



From the Director

Dear faithful advocates,

I grew up believing that the Berlin wall was permanent. It was a structure that pointed to what seemed like insurmountable political differences between the West and the former Soviet Union during the Cold War. Lutherans, especially in East Germany, played an active role in demonstrating against the painful separations between families and friends divided by the wall until it came down. Complicated tensions did not completely disappear and have emerged in new ways today, but justice for those whose lives were directly impacted won out. How remarkable it was to watch news clips of citizens with hammers and picks tearing down the oppressive barrier that had seemed so impenetrable for nearly 30 years.

During this month of Pride, I remember having doubts that the ELCA would change its rules for clergy in committed, monogamous same sex partnerships within my lifetime. But my church came through. After that, I expected gay marriage to eventually be legalized but was still amazed when it actually was.

When have you been surprised by reconciliation or gradual movements toward justice that have led to breakthroughs?

While in the middle of advocating against barriers to caring for our neighbors and for new just policies, it's difficult to remember how long change can take. The State Budget has not been finalized, but the Joint Finance Committee has given us a grim picture related to our priorities. How many more budget cycles will it take for our state to accept federal dollars for BadgerCare? When will Wisconsin return to being at the forefront of caring for God's creation? Will \$3 billion for education (not one of our priorities but the legislative direction is striking) and BadgerCare actually be left on the table? What is the reasoning?

After the State Legislature votes on the State Budget it will be sent to Governor Evers. We expect some of our priorities that will likely to be left out of the budget to return in separate bills. As we continue to make strides forward, are pushed back, and move forward again, I trust that, with our partners and networks, we are increasingly a force to be reckoned with. And many unjust barriers to loving our neighbor and the earth will eventually be removed.

Thank you for lifting your voices, faithful advocates. Do not give up. And remember that we begin with God. God walks with us. And we end with God.



From our Hunger Advocacy Fellow

Raise the Age: LOPPW is continuing to organize efforts for juvenile justice reform through the Raise the Age – Wisconsin coalition. Raise the Age – Wisconsin is working to bring 17-year-olds back to their rightful place in the juvenile justice system, as Wisconsin is one of only three states that still automatically tries all 17-year-olds in the adult court system.

LOPPW and the Raise the Age coalition were disappointed to find that the Joint Finance Committee has stated they intend to cut the Raise the Age provision from the Governor's Budget. Although Governor Evers allocated money to fund juveniles being brought back to the juvenile justice system, the Joint Finance Committee deemed this provision to be "non-fiscal" item. While the outlook is dim on Raise the Age policy being included in the budget, we are very optimistic about some sort of juvenile justice reform being introduced as separate legislation later this year. LOPPW and coalition partners have been meeting with legislators from across the state over the past three months, and we see great interest in some sort of juvenile justice policy from both parties. As juvenile justice advocates, we are continuing to advocate and educate on the benefits of bringing 17-year-olds back to the juvenile justice, and we hope that Raise the Age policy will be introduced this fall.

While we are optimistic about future raise the age reform, we still need to continue advocating and pushing comprehensive Raise the Age policy as a key priority to legislators. Please consider raising your voice for juvenile justice reform by going to our LOPPW Action Center or by emailing LOPPW Fellow Kyle Minden at kyle.minden@elca.org. To learn more about why Wisconsin needs to pass Raise the Age policy, visit www.raisetheagewi.org.

Immigration: LOPPW is also continuing to educate and advocate for the rights of our undocumented neighbors. In partnership with the South Central Synod of Wisconsin's Immigration & Refugee Task Force, we have hosted two virtual events, titled "Standing With Our Neighbors" which have highlighted immigration policy and concerns. Our first panel discussion was with Attorney Erin Barbato, Director of the Immigrant Justice Clinic at the University of Wisconsin Law School. For a recording of Professor Barbato's excellent presentation on immigration policies and practices, see the link [here](#). Our second presentation was on Tuesday, May 25th with Mary Campbell, Director of the ELCA's AMMPARO network, which looks to help accompanied minors and families that migrant into the U.S. as well as address the root causes of migrants and returned migrants in Central American countries. See her presentation [here](#)! LOPPW and the South Central Synod of Wisconsin Task Force intend to continue these important discussions early this fall, so keep up with our Facebook page for new dates and more information!

LOPPW is dedicated to continuing to provide educational opportunities for those interested in learning more about immigration policy and how we as Lutherans can help. We also support a number of policies that defend the rights and dignity of immigrants, including the Governor's budget provision to allow undocumented immigrants to obtain drivers licenses here in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, this provision has been removed from the budget by the Joint Finance Committee.

August Action! Look forward to information from our D.C. office on how we can connect with our Congressional members while they are back in district in August. Find information on supporting efforts such as a Pathway to Citizenship for our immigrant neighbors, Care for God's Creation, Child Tax Credits to combat hunger, and more.



Bring your skills and convictions to this 12-month transformative experience that combines leadership development and faith formation with impactful advocacy that moves us toward an end to hunger and a just world where all are fed.

This is a 12-month, non-renewable contract position. Start date: September 2021.

Details & application process on the ELCA Job Board.

IS AN ELCA HUNGER ADVOCACY FELLOWSHIP RIGHT FOR YOU?

POSTED: May 24, 2021

Placements:

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- Minnesota
bit.ly/ELCAHAF-MN
- Texas
bit.ly/ELCAHAF-TX

& communications focus:

- D.C.
bit.ly/ELCAHAF-DC

Apply today!

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Hunger Advocacy Fellow Openings! LOPPW has had wonderful experiences with both of our fellows, Kelsey Johnson (2018/19) and Kyle Minden (2020-present). Check

out openings in Arizona, Minnesota, Texas, and Washington, D.C. for 2021/22 on [ELCA Job Board](#). Search Hunger Advocacy Fellow under U.S. Opportunities.

Additional Resources

All Voting is Local, the League of Women Voters of Wisconsin, and the Wisconsin Disability Vote Coalition released their new report, [Getting There is Half the Battle: Wisconsin's Photo ID Law, Access to DMV Services, and the Fight for Our Freedom to Vote](#). "The purpose of the report is to demonstrate how inadequate access to DMV services is jeopardizing our freedom to vote -- disproportionately impacting Black & Latino Wisconsinites, Wisconsinites with disabilities, transgender Wisconsinites, and young & older Wisconsinites. We conclude with recommendations for the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Legislature, and Governor's Office."



Do you have ideas for interviews for Wednesday Noon Live? Please let us know. We'll hold our programs on the first Wednesday of each month beginning again in the fall. Email cindyc@loppw.org

Thank you for taking time with us!

Many blessings upon you,

Team LOPPW