



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

LUTHERAN  
OFFICE  
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POLICY  
*in Wisconsin*



## February Updates

### This Month

- *Wednesday Noon Live* with special guests, Hunger Leaders Deb Martin, East Central Synod of Wisconsin and Cindy Dobberke, Greater Milwaukee Synod
- *Events:* 1. "All who Strive for a World Without Hunger" 2. "Boldly Serving our Afghan Neighbors" 3. "Talks at the Desk" for Black History Month
- *Legislative Updates*
- *The Supreme Court and Reminder of an LOPPW Resource*

### [Wednesday Noon Live](#)



We welcomed Deb Martin, member of All Saints Lutheran Church in Oshkosh and Cindy Dobberke, member of Mount Olive Lutheran Church in Mukwonago to discuss their work with other hunger leaders to network around Wisconsin and the UP to counter hunger. Also hear our legislative updates on the

Child Tax Credit and state bills on school meals, clean water, and anti-sex trafficking.

# EVENTS



All who Strive for a World Without Hunger: Second session tonight, Feb. 3 at 7:00 PM. Third Session on Feb. 24 at 10 AM or 7 PM. For more information, video of the first session, and registration go [Here](#). Or to simply register go [Here](#).

**Webinar**  
**BOLDLY SERVING OUR AFGHAN NEIGHBORS: Getting Involved through Congregational Accompaniment & Co-sponsorship**

Need is growing following evacuation of thousands of Afghan refugees to the United States, and we hear the call to bear witness to God's love with Afghan newcomers who have lost their homes and must make new beginnings.

**Tuesday February 8 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. ET**

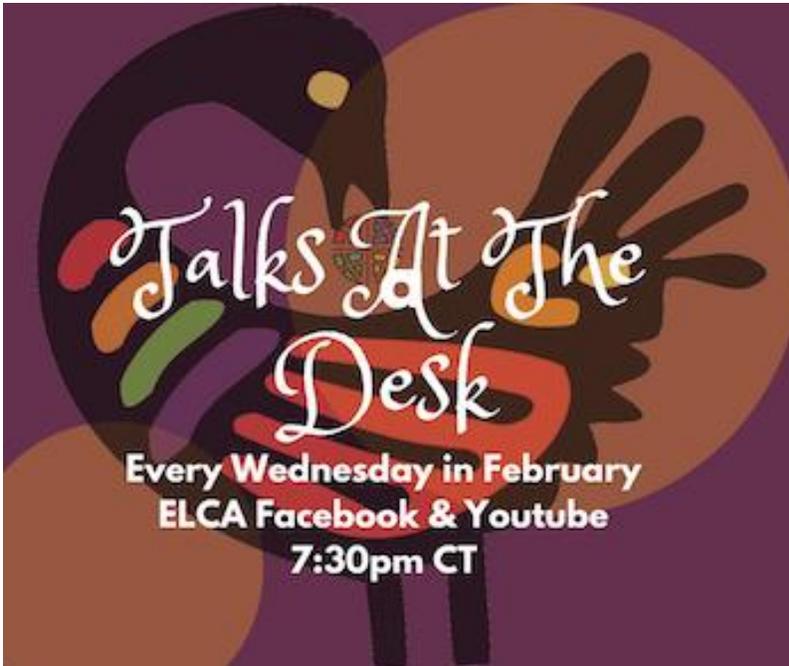
ELCA Advocacy  
ELCA AMMPARO  
Lutheran Disaster Response

**REGISTRATION:**  
[bit.ly/ELCAwebinarServingAfghanNeighbors](https://bit.ly/ELCAwebinarServingAfghanNeighbors)

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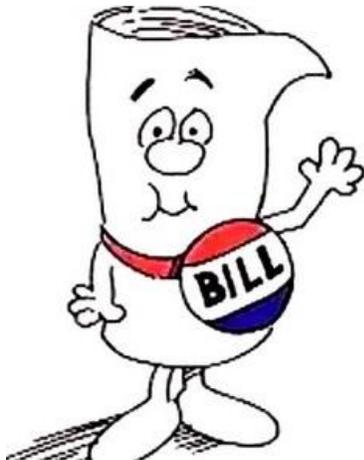
A photograph showing a man in a blue puffer jacket walking away from the camera on a cobblestone street. He is walking with a woman in a red coat and a child in a black coat. The background shows a residential street with houses and trees.

Meaningful welcome of Afghan neighbors through co-sponsorship, financial support & advocacy is the focus of essential information that ELCA Advocacy, Lutheran Disaster Response, and ELCA Ammparo and guests will share in next week's webinar. Register at <https://bit.ly/ELCAwebinarServingAfghanNeighbors>



Celebrate Black History Month with Talks at the Desk, a new series from [ELCA African Descent Ministries](#) that will explore diverse expressions of the church. Tune in each Wednesday in February at 7:30 p.m. Central Time on the [Evangelical Lutheran Church in America](#) Facebook and YouTube pages to hear our youth, young adults, rostered leaders, elders and friends of our communities share their own sacred stories. Watch the series preview video [Here](#).

### Legislative Updates from Wednesday Noon Live:



**Child Tax Credit:** Losing the enhanced monthly child tax credit has been a real challenge for families who were temporarily lifted out of poverty. We continue to support the extension of the Child Tax Credit, which is part of the Build Back Better package. However, Build Back Better has been put on hold. Some members of Congress are in strong opposition to extending the credit for another year. So even if a separate bill that includes an extended child tax credit is drafted, we will have an uphill battle getting it passed. But we will continue to advocate for the extension. [Article from Bread for the World](#)

**Healthy School Meals:** [Assembly Bill 805](#) will provide additional state aid to public and private schools to provide free meals to all pupils. Look for an action alert soon.

**Clean Water:** Assembly Bill 728 ([Action Alert](#)) will support making grant money more accessible to both owners and renters to address problems with nitrates and bacteria in their

wells. The bill also makes grant money more accessible to farmers to determine if nitrates from fertilizer is impacting watersheds, lakes and rivers. The bill was passed by the Senate.

**Anti-Sex Trafficking:** [Assembly Bill 58](#) – This bill allows a residential tenant to terminate their lease if the tenant or the tenant's child fears imminent violence and faces an imminent threat of serious physical harm from another person if the tenant remains on the premises. Look for an action alert soon.

[Senate Bill 746](#) requires the Department of Public Instruction to develop, by July 1, 2022, a child sexual abuse prevention policy and instructional program, that is age appropriate, to be provided to pupils in grades kindergarten to six. Look for an action alert soon.



The **Wisconsin Supreme Court** will decide how

our congressional, state senate, and state assembly districts should be drawn.

Every 10 years, after each U.S. census report is released, the Wisconsin State Legislature makes decisions on how best to draw maps to reflect changes in populations. However, the temptation to gerrymander rather than redistrict fairly easily rears its ugly head in whichever political party is in the majority. In Wisconsin, the issue has made its way into the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Those advocates, such as our very own Rev. Mark Kay Baum, who wrote a reflection on redistricting for Monday Quotes several months ago, received disappointing news in the November ruling that the Supreme Court would take a "least changes" approach to redrawing the 2011 maps. However, more recently, it became apparent that the meaning of "least changes" is unclear and could favor those who lift their voices for just districting. Stay tuned.

**Resource:** Here is a resource that includes very helpful information on gerrymandering: [2016 Money and Politics](#) It was written by our former intern, Kyle Kretschmann. Kyle followed his internship by attending the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. After receiving a degree in public policy he returned to Wisconsin. Kyle currently works as Budget and Policy Analyst at the Wisconsin Department of Administration State Budget Office and is a member of Midvale Lutheran Church in Madison.

Thank you for taking time with us!

God's blessings,

Team LOPPW

