



## FAITHFUL ADVOCACY IN MINNESOTA

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, through a partnership of church-wide, synod, and social ministry organizations, supports state public policy advocacy offices.

These ministries represent the church in advocating at the state government level with and on behalf of those without economic or political power. These offices advocate for issues and not for particular candidates.

State office work is directed to hunger-related causes such as food and nutrition, shelter and affordable housing, environmental stewardship and justice, employment and income, and access to preventative and primary health care.

The organization that works in Minnesota is the Lutheran Coalition for Public Policy in Minnesota (LCPPM). This organization, based in St. Paul, works directly with congregations and lawmakers in the state to advocate for socially responsible policies. LCPPM works directly with hunger and poverty issues and care for creation in addition to other advocacy concerns.

The goal in Minnesota, supported by LCPPM and other social welfare and faith-based organizations, is to eliminate poverty in Minnesota by the year 2020. In support of this goal, LCPPM and Lutherans throughout the state have supported and helped to gain attention for legislation to, among other things:

- Increase funding to food shelves
- Improve food support application process
- Provide more comprehensive social services
- Change tax and wage laws

Environmental efforts include providing resources for congregations, including support for creating a “Creation Care Team” in congregations and information about the importance of caring for the environment. Legislative projects they have addressed include legislation on:

- Transportation and auto emissions
- Sustainable/environmentally friendly building
- Clean water

## FEATURED RESOURCE

- LCPPM - [www.lcppm.org](http://www.lcppm.org)
- LCPPM e-mail notifications - <http://tinyurl.com/LCPPMsignup>
- ELCA Advocacy - [www.ELCA.org/advocacy](http://www.ELCA.org/advocacy)

## MONTHLY BIBLE VERSE

*This Bible verse was selected by Harold Usgaard, bishop of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, for everyone in the synod to study.*



“He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?” MICAH 6:8

## ABOUT OUR SYNOD

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is a faith community of 131,000 baptized people in 185 congregations as well as related institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). Its geographic area includes 15 counties in the southeastern corner of Minnesota.

*The Bridge* is a monthly publication of the Southeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA. For more information, contact the synod office:

SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD, ELCA  
 1001 14TH ST. NW, SUITE 300  
 ROCHESTER, MN 55901-2551  
 (507) 280-9457  
[WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG](http://WWW.SEMNSYNOD.ORG)