



## Grain

“A budget is a moral document.” – Jim Wallis (also attributed to others)

### Field

<sup>16</sup>We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us—and we ought to lay down our lives for one another. <sup>17</sup>How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help? <sup>18</sup>Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action. <sup>19</sup>And by this we will know that we are from the truth and will reassure our hearts before him <sup>20</sup>whenever our hearts condemn us; for God is greater than our hearts, and he knows everything. <sup>21</sup>Beloved, if our hearts do not condemn us, we have boldness before God; <sup>22</sup>and we receive from him whatever we ask, because we obey his commandments and do what pleases him. <sup>23</sup>And this is his commandment, that we should believe in the name of his Son Jesus Christ and love one another, just as he has commanded us. <sup>24</sup>All who obey his commandments abide in him, and he abides in them. And by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit that he has given us. – 1 John 3: 16-24

### Thoughts by LOPPW Hunger Advocacy Fellow Kyle Minden

As we approach the fourth week of Easter, 1 John reminds us of how Jesus showed his love, and how we in turn express God’s love to others. Jesus made the ultimate sacrifice for God’s children, and 1 John reminds us that we too must take action and make sacrifices for the good of our neighbors. “We ought to lay down our lives for one another. How does God’s love abide in anyone who has the world’s goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses help?” The authors of 1 John make it clear; abiding in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit is not passive but active. To paraphrase Martin Luther in *The Freedom of a Christian*, our faith is not simply looking up to God, but looking out in the world and society in which we live.

Wisconsinites have an opportunity to take action and “look out” as people of faith when we advocate on the state budget and other bills. Governor Evers has handed over his Biennial Budget to the Wisconsin State Legislature, who are reviewing and editing the 717-page document. This is the most important document in our state government for the next two years, as it signals our state’s priorities. Among other things, this budget dictates funding for anti-poverty and safety net programs, guides state action on protecting our climate and natural resources, seeks to protect victims of abuse, and will shape how our state treats children and adults that cycle through our criminal justice system. This budget and so much of other public policy, in a sense, represents “the world’s goods” as described in 1 John.

Advocating in a way that reflects our values is a powerful response to God’s call for justice and peace. On a public policy level, it is not always easy to know where to begin. For example, advocating on the budget is important, but separate legislation and bills also need our attention and advocacy. As you access the news and other resources, please also stay tuned for guidance from LOPPW. Happy Monday!

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May God bless you this week,

Kyle Minden, Hunger Advocacy Fellow