



ELCA SPEAKS OUT

From “How and Why the ELCA Does Advocacy”
www.elca.org/advocacy/how/

What is advocacy?

Advocacy is to plead the cause of another together with them and on their behalf. When, for example, the prophets addressed kings and priests on behalf of those suffering injustice, they were advocating. The ELCA calls persons to advocate justice with and for those without power and voice in places where important political and economic decisions are being made that affect the lives of those who are marginalized. This activity is what is meant by “advocacy.” It is one way the ELCA carries out its strategic direction to “step forward as a public church that witnesses boldly to God’s love for all that God has created.”

Why do we do advocacy?

Advocacy is one way we seek to love our neighbor in response to God’s love given us in Jesus Christ. We are caring for, standing with, and serving people who are living in poverty and who are suffering when

we work for public and corporate policies that advance justice, peace, human dignity, and care for the earth.

Advocacy as Part of the Mission of the ELCA

According to the ELCA’s Constitutions, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions, one of the purposes of our church in participating in God’s mission is to:

serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs (4.02.c).

To fulfill this purpose, our church shall

lift its voice in concord and work in concert with forces for good, to serve humanity, cooperating with church and other groups participating in activities that promote justice, relieve misery, and reconcile the estranged (4.03.g).

study social issues and trends, work to discover the causes of oppression and injustice, and develop programs of ministry and advocacy to further human dignity, freedom, justice, and peace in the world (4.03.1).

Similarly, in its first social statement, “The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective” 1991, the ELCA committed itself to

work with and on behalf of the poor, the powerless, and those who suffer, using its power and influence with political and economic decision-making bodies to develop and advocate policies that seek to advance justice, peace, and the care of creation.

FEATURED RESOURCES

- ELCA Advocacy - www.elca.org/advocacy/
- ELCA’s Social Statement: Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective - www.elca.org/socialstatements/churchinsociety/
- Policies & Procedures of the ELCA for Addressing Social Concerns - www.elca.org/socialstatements/procedures/
- Lutheran World Relief Advocacy - www.lwr.org/advocacy

MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free.” LUKE 4:18



ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 130,000 baptized people in 184 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

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