



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

LUTHERAN  
OFFICE  
FOR PUBLIC  
POLICY  
*in Wisconsin*



Painting by Salvador Dali.

“A voice is heard in Ramah, mourning and great weeping, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.” Jeremiah 31:15.

“Today I am not learning how to get over my grief. I am learning to collapse into your arms, Jesus, and to let you carry me through it. –Douglas McKelvey, Every Moment Holy. Cited on the Southwestern Texas Synod's website

### [ELCA's Response to the School Shooting in Uvalde, Texas](#)

Dear friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you as our nation mourns the lives of 19 children and two adults at Robb Elementary School in Uvalde Texas. After barely absorbing the news about the racist attack leaving 10 people dead in Buffalo, New York, we face yet another mass murder. Hearts are broken. Youth and their parents are left wondering about safety in their own schools and communities. Some of us are haunted by the refrain that gun violence is "an American epidemic," an "American phenomenon." In 2020, guns were the leading cause of death among Children and teenagers in the U.S.

Will the most recent mass murder make a moral difference to law makers in finding common ground? Or will the narrative that has turned the 2nd Amendment into a fetish continue? The message that either we support the right to own any type of

firearm or we want to take everyone's guns away divides. The truth is, of course, whether we own a gun or not, we can call for gun control.

In the coming weeks, Congress will be examining possibilities for increasing background checks, adding [red flag laws](#), and banning assault weapons. May our advocacy and voting reflect our outrage for the lack for moral public policy addressing gun violence and our solidarity with gun violence victims and those closest to them.

### **Resources**

[ELCA Social Message on Community Violence](#)

Social Policy Resolution: [Community Violence-Gun Control](#)

Worship Resource: [Gun Violence Litany](#)

Prayers: [Lamenting gun Violence](#)

[Service after a Violent Event](#)

[March 2022 Wednesday Noon Live](#) – Special Guests: Rev. Peter Jonas on Second Amendment (gun) Sanctuaries and Rev. Jeff Wild on Blacksmithing and Peacemaking.

Find Prayer for Lamenting Gun Violence in the hymnal supplement All Creation Sings, pg. 107.

**Invitation: Faith communities with bells** that ring outdoors are invited into a nationwide practice of lament this Thursday (tomorrow) at noon. Texas-based clergy are asking churches nationwide to participate in a time of remembrance, ringing bells nineteen times. Our ecumenical partners in the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship Gun Violence Prevention Ministry also invite us to inform our local media and elected officials why we are doing so. Thanks to the Wisconsin Council of Churches, for sharing this invitation from faith communities in Texas.

Peace be with you,

Pastor Cindy