

## *Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin*

“Give us today our Daily Bread”

We have prayed these words thousands of times, and yet how often do we stop to think about what is meant by “Daily Bread”? Martin Luther explained the meaning of Daily Bread when he wrote: “When you say and ask for daily bread, you ask for everything that is necessary in order to have and enjoy daily bread, and on the contrary against everything that interferes with it. In short, in everything that pertains to the regulation of both our domestic and our civil affairs.”

This is a budget year for our state government, and our elected leaders are making critical decisions about the regulation of our domestic and civil affairs. Our state budgets impact all of us, and the budget debate is a discussion on Daily Bread. During this time we are invited to ask which policies are necessary in order for all people to have what they need, and which block that from happening.

This year the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) is working on state budget issues that support and protect children. We continue our focus on school nutrition programs to ensure these programs are fully funded. More than 40% of students in our public schools rely on free and reduced priced meals. We are also supporting an initiative by the state’s Attorney General to address the growing problem of child trafficking in Wisconsin. Finally we are working to enact legislation that will provide critically needed services for homeless youth. More than 15,000 in Wisconsin are reported to be homeless; more than 5,400 of whom live in districts located within the geographic boundaries of this synod.

LOPPW is your ministry partner, and together we live out our baptismal calling to work for justice and peace. We are an advocacy office and a network of Lutheran Christians focused on legislation and government policies that get to the root causes of hunger and poverty. LOPPW is also an education resource for congregations and pastors discerning the work of advocacy and what it means to have a public witness.

We are thankful for the numerous ways this synod supports our ministry. We are grateful for the leadership and support offered to us by Bishop Barrow and the synod staff. We are also fortunate to have Pastor Jay McDivitt and Pastor Amy Becker, as your representatives to the LOPPW Policy Council. Together as a synod, your support sustains this ministry and allows us to be Daily Bread advocates for all of God’s children.

Yours in Christ,  
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