

**Lutheran
Advocacy
Ministry**
New Mexico

**Rocky Mountain Synod
ELCA**

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - NM is called to advocate for justice in public policy with a particular emphasis on alleviating poverty and hunger and supporting ELCA members and congregations, as well as our ecumenical and interfaith partners in the ministry of advocacy.

October 24, 2022

2023 Fall Advocacy Conference



advocacy

**LAM-NM Fall Advocacy Conference Registration
Begins!**

After a two-year pandemic pause, the annual LAM-NM Fall Advocacy Conference returns! Join us Saturday, November 19th, from 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at All Saints Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. (4800 All Saints Road, NW, 87120) Registration and refreshments will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Please join us on *Saturday, November 19, at All Saints Lutheran Church* on Albuquerque's westside for the *2023 Fall Advocacy Conference*. This year's conference will feature special guests Lilly Irvin-Vitela (former executive director of NM First), Sherry Hooper (executive director of the Food Depot in Santa Fe, Denali Wilson (staff attorney with the ACLU), as well as others, along with opening devotions led by Lynne Hinton (executive director, NM Conference of Churches). Our theme this year:

Working for Justice- How Faith Can Inform Cross-partisan Issue-based Advocacy

In this interactive event led by Lilly Irvin-Vitella, participants will explore the call to action to engage in public policy that affirms our shared commitments to justice. As individuals and communities of faith, we will share, discuss, and deliberate about effective and principled tools to advance public policy that upholds the values we're called to uphold in the Gospels. We'll also discuss strategies to move beyond partisanship and move into faith-driven approaches that seek common ground and common purpose.

In addition, participants will learn what to do within their congregation to lay the groundwork for advocacy at the local or state level, individually and collectively through the support of LAM-NM. Presentations and discussions will include how to dialogue around differences and find common ground, how to create agreements on how to disagree, and what members need to do within their own congregations to lay the groundwork for advocacy. Integrated into the event will be presentations by Sherry Hooper and Denali Wilson centered on two of LAM-NM's priority legislative advocacy efforts for the 2023 NM Legislative Session.

Though we highly recommend in-person attendance for the most impactful experience, an online Zoom option will also be available. Tickets this year are \$18 in-person and \$12 online participation.

Lunch and morning refreshments will be provided for in-person participants. Materials to take back to congregations will be provided to all participants.

**** Register for the conference [HERE!](#)**

*** Plan to attend! * Plan to Attend! ***





advocacy

Advocacy Cafe

Last Tuesday of month
1 p.m. ET or 8 p.m. ET

OCTOBER 25 -

CAN TALKING
POLITICS BE
HEALTHY?

REGISTER FROM:
[https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/
advocacy-cafe/](https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/advocacy-cafe/)

Bringing people
together for
exchange on
important issues
with faith-based
advocacy leaders.
Grab a cup and
join us!



ELCA Advocacy Cafe - Tuesday, Oct. 25th!

Political conversations gone awry needn't be the new norm, and we can equip ourselves with helpful techniques.

Join tomorrow's #ELCAadvocacycafe at 11 a.m. or 6 p.m. *MT* to explore, as people of faith, the question of "Can Talking Politics be Healthy?" Register at <https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/advocacy-cafe/>



Being a Public Church

What's OK and not OK when mixing church and elections?

As we prepare for the upcoming election season, the ELCA understands government as a means through which God works to preserve creation and build a more peaceful and just social order in a broken world. From our social statement:

*Along with all citizens, Christians have the responsibility to defend human rights and to work for freedom, justice, peace, environmental well-being, and good order in public life. They are to recognize the vital role of law in protecting life and liberty and in upholding the common good. Christians need to be concerned for the methods and the content of public deliberation. They should be critical when groups of people are inadequately represented in political processes and decisions that affect their lives. (ELCA social statement **The Church in Society: A Lutheran Perspective**, 5)*

But an important part of faithful civic engagement is abiding by the law. Any participation by congregations in activities related to the electoral process must be strictly nonpartisan and abide by Internal Revenue Service (IRS) guidelines.

According to the IRS: “All section 501(c)(3) organizations are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for elective public office” (irs.gov). Noncompliance with IRS Tax Code 501(c)(3) can cost your institution its tax-exempt status. Congregations and rostered ministers must ensure that activities related to the electoral process are transparent, nonpartisan and legal. See the excellent documents linked below.

more information:

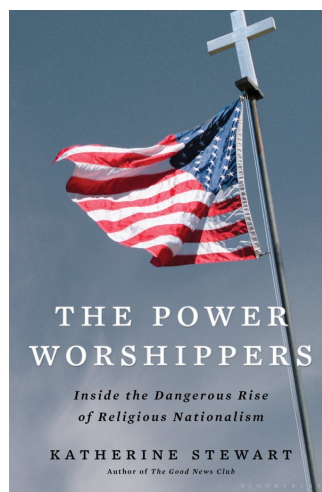
ELCA Civic Engagement Guide

A resource guide to encourage, empower and equip voter education and other responsible civic participation shaped by faith values.

Being a Public Church

Guidance for churches and clergy participating in the electoral process

ELCA Advocacy Website Resource Page



ONLINE - WEBINAR

The Rise of Christian Nationalism

Wednesday, November 2, 6:30 pm

An Interview with Katherine Stewart, author of *The Power Worshipers*

For too long the Religious Right has masqueraded as a social movement preoccupied with a number of cultural issues, such as abortion and same-sex marriage. But in her deeply reported investigation, Katherine Stewart reveals a disturbing truth: America's Religious Right has evolved into a Christian nationalist movement. It seeks to gain political power and impose its vision on all of society. It isn't fighting a culture war, it is waging a political war on the norms and institutions of American democracy.

Katherine Stewart, the author of *The Power Worshipers*, will be interviewed by Rabbi Daniel Bogard and Pastor Dohle to probe into what this rise means for Christians and non-Christians alike.

Register for The Rise of Christian Nationalism [here](#).

**** Save the Date! ****

2023 Advocacy Agenda & Legislative Session Briefing

January 21st - 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

**** Save the Date! ****

2023 Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon

February 21st - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Advocating Congregations

St. Paul Lutheran (Alb.) * First Presbyterian (Santa Fe) * Bethlehem Lutheran (Los Alamos) * St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal (Alb.) * All Saints Lutheran (Alb.) * St. Luke Lutheran (Alb.) * Peace Lutheran (Las Cruces) * Christ Lutheran (Santa Fe) * St. Timothy Lutheran (Alb.) * St. Andrew Presbyterian (Alb.) * Albuquerque Mennonite Church (Alb.) * First Presbyterian (Las Vegas) * Church of the Holy Cross Episcopal (Edgewood) * Monte Vista Christian (Abq.) * United Methodist Women of New Mexico

Learn more about joining the Advocating Congregation Program [HERE!](#)

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-NM works in advocacy partnerships with the NM Conference of Churches and the Presbytery of Santa Fe.

Connecting faith and public life: We believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. God uses our hands, through our direct service work and our voices, through our advocacy efforts, to restore and reconcile our world. Through faithful advocacy, the ELCA lives out our Lutheran belief that governments can help advance the common good.



Office Location

Our office is located in Albuquerque at St. Paul Lutheran Church.

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Always grateful for your advocacy,

Kurt

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