



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.

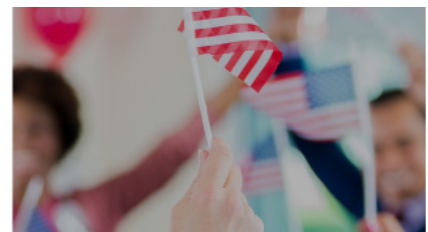
LETTER-WRITING TEMPLATES

Letter-writing templates are an easy way to share your personal, congregational and/or community experience with policy makers. The public policies our officials write, amend and ultimately adopt can have ongoing effects on our neighbors and neighborhoods that are struggling. By telling policy makers how Lutheran ministries help our world and urging them to advance legislation that reflects these commitments, we are helping create opportunities to overcome poverty, promote peace and dignity, preserve God’s creation, and promote racial and gender justice.

Three letter-writing templates directed to members of the U.S. Congress are available, along with an open option. Many of us have personal and ministry-related experiences and faith-founded convictions about moving closer in these areas to the world God envisions, where the health and safety of people and all creation are prioritized: • Environment • Housing • Hunger.

Your personal and congregational experiences are of interest to your representatives. Share how your experience and values intersect with the issue.

- Personalize the letter. Firsthand stories, facts and convictions make your letter stand out.
- Additionally, you can share that: *The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshipping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor.*
- Send completed letters to the ELCA advocacy office (see template letters) for routing the letter to your congressperson.



IDENTIFYING YOUR LEGISLATORS:
You can quickly learn who represents you in Congress by using the lookup tool at:

govtrack.us/congress/members

OTHER OPTIONS found in the [“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday Toolkit](#), including:

- Reaching out to your state public policy office in the ELCA advocacy network for ideas and assistance. A map and list of offices can be found at [ELCA.org/resources/advocacy](https://elca.org/resources/advocacy).
- Responding to one of the time-sensitive Action Alerts at [ELCA.org/advocacy/actioncenter](https://elca.org/advocacy/actioncenter), which address policy concerns articulated in the [2021 ELCA Federal Policy Priorities](#).

LAYING THE GROUNDWORK

To help us think about the connections between practicing our faith through direct service and practicing it through advocacy with a justice mindset, participating in God’s mission of abundant life for all, try these.

- Short videos can introduce the idea of advocacy, such as [“ELCA Advocacy: Set Free To Do Justice”](#) and [“ELCA Advocacy: Tips for Your Engagement.”](#)
- Helpful resources [from the ELCA](#) and affiliated state public policy offices also explore the connection, including [“Advocacy Guide for the Faith Community”](#) from Hunger Network Ohio, [“Faith in Democracy”](#) from Texas Impact, and [“Our Church Our World – Steps to Building Your Congregation and Its Voice in Our Communities”](#) from Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin.

When you connect advocacy with what we learn from our experiences and in accompaniment with our neighbors and communities, you can be a powerful force for change, impacting lives in your local community and the wider world.

Thanks be to God for what we can do on “God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday — and all days!



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

SEND COMPLETED LETTERS TO:

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Advocacy office
218 D Street SE, First Floor
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 to facilitate a nationwide shift to a low-carbon, climate-resilient economy. This shift entails financing the upgrade of infrastructure (such as extending broadband access in rural areas), new installations such as electric-vehicle charging stations, and research and development for increased energy-storage capacity to facilitate a transition to renewable energy. We seek total funding of such programs during the appropriations process. The marginalized and vulnerable are most affected by environmental degradation, therefore our failure to protect God's creation ultimately mirrors and deepens existing racial, gender and economic inequalities. Lutheran social teachings and environmental justice demand that we recognize and remedy the environmental racism by which people of color face a disproportionate risk from environmental hazards. In the name of justice we must reconsider policies and practices that impact our shared world. We urge you to decide accordingly, respecting environmental limits while also pursuing economic growth that will provide 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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Washington, D.C.

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Dear member of Congress,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to help increase funding for homeless and emergency shelter programs in the federal budget for fiscal year 2022. Federal programs that address housing insecurity reinforce the work of houses of worship across the United States that strive to end homelessness in our communities, and such programs can make a meaningful difference for those most needing assistance.

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

Sincerely,

(Full name)

(Address)

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Dear member of Congress,

As a Lutheran and your constituent, I urge you to support ongoing funding for programs that help vulnerable communities in our nation ravaged by the COVID-19 pandemic. We must make permanent the expansion to the Child Tax Credit and Earned Income Tax Credit, which reach so many of us experiencing the highest rates of hunger and lift many of our neighbors and children out of poverty. I also ask that you maintain your support for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) for those most in need. These programs are critically important now and ensure equitable and rapid recovery for families facing hunger as our country recovers. And, finally, I ask you to ensure that all these programs are extended to Puerto Rico, U.S. territories and tribal lands.

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

Sincerely,

(Full name)

(Address)

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(date)

(Member of Congress' name)

(Senate or House of Representatives)

(Address)

Washington, D.C.

(City, State, ZIP code)

Dear member of Congress,

As a Christian and your constituent, _____

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

Sincerely,

(Full name)

(Address)

(City, State, ZIP code)