

Wednesday Noon Live Summary and Legislative Updates - March 2020 Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW)

Outline

I Program (links to sound effects not include)

Welcome

What's New

Help Needed! ELCAvotes project - Civic Engagement at the Polls

Immigration

- **The Dream Act**
- **Our Hmong and Laotian Neighbors**
- **Special Interview** with Attorney Molly Dobberke Riehle, Executive Director of Centro Legal in Milwaukee
- **Pastor Andy at the Border**
- **Announcement:** Saturday, March 21 1-3 pm at Midvale Community Lutheran Church: Pastor Kelly Nieman Anderson to discuss current U.S. immigration policies as well as stories of immigration in the Bible.

Sending us Announcements

Join us on Social Media

II Updates on Recent Bills and Circle of Protection

I Program

Welcome from Pastor Andy Twiton, LOPPW Advisory Council and Pastor Cindy Crane, Director. We are an ELCA advocacy ministry working in close partnership with ELCA World Hunger, and the six synods with congregations in Wisconsin. We also work with several secular and inter-faith partners.

What's New? Care for God's Creation T-shirts, which will be available for \$20 at synod events.

From our DC office great materials – snazzy new ELCA Civic Engagement guide is out. For the guide, a new resource on the census and other resources go to the ELCA website. We have the info on our website under Resources, Reflections, Tools – Voting & Civic Engagement (ELCAvotes)

HELP NEEDED for our ELCAvotes project – Civic Engagement at the Polls

Along with making resources known, LOPPW will focus on one concrete part of civic engagement – recruiting poll workers. We're doing this in partnership with All Voting is Local.

Did you know the following?

- There is a significant shortage of poll workers in many districts.
- When there aren't enough poll workers, the lines are longer, there can be confusion, and some voters may leave before voting.
- Working at the polls is a significant way to be civically engaged.
- In many districts you are paid
- You can legally take off work to be a poll worker
- Some high school youth can be poll workers and take off school for it

If you're interested and want to learn more contact cindyc@loppw.org

The spring primary is on April 7!

Immigration focus: To begin, we want to mention that **DACA** is being discussed at Supreme Court level will affect 700,000 beneficiaries. The ruling will probably come out in June.

Hmong and Laotians: Two members of the WI Assembly just put out a resolution opposing efforts by the State Department and Trump Administration to allow for the deportation of Hmong and Lao U.S. residents to the Lao People's Democratic Republic. If passed, the resolution won't have a lot of teeth but will send a message. We'll put an action alert later.

Related, Congresswoman Betty McCollum MN just authored the federal **Hmong and Lao Refugee Deportation Prohibition Act of 2020**. Stayed tuned to more on that one.

Interview with Attorney Molly Dobberke Riehle, Executive Director of Centro Legal in Milwaukee. Molly is an ELCA member and travelled with AMMPARO to Dilly Texas to work with a group of attorneys at the Family Detention Center.

Pastor Andy talked about his experience at the border as part was part of the Congregational Vitality gathering of the ELCA. "We traveled from San Diego and crossed the border to go to Tijuana. Those of us who crossed the border began with worship at the border wall. The theme of the event was 'Turning walls into tables. The original plan was for some of us to worship on the Mexican side and other to worship on the US side. Though attempts were made, border patrol said it wasn't safe for those on the US side to worship at the wall due to flooding (although we didn't see evidence of this). We sang, we prayed. Rev. Heidi Neumark preached. We celebrated with Holy Communion."

Special Announcement - Saturday, March 21 1-3 pm at Midvale Community Lutheran Church. Pastor Kelly Nieman Anderson has provided ministry in refugee camps and helped immigrants resettle in the United States. She will walk us through current U.S. immigration policies as well as stories of immigration in the Bible. Pastor Kelly is an ELCA pastor serving in Saukville, WI. This event is free, and all are welcome. Find this also in our written outline

If you know of events related to loving our neighbor in public voice going on in your neck of the woods, let us know!

Join us on Social Media! [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [Instagram](#) www.loppw.org [Sign up for Action Alerts](#)

We'll be back again on **Wednesday, April 1 at noon**. God's blessings.

II Updates on Recent Bills and Circle of Protection

Recent Legislative Bills: The State Legislature is winding down. Here is an update on the Assembly Bills (AB) and Senate Bills (SB) that correspond with each other that we most recently supported:

AB 796/SB 718 – Assisting farmers to optimize their use of nitrate while protecting Wisconsin's drinking water

This bill requires the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection to create a nitrogen optimization pilot program, under which DATCP awards grants to farmers to implement a project, for at least two growing seasons, that reduces nitrate loading or that uses nitrogen at an optimal rate while protecting water quality, for example by reducing nitrogen application despite a decrease in crop yield, by growing a crop that requires less nitrogen or that is nitrogen fixing, or by expanding or conserving wetlands.

Passed in the Senate

Available for scheduling in the Assembly

AB 113/SB 91 - This bill creates a system for buying and selling water pollution credits through a central clearinghouse. Under current law, the Department of Natural Resources administers a program for trading water pollution credits between sources of water pollution... The agreement must result in an improvement in water quality, and the increase and reduction in pollutants under the agreement must involve the same pollutant or the same water quality standard and occur within the same water basin.

Signed into law

AB 475/SB 424 – Protecting Wisconsin Children from Lead

This bill requires child care centers, child care providers, and recreational and educational camps to test for lead in drinking water and to provide potable water if lead contamination is found in order to obtain, renew, or continue a camp or child care center license or child care provider certification.

Passed in the Senate

Available for scheduling in the Assembly

AB 700/SB 632 - Adding a Layer of Protection to Wisconsin's Drinking Water

Ensuring timely communication between the DNR and health department and the county land and conservation department in counties where groundwater standards have been threatened.

Public hearings held and passed out of committee in the Assembly and Senate, but has not been scheduled for a vote in either house.

AB 321/SB 302 – The Clear Act

This bill requires the Department of Natural Resources to establish and enforce various standards for per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). The PFAS group of substances includes several thousand chemicals. The bill requires DNR to establish, by rule, acceptable levels and standards, monitoring requirements, and required response actions for any PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, surface water, air, solid waste, beds of navigable waters, and soil and sediment, if the department determines that the substance may be harmful to human health or the environment.

Has not had a public hearing in the Assembly or the Senate (public hearings are held before bills can be scheduled)

Circle of Protection Report on plan of each presidential candidate to address hunger