



*Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania report to
Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod*

*In response to God's love in Jesus Christ, we advocate
for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that
promote the common good.*

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa) is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, ELCA Service and Justice, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth.

Since last year's assembly, LAMPa celebrated 42 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, health care, education equity, civic engagement, immigration, housing and homelessness, criminal justice reform and care for creation. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to secure emergency food, shelter, access to medical care and other relief in response to COVID-19. Your advocacy through LAMPa helped secure millions in additional funding for the State Food Purchase Program, which supplies food to many of our congregational pantries. It also won an extra \$100 million targeted to the neediest school districts across the state and \$10 million in housing tax credits to promote affordable housing development and preservation.

In its work of equipping disciples, growing leaders and supporting vital congregations, LAMPa hosted both a United Lutheran Seminary intern and an ELCA Hunger Advocacy Fellow. In September, LAMPa hosted state, national and global partners in a sustainability summit to launch a churchwide pilot in Pennsylvania to help our ministries, from congregations to campuses and camps, reach the global climate change mitigation goals. In addition to helping advocates prepare testimony on a variety of issues related to their ministry, LAMPa staff participated in the ULS spring convocation and connected all PA synods in creation care advocacy through a statewide marking of rogation. LAMPa hosted webinars on accompaniment models of ministry with those experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity, resulting in the adoption of new ministries in several congregations. LAMPa staff continues to serve in consultation to the ELCA task force developing the social statement on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in Democracy, and continues to educate faithful advocates through our website, e-news and other resources. We are working with congregational leaders to prepare for God's work. Our hands. Sunday in September and look forward with hope that we might be able to work side by side on that day.

We give thanks to God for you and for the support of our Northwestern Pennsylvania Policy Council representatives, the Rev. Brenda Martin and Mr. Dennis Groce.

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa's ministry,

Tracey DePasquale

LAMPa Director