



Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania  
*Church Together in Pennsylvania for the Sake of the World God Loves*

LAMPa 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 is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, ELCA Service and Justice, and Pennsylvania ELCA congregations, agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans called to be a part of God's healing and reconciling mission in the world 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.

In 2024, LAMPa celebrates 45 years of advocacy ministry with gratitude for a legacy of community building and justice seeking while looking forward in hope for a more just world. Last year, our work supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, health care, civic engagement, housing security, care for creation, criminal justice reform, civil rights and safe communities. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to increase anti-hunger funding that supports the purchase of food in many of our community and congregational pantries and incentivizes innovation in the delivery of nutritious food to our state's seniors. Years of Lutheran engagement on child nutrition helped make permanent universal free school breakfast to give all students a healthy start to their day. In addition, our advocacy helped advance legislation to expand programs to alleviate the housing crisis and prevent homelessness, offer relief from burdensome medical debt, prevent and redress hate crimes, reduce gun-related violence and trauma, and stop discrimination in housing, employment and public accommodations.

In the past year, LAMPa was pleased to welcome the Rev. Erin Jones as our communications and advocacy engagement manager and Quentin Bernhard as our 2023-24 hunger advocacy fellow, which enabled us to launch four statewide service and justice networks to deepen the connection among ministries in every synod. LAMPa continues to educate faithful advocates through our new website and e-news and connects them to the public witness of the wider church. We look forward to growing opportunities to support congregations adding advocacy to their day of service on "God's work. Our hands." Sunday. I continue to serve in consultation to the ELCA task force developing the social statement on Civic Life and Faith, and urge all to devote time to the newly released draft and to offer feedback.

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

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

Tracey DePasquale  
Director