



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

www.lopepw.org (Search LOPPW on Facebook)

Submitted by Rev. Cindy Crane, Director cynthia.crane@elca.org

Thank you for supporting your ELCA advocacy ministry in Wisconsin with support to the UP! We especially express gratitude for Bishop Paul Erickson, the synod staff, and your GMS representatives on our policy council, Reverend Jonathan Barker and Mr. Doug Dehler.

During the last year, in response to God's grace and our life in holy community, we engaged our members and worked with legislators on the following priorities:

Calling for an End to Hunger: We are an active part of the Healthy School Meals for All



Coalition. We also are advocating on the Farm Bill and Child Tax Credit.

To the left is our **2023/24 Hunger Advocacy Fellow, Frances Dobbs**, at a press conference supporting Healthy School Meals for All legislation. Frances is with us full-time for one year thanks to a grant from ELCA World Hunger.

New Presentation! Frances has developed a new presentation on hunger in Wisconsin and the Healthy School Meals for All proposed legislation.

Addressing the Crisis of Human Trafficking: LOPPW builds awareness on human trafficking. Because of our steady advocacy, the Governor's office invited LOPPW staff to be present at the signing of three new bills we supported (photo on the right).



Caring for God's Creation: LOPPW held its second biennial State Budget advocacy day on climate and water in March 2023. We worked in partnership with Faith in Place. Some of the participants from the SCSW on the left at the Capitol



Immigration: In February 2024, we organized an advocacy day to address four bills that would impact DACA recipients living in Wisconsin. One of the DACA bills came close to passing. We are hopeful that the bills will be able to gain more ground in the future and that our voices will continue to make a difference. We also continued to support driver's licenses for people who do not qualify for a license only because they are ineligible for a Real ID. We advocated for this to help

our immigrant neighbors, support farmers and others who employ immigrant workers, and to make our roads safer.

Supporting Juvenile Justice Reform: We continue to advocate for returning youth 17 years old to the youth justice system via education and advocacy and are active leaders in the Raise the Age Coalition. Wisconsin is one of three states that automatically sends 17-year-old youth through the adult court system regardless of the crime committed.



Youth and Young Adults: LOPPW continues working with a team from around Wisconsin and the UP to plan ways to engage youth. We are grateful for the leadership of Gretchen Hauge, Youth and Sunday School Ministries at St. Matthew's Lutheran Church in Wauwatosa for helping to plan and lead at our 2023 youth advocacy retreat, and for her continued leadership to help plan our 2024 retreat. Our next youth advocacy retreat will be open to high school youth and young adults and will be held at Pine Lake Bible Camp in Clintonville from **October 4 - October 6, 2024**

New Resource and Presentation (on our website under Resources, Reflections & Tools)
Our hunger advocacy fellow, Frances Dobbs has created a PDF resource on the background of immigration in Wisconsin and bills related to driver's licenses and DACA recipients that LOPPW continues to work on, and a presentation based on the resource.

Outreach: We involve our members via online action alerts, resources, weekly reflections, monthly updates with special interviews, and online and in-person trainings.

Partners

LOPPW's director is on the steering team of the Wisconsin Climate Table and Raise the Age Coalition. LOPPW is also involved with coalitions related to hunger, anti-sex trafficking and immigration.

Join the Advocacy Network



Please consider going to loppw.org and click on to *Join the Advocacy Network* at the bottom right of our Home page. We'd love to share our Monday reflections, monthly updates, and action alerts with you. Also follow us on Facebook and Instagram.

Thank you again for your support as we continue working on our five priorities, broadening our outreach to adults, and creating more opportunities for youth. God's blessings!