

LUTHERAN ADVOCACY MINISTRY ARIZONA



WHO IS LAMA?

What is LAMA's purpose?

As an advocacy ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona (LAMA) derives its purpose from the Constitution of the ELCA, which states:

To participate in God's mission, this church shall: ... Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs, caring for the sick and the aged, advocating justice and dignity for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations, and standing with the poor and the powerless and committing itself to their needs.

The purpose of LAMA is to advocate for justice in the areas of hunger, voting and civic engagement and access to water with and for those who have little or no political power. LAMA works with congregations and ministry partners in Arizona to create and use networks for advocacy on these issues.

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Who we are, what we do

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Grand Canyon Synod, and ELCA World Hunger. It is one of 17 state public policy offices of the ELCA, representing 93 Lutheran ministry sites in Arizona, approx. 28,000 Lutherans across the state. LAMA also partners with most of the faith-based groups in Arizona in advocating on behalf of those in need on many social issues, but especially hunger, and all the circumstances that lead to food insecurity and poverty in Arizona.

Ministry Partnerships

LAMA enjoys collaboration and cooperation with several advocacy organizations in Arizona, including:

- Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest
- GCS Hunger Leader's Network
- Arizona Faith Network
- Arizona Food Bank Network
- Arizona Food Systems Network
- Bread for the World
- WHEAT
- Arizona Anti-Hunger Alliance

LAMA POLICY PRIORITIES FOR 2024

The LAMA Policy Council views Arizona's current political and social issues from a faith perspective, and identifies new priorities each year. 2024 policy priorities are below:

- **Food Insecurity** as it relates to hunger and the root causes of hunger. Our ELCA social teachings on hunger and poverty include "Economic Life" and "Homelessness."
- **Voting & Civic Engagement** as we are called to encourage faithful and nonpartisan voter participation, and understand and speak out about the intersection of voting and elections and racial, gender and economic justice.
- **Water** ~ Acknowledging that Arizona's water resources are in peril due to drought and other factors, and that lack of access to safe water is one of the biggest challenges to overcoming poverty. ELCA social teachings include "Caring for Creation: Vision, Hope & Justice."

MISSION STATEMENT

Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Arizona joins with the most vulnerable of our society to voice our common needs in the public square, activating our faith in love.