

# You Are Not Alone.

*A multi-platform stewardship program  
for a congregation in pandemic.*

Preparation: Order Stewardship Theme Swag. This could be a button or stickers, but perhaps the best idea is yard signs that say, "You Are Not Alone, \_\_\_\_\_ Lutheran Church is with you!"

Step 1) Make a comprehensive list of all the ministries the congregation has either initiated or maintained during the pandemic (worship, confirmation, Sunday school, youth ministry, Bible study, calling tree, food distribution, etc.)

Step 2) Identify one person associated with each ministry who has been either involved in or a recipient of that ministry. Each person should be asked to both write a short paragraph about how they felt about their involvement and record a short video saying the same thing more informally. Ask each participant to end the video with the phrase "You Are Not Alone."

Step 3) Create a document in which each ministry is listed with a one sentence description of the ministry and then a quotation from the person selected to represent that ministry with their photo.

Quotation Examples:

## You Are Not Alone.



During the pandemic our congregation was able to worship remotely using YouTube. "It means so much to my family to be able to continue to hear God's Word, see our sanctuary and be with our pastor, even if only virtually," says Mark Anderson.



For the last six months members have telephoned members to greet them, check in on them and remind them of congregational opportunities. “When someone from my church calls, it reminds me that I am not alone or forgotten in all this, but loved and still a part of a community,” says Beverly Anderson.

Step 4) Share the videos one week at a time with an appropriate introduction during the offering time during worship. During the rest of the week, share each video on the congregation’s Facebook page, YouTube channel, etc. Use the theme “You Are Not Alone.” Also distribute yard signs or other swag and ask members to proudly display.

Step 5) When all the videos have been shown, preach a Sunday sermon with the title “You Are Not Alone.” In that sermon, reference the videos people have seen, reference the letter people will receive and purposefully thank people for their prayers, their involvement, their acts of kindness and their financial gifts. Then intentionally and specifically ask people to prayerfully consider increasing their financial support of the congregation’s ministry. Remind them that congregational support also translates into synodical, ELCA, social services, and seminary support.

Step 6) The next day, mail the document above with a letter that follows this outline:

- A) We miss being together and these are difficult times.
- B) You are not alone.
  - a. Jesus is with us.
  - b. Your congregation, although not meeting together, has been doing significant ministry for you and for our community in the name of Jesus.
  - c. It takes a commitment from the congregation to pray for our congregation and its leaders.
  - d. It takes a financial commitment from the congregation to make this ministry possible.
- C) Thank you for your support.
  - a. Please consider increasing your financial support.
  - b. If you are not giving electronically, please begin now (include necessary form).
  - c. Please complete the enclosed pledge card.
- D) You Are Not Alone.

Step 7) Send a Thank You letter or note to each person who responds. Of course, a personalized, handwritten note is the best if that is feasible in your context.