



## Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Partnering in ministry with the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, the ELCA Church in Society Program Unit, and the World Hunger Program, the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin (LOPPW) serves this synod as a faithful witness to the teachings of the Gospel. We work with congregations, pastors and synod leaders to advocate for just public policy in the Wisconsin state government.

Responsible stewardship of God's creation requires that people of faith are aware, informed and engaged in the challenges facing our communities. LOPPW provides education on these complex policy issues and how we as Lutheran Christians discern our baptismal calling to respond to the needs of our neighbors. We are guided by scripture, Lutheran theology, the social statements of the ELCA, and the priorities of the ELCA World Hunger Program. We embrace the diversity of opinion within our congregations, and we rejoice in respectful dialogue on difficult issues.

LOPPW is engaged in the fight to end hunger in Wisconsin and we work to ensure the actions by our elected leaders are faithful to the needs of the poor. The State of Wisconsin operates with a biennial budget, and therefore the second year of a legislative session addresses non-budget policy issues. Our policy emphasis for 2010 is reform of payday lending, an industry that provides short term loans most often to low income people. Many borrowers are unable to repay the loan in 2 weeks, forcing them to recycle their debt by taking out one loan after another, and thereby getting deeper into debt.

The success of our efforts depends on the involvement of Lutheran Christians to advocate for justice. The churches of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin have a strong sense of mission to serve those in need. As Christian citizens of Wisconsin, your voice needs to be heard. Together we can work to address the root causes of hunger in our state.

We continue to be blessed by the support of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin and the leadership of Bishop Duane Pederson. We are also blessed by commitment of Pastor Curt Rohland and Kay Montgomery, your representatives to the LOPPW Policy Council.

As a ministry of advocacy for this Synod, we are available to speak to your congregation about public policy in Wisconsin. To schedule a visit, or learn more about the work of LOPPW, please call or email us.

Yours in Christ,

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