



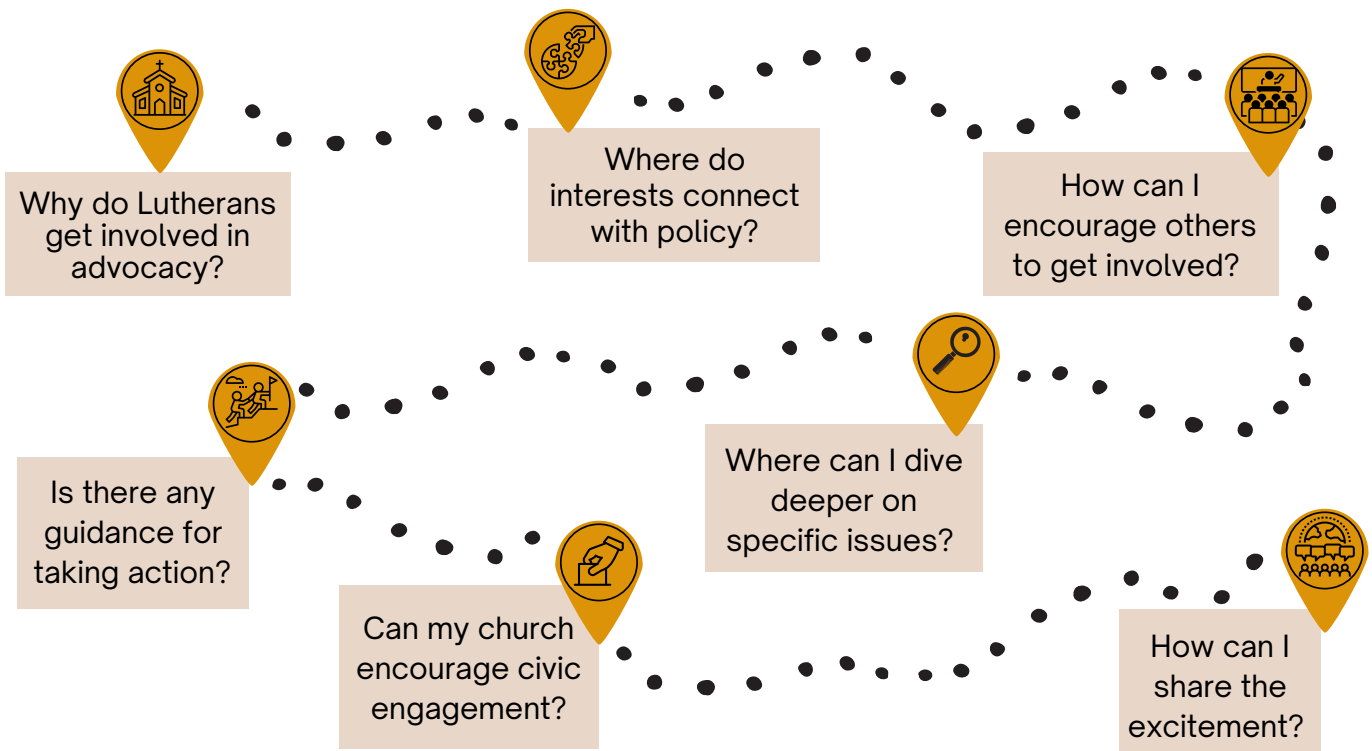
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## ON-RAMP TO ADVOCACY

Exploring faith-based advocacy and getting started  
with resources at [ELCA.org/resources/advocacy](https://elca.org/resources/advocacy)

Every day Lutherans engage in advocacy for justice on behalf of their neighbor and God's good creation. As our experiences, passions and convictions intersect with the world around us, advocacy – informed by such faith practices as prayerful discernment, immersion in Scripture and delving into ELCA teachings, and by deep listening in our communities and bold proclamation – can be impactful public witness to God's love.

“On-ramp to Advocacy” pauses at common junctures for us – people skeptical or convinced, new or experienced, independent or in groups – and points to a sampling of ELCA advocacy resources that can help you navigate faith-based engagement. Don't see what you're looking for? Please reach out to [washingtonoffice@elca.org](mailto:washingtonoffice@elca.org).





Why do Lutherans get involved in advocacy?

In our Affirmation of Baptism, we pledge to strive for justice and peace in all the earth. ELCA social teaching documents, study guides and other tools help us examine ways we put this pledge in motion. Consider:

- "[Government and Civic Engagement in the United States: Discipleship in a Democracy](#)" (social message).
- "[Called to Be Political \(But I Don't Want to Be Political!\)](#)" (Women of the ELCA resource).
- "[What Is Faith-based Advocacy?](#)" (advocacy video and discussion starter).



Where do interests connect with policy?

Thousands of ELCA congregations are active in hunger ministry, creation care, disaster response, racial justice, refugee assistance, support for people without homes, and more. Here are some ways we connect our caring with the impact of policy. Consider:

- "[God Calls Us to Action in Community](#)" (video, "OB FSJ SG Session 6").
- [2022 ELCA Federal Policy Priorities](#) (ELCA Advocacy Network resource).
- "[Now Is the Time: A Study Guide for ELCA Declaration to People of African Descent.](#)"



How can I encourage others to get involved?

We energize one another when we work together, and often we can amplify our impact. Jump-start discussion and strategy in your congregation or other group. Consider:

- "[ELCA Advocacy: Set Free to Do Justice](#)" (advocacy video).
- "[Advocacy 101 for Young Adults: When Faith Meets Public Policy](#)" (five-session course of multigeneration interest).
- "[ELCA Advocacy: Tips for Your Engagement](#)" (advocacy video).



Where can I dive deeper on specific issues?

Accompaniment and personal experience inform ways we make policy connections. Reflecting ELCA priorities, our resources and ELCA Advocacy Network connect you to contemporary issues with information and action opportunities. Consider:

- Updates and Action Alerts from [ELCA.org/advocacy/signup](https://elca.org/advocacy/signup) and the [Action Center](#).
- "[Prepared to Care](#)" resource series (such as "Housing and Disaster Response").
- "[Global Health](#)" resource series (such as "Global Health - HIV/AIDS").



Is there any guidance for taking action?

Do you want to write a letter to the editor? Meet with an elected official? We have tools to help you advocate, including local Lutheran advocacy connections and approach-specific tips. Consider:

- "[ELCA Advocacy Summer School](#)" (five-part video series with discussion starters).
- "[ELCA Advocacy Locations](#)" (map of affiliated state public policy offices).
- "[Virtual Visits](#)" ("Advocacy Essentials" resource).



Can my church encourage civic engagement?

As a church, the ELCA does not endorse particular candidates, parties or forms of government, or strive for a Christian one. Yet we recognize that our governments have the ability to provide for the common good, and we encourage all to participate in them. Consider:

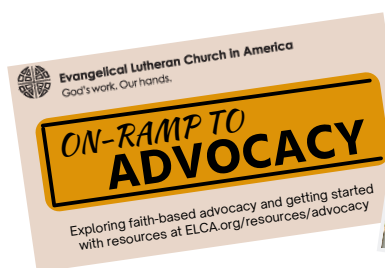
- "[ELCA Civic Engagement Guide.](#)"
- [Guidance for churches and clergy participating in the electoral process](#)
- "[Churches as Polling Places](#)" (ELCAvotes resource).



How can I share the excitement?

Our witness in society takes place wherever Lutherans are found. Encouraging one another on our journey connects and amplifies our efforts. Consider:

- Following and tagging @ELCAadvocacy on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.
- Checking out timely reflections on the [ELCA Advocacy Blog](#).
- Requesting updates and Action Alerts from [ELCA.org/advocacy/signup](https://elca.org/advocacy/signup).



*"We in the ELCA often say, 'God's work. Our hands,' and that's how we show up in the world... Our public speech and our visible actions are part of the witness of the church in the world."*

—The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, ELCA presiding bishop, from [ELCA Advocacy Summer School presentation](#)