross procession on Good Friday with stations located in the community. Do it ecumenically!
- Offer simple and public services of Readings and Carols at Christmas
- Create a community "live nativity" with hot chocolate afterward at Christmas.
- Offer Holy Communion services at local nursing homes.
- Offer a simple Ash Wednesday Imposition of Ashes with the local Anglican church at local nursing homes.
- Gather people for field trips to other churches.
- Offer Communion in public place.
- Decorate the outside of the church building to reflect the Season (e.g. Wrap the church with red bunting as if a "birthday gift" on Pentecost. Don't forget the bow.).

STUDY

Individual

- Participate in a regular Bible study. For individual or group study, consider the regular Bible Study column offered in *Canada Lutheran*.
- Participate in a weekend retreat or study program.
- Sign up for a course at seminary: wlu.ca/seminary and usask.ca/stu/luther/ or at one of our schools: lcbi.sk.ca and luthercollege.edu.
- Stretch yourself outside your comfort zone: thq.wearesparkhouse.org/.
- Make a weekly visit to the ELCIC's national website: elcic.ca.
- Attend the Study Conference at LTS in May: usask.ca/stu/luther/alum_study_conf.html.
- Search for courses on the Faith and Wisdom website: faithandwisdom.org.
- Add a reference or history book to accompany your Bible reading.
- Use a DVD-based course from The Teaching Company to study scripture, history, archaeology, philosophy, religion as it relates to faith.
- Form a theological book group and read /discuss current or classic books on God, faith, the Church, spirituality or spiritual practices.
- Join or organize interfaith discussions/presentations . Read books on other faiths.
- Read *The Small Catechism* by Martin Luther in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, (pages 1160–1167) and/or *Scripture and Worship* (pages 1154–1159).

Congregation to Support Individual

- Advertise and encourage participation in synod programs, workshops and retreats.
- Work with your conference, area, or ministerial to provide a joint workshop or study program.
- Offer bursaries for members to attend workshops and study conferences.
- Encourage a joint Lutheran-Mennonite study using *Healing Memories, Reconciling in Christ*: elcic.ca.
- Gather a small group for Lectionary Bible Study, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (pages 18–63).
- Offer a vocational discernment retreat.
- Watch a movie together and discuss the theological messages. *The Mission, Juno, Pay It Forward* are wonderful examples.
- Host a learning time to explore topics on faith, theology or ethics.
- Invite KAIROS to have a human rights or similar workshop in your area: kairoscanada.org.
- Discuss or brainstorm opportunities for study at church council meetings.
- Make a resource library available in your congregation and announce it during service so that everyone is encouraged to visit the library and borrow materials.
- Gather people to participate in the Luther Reading Challenge: lutherreadingchallenge.org.
- Follow up on National Convention actions on climate, corrections and Doctrine of Discovery.

Congregation

- Work toward having your congregation offer regular study programs for people of all ages.
- Offer a study about the ELCIC's membership in:
 - The Lutheran World Federation: lutheranworld.org/content/about-lwf
 - The World Council of Churches: oikoumene.org/en/about-us
 - The Canadian Council of Churches: councilofchurches.ca/about-us/
 - Kairos Canada: kairoscanada.org/who-we-are/about-kairos/
- Invite your congregation to participate in regular ELCIC studies such as the recent study on Word and Sacrament Ministry and the forthcoming study of Orders of Ministry: elcic.ca/faithorderdoctrine/.
- Participate in the ELCIC's 2015-2017 Commemoration of the Lutheran Reformation: 2017.lutheranworld.org/.
- Organize a group to participate in the Luther Reading Challenge : lutherreadingchallenge.org.
- Plan a congregational review of *The Small Catechism* by Martin Luther found in *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, (pages 1160–1167).
- Watch for a Canadian joint Lutheran-Catholic resource based on *From Conflict to Communion*: lutheranworld.org/content/resource-conflict-communion-basis-lutheran-catholic-commemoration-reformation-2017.
- Offer pastoral teaching time one Sunday a month.
- Gather people for a weekly or regular monthly book club.
- Offer a study conference with ecumenical partners.

Neighbourhood

- Convene a community book study around life's "hard questions" or compassionate justice issues (affordable housing, resource extraction, aboriginal concerns...)
- Host community movie nights around life's hard questions and compassionate justice issues. Visit acf-film.com/ for licences.
- Host a Kairos workshop for your elected leaders and community members.
- Ask the question with your community: "Whose land is this?" (elcic.ca).
- Host a community Blanket Exercise. See kairoscanada.org/dignity-rights/indigenous-rights/blanket-exercise/.
- Gather an inter-religious group to study *Welcoming the Stranger*: lutheranworld.org/content/resource-welcoming-stranger.
- Work with others in your community to determine the name, extent and characteristics of your watershed.
- Establish a book club open to the wider community.
- Extend a public invitation for a community "Q & A" about your congregation with no strings attached.

SERVE

Individual

- Create or join a local church outreach project such as a food bank or meal program.
- Participate in a locally-grown food-box program.
- 2015-2017 ELCIC Reformation Challenge:
 - Support your congregation or community's participation in the 500 new refugee sponsorships: elcic.ca and clwr.org/what-we-do/refugee-resettlement.cfm.
 - Plant some trees as part of the ELCIC goal of 500,000 trees in Canada and around the world: elcic.ca.
- Volunteer with an outside organization such as a local women's shelter, a local hospital or a literacy program.
- Volunteer or give your support to Habitat for Humanity. Give useable building materials to your local Restore. Join a build in another area.
- Look for an unmet need in your community and gather people to address it!
- Check your local paper for volunteer opportunities or see if your community has a volunteer agency.
- Donate blood.
- Adopt a highway or green space to keep clean.
- Become involved in a political advocacy group, a campaign, or a political party to be a voice for positive change.
- Join the community association in your church's area as a representative of your congregation and in support of the community.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Maintain a list of community programs or centres where members could drop in to volunteer.
- Work with other local congregations to develop a program to meet a need in your community.
- Host a community group for new parents.
- Open your church building to community groups looking for space.
- Partner with local service clubs to do good works in the community.
- Offer spare congregational land for a community garden or food-box program.
- Participate in a Greening the Church program.
- Sponsor and/or host an annual drive for Canadian Blood Services.
- Raise awareness of commodities and how they are exchanged by offering fair-trade products at your coffee hour and in your congregation.
- Sponsor a refugee: clwr.org/What-We-Do/refugeere settlement.cfm.
- Ask your synod mission committee for assistance.
- Work with local congregations to develop a program to meet a need in your community.
- Have congregational members who are involved in service ministry discuss this during worship or perhaps instead of a sermon on a Sunday periodically.

Congregation

- 2015-2017 ELCIC Reformation Challenge:
 - Invite your congregation, alone or with others, to participate in the 500 new refugee sponsorships: elcic.ca and clwr.org/what-we-do/refugee-resettlement.cfm.
 - Invite your congregation, alone or with others, to participate in the planting of 500,000 trees in Canada and around the world: elcic.ca.
- Make some form of service a part of what every group includes in its regular plans.
- Listen to the needs of your community. Help your congregation to think about what partnerships might be possible.
- Consider applying for a grant from the ELCIC's Compassionate Justice initiatives: elcic.ca/public-policy/CJGrants.cfm.
- Invite your Congregational Council do a service event.
- Tell stories about what people are doing in your community and beyond.
- Invite people to consider how they might understand their own work as service.
- Initiate a "We Serve Day" with ecumenical partners.
- Work with community organizations to identify community needs.
- Create a vocation club within the congregation.
- Get your congregation involved in the Canadian expression of the World Council of Churches' *Pilgrimage of Justice and Peace*: wccpilgrimage.org/.

Neighbourhood

- Offer a drop-in supper/snack during ice-time at the local arena. Do it ecumenically!
- Gather and post local volunteer opportunities and encourage congregational service in local organizations as generous and responsible stewardship.
- Host a "community service" and volunteer opportunity fair for the groups in your community. Bill it as an "annual" event.
- Invite other local congregations to assist in a joint family refugee sponsorship. See clwr.org.
- Offer Christmas crafts for kids while parents shop.
- Host a Christmas dinner for your wider community.
- Host conversation with community on how the community might use un/under-used space in facility for local good.
- Explore what is already happening in your community and offer your congregational participation and support.
- Offer random acts of snow shoveling.
- Invite local poor or ex-offenders to participate in a local service project.
- Offer a community multi-generational cooking skills class.
- Offer a "We Serve" day with ecumenical partners. Work with community organizations to identify needs.

GIVE

Individual

- Give an offering each time you attend worship. Calculate what percentage that is of your income. Increase your giving by 1% of your annual income. See if you can work up over time to 10% or more.
- Join your congregation's pre-authorized remittance program so your offerings get to church even if you can't.
- Talk with friends and family about giving. Have a Conversation on Gratitude and Generosity: elcic.ca/stewardship/documents/ELCICGenerosityworksheet.pdf.
- 2015-2017 ELCIC Reformation Challenge:
 - Contribute toward the 500 new bursaries for students in the schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land: elcic.ca and elcjh.org/departement-of-education/schools/.
 - Contribute toward the \$500,000 to be raised for the Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund: elcic.ca and lutheranworld.org/content/endowment-fund.
- Talk to your children about stewardship. Ask them to participate in your family's weekly offering by giving a percentage of their allowance.
- Make your gifts for church, other ministries, and charities your first budget item.
- Make a donation where you don't get a tax receipt.
- Say "yes" to every request to donate, even if it can only be a small amount.
- Pledge to assemble one or two Canadian Lutheran World Relief We Care bags every year: clwr.org.
- Participate in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's *Gifts from the Heart* program: clwr.org.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Institute generosity conversations: elcic.ca/stewardship/documents/ELCICGenerosityworksheet.pdf.
- Create a congregational Pre-Authorized Remittance Program and encourage membership beginning with members of Church Council.
- Plan an every-member visitation program and invite regular commitments.
- In partnership with local agencies, set up one or more drop-off points for food, clothing, furniture.
- Create a Pastor's Discretionary Fund to help meet confidential needs.
- Organize once-or-twice-yearly participation in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's We Care program: clwr.org.
- Create congregational scholarships for the Canadian Lutheran-Anglican Youth (CLAY) Gathering and/or the National Worship Conference: nationalworshipconference.org/.
- Organize Lent or Advent participation in Canadian Lutheran World Relief's *Gifts from the Heart* program.
- Plan a stewardship emphasis with a kickoff banquet. Celebrate giving instead of fearing it.
- Plan a stewardship retreat and spend some time on the meaning of stewardship and giving.
- Host an estate planning workshop.
- Organize an ELCIC Praise Appeal Sunday in your congregation: elcic.ca/praiseappeal/.
- Utilize the Stewardship Resources that are available from the National Office: elcic.ca/stewardship.

Congregation

- Consider your congregation's generosity to the wider church through synod benevolence.
- Consider your congregation's generosity toward the needs of the wider world through CLWR.
- Consider your congregation's generosity toward the local community through local initiatives (e.g. food banks, after-school programs, etc.).
- 2015-2017 ELCIC Reformation Challenge:
 - Invite your congregation to contribute toward the 500 new bursaries for students in the schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land: elcic.ca and elcjh.org/departments-of-education/schools/.
 - Invite your congregation to contribute toward the \$500,000 to be raised for the Lutheran World Federation Endowment Fund (elcic.ca and lutheranworld.org/content/endowment-fund).
- Host a planned giving workshop.
- Participate in *Fast for the Climate*: fastfortheclimate.org.
- Teach about the tax benefits of financial generosity.
- Invite your people to consider hosting Birthday parties with donations toward worthy causes rather than of gifts.
- Make available a basket for donations to the Food Bank.
- 2015-2017 ELCIC Reformation Challenge:
 - Host a Valentine's Day "Undie Sunday" to collect new under-garments, stockings and socks for a local women's shelter or men's mission.
- Collect blankets and coats on the Christ the King Sunday (or earlier) in anticipation of winter's cold.

Neighbourhood

- Encourage members to have conversations with friends, family and the community about their giving practices.
- Host a conversation about privilege, affluenza and idolatry.
- Offer a coffee house with collection taken for local cause to build bridges and partnership.
- Encourage people to "never say no" when youth are collecting for a cause and honour those causes.
- Offer a lending library in the front yard of the church.
- Create a community garden with any unused church land. Put out a table for any surplus produce.

TELL

Individual

- Think of one person among your family, friends, neighbours to whom you will say something about your faith and invite that person to come to church with you.
- Talk to your parents and grandparents about why faith and their relationship with God is important to them.
- Tell or read Bible stories to your children at bedtime.
- Invite someone to Back to Church Sunday.
- Ask people you know or meet if they have a faith background, or are part of a faith community.
- Call a person that you haven't seen in church for a while to see how they are doing.
- Find a faith-sharing partner to practice with and debrief.
- Join the ELCIC's Facebook page and tell others about what's going on in your faith: [facebook.com/Canadian Lutherans](https://facebook.com/CanadianLutherans).
- Help a grieving friend to return to church.
- Tell someone you've missed them at church.
- Ask a pastor, diaconal minister, church leader or friend to recommend a book on mission, outreach or faith-sharing.
- Video what your faith means to you and post it on YouTube/Facebook and other social media sites.
- Consider how would you describe and express your faith through art—drawing, poetry, music or other media?
- Contact your *Canada Lutheran* synod representative and ask them to help you share your story.

Congregation to Support Individual

- Plan an inter-generational event. Share faith stories and practice going beyond the congregation.
- Create a congregational welcome group to help shepherd new and prospective members.
- Create and maintain a web presence (website, Facebook page, Twitter account, etc.) for your congregation.
- Form an outreach, mission or evangelism committee for your congregation and ponder with others what it means for your community to tell the story.
- Host a workshop on outreach and sharing the Good News.

Congregation

- Make faith-sharing a part of the regular experience at all levels of your congregation.
- Have people talk about vocation and faith at Sunday worship “testimonials.”
- Do training in “listening” to the stories of others.
- Join the global community in Back to Church Sunday: backtochurch.com.
- Do a “Selfie Sunday” where folks send photos of themselves at worship to family and friends or post them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Tag with the hashtag #myELCIC.
- Encourage faith-based and congregational life posts on Facebook.
- Offer a study on “How to tell the Story”.

Neighbourhood

- Encourage church members to talk to other non-members (at work, when at a child’s sports game, etc...) in the community about their church and the ministry they do.
- Look for opportunities for your congregation to be a witness to the wider community. Could you participate in parades, helping with public events, etc..
- Offer a Christmas carol-sing in public space.
- Offer to wrap gifts at the local mall at Christmas
- Create invitational parish Christmas (and Easter!) cards for local use.
- Create a “community choir”.
- Offer worship space (etc.) as a community art gallery.
- Open worship space to community concerts.
- Offer a “welcome” basket when people move near the church.
- Take a fresh loaf of bread to first-time church visitors (could be included in basket).
- Offer “community days” when kids are off-school for “PD or PA” days.
- Encourage the local Christian community to post an “I love my church” sign on their front yard.
- Talk to groups that use your church space and make sure they understand that they are welcome at worship.
- Install a digital sign board outside the church and include mention of community events.

