



Updates include the following:

August Action Opportunities - Congress is in recess and members are back in district

I Love To Tell the Story, But How? Wisconsin/UP Hunger Leaders provide recordings from presentations on telling effective stories

Youth news

ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering



August Action Opportunities!

This month can be a great time to connect with your federal lawmakers. In August, our U.S. congressional leaders are in recess and return to their districts to hear from us. Look for opportunities for town hall meetings/listening sessions both in person and online. Also consider contacting your lawmakers for one-on-one or small group meetings.

A few topics LOPPW is advocating on:

Immigration: Tell Congress to address the tremendous backlogs within the EB-4 category, which impacts immigrant youth and religious workers in our communities. One concrete way to address the problem and to also help youth would be to pass **The Protect Vulnerable Immigrant Youth Act** (learn more here: [Protect-Vulnerable-Immigrant-Youth-Act-of-2023](#)) The act would bring overdue reforms to Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) by exempting vulnerable youth from annual visa limits misaligned with the congressional intent behind this humanitarian classification. By doing so, the Act would help ensure access to vital protections for young immigrant survivors of trafficking, abuse, domestic violence, and other harms. The act would also ease backlogs and free up visas for people such as **religious workers**, while allowing the children to continue life in the United States as lawful permanent residents. Read more in [this article](#).

The bi-partisan **Afghan Adjustment Act** has been reintroduced, and we can urge its passage. This bill would allow Afghans who sought refuge in the United States to apply

for permanent legal residency after undergoing additional vetting. Respond to this [Action Alert](#) and/or use it as a resource for your visit.

Farm Bill: If you are interested in supporting farmers, people experiencing hunger, our land and water, and equality, consider advocating on the Farm Bill. Witness in Society Resources from D.C. and LOPPW can be found at the top of [this page](#).

Find contact info and announcements about town hall meetings on your Representative's and Senators' websites:

Wisconsin U.S. Representatives - [Wisconsin Congressional Map](#)

Or, look up your government officials [here](#).

1st district: Bryan Steil - <https://steil.house.gov/>

2nd district: Mark Pocan - <https://pocan.house.gov/>

3rd district: Derrick Van Orden: <https://vanorden.house.gov/>

4th district: Gwen Moore - <https://gwenmoore.house.gov/>

5th district: Scott Fitzgerald - <https://fitzgerald.house.gov/>

6th district: Glenn Grothman - <https://grothman.house.gov/>

7th district: Thomas Tiffany - <https://tiffany.house.gov/>

8th district: Mike Gallagher - <https://gallagher.house.gov/>

Wisconsin U.S. Senators

Tammy Baldwin - <https://www.baldwin.senate.gov/>

Ron Johnson - <https://www.ronjohnson.senate.gov/>

Upper Peninsula of Michigan Representative

1st District: Jack Bergman - <https://bergman.house.gov/>

Michigan U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow - <https://www.stabenow.senate.gov/>

Gary C. Peters - <https://www.peters.senate.gov/>

Resources from Witness in Society in D.C.:

- [August Recess Guide](#)
- [In-District Meetings](#)
- [Virtual Visits](#)
- (Advocacy Summer School series video) [How Do I Approach Policymakers?](#)

Additional Federal Advocacy Topics: Click on [this page](#).

Stay tuned for more advocacy opportunities!



Thank you to Wisconsin and UP ELCA World Hunger leaders for including LOPPW in their excellent project to assist us as people of faith to share our stories.

I Love to Tell the Story, But How? was supported by a Hunger Networking and Education Grant from ELCA World Hunger and included two evenings of inspirational and practical advice on how to craft a story, record your story, edit a video, and spread the word via social media.

Thank you to Cindy Dobberke for providing the recordings and resources from the evening:

"What makes a story memorable" led by Rev. Jenn Pockat, Associate to the Bishop, Director for Communication and Community for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin and How to record and make the video impactful, led by Rev. Chris Manke, Executive Director for Outreach for Hope in the Greater Milwaukee Synod: [Recording](#): You'll need the pass code: 0?&b\$Mz8

How to edit the videos, so they tell the story you want to tell, led by Rev. Cindy Crane, LOPPW and "How to share videos most effectively," led by Robyn Bayland, Communications Manager, Greater Milwaukee Synod and Outreach for Hope: [Recording](#): You'll need the pass code: G!6fit*. (Include the period at the end of the pass code).

Additional resources from found [here](#).

Kudos to the amazing team that organized these two events:

Rev. Walter Baires, South Central Synod of WI
Cindy Dobberke, Greater Milwaukee Synod
Meg Finerty, La Crosse Area Synod
Rev. Kathryn Ingbritsen, La Crosse Area Synod
Deb Martin, East Central Synod of WI



Congratulations to the Northwest Synod, Northern Great Lakes Synod, and La Crosse Area Synod for organizing their fabulous tri-synod "Journey" high school youth gathering, which included faith and Advocacy! Thank you to Deacon Laura Ramlow for inviting LOPPW to lead two workshops. Such

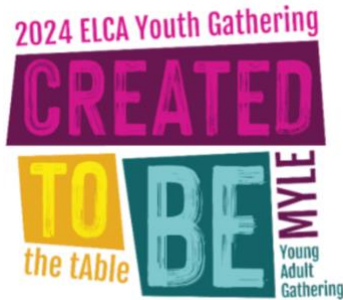
engaged you! First photo is from a group project in which youth named where they saw injustice. The photo with youth wearing cool ELCA sunglasses, which traveled from D.C. to St. Paul, to Madison to River Falls, were taken by the NGLS. The other great pics were taken by the NWSW.



Coming Soon



Rachel Kurtz was one of our musicians and storytellers at our Youth Advocacy Retreat. The amazing Rachel will be at First Lutheran Church in Beaver Dam on August 12 at 5:30 PM!



2024 ELCA Youth Gathering: July 16 – 20, 2024 in New Orleans, LA - Learn more [here!](#)

Every three years, thousands of high school youth and their adult leaders from across the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America gather for a week of faith formation and fellowship known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through inspiring speakers, worship, music, and the opportunity to be immersed in the host city, young people will be inspired, challenged, and called to live out their faith in their daily lives.

The theme for the 2024 ELCA Youth Gathering is “Created to Be” centered on Psalm 139:14 – *“I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.”* The next ELCA Youth Gathering will take place in New Orleans July 16-20, 2024.



ELCA World Hunger

Save the date!

Details to come.

Thank you for taking time with us!