

**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 2022**

**Upcoming Events...**

Dear Partners in Advocacy,

As you know, Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico (LAM-NM) works in partnership with organizations and within coalitions that all focus on our policy priority areas. Our connection to these organizations and coalitions is vital to our work and success.

You will note first in this newsletter an upcoming event that takes place this Saturday, October 15th, that is being sponsored by four of our partners. Congressional reauthorization of the Farm Bill is vital to New Mexico in a multitude of ways. I hope you can take time on Saturday to attend in person or online, the **World Food Day Celebration and Farm Bill Roundtable**.

I would also like to remind you again of two of our own upcoming events that are noted below. The annual **LAM-NM Fall Advocacy Conference** takes place on November 19th and the annual legislative **Issue Briefing and Bishop's Luncheon** is scheduled in Santa Fe for February 21, 2023.

Some of you know that my home congregation is All Saints Lutheran in Albuquerque. My family joined All Saints in 1971 back when the Westside looked very different than it does today! What many may not know is that All Saints played an important role in my life by introducing me to what was then called the "Lutheran Office of Governmental Ministry." As a young political science and religious studies student at UNM, I became actively involved in the advocacy

committee at All Saints and started working regularly with Nima Ward, the founder, and first director of what is now LAM-NM. I am deeply grateful for being introduced to advocacy, and the church's vital role in the public arena so many years ago, and for the gift of serving now as LAM-NM's 3rd director. With this history, I was nevertheless surprised and humbled by the congregation's support for our ministry through the "pew-flipping" fund-raising event I share more about, also below.

Lastly, I want to welcome the **United Methodist Women of New Mexico** as our first Advocating Organization! A long-time presence at our events, members have upped their involvement even more over the last year and completed all the steps necessary for this special designation.

Peace,

Kurt

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## Farm Bill Listening Session

Saturday, October 15, 2022 - 9 a.m. to Noon

[Bread for the World](#), the [Interfaith Hunger Coalition](#), [New Mexico El Paso Interfaith Power & Light](#), and [Save the Children Action Network](#) (New Mexico) invite you to a Farm Bill listening session.

Saturday, October 15, 2022 9:00 a.m.-Noon

RSVP via this [Eventbrite](#) invitation

This is a hybrid event. If you are attending in person, we request that you wear a facemask. For those attending virtually, a Zoom link will be sent soon. For more information contact:

Lupe Conchas, [lconchas@bread.org](mailto:lconchas@bread.org)

Carlos Navarro, [breadnm@gmail.com](mailto:breadnm@gmail.com)

or Judy Messal, [judithmessal@comcast.net](mailto:judithmessal@comcast.net)

You have the opportunity to offer input on what you think should be in the next Farm Bill and to learn more about what some local and national coalitions are supporting in this legislative omnibus agriculture policy initiative, which Congress is scheduled to consider in 2023

Our special Guests:

Sergio Mata-Cisneros, Policy Analyst for Bread for the World

#### Panel

- Alan Brauer, Indigenous Farm Hub
- Clarence Hogue, Indigenous Farm Hub
- Lacey Daniell-Miller, Save the Children Action Network
- Lawrence Gallegos, National Latino Farmers and Ranchers Trade Association
- Terry Sloan, New Mexico El Paso Interfaith Power & Light
- Pam Roy. Moderator, New Mexico Food and Agriculture Policy Council
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Background: Bread for the World will continue efforts to protect and enhance important programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Food Assistance Program (SNAP) in the next Farm Bill. Bread, Interfaith Power & Light and other coalition partners will also place emphasis on protecting vulnerable communities and mitigating the impacts of climate change on agriculture.



### The annual LAM-NM Fall Advocacy Conference Returns!

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, the annual LAM-NM Fall Advocacy Conference returns! Please save Saturday, November 19th, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., on your calendar. More information will be shared in a separate email.

The conference will be held at All Saints Lutheran Church in Albuquerque. (4800 All Saints Road, NW, 87120)

**\* Save the Date \* Save the Date \***

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## An Unexpected Gift!

All Saints Lutheran Church, ABQ, has been an active supporter of Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico since LAM-NM's earliest days. Indeed, the congregation has not only supported LAM-NM annually in its budget with a financial gift through its local benevolence but also through many volunteers who have supported our work and served on our Policy Committee over the years.

Even so, it came as a surprise, and with deep gratitude, when All Saints named LAM-NM as the recipient of funds raised through the Rocky Mountain Synod's "Pew-Flipping" contest held during this year's Synod Assembly. Volunteers from All Saints received a portion of an old pew from the RMS Center's worship space and flipped it into something "new". While many volunteers played a role in transforming the pew, the key to the effort was members Shelly Takeuchi and Patty Kruger, a local artist.

Members of the congregation wanted to keep the bench so pooled together their resources to bid as one during the auction. The final bid was over \$1200 and all the funds will go to LAM-NM, in addition to their regular annual financial support.

Thank you, All Saints Lutheran Church for your unending support in many ways, but especially with this most recent and generous gift!

All Saints plans to use the bench for worship volunteers to sit.

Though LAM-NM is funded through the ELCA's Rocky Mountain Synod, and by an annual grant from the ELCA World Hunger ministry, local support from individuals and congregations in New Mexico is vital

to our work as well. The gifts from All Saints Lutheran, ABQ, are examples of that support.

If you would like to consider having your congregation join the list of congregations that support LAM-NM through their annual budgets, endowment funds, or special appeals, please contact Kurt Rager.



## Congregation Visits!

Typically once or twice a month, the Director of LAM-NM, Kurt Rager, visits one of our Advocating Congregations, a congregation considering becoming an Advocating Congregation, or simply a congregation that is interested or involved in advocacy work. In September Kurt visited the vibrant Community of Joy Lutheran in Rio Rancho, both preaching the sermon during worship and leading an adult forum following. Community of Joy's pastor, Paul Schick, currently serves on the LAM-NM Policy Committee, and committee member Lynette Schurdevin ends her term this year.

Kurt will be at Bethlehem Lutheran in Los Alamos in November. If you would like Kurt to visit your congregation, please be in touch!





**\*\* 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.

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico  
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Albuquerque, N.M. 87102

505-242-2493

Always grateful for your advocacy,

Kurt

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