



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

LUTHERAN
OFFICE
FOR PUBLIC
POLICY
in Wisconsin

February 2024 Updates



- Immigration and Refugees

- *Advocacy Day & DACA Bills Review*
- *Wednesday Noon Live*
- *Action Opportunities*
- *Opposing a Bill Harmful to Refugees*

- Educational Opportunity on Healthy School Meals for All

Organized by WI and UP ELCA World Hunger Team

- ELCA World Hunger Gathering

- Hunger Advocacy Fellow's Blog

- Youth



Panelists Nour Kalbouneh, Fabiola Hamdan, and Keydi Bognar at our *Support our DACA Neighbors - Build a Better Wisconsin*

Please take time with these short videos with significant stories from our event. We regret not filming the entire event, which was rich with stories, information, and great questions.

Seven-minute Video

[Keynote Speaker Keydi Bognar](#)

Six-minute Video

[Panelists Nour Kalbouneh, Fabiola Hamdan, and Keydi Bognar](#)

Over 50 people were in attendance at our advocacy day to learn more about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and four bills that would support our DACA neighbors as well as build a better Wisconsin. The majority of the attendees also were able to advocate at the Capitol in the afternoon.

Find photos from the event here: <https://photos.app.goo.gl/orCJWtXKEmGHtKbM9>

Resources from our advocacy day:

[Talking points for Participants](#)

[Leave-behinds](#)

Coverage of our Event in [La Comunidad News!](#)



[Wednesday Noon Live](#) focused on the four DACA bills and advocacy day as well.



You can still support the four DACA bills!

[Support Allowing DACA Recipients to Become Police Officers!](#)

SB 78 would help our DACA recipient neighbors and would allow our police force to expand their hiring pool to address our police shortage in Wisconsin.

[Ask your legislators to support DACA recipients!](#)

LOPPW is asking for Wisconsin residents to contact their lawmakers to urge their government officials to support AB822, AB821, and AB820.



[Oppose Senate Bill 916](#) – If this bill passes in the legislature, please support Governor Tony Evers in vetoing it by clicking on to this link: [Oppose Senate Bill 916](#)

Thank you to Rev. James Holmberg for this blog, which we used for our action alert to Governor Evers. [SB 916](#) is an act to create a series of regulations to complicate and effectively eliminate refugee resettlement in Wisconsin.

When I first read the text of SB-916 I thought this must have come from some other time and place where basic compassion, decency, and the love of neighbor were completely unknown, and society had focused its fear on a faceless “other” who was perceived as a threat. But no, this bill was from our time and my state. In short, SB-916 codifies a system for alerting local officials (employee or officer of a governmental unit) whenever a refugee resettlement agency intends to place a refugee in a particular community. After receiving notice of the intent to place an individual or family who has refugee status in a county, governing bodies must meet to review the proposed resettlement. An avenue for public comment must be provided and notices of the intent published in newspapers having a “general circulation within the territory within a 100-mile radius of the office of the clerk for the governmental unit...” SB-916 Section 1 66.0443 (6).” Read more in this [blog](#) and in the body of our [Action Alert](#).

Rev. James Holmberg
jimholmberg@msn.com



Childhood Poverty and Healthy School Meals for All

Thank you to Wisconsin and UP Hunger leaders for inviting LOPPW's Hunger Advocacy Fellow, Frances Dobbs, to lead this presentation!

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 6:30-7:30 pm
CENTRAL**

- Zoom LINK will be emailed to you early TUESDAY morning on 2/13
- Childhood hunger is a reality in Wisconsin.
- Learn along with our hunger advocacy fellow from LOPPW: www.lopepw.org
- As people of faith, we can learn about and advocate for just policies in our state and local communities/

Registration link found here: <https://forms.gle/ourgqzdgRy1Ndz9A>

Your ELCA WI and UP WH Teams look forward to seeing you there!

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



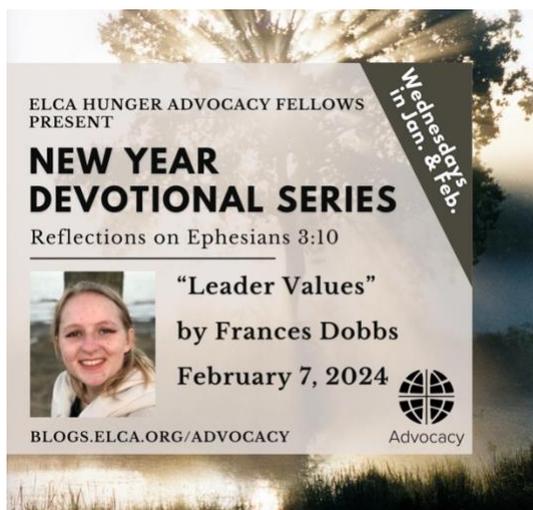
ELCA World Hunger Gathering in Houston! Reflections from Frances Dobbs

I attended the ELCA World Hunger Leadership Gathering for the first time this year. Going into the gathering, I was haunted by a verse, "For you always have the poor with you" (Matthew 26:11). Perhaps for many advocates, this message can be chilling. It has been 50 years of ELCA World Hunger, and at this anniversary there were many generations of people who had been involved. Some remember several gatherings and have seen the evolution of their work, some had gone to a couple gatherings, and others like me are new. After all these years, there are still many to feed, and the task to fill that need seems daunting.

In relation to talking about tasks, I was struck by a speaker who talked about the concept of Diakonia. It is found in the Gospel of Mark: "for the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give

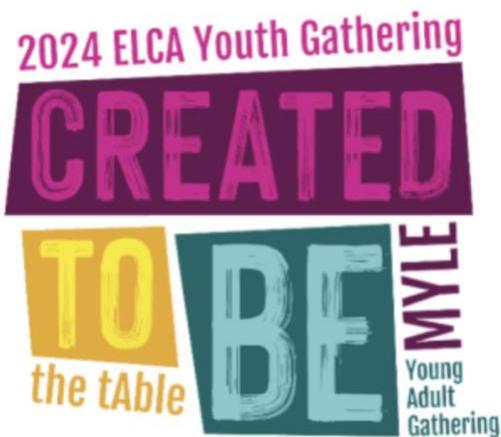
his life a ransom for many” (10:45). It is this word “serve” that is the English translation of Diakonia. The term described the ministries of the early church who helped the poor, pooled their resources, and helped the outcasts of society. As I learned, it is a term often used by World Hunger to describe their hunger ministry efforts. The speaker discussed her experience working with World Hunger in Brazil with indigenous communities. There have been times in which the church’s use of the term service has come across as patronizing to indigenous communities and the speaker led a discussion on how to resolve this tension given both the call in the Gospels to serve but also the fraught history of indigenous people being forced to serve against their will. Throughout the weekend, there were explorations of tensions in the church’s work in approaching different communities while seeking to work to have people’s basic needs met.

Read the rest of [Frances' blog here.](#)



Also check out Frances' devotion as part of a series written by hunger advocacy fellows from around the country.

In times of uncertainty, [LOPPW](#) hunger advocacy fellow Frances Dobbs, tells us turn to Scripture for guidance on the values our leaders should embody. Explore Ephesians 3 and more in this week's [#devotional](#) with discussion questions at <https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/devotional-leader-values/>



Find more information and register here:

<https://www.elca.church/gathering/attend/congregations>

Thank you for taking time with us!

Many Blessings upon you!