



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

We appreciate your ongoing partnership with the ELCA's advocacy ministry in Wisconsin with support to the UP. Thank you to Bishop Rick Hoyme, the entire synod staff and the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin for supporting and being part of our public voice. Blessings upon Bishop Hoyme, who has been a delight to work with. Thank you also for the dedicated service of Joyce Anderson and Rev. Lucas Ladnier, your LOPPW representatives. Also thank you to Rev. Diane House for her continued volunteer work as a presenter.

### Advocacy Events and Special Meetings

LOPPW's director accompanied five bishops to discuss policies on refugees with Senator Ron Johnson's aide in Milwaukee. →

LOPPW was also one of the groups that organized **People of Faith United for Justice Advocacy Day**



← **ELCA World Hunger** partnered with our ELCA Office of Advocacy at their national gathering in D.C. to focus on advocating for a good Farm Bill. The director and members of the NWSW, Greater Milwaukee Synod, and La Crosse Area Synod ran into an ELCA member of congress from Ohio on our way to see our Wisconsin U.S. senators and representatives.

### New Partner →

LOPPW partnered with Lutheran Campus Ministry to hold an overnight advocacy retreat for college students.



**Volunteers** and the director testified on anti-trafficking bills and co-led and led workshops.



## Legislative Bills in 2017

- Water: We worked in coalition to support a bill that would make it easier for public utilities to assist people with low incomes to get lead out of their pipes between the streets and their homes to protect drinking water. The bill passed in both houses.
- Anti-sex trafficking: For a few years we have supported a bill formerly called Safe Harbor to decriminalize youth under 18 caught in "prostitution" for the first time so that they would be treated as victims in need of services. The bill passed out of committee in the assembly and senate, will be voted for on by full senate; we are still waiting on the full assembly. We also supported a bill that would mandate that commercial driving classes in tech schools and driving schools include training on how to identify human trafficking and report it. Passed by the assembly. Needs to be passed by full senate.
- FoodShare: We supported a bill that would launch a pilot program to provide discounts to certain households that are eligible for FoodShare benefits with discounts on fresh produce and other healthy foods. It passed by the whole assembly but not been voted out of the senate committee. LOPPW was part of a broad coalition that prepared for other FoodShare bills that came up in early 2018.
- Constitutional Convention: We put a lot of effort in to stopping the resolution to call for a U.S. Constitutional Convention but it passed. The good news is that we have built more awareness and if the needed number of states vote for the same resolution moving us toward a national vote, we will be ready.



**What's New?** We started weekly reflections called Monday Quotes. We invite people to send us their favorite quotes. Please sign up for Monday Quotes and Action Alerts at [www.loppw.org](http://www.loppw.org) - go to bottom right to click on **Join the Advocacy Network**.

**New Resources: Called into the World** – devotional on the social statements written by LOPPW Advisory council members and an advocacy manual that came out in January 2018: **Our Church Our World – Partnering with God's Mission!** LOPPW helped to lead two conferences based on the new manual – ask us more about it.

Yours in Christ,

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*...God will give you another Advocate, to be with you forever. John 14:16*