



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

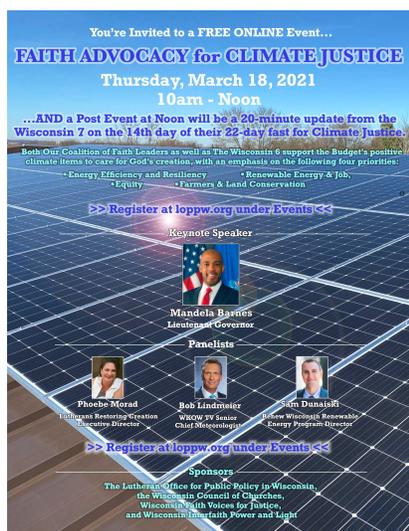
Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) Annual Report

www.loppw.org (Search LOPPW on Facebook)

Submitted by Rev. Cindy Crane, Director cindyc@loppw.org

Thank you for your support of your ELCA's advocacy ministry in Wisconsin. We especially express gratitude for Bishop Paul Erickson, the synod staff, and Rev. James Lynch, your GMS representative on the LOPPW Council.

Coalitions



Care for God's Creation: LOPPW initiated a group of people interested in the Governor's Task Force on Climate Change to prepare for the task force's listening sessions. Between LOPPW staff and volunteers, we had participation at all six listening sessions. As a group, we also wrote a statement on our climate priorities for Wisconsin. We later morphed into a coalition with at least one ELCA member from each synod and with leaders from statewide ecumenical and interfaith organizations. We began planning for a virtual advocacy event focused on our priorities for the next Wisconsin State Budget and had 88 attendees. We welcomed the Wisconsin 7, led by Rev. Jonathan Barker, to speak about their 22-day fast for climate justice for our post event. We also worked with them to organize a rally in Madison.

Raise the Age: In September, we added juvenile justice to our priorities. Our hunger advocacy fellow, Kyle Minden, is taking major leadership in this area. Wisconsin is one of three states that still sends 17-year-old youth to adult courts. LOPPW supports raising the age of juvenile court jurisdiction to include 17-year-olds, and helped to rejuvenate a Raise the Coalition focused. We are mindful of income and racial disparities in our efforts addressing types of waivers from juvenile court to adult court to avoid in proposed raise the age policies.

LOPPW has also been a sponsor of and involved in a series of discussions about juvenile justice with Race to Equity and Youth Justice Milwaukee.

Partners

We also regularly participate in other coalitions: The Wisconsin Climate Table, Better Choices (focused on the State Budget), the Wisconsin Human Trafficking Coalition (LOPPW is also active on the legislative subcommittee), Faithful Action for a Healthy Wisconsin (short-term interfaith work on health issues related to COVID)

Reaching out via Wednesday Noon Live and other Online Programs

We held monthly updates on issues related to our priorities with special interviews on the first Wednesday of each month at noon. We intend to continue with these efforts that draw an average of between 400 and 800 views.

GMS' participation in Wednesday Noon Live programs:

- Attorney Molly Dobberke Riehle discussed her work at a detention center in Texas and with

domestic abuse through Centrol Legal, where she serves as the executive director.

- Attorney Mary Campbell, Program Director of AMMPARO; Ms. Marisol Fuentes de Dubon, Milwaukee Immigration Task Force & Detained Migrant Project; and Dr. Stephanie Mitchell, Professor of Latin American History at Carthage College & Emaus Lutheran Church (Racine) discussed advocacy during the pandemic and addressing immediate needs.
- Rev. Jonathan Barker, Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha spoke about care for God's creation, WI State Budget priorities, and fasting for climate justice

We also organized and/or facilitated the following:

- Videos on hunger ministries including a Food Truck Ministry: Filling a hole during the pandemic - interview with Rev. Lindsey Buekelman of All People's Lutheran Church in Milwaukee
- Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in a Democracy" moderated by Rev. Dr. Roger Willer
- "The Pandemic and Living on the Edges of Safety" - interviews addressing domestic abuse, child abuse, and sex trafficking, and an advocacy day; and an advocacy event, Faith Advocacy for Climate Justice
- Faith Advocacy for Climate Justice
- How to do faith-based advocacy, organized by the East Central Synod Women of the ELCA to lead a webinar on advocacy
- Standing with our Neighbors Conversations on Immigration, co-sponsored by the South-Central Synod.

Young Adults

LOPPW has had several young adults volunteer to work in advocacy. In the summer, a college student, Evan Sadlon, helped lead parts of a care for God's creation group and assisted with social media. We also now have our second full-time Hunger Advocacy Fellow, Kyle Minden.

Resources and Statements

LOPPW developed a resource on how to advocate on a county level to encourage healthy policies to protect people during COVID. This is an addition to our many other resources.

The bishops signed on to two letters organized by LOPPW. One called for statewide protections during COVID, and the other was added to an amicus brief for the WI Supreme Court.

Goals

In response to God's generous grace and our life in beloved community, we will seek movement in the legislature on our priorities through direct contacts with our government officials and via supporting our members' advocacy efforts. Our priorities are the following:

- Calling for an End to Hunger
- Addressing the Crisis of Human Trafficking
- Caring for God's Creation
- Supporting Immigration Reform
- Criminal Justice Reform (focus on juvenile justice)

In the process of doing all of our work we seek to engage more Lutherans to find their own voice as part of a public church.

We continue to send out Monday reflections. Sign up for those and action alerts at loppw.org; click on to *Join the Advocacy Network* at the bottom right of our Home page.

Thank you again for your support, and God's blessings!