

Advocacy as Ministry

What does it mean to be an ELCA ministry of advocacy?

LOPPW is a state public policy office that is a ministry of the ELCA in partnership with ELCA World Hunger and the six synods with congregations in Wisconsin. We advocate for policies that diminish hunger and poverty and the exploitation that can lead to and arise out of poverty.

Why do we advocate? The Old Testament prophets prophesied messages about justice for all God's children. In the New Testament we see Jesus calling people to recognize God's love for them and humanity, and compelled them to in turn be compassionate. Our Lutheran theology includes living our lives as a public church by challenging governments to be fair and praying for our secular leaders. Martin Luther often went to court advocating for people who were in need and/or being exploited. Today, we speak from our baptismal calling to work for justice and peace. Via LOPPW's ministry we focus on legislation, knowing one policy change can impact 100's, 1,000's, and sometimes millions of lives.

Will I make a difference? Yes! As a network of ELCA members, LOPPW has impacted legislation and has been able to change hearts and minds. We worked successfully to pass legislation penalizing human trafficking in Wisconsin, to protect funding for school meals and for four year old Kindergarten programs, and to enact legislation regulating payday lending. Your voice made a difference in protecting breakfast and lunch programs in our schools.

Don't Give Up ~ Speak out! ELCA Lutherans have an important voice and a message that needs to be heard.

Don't underestimate the difference we can make together!

LOPPW Priorities

LOPPW's director and advisory council decided upon our current public policy priorities below with input from ELCA advocacy staff, bishops, legislators from both main parties, feedback via our list serve, and a study done by the Urban Institute on pathways out of poverty in Wisconsin.

Calling for an End to Childhood Hunger.

Addressing the Scandal of Human Trafficking

Supporting Immigration Reform

Confronting the Impact of Money on Politics and Public Policies

Caring for God's Creation

We also focus on youth homelessness. In the case of youth who are homeless with their parents we recognize the role that wages play in a family's ability to be food secure

We support the ELCA Office of Advocacy's federal efforts in areas such as **immigration** and engage with related statewide concerns as they arise.

And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? Micah 6:8

**If you want to change the world, pick up your pen and write.
Martin Luther**

Tools for Advocacy

LOPPW and Action Alerts

If you are interested in learning more about LOPPW or would like us speak to your congregation please call 608-270-0201, ext. 109, or e-mail at cindyc@loppw.org

Also visit our website for resources, upcoming events, more information, or to sign up for action alerts: www.loppw.org
Find us on Facebook under LOPPW.

Our office is at 6401 Odana Rd., Ste. 20, Madison, WI 53719

ELCA Advocacy

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America supports an advocacy office in Washington, DC and state public policy offices around the country. Sign up for our federal and state e-alerts, and receive information about this important work at: www.elca.org/advocacy (visit on FB under ELCA Advocacy).

Michigan and Wisconsin State Government

Find out who represents you in **Michigan** by going to www.legislature.mi.gov/

At the very bottom of the Home page click on to **Contact your Representative or Contact your Senator**

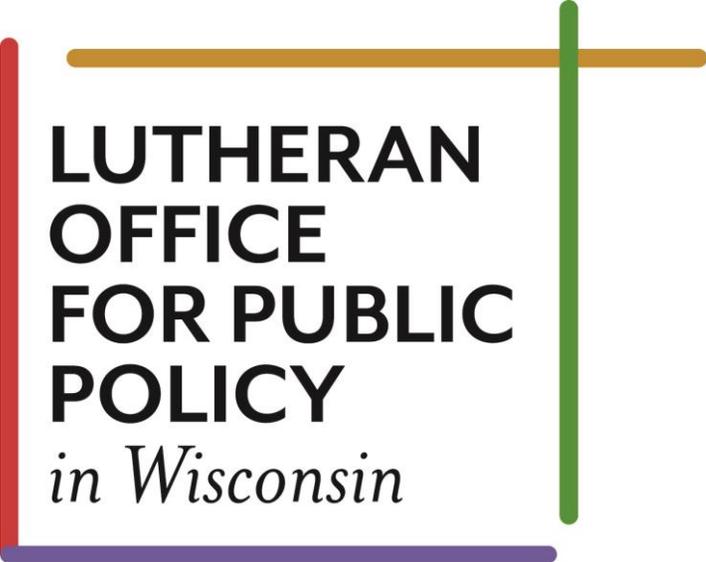
Find out who represents you in **Wisconsin** by going to <http://legis.wisconsin.gov/>

At the top of the page on the right under *Find My Legislators* type in your address.

Find your U.S. Representatives and Senators

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

<http://www.senate.gov/>



LUTHERAN OFFICE FOR PUBLIC POLICY *in Wisconsin*

With support in the UP!

A Ministry of Advocacy

Love God with all your heart, with all your soul, and your strength and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself. Luke 10:27



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