



"Along with all citizens, Christians have the responsibility to defend human rights, and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well-being, and good order in public life."

- ELCA social statement: ["The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective"](#)

We are a church that is energized by lively engagement in our faith and life. **ELCA Advocacy** works for change in public policy based on the experiences of Lutheran ministries, programs and projects around the world.

We work to create and influence public policies that embody the biblical values of peacemaking, hospitality to our neighbors, care for creation, and concern for our brothers and sisters facing poverty and struggling with hunger and disease.

Peacemaking

2015 Priorities: Advocate for the passage of the Food for Peace Act, the International Violence against Women Act, address funding needs for humanitarian relief, and promote peace in the Middle East.

"As a reconciling presence, the Church creates bonds among different peoples, whether local or distant... Our calling to love of neighbor obligates us to act to prevent wars and to seek alternatives to them."

(ELCA social statement: ["For Peace in God's World"](#))

Care for creation

2015 Priorities: Work to protect water quality standards, ensure a strong Endangered Species Act, support a strong and proactive U.S. position in the negotiations for the Paris climate change agreement and funding for international climate institutions.

"Made in the image of God, we believe that we are called to care for the earth as God cares for the earth... We depend upon God, who places us in a web of life with one another and with all creation."

(ELCA Social Statement: ["Caring for Creation"](#))

Hospitality to our neighbors

2015 Priorities: Improve the treatment of migrants in-transit, seek opportunities to address the root causes of migration in Central America, and ensure policies uphold human rights and dignity.

"We support compassionate survival assistance for refugees and vigorous international protection for them... The world community has a responsibility to aid nations that receive refugees and to help change the situations from which they have fled."

(ELCA Social Statement: ["For Peace in God's World"](#))

Concern for our brothers and sisters living in poverty and struggling with hunger

2015 Priorities: Take concrete steps toward ending hunger by enhancing domestic programs, including reauthorizing the Child Nutrition and WIC Act. Work with state and federal partners to address unjust systems of mass incarceration by passing the Second Chance Act.

"Out of deep concern for those affected adversely by poverty, we find it a moral imperative to seek a sufficient, sustainable livelihood for all... Putting faith to action, we commit ourselves to advocate for public and private policies that effectively address the causes of poverty. "

(ELCA Social Statement: ["Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All"](#))