



ADVOCACY IN SERVICE TO OUR NEIGHBOR

Ways to engage

Join us for

“God’s work. Our hands.”

A dedicated day of service in our community.



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

THANKS FOR MAKING ADVOCACY PART OF YOUR DAY OF SERVICE! Pick a way to engage.

- 1. USE A CURRENT ACTION ALERT** to add your voice to an important, time-sensitive policy consideration. The Action Center of ELCA Advocacy is a place to find up-to-date Action Alert opportunities: ELCA.org/advocacy/actioncenter. Place a computer/device station in your narthex to encourage taking impactful action with this tool.
- 2. TIE ACTION TO YOUR DIRECT SERVICE ACTIVITY** or congregation-specific community awareness. State public policy offices (SPPO) and the ELCA Advocacy office in D.C. can help you plan. Find a list of SPPOs and learn more in the GWOH Sunday toolkit.
- 3. USE A LETTER-WRITING TEMPLATE** to bring the voice of your values and experience to policy making discussion. Make available paper and pens for individuals to personalize a message to legislators on GWOH Sunday. Mail the letters to the ELCA Advocacy office for routing to decision makers.

IDENTIFYING YOUR LEGISLATORS:

A lookup tool at govtrack.us/congress/members is a quick way to find out who represents you in Congress.

WHAT ARE THE LETTERS IN THE LETTER-WRITING TEMPLATES ABOUT?

ELCA congregations and people of faith are vital in their communities, often working directly to serve people in need. At the same time, the accelerating rate of natural disasters has sharply increased demand for the humanitarian support of churches and public and private partners. Confronted with flooding, wildfires, hurricanes and tornadoes, ministries across the country are dedicating more and more resources to help the most severely affected survivors.

To honor Gods’ call to be good stewards of the environment, we are called by our foundational teachings to care for the earth and examine our behavior toward creation. As a society, we have a responsibility to address poverty and natural disasters. Consider personalizing a letter that asks federal lawmakers to take these experiences and priorities into account in decisions before our nation. **Three are available for your personalization.** The “Prepared to Care” series of resources is available at ELCA.org/resources/advocacy#environment.

- **CLIMATE FINANCE** – Learn more about the issue in “Prepared to Care: Weather patterns and climate change.”
- **FOOD ASSISTANCE** – Learn more about the issue in “Prepared to Care: Food assistance and disaster response.”
- **HOUSING** – Learn more about the issue in “Prepared to Care: Housing and disaster response.”

HOW SHOULD I PERSONALIZE THE LETTER?

As a constituent, your personal and congregation’s local experiences are of interest to your representative. Share how your experience and values intersect with the issue.

Additionally, you can share that the ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.5 million members in more than 9,100 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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SEND COMPLETED LETTERS TO:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

218 D Street SE, Suite 100

Washington, DC 20003



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

(date)

(Member of Congress' name)

(Senate or House of Representatives)

(Address)

Washington, D.C.

(City, State, ZIP code)

Dear Member of Congress,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to support funding for adapting to and mitigating the effects of climate change, including capacity building, research and development, and wider efforts to shift the economy toward low-carbon, climate-resilient development. During the appropriations process, we seek full funding of such programs. Because the marginalized and vulnerable are most affected by environmental degradation, our failure to protect God's creation ultimately mirrors and deepens existing racial, gender and economic inequalities. We urge you to make decisions accordingly, respecting environmental limits while pursuing economic growth that provides sufficient and sustainable lifestyles for all people.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

(Full name)

(Address)

(City, State, ZIP code)



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Dear Member of Congress,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to support funding for food supports critical at times of natural disasters and ensure that federal assistance reaches survivors that need assistance most. Appropriate funding for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) programs is critically needed to ensure equitable and rapid recovery. We oppose congressional efforts to convert SNAP funding into state block grants which cannot be expanded in the wake of economic downturn and disaster. We also ask you to ensure funds for Puerto Rico's Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP), the block grant that receives supplemental funding to address the recovery needs of survivors of recent hurricanes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

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Dear Member of Congress,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to support funding for communities affected by natural disasters and ensure that federal assistance reaches survivors that need assistance most. Protecting low-income requirements and financing disaster programs, such as FEMA's Individuals and Households Program (IHP) and the Community Development Block Grant (DR) program, are critically needed to ensure equitable and rapid recovery.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

(Full name)

(Address)

(City, State, ZIP code)