



Wednesday Noon Live features an excellent interview with Reverend Jonathan Barker, Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha. Rev. Barker shares how his faith and lived experience leads him to fast for climate justice: [WNL February 2021 Recording](#)



Save the Date: March 18 at 10 AM - Caring for God's Creation Virtual Advocacy Event! Our keynote speaker will be Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes. We'll also feature Chief Meteorologist Bob Lindmeier and Lutherans Caring for Creation Executive Director Phoebe Morad. More speakers and details about the length of the event to be announced.

During our virtual advocacy event, Rev. Jonathan Barker will update us on his 21-day fast for just climate policies, especially related to the new State Budget. Stay tuned for ways to get involved before the event.

Watch our social media for video testimonies from our Wisconsin Faith Coalition for Climate Justice members leading up to our event. If you're interested in submitting a 1 to 3 minute testimony on why you care about climate justice, please respond to this email.

Members of the Wisconsin Faith Coalition for Climate Justice include LOPPW, Wisconsin Interfaith Power and Light, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, and the Wisconsin Council of Churches. Each of our six ELCA synods are also represented in our coalition.

Additional items included in Wednesday Noon Live:

- Update on the mask mandate and related legislation. Our action alert against the resolution to ban the mandate is still active: [Freed to serve our neighbor! Say No to Senate Joint Resolution 3](#). Here is our [Press Release](#).
- Update on Vaccinations
- A reminder about ELCA World Hunger and Lent

LOPPW's Priorities for 2021 include the following:

- Calling for an End to Hunger
- Addressing the Crisis of Human Trafficking
- Caring for God's Creation
- Supporting Immigration Reform
- Calling for Criminal Justice Reform (focused on juvenile justice)

We view all of our priorities through a lens of food and racial equity.

Coalitions

Along with participating in coalitions with our partners, LOPPW has initiated two coalitions in recent months: **Wisconsin Faith Coalition for Climate Justice** and **Raise the Age**. Hunger Advocacy Fellow Kyle Minden has been the key initiator, as well as the co-leader with Kids Forward, for the Raise the Age Coalition. Stay tuned for more on our efforts to return 17-year-old youth to their rightful place in the juvenile justice system.

Wisconsin State Budget (a moral document)

The Governor should announce his budget soon this month. The Joint Finance Committee will then organize public hearings, which have always been held in person around the state. We are not certain how the hearings will be handled this year. After the hearings, the Joint Finance Committee will present their edited version of the budget to the Wisconsin State

Legislature. After the Senate and Assembly vote on the Budget, it goes to the Governor's desk, usually sometime in the early summer. Stay tuned for tips on timely ways to offer your input!

Synod Announcements (please feel free to send any announcements related to our priorities that you'd like us to include in our monthly newsletter before the first Wednesday of the month)

Immigration Forum on March 23 at 7:00 PM will be hosted by the South-Central Synod. More details to come. Contact Dan Odden with any questions: danodden@gmail.com

Federal

For the ELCA's federal and international priorities, please check out this [Blog!](#)

Thank you for taking time with us and for your advocacy!

Blessings,

Team LOPPW