



May Updates



Prayers for the East Central Synod of Wisconsin, the Greater Milwaukee Synod, the Northern Great Lakes Synod, and the South-gather this

Central Synod of Wisconsin as they prepare to weekend to make important decisions about elections for offices, outreach, global mission, social justice, and more.

Our holy God, we know that where two or three or hundreds are gathered in your name, that Christ is present. Help all who gather at their assemblies to grow through planned and unexpected dialogue, prayer, and worship. As we celebrate Pentecost, guide us all in how we engage with our siblings in Christ and in discerning how to be church in the world. Amen.

Learn more and register on our website under Youth Advocacy!

Young Advocates' Retreat
"Called to be Advocates"

Date: October 4-6, 2024

Location: Pine Lake Camp
 @ Crossways Camps
 W 5631 Akron Ave.
 Waupaca, WI 54981

Who: High School Youth & Young Adults

Registration:

- \$100 per participant
- Includes housing & meals
- Registration
 - Opens 5.1.24
 - Deadline: 9.15.24

Topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence
- Women's Rights
- LGBTQIA Advocacy

Participating Synods:

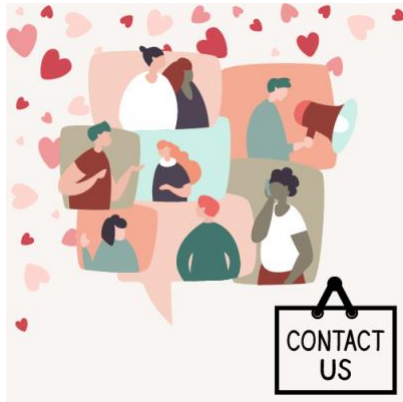
- East-Central Synod of all America
- Greater Milwaukee Synod
- La Crosse Area Synod
- Northern Great Lakes Synod
- Northcentral Synod of all America
- South-Central Synod of all America

QR code and website URL: <https://www.elca.org/youngadults/youthadvocacy/>



Are you a young adult looking for a small group? In June, Abide will be hosting a 4-week session on faith and civic life. Come for fellowship, prayer, and time for discussion. The group will also be giving out resources to keep you prepared for your area's upcoming elections. Check back here later this month to sign up for the group or share with a friend or young adult in your life.

Hunger



Hunger is a devastating reality that many Wisconsinites face day to day. One in 14 people face hunger in the state, according to a 2023 study, “Map the Meal Gap” from Feeding America. LOPPW recognizes that addressing this crisis demands policy makers to understand the real-life experiences of individuals and families facing hunger. We are requesting stories from you to bring into our advocacy activities around hunger policies, such as the Farm Bill. **Contact Frances J. Dobbs at frances.dobbs@elca.org** with stories about hunger you would like to be shared. These can be either from your own life or encounters you've had with others experiencing

hunger. If you have any questions, please contact the same email above.

Prayers for all who are experiencing homeless in our country as the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case involving whether or not cities can criminalize homelessness, forbidding encampments. Thank you to Lisa Nelson, whose congregation, St. Mark's in Madison, focusses on a food ministry, for bringing up her concerns about the potential ruling. Here is an earlier [PBS report on the case](#).



Delving into the **Farm Bill** is for everyone interested in hunger, farming, the environment, and equity. Farm Bill geeks, feel free to utilize all the links below.

Update written by Alexander Parker, ELCA Federal Advocacy Coordinator in Washington, D.C.

On May 2, it was announced that both the [House and Senate agriculture committees had updates to their 2024 farm bill plans](#) (link to a Roll Call article that reiterates much of what I have typed below).

Starting with the House, Chair Thompson dropped this [five-page title-by-title summary](#) and announced that there would be a markup of the House version on May 23rd. When the actual text will arrive, we are unsure, but we encourage you to look over the summary and compare that to the resources the Senate produced today. Highlights from the incredibly vague House summary include investments in R&D and conservation [by shuffling IRA money](#) without specifying what those reallocations are. Additionally, it notes that the Thrifty Food Plan will be “corrected,” essentially meaning that SNAP benefits will not be able to be adjusted for any reason except to reflect the cost of living. I would encourage you to read this article from [CBPP](#) on how this could impact families and individuals over the next ten years.

Without much warning, Chair Stabenow announced that the Senate has legislative text ready to go but would only be releasing this lengthy section-by-section summary containing over 100 proposals with independent summaries for each title. Unlike the House version, the longer summary indicates that the conservation title would receive extra funding but only for climate-smart practices. Moreover, the Senate summary clearly states that the Thrifty Food Program will keep with its five-year reviews.



Ask Candidates for Office, Where do you stand on...?

As opportunities arise to attend candidate forums and connect with candidates in other venues, please feel free to use our resources to learn about where they stand. Since our state legislative maps have been redrawn, we hope that legislators will want to be responsive to broader constituencies. To ask about and educate others about your interests that are part of LOPPW's Priorities, please go to Resources, Reflections & Tools on the home page of www.loppw.org

To ask about and educate candidates about **Raise the Age**, returning 17-year-old youth to the juvenile justice system you can also go to the the Raise the Age website's talking points. The site is managed by LOPPW.

To take action on national and international issues please go to ELCA Advocacy Action Center



Message from the Center for Climate Justice and Faith at Pacific Lutheran Theological Seminary: Calling all busy people of faith looking to integrate climate justice work into their lives!

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Thank you for taking time with us!