In response to God’s love in Jesus Christ, we advocate for wise and just public policies in Pennsylvania that promote the common good. Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania is a shared ministry of seven Pennsylvania synods, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, and Pennsylvania ELCA agencies and institutions. Through LAMPa, Lutherans who are working to eradicate hunger are supported to voice their faith convictions in the public square with and on behalf of our most vulnerable neighbors and the world we share, while seeking to create a more just Commonwealth. This shared ministry has perhaps never been so vital as now, in the face of pandemic, urgent challenges that threaten our communities here and around the globe, and a dangerous “othering” that prevents us from encountering Jesus in our neighbor and, possibly, preventing our neighbors from encountering Jesus in us.

Since the last in-person assembly, LAMPa celebrated 41 years of advocacy ministry that supported and deepened your congregational efforts to address hunger, poverty, racial injustice, health care, human trafficking, election integrity, immigration, discrimination and hate crimes, criminal justice, environmental threats to health and safety, and an accurate Census. Our decades of advocacy on these issues have enabled us to lift up the needs of your ministries and communities to secure emergency food, shelter, access to medical care and other relief in response to COVID-19. Through these efforts, Lutherans in this synod spoke up with and on behalf of those who are suffering and whose interests were most likely to be overlooked in a time of chaos. LAMPa shared vital information with synods and our network about opportunities to access grants, assist people in applying for benefits and to offer resources in the state’s emergency response. Though much of our work has unleashed assistance directly to those in need, some -- in the form of meals or other aid -- has gone to your ministries, enabling you to be the visible presence of Christ as you encounter Christ in your neighbor at your doorstep and in each other as you continue teaching, preaching, singing and praying together virtually.

In its work of equipping disciples, growing leaders and supporting vital congregations, LAMPa staff continued teaching virtually -- in congregations, seminary classes and synod events. We hosted a virtual hearing on the draft social statement on Government and Civic Engagement: Discipleship in Democracy and will host listening sessions on the related social statement in this synod in the coming months. We are working with congregational leaders to prepare for God’s work. Our hands. Our voices. Sunday in September and look forward with hope that we might be able to work side by side on that day.

We give thanks to God for you and for the support of our Upper Susquehanna Synod Policy Council representatives, Mr. Terry Brown and the Rev. Karl Runser.

With deep gratitude for all the ways in which you support LAMPa’s ministry,

Tracey DePasquale
Director