

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry-Colorado

Loving Our Neighbors through Better Policy



At its core, advocacy is a ministry of loving our neighbor. As the church engaged in the public square, we speak to the policy-making arm of our government on the basis of our theology and social teaching. We seek to accompany people in Colorado who are experiencing hunger, poverty, homelessness, and other realities that can be addressed through better policy.

In 2020, the Colorado legislature split its session into two halves due to the onset of the pandemic. Lutheran Advocacy held its annual Day at the Legislature on February 27, 2020, with little notion that the world would very soon look quite different. Nonetheless, Lutherans met with their elected leaders to discuss a variety of issues, including election reform, housing, and the death penalty.

We vocally supported the successful passage of Senate Bill 20-100, which ended the use of capital punishment in Colorado.

The ELCA has long been committed to the abolition of the death penalty in favor of an alternative vision of criminal rehabilitation. In 2020, by joining our voices with hundreds of people of faith leading the way, abolition finally became a reality!

In the fall, we supported ballot measure campaigns that lived in a primarily digital realm. One successful effort was the passage of Proposition 118, creating a paid family and medical leave program in Colorado for the first time.

As we all adapt to new realities launched by the pandemic, we have found that our core advocacy message remains the same: we are called to love our neighbor as ourselves, and so we fight for policy that supports our vision of world in which all of God's people are fed, housed, and cared for, and in which the dignity of each child of God is respected.

Questions for Reflection

1. **What does it mean to love our neighbor as ourselves? Who is our neighbor?**
2. **How does God's call impact the way we show up as members of the body politic?**
3. **Besides advocacy, what are other ways we can show up in public as the church?**