



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

LUTHERAN  
OFFICE  
FOR PUBLIC  
POLICY  
*in Wisconsin*

## March 2022 Updates



### This Month

- **Wednesday Noon Live - Guns:** a sore subject in our communities, with special guests, Rev. Peter Jonas & Rev. Jeff Wild
- **Senior Director for Witness in Society Rev. Amy E. Reumann's** important message based on an Ash Wednesday text, and Resources related to Ukraine
- **Coming Soon: Share your Voice - for high school youth** interested in social justice
- **The Legislative Session**
- **Statewide/UP Hunger Leaders Networking**



[Watch Video](#)

### **Wednesday Noon Live - Guns: A sore subject our communities**

Pastor Peter Jonas shares his experience working with other clergy and lay leaders advocating against Trempealeau County becoming a 2nd Amendment Sanctuary (Gun Sanctuary). Several of the advocates experienced push back. Hear what happened to the county proposal. Rev. Jeff Wild discusses his work blacksmithing and peacemaking. Can transforming guns into garden tools transform our hearts?

Rev. Wild was also part of the Hunger Leaders Session 2 session "Share." More on these sessions under *Statewide/UP Hunger Leaders Networking* in these updates.



**Important Message from Rev. Amy E. Reumann, ELCA Senior Director for Witness in Society: [\*Again Asking and Finding Steadfast Love in the Gloom of War\*](#)**

Included in Rev. Reumann's message are these links and messages:

- "ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has [called the church to prayer](#) and
- communicated our concern to [Lutheran churches in Ukraine and in Russia](#).
- ELCA staff have long and strong relationships with European partners preparing to receive people fleeing Ukraine. These relationships will guide our accompanying actions and support these churches as they address the trauma that comes with violence, dislocation and family separation.
- Lutheran Disaster Response has created an [Eastern Europe Crisis Response](#) for donations to support the long-term response. The ELCA is working through the Lutheran World Federation and the Action by Churches Together Alliance to bring humanitarian aid to Ukraine and at the borders.
- [At the United Nations](#), ELCA staff are monitoring Security Council deliberation and the global humanitarian response.
- Through ELCA advocacy we are urging the Biden Administration to offer deportation relief to Ukrainians in the U.S. through a Temporary Protected Status (TPS) designation or a Deferred Enforced Departure (DED) order."



Please share this with youth and youth leaders! Youth are invited to take a brief survey of their interests and to register by using this link: [REGISTER HERE](#)

For additional information, including our six synod team organizers, and invites to download go [HERE](#).



## Wisconsin State Legislative Session Ending

The 2021/22 legislative session is coming to a close on March 10. Between now and the rest of the year, legislators deal with issues such as those related to constituency care. Did you know if you are having issues with state bureaucracy, for example, not receiving state benefits in a timely manner, that you could contact your State Representative or State Senator?

We were disappointed that one of the ground water bills we supported made it through the Senate, but not the Assembly. We hope it will be reintroduced in the next legislative session. One groundwater bill still has a chance to pass in the Senate in these last days after passing in the Assembly. Both of these bills are based on findings presented by experts to the Water Quality Task Force.

We are also disappointed that a few of the bills related to FoodShare, jobs, and Medicaid passed. We are signing on a letter with several agencies to encourage the Governor to veto those bills.

The Governor has stated that he will veto any voting bills that will add unnecessary bureaucracy that place barriers before people to vote.

LOPPW and Wisconsin Council of Churches received a shoutout from a Democrat on the Assembly floor because of our work against two bills. That same week, a Republican Senator called to ask if LOPPW would change our position on one of their bills after they added an amendment. Just when you think no one is listening, people very well may be. Thank you for lifting your voices and for your faithfulness even at times when do not immediately recognizing our impact!



Thanks to the initiative of some amazing hunger leaders, who successfully organized three sessions (two on each day) to engage people from around Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, they have three videos filled with inspiring stories and information. Thank you to those leaders for including LOPPW! The recordings of each session is on our website under a new tab, [Hunger Leaders WI/UP](#). The team says that this is not the end, but the beginning of their networking.

**Thank you for taking time with us!**

God's blessings,

Team LOPPW