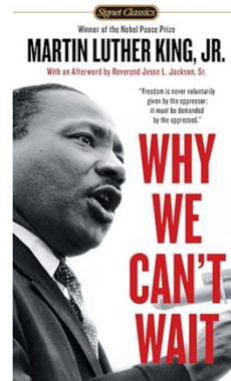


**Wednesday Noon Live!**

Why is it important to return youth 17 years old to the juvenile justice system? What just happened in the legislature? Learn more from this important interview with Emily Coddington, who is part of our Raise the Age Coalition. Emily is the Associate Director of the Wisconsin Association of Family & Children’s Agencies.



Our **LOPPW Policy Council** recently decided that we will continue with our five priorities: hunger, care for God's creation, youth criminal justice, anti-sex trafficking, and immigration, but with our top focus on care for God’s creation. We will ramp up our efforts in seeking justice in relation to water and climate change.

Our policy council also held a book study on “Why we Can’t Wait” by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. If you never read this extraordinary book, we highly encourage you to read it. If you read it years ago, consider rereading it.

Policy Council members represent six synods: East Central Synod: Rev. Josh Fite, Greater Milwaukee Synod: Rev. Jonathan Barker, La Crosse Area Synod: Ms. Irene TenEyck, Northern Great Lakes Synod: Dr. William Mattson, Northwest Synod of

Wisconsin: Rev. Lucas Ladnier (outgoing); South Central Synod of Wisconsin: Rev. Andy Twiton and Ms. Kristi Jones  
Bishop Joy Mortensen-Wiebe is the bishops' representative on our council.

Thank you to Rev. Lucas Ladnier, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, for his six years of service on the LOPPW Policy Council!



### [Raise the Age](#)

The Republicans have been working on a bill to return 17-year-old youth to the juvenile justice system, and the Democrats have just released their own bill. LOPPW's action alert is the same as it

was before but with an added call for both parties to work together. Learn more and respond to the alert here: [Raise the Age](#)



[Increase support for people experiencing poverty and homelessness!](#) Senate Bill 557 is a comprehensive bill that would address issues relating to housing, homelessness, and poverty. It would help support the transition people experiencing into more independent living, establish an emergency rental assistance program, and expand grant housing support. It would

better fund services as well as track their success through reporting. There would be a Housing Choice Voucher Program that would be piloted for children. There would be support for services such as Internet services, civil legal services, and workforce development. There would also be funding to help those exposed to lead, transportation, and to assist the Institute for Research on Poverty at UW-Madison study and provide an annual report to the public on poverty in Wisconsin. [Increase support for people experiencing poverty and homelessness!](#)



LOPPW is happy to be part of the Healthy School Meals for All (HSM4A) Wisconsin Coalition, which advocates for making school meals available to all Wisconsin K-12 students at no charge. The coalition supports universal programs for nutrition as a way to improve the quality of life for students. These programs help reduce stigma, advance equity, support the food economy, improve educational and health outcomes for students, and save time and money for families.

There are a variety of ways to support the coalition, but we would like to highlight an in-person action

happening next week. On **November 6th at 11 a.m.**, the Wisconsin Healthy School Meals for All Bill is set to be released in the Assembly Parlor in the Capitol building in Madison on the second floor in the West Wing. By showing up at this event, residents can show their support for this bill. We hope to see you there! If you are unable to

attend, we ask that you contact your representatives in the Senate and Assembly to support the bill. Here is a template you may copy to get started:

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/13FISiYGTsgs\\_pbw15fIK8X44VvVAXbm9SqRD0XNfqS0/edit](https://docs.google.com/document/d/13FISiYGTsgs_pbw15fIK8X44VvVAXbm9SqRD0XNfqS0/edit)

As people of faith, we morally want to ensure all human beings, especially those most vulnerable, have their basic needs met. We also value supporting local workers such as farmers, who would be essential to making these programs sustainable.

### **Resources**

[Healthy School Meals for All Wisconsin](#)   [Food Research & Action Center](#) (national)



**Your input is valued!** The ELCA is seeking feedback on a new **Social Message on Gun-Related Violence and Trauma**. Social messages are ELCA teaching documents that draw from existing social teaching but throw a fuller and sharper spotlight on a particular social issue. The draft's themes focus on trauma, public health, and an ethic of shared responsibility for peacemaking, seeking to move beyond the strict polarization of gun rights vs. gun control. Learn more on [this page](#).

### **Human Sexuality - Gift and Trust Study Process**

After a seven-year process of discernment and dialogue across the ELCA, the 2009 Churchwide Assembly voted to adopt Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust as a social statement of the ELCA. In 2022, the Churchwide Assembly authorized two reconsiderations (see pages 4-5 and 11) of the social statement:

- A review of specific text references that “would consider the import that marriage legally is now a covenant between individuals;” review specific wording “in light of public acceptance of marriage of same-gender and gender-non-conforming couples;” and “consider references to diversity of family configurations;” and
- A possible revision that reconsiders the “church’s current concept of the four positions of bound conscience” found on pages 19-21 of Human Sexuality: Gift and Trust.

in response to these actions, a task force will begin working in 2024 on both reconsiderations. Throughout the process, the task force will be listening deeply and working closely with people across the ELCA. More information about the process and specific opportunities for joining the conversation will be shared as soon as possible.

### **Are you interested in assisting?**

To learn more about what it means to be a member of a task force, how to apply or nominate someone else, please go to [this page](#).



**Farm Bill Resource** from our DC office. The target to enact a new farm bill passed in early October, and it is expected that it will be months until an agreement is likely to be reached on a new bill. Our ELCA advocacy continues to encourage the reshaping of the bill.

<https://download.elca.org/ELCA.../23FarmBillLeaveBehind.pdf>



### **Gaza and Israel**

Due to escalating conflict in Gaza and Israel, a severe humanitarian crisis is rapidly unfolding in the Holy Land. The ELCA has a longstanding relationship with partners in the region, including the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and Augusta Victoria Hospital. Lutheran Disaster Response has a

history of providing support for our partners and will be prepared to answer calls for assistance when the time comes. [Donate on our ELCA website.](#)

[A Statement from Bishop Eaton on the Conflict in the Holy Land.](#) On our ELCA website [Learn More](#)

Thank you for your advocacy and for taking time with us!  
PDF version of the updates:

Many blessings upon you!