



## May Updates



30 youth and several adults gave up a weekend in April to be part of our first Youth Advocacy Retreat



A huge shout-out to our organizers who made the recent Youth Advocacy Retreat happen! From left to right: **Deacon Laura Ramlow** Synod Minister - Communication, Faith Formation, Malawi (Northwest Wisconsin Synod), **Rev. Jenn Pockat**, Associate to the Bishop, Director for Communications and Community (East Central Synod of Wisconsin); **Rev. Marie Leafblad**, Associate to the Bishop for Leadership Support (South-Central Synod of Wisconsin), **Rev. Cindy Crane** (LOPPW director), **Ms. Stefanie Ehle**, Synod Youth Ministries Coordinator (Northern Great Lakes Synod), **Ms. Gretchen Hauge**, Youth and Sunday School Ministries, St. Matthew's Ev. Lutheran Church, Milwaukee (Greater Milwaukee Synod).

Thank you to the Northern Great Lakes Synod for being our fiscal agent!

In Madison, thank you to Advent Lutheran Church (Madison Community) for generously providing space and breakfast on Saturday and to Trinity Lutheran Church welcoming us to be

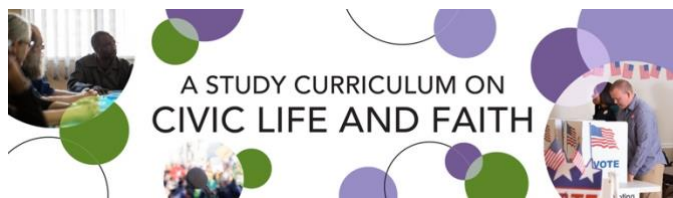
part of worship and providing breakfast on Sunday. We ended our event at the Capitol. Find more photos on our FB page.



### **Additional Recent Events**

**Women of the ELCA:** LOPPW had a presence and spoke briefly at the La Crosse Area Synod Women of the ELCA Convention, which focused on faith and citizenship. Rev. Joanne Richmond of Our Savior’s Lutheran, La Crosse, WI, gave an excellent presentation.

**East Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School:** LOPPW's director led a class on the ELCA Social Statements for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin Lay School of Ministry, coordinated by Rev. Mark Ziemer.



[Civic Life and Faith](#): The preparation of this study is part of the process toward developing a social statement on these many topics related to civic life and faith. Participants’ feedback is key in helping the task force as it moves into the next phase of its work, drafting a social statement. The study response period is open through Oct. 15.

Are you planning to lead a study on this in your congregation or synod? We would love to make your study known. Please respond to this email if you are interested in more broadly inviting people to participate.

### **Coming Soon**



### [2023 National Workshop on Christian Unity Registration](#)

Developed by the Minnesota Council of Churches in response to the injustice experienced by people of color in their state and beyond, the theme for the 2023 Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, “Do Good; Seek Justice (Isaiah 1:17),” will serve as theme for NWCU 2023 as well. Theologian-in-Residence the Rev. Canon Stephanie Spellers will lead us in considering the theme under three sub-topics: listening to the biblical call to justice, lamenting the lack of justice in our world, and living into justice in our communities. Each day Workshop participants will join in table conversations around the praxis of justice facilitated by the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center.

LOPPW's director will be one of the ELCA representatives speaking on a seminar panel on May 10.

**State Budget:** Thank you to everyone who submitted comments on the State Budget to the Joint Finance Committee. We will not only pay attention to what the Joint Finance Committee and legislature keep in the budget but, will continue advocating for separate legislation for our priorities that do not make it into the budget.

**Wednesday Noon Live:** Join us again in September for our monthly programs.

Thank you for taking time with us!