



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

Where we Begin: When engaging with the world as Christians, where do you begin? The Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) seeks to work with others to unearth and highlight our values as a church and respond with a public voice. As an advocacy ministry of the ELCA, our priorities are based on our social statements and other Lutheran teachings, all of which are dynamic and ongoing interpretations of scripture. As faith-based advocates we begin, continue, and end with grace.

Thank you for your generous support and for all that you do as the Greater Milwaukee Synod! We are privileged to be your partner in ministry. We are grateful to Bishop Paul Erickson and the GMS representatives, Rev. James Lynch and Minister Venice Williams on our advisory council.

Priorities: As a partner of ELCA World Hunger, all of our efforts on public policy relate to hunger and poverty. With input from all six bishops with congregations in Wisconsin and other stakeholders, our advisory council decided upon these 2019 priorities:

1. Calling for an End to Childhood Hunger
2. Addressing the Crisis of Human Trafficking
3. Caring for God's Creation
4. Supporting Immigration Reform

Farm Bill & Immigration: We worked extensively on the farm bill, supporting our ELCA Office of Advocacy in Washington, D.C. In Wisconsin, our main objective was to preserve the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. We also addressed federal efforts on immigration and refugees. Actions on the Farm Bill and Immigration in Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. August Action: LOPPW's director, council members, and other volunteers secured appointments with Wisconsin's members of Congress and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan to discuss the farm bill and immigration in August while our representatives are in district.



Left: Cindy Dobberke and Molly Riehle presenting at Hunger, the Farm Bill, Immigration & the ELCA at Mount Zion Lutheran Church in Milwaukee. They worked with LOPPW to organize the event



Right: Panel with AMMPARO Director and

Immigration Attorney Mary Campbell, Bishop Paul Erickson, Rev. Richard Suero of Faith/Santa Fe Lutheran Church in Milwaukee and church members at the same evening event.

Public Benefits: The Legislature suddenly introduced 10 bills, a few of which had come up earlier, as part of a proposed packet for welfare reform. We were at least pleased that the bill that would have required a photo ID for FoodShare recipients, the main one LOPPW advocated against, didn't pass.

Human Trafficking: We supported the Safe Harbor bill related to not prosecuting a person under the age of 18 caught in an act of prostitution, but rather directing them to receive human services. The bill went from being on the back burner a few years ago to being voted out of committee in both houses and

passing on the Senate floor. We are still supporting that effort and one that would require training schools for commercial drivers to educate students on how to recognize the signs of human trafficking.

Rally – On a cold day in between a snow storm and polar vortex we gathered at St. John’s Lutheran and then walked to the capitol. **Click HERE for the video.**



Right: 10 Women of the ELCA and friends travelled to the capitol from three synods to advocate on Safe Harbor at a public hearing.



Left: LOPPW staff at GMS Together in Mission event at St. John's in Brookfield.

Care for God’s Creation: LOPPW belongs to the Wisconsin Climate Table. We offer resources, advocate on statewide and federal bills that address climate change and water issues. Recently, we held a conference called What’s Working in Wisconsin to highlight great local efforts that we can advocate on to be duplicated. We also are tracking the Speaker’s Task Force on Water Quality.

Involving Young Leaders

Hunger Advocacy Fellow - We welcomed Kelsey Johnson as LOPPW's 2018/19 full-time fellow, thanks to a special grant from ELCA World Hunger. She came to us after serving as a Young Adults in Global Mission (YAGM) volunteer in the Holy Land.



Lutheran Campus Ministry Faith and Vocation Fellow - We also welcomed Sarah Schultz as a part-time fellow. Sarah is a student at Madison College part-time and active ELCA member.

They have each worked on several projects. Here is one they worked on together shortly after arriving: **Click Here Voting**

Campus Retreat - LOPPW partnered with Lutheran Campus Ministry in two synods to host a second overnight advocacy retreat for college students, called Hungry for Change, in

Milwaukee. Rev. Rachel Young Binter took the major leadership role in 2018.

Advocacy Day: LOPPW is part of the People of Faith United for Justice Advocacy Day team that began organizing for our April 11, 2019 Advocacy Day in 2018. Lutheran Campus Ministry Faith and Vocation Fellow

Resources & Workshops: We have used our new resource, Our Church Our World: Partnering with God’s Mission as several workshops. We offer workshops on advocacy, children in poverty, anti-sex trafficking, care for God’s creation. Check out our website: **www.loppw.org**

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