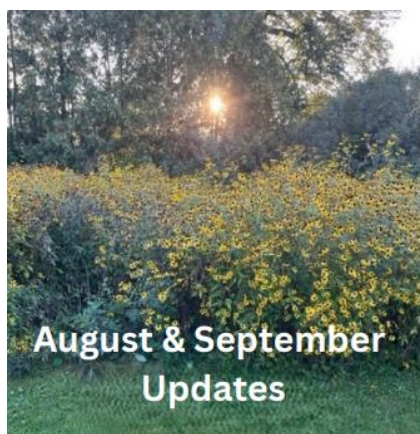




Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

LUTHERAN
OFFICE
FOR PUBLIC
POLICY
in Wisconsin



- New Resource page on Christian Nationalism
- Wednesday Noon Live coming up
- Message about voting
- Called to be Advocates - Register youth soon!
- Good-bye to Frances
- Church event highlights crisis in Gaza
- Synod event highlights immigration
- Commenting on draft Social Statement
- Civic Engagement in an Election Year
- Synod hosts Crucial Conversations webinar

New Resource Page on [Christian Nationalism on LOPPW's website](#)

The page includes the new excellent study guide on Dietrich Bonhoeffer from our friends and colleagues in Pennsylvania as well as resources from LOPPW's book study.



Wednesday Noon Live: On September 4 at noon, we will welcome, Blake Chastain, podcaster and author of "Exvangelical and Beyond: How American Christianity Went Radical and the Movement That's Fighting Back," published by Penguin Random House

Message on voting from our Hunger Advocacy Fellow Frances Dobbs



As we approach the November 5th General Election, LOPPW wants to make sure you are informed and ready to vote. My Vote Wisconsin is a great resource to check for information about the election. From there, you can Vote Absentee, check your polling location, see what is on your ballot, and check your voter registration. There is also information about important deadlines, how your vote gets counted, and election results.

We also want to share that we are doing a push to recruit poll workers! Poll workers are greatly needed across the state to make sure that elections run smoothly and efficiently. Proper staffing allows for shorter lines and less confusion. It is a paid position that employers legally have to allow time off for in the state of Wisconsin. Also, if you are 16 and older and have a 3.0 grade point average you can take time off of school and be paid to be a poll worker.

To learn more you can go to <https://myvote.wi.gov/en-us/Become-PollWorker>.

Adults, if you are interested in learning more or would like to let us know that you signed up to be a poll worker, please contact cynthia.crane@elca.org

LUTHERAN OFFICE FOR PUBLIC POLICY | **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**
Do not work. Do not stand.

Young Advocates' Retreat
"Called to be Advocates"

Date:
October 4-6, 2024

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

Who:
High School Youth
& Young Adults

Registration:

- \$100 per participant
- Includes housing & meals
- Registration is OPEN!

Deadline:
September 15th

Special Guests:

David Scherer | Rev. Jonathan Barker

Topics:

- Environmental Justice
- Gun Violence
- Women's Rights
- LGBTQIA Advocacy
- And More!

Join us for "**Called to be Advocates**" at **Pine Lake Camp, Waupaca, October 4-6, 2024**. The event will begin Friday between 4:00-6:00 PM and end at noon on Sunday. We'll offer great speakers, time for relaxation and getting to know other youth, and opportunities to build advocacy skills and to take action.

Register [HERE](https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/). Find more info <https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/>

Please let us know if the \$100 fee will be a challenge.

The event is being hosted by the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin and the six ELCA synods with congregations in Wisconsin and the UP. But young people of all backgrounds are welcome.

Note about our main speakers:

David Scherer combines rapping, dancing, and storytelling to inspire people to break down the barriers that divide them and work for justice for all people.

Rev. Jonathan Barker is a climate activist and parish pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha. He is the author of "Jesus Would Demand a Green New Deal."

Frances Dobbs Ending her Year as a Hunger Advocacy Fellow by Rev. Cindy Crane

Frances Dobbs started her hunger advocacy fellowship with us at the beginning of September 2023 and has been able to be with us for one year, thanks to a grant from ELCA World

Hunger. The fellowship offers opportunities for young people to grow in their faith and in their understanding of faith-based advocacy. All three of our hunger advocacy fellows and interns have also greatly benefited LOPPW. Frances leaves behind fruits of her work including a unique immigration resource, [Undocumented in Wisconsin 2024](#) and a presentation on hunger in Wisconsin and the Healthy School Meals for All legislative efforts, [Healthy School Meals for All](#).

Thank you, Frances, for all you have given of yourself this year! Many blessings upon you.



Reflection on my Fellowship by Frances Dobbs

It is hard to believe that at the end of this month, my time as a hunger advocacy fellow at LOPPW will come to a close. It has been a great blessing to serve in this role and to combine two of my favorite passions—faith and politics. I feel very grateful as a Catholic, to be welcomed into the ELCA context through this role. I have had the opportunity to meet so many faithful advocates working on areas ranging from food insecurity to environmental justice, to immigration justice, and many more issues. I have had the opportunity to witness what it means to have a church live out its calling of serving society.

There are many new things that I was able to participate in through LOPPW from churchwide events in the ELCA such as the World Hunger Leader Gathering and helping lead presentations on anti-sex trafficking and hunger around Wisconsin. I also was able to engage with lawmakers by visiting hearings, meeting in their offices, and emailing them about our policy priorities. I also got to lead an ABIDE group for young adults on voting engagement and lead a presentation on voting at the Youth Gathering this summer.

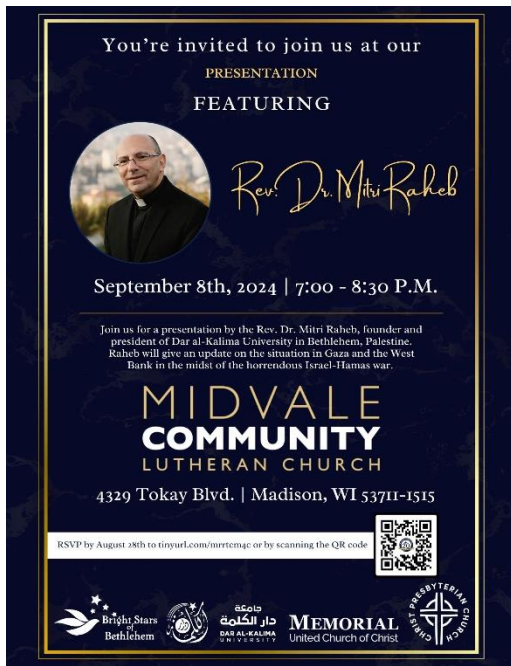
Overall, the highlight of my fellowship, for me, was our advocacy day back in January fighting for the rights of DACA recipients. Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients are individuals who came to the U.S. undocumented at age 15 or younger, have lived in this country for at least five years and are in school or have a diploma. Immigrant rights are very near and dear to my heart as I believe strongly in the Christian call to welcome the stranger. I appreciated the opportunity to help organize a major advocacy event with LOPPW's director, Pastor Cindy, to advocate for expanding the rights of DACA recipients. We advocated on four bills to allow them to obtain occupational licenses, become police officers, pay in-state costs for college, and create a tax credit to cover the renewal fees for their status. The bipartisan support of these bills struck me, and while they did not pass, the conversations our participants had with their lawmakers gave me hope for future action in Wisconsin. I appreciated the collective action that was taken by our speakers, Bethel Lutheran which hosted the event, Cindy, and all of our participants who came to advocate.

This fellowship allowed me to explore what it means to answer the Christian call for justice and to seek change in our politics both statewide and nationwide. I learned what it means to be an advocate and to serve the church by representing it to lawmakers. I hope that I was able to live out that calling well this past year and share my gifts and talents to make the world a more just place.

As my time comes to a close, I'd like to leave you all with a quote to reflect on from Dorothy Day, the founder of the Catholic Worker Movement who has had a major influence on my life:

"What we would like to do is change the world-make it a little simpler for people to feed, clothe, and shelter themselves as God intended for them to do. And, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, of the poor, of the destitute...we can, to a certain extent, change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world. We repeat, there is nothing that we can do but love, and, dear God, please enlarge our hearts to love each other, to love our neighbor, to love our enemy as well as our friend."

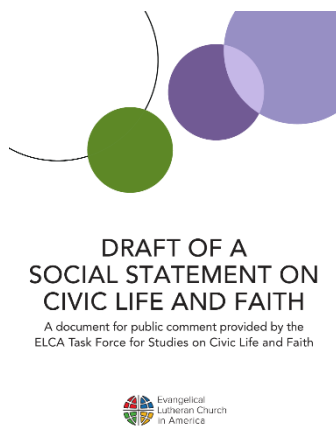
Thank you.



Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb presentation 7:00pm, September 8
Mitri Raheb will speak on the current crisis in Gaza and the West Bank and share how the work of Bright Stars of Bethlehem is bringing hope to those experiencing extreme challenges. Register here: <https://midvalelutheran.us18.list-manage.com/track/click...>



Find registration from the La Crosse Area Synod info [here](#).



The feedback period is open until Sept. 30, 2024, for the ELCA social civic life and faith social statement in development "on civic life and faith, the relationship of church and state, and related matters, as called for by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly." Find a draft and more information, including a feedback survey at <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith>.

**CIVIC ENGAGEMENT
in an
ELECTION YEAR**

**Are you interested
in what you can
do as a non-
partisan influence
in this election
cycle?**

#ELCAElectionActivators!

ELCA.ORG/VOTES

Advocacy

Are you interested in what you can do as a non-partisan influence in this election cycle? Take your energy to the [#ELCAElectionActivator](#) network - an opportunity for individuals and our congregations to share in our communities love in action.

ELCA Election Activators from various parts of our ELCA faith community are invited to a call once-a-month to for updates and to hear from each other about local initiatives. Because the ELCA does not endorse a particular candidate, party or form of government or strive for a Christian one, participation requires sign-up and

a non-partisan pledge. "Lutherans care about government because it is a gift from God intended for the safety and flourishing of human life" (from ELCA social message "Government & Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy"). Our next virtual meeting is Aug. 27. Learn more today! <https://blogs.elca.org/.../elca-election-activator-network/>

**CRUCIAL
CONVERSATIONS**

Techniques for When Opinions Vary
with Duke Taylor

Thursday,
September 19
7:00 PM

LEADERSHIP
ACADEMY
METRO D.C. SYNOD

The [Metro D.C. Synod, ELCA](#) has shared this event with all. Find this opportunity and others on the ELCA Advocacy Blog "Election Engagement Updates" post - <https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/election-engagement/>.

More on "Crucial Conversations: Techniques for When Opinions Vary with Duke Taylor" - <https://metrocelca.org/.../leadership-academy-crucial.../>

Thank you for taking time with us!