



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

ELCA Advocacy **2017 Advocacy Priorities**

ELCA Advocacy's major goals are evaluated for their potential to fulfill our Lutheran social teachings, address key policy concerns of ministries across the U.S. and further racial and gender justice.

CARING FOR GOD'S CREATION

ELCA Advocacy is working to protect God's creation from the impacts of climate change by encouraging policies that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while ensuring a just transition to renewable energy occurs and necessary steps are taken to make sure all Americans have access to clean water.

PROVIDING HOSPITALITY TO OUR NEIGHBORS

ELCA Advocacy encourages Congress and the White House to address the urgent need for protection of vulnerable migrant children and families from Central America, while also focusing on long-term solutions that create safe, sufficient and sustainable livelihoods for all.

CONCERN FOR OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS LIVING IN POVERTY AND STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER

ELCA Advocacy urges Congress to protect and reauthorize federal programs that help end hunger in the United States.

Through the FY17 Federal Budget, **ELCA Advocacy urges Congress to...**

Responsibly act to ensure all people have access to affordable healthcare by protecting expanded access to affordable health insurance coverage in the U.S.;

Increase support for programs that seek to end homelessness and focus on uplifting community members who are most heavily impacted, including seniors, rural residents, LGBTQ youth, ex-offenders seeking re-entry, and low-income families; and

Continue to fund humanitarian relief and development programs that address extreme hunger and poverty across the globe.

SEEKING JUSTICE AND PEACE FOR ALL PEOPLE

ELCA Advocacy continues to work toward the elimination of gender-based violence around the world by supporting the International Violence Against Women Act and educating Congress on the importance of addressing this issue in the U.S. and globally.

As part of our commitment to challenge systems of racial and economic injustice, **ELCA Advocacy urges Congress to pass sentencing reform** that shifts our nation's model of criminal justice from one that criminalizes addiction for the benefit of the prison industry, to one that focuses on treatment and support for our communities.

ELCA Advocacy, through the Peace Not Walls Network, continues to **call for a peaceful and lasting negotiated resolution to the Palestinian Israeli conflict.**