

ELCA ADVOCACY STAFF

in Washington, D.C.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

In the ELCA we believe that, through baptism, God calls us into the world to serve together. ELCA Witness in Society encompasses some of the ELCA's work and ministry in the public sphere, advancing justice and shining a light on peace and dignity. This work and ministry take place wherever Lutherans are found, in communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region, with focused activity through the Lutheran Office for World Community at the United Nations in New York City; in state public policy offices in the ELCA Advocacy Network; through our Corporate Social Responsibility program; and from the ELCA's federal hub in Washington, D.C.

Meet ELCA staff based in Washington, D.C., including skilled policy advocates who monitor legislative developments pertinent to ELCA federal policy priorities, develop relationships with policy makers, consult with faith-based and issue-focused coalitions, advance accompaniment awareness and goals from ELCA ministries and colleagues, and, at opportune moments, act and facilitate action by members of the ELCA Advocacy Network. **Connect with staff from washingtonoffice@elca.org.**



The Rev. Amy Reumann

Senior Director, Witness in Society

The Rev. Amy Reumann worked in parish ministry and advocacy on both the state and the city level before joining ELCA Witness in Society. She manages federal policy activity in the Washington, D.C., office, coordinates with state public policy offices in the ELCA Advocacy Network, as well as holds responsibility with the Lutheran Office of World Community's representation at the United Nations. As a master gardener, she plants seeds literally as well as figuratively.

Office and Grants Manager

Having worked for the Lutheran Council in the USA while in school in 1985, which merged with the ELCA in 1988, Jackie Maddox has been part of the ELCA since the beginning. She enjoys the justice work and variety of projects in which she continues to participate. She maintains the D.C. office and manages the budgets for advocacy activity and for grants to advocacy partners. She

also offers leadership in the ELCA's African Decent Strategy Team Justice Table and the Legal/Risk Management Task Force Team for the ELCA. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music, karaoke and spending time with friends and family.



Jackie Maddox



Blake Chastain

Advocacy Engagement Manager

Along with his master's degree from Northwestern University focused on creation care and evangelical politics, Blake Chastain brings knowledge and background as a podcaster and from his previous work as an ELCA email marketing analyst. In addition to family life with his wife and daughter, Chastain enjoys biking "whenever the weather permits."

Program Director, Housing and Human Needs

After studying politics and philosophy, Andrew Fuller worked for various local, state and federal campaigns before joining the ELCA staff in 2014. He engages with government office holders and departments, with other advocates and advocacy organizations, and with affinity stakeholders aware of varying housing needs and the impact housing insecurity has in our individual and communal lives. In his free time, he enjoys playing both piano and violin.



Andrew Fuller



John Johnson

Program Director, Domestic Policy

John Johnson has over 25 years of experience doing advocacy and policy work in D.C. for both secular and faith-based organizations. Strongly shaped by his upbringing in The Episcopal Church, he joined the ELCA in 2014 and now works on domestic policy relating to issues including hunger, poverty, criminal justice, civil rights, health and taxes. When he was in the ROTC, he was able to fly an F-16 aircraft.

Program Director, International Policy

With a background in international relations and international policy, Patricia Kisare works in a joint role with the ELCA and The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner of the ELCA. She works on a variety of foreign policy and foreign assistance issues, including but not limited to food security and global hunger, global health programs, governance and democracy, and conflict resolution. When she has the opportunity, she enjoys traveling.



Patricia Kisare



Karen Krueger

Program Director, Advocacy Engagement

Building from her early career in social work, Karen Krueger developed her communication skills after seminary by working with the ELCA Metro D.C. Synod. As part of the staff of the Washington, D.C., office of Witness in Society, she helps connect the wider church with advocacy activity through communications including social media, resources and training, and cultivating stories from ELCA members to support its advocacy endeavors. In her free time she finds recreation and restoration on the Shenandoah River.

Director of Strategy & Advocacy

Before coming to this position, Silas Kulkarni worked as a teacher in low-income communities and a grassroots organizer. He also founded and was executive director of an educational equity nonprofit. More recently he served as Senior Fellow for Public Discourse at the grassroots, depolarization organization Braver Angels helping facilitate productive conversations between conservatives and progressives. He brings this spirit of willingness to engage with politically diverse communities to his work in the ELCA.



Silas Kulkarni



Giovana Oaxaca

Program Director, Migration Policy

Giovana Oaxaca's background in politics, government and economics, and her linguistic proficiency in both English and Spanish, empower her to apply an intersectional lens to her advocacy. She works on dispelling myths surrounding migration, pushing back on restrictions that negatively impact migrating people, and building networks for community-based action. She joined the ELCA in 2020, and in addition to working for the advocacy staff, she leads advocacy for the ELCA AMMPARO strategy (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities). She is a self-proclaimed foodie who enjoys not just trying new foods but re-creating them herself.

2022-23 Hunger Advocacy Fellow

Kayla Zopfi graduated from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minn., where they studied religion, political science, and interfaith studies. Through this, Zopfi became interested in understanding how people's core values affect the way they see and interact with their communities and the world around them. She recently concluded a year of service at the Minneapolis Area Synod, with a communications focus. Outside of work, Zopfi loves podcasts, audiobooks and talking about the Enneagram



Kayla Zopfi



Program Director, Environmental Policy

The work of this position on the ELCA advocacy team is presently being managed contractually.