



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

Responding to the Proposed State Budget 2019-2020

Written comments can be emailed to the Committee at BudgetComments@legis.wisconsin.gov or sent via U.S. mail to: Joe Malkasian, Room 305 East, State Capitol, Madison, WI 53702.

LOPPW Priorities

1. **Badger Care:** We support accepting funding through the Affordable Care Act (ACA), so Wisconsin could expand BadgerCare to about 80,000 more low-income Wisconsinites. In addition, we would save at least \$160 million per year in state tax dollars, and free up funding to make vital investments in the health of Wisconsin's children, their families, and their communities. *He (the Samaritan) went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him. ...Luke 10:33-34*
2. **Anti-sex Trafficking:** We support the \$3 million budgeted to provide human services for youth who have been sex trafficked. The problem of sex trafficking has impacted every county in Wisconsin. The average age for being trafficked is 13, and those who break away are in need of human services. *but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." Mt. 19:14*
3. **Water:** We support budgeting \$70 million in bonding to replace lead pipes and manage manure is essential to improving Wisconsin's water quality. We also support increasing the Department of Natural Resource's staff with five new positions to monitor pollution from concentrated animal feeding operation (CAFO's). Increased fees from CAFO's to pay for the positions would bring CAFO's fees more in-line with what they pay in other Midwestern states. *You make springs gush forth in the valleys; they flow between the hills... Psalm 104:10*
4. **Driver's Licenses:** We support the expansion of eligibility for driver's licenses and identification cards. This is important especially for people in rural areas with limited public transportation. In the agricultural industry, according to a [Wisconsin Public Radio article](#), "both the Dairy Business Association and the Wisconsin Farmers Union support providing driver's licenses to non-citizens." Permitting immigrants living in the country without documentation to obtain driver's licenses "is both an issue of economic development and public safety." *You shall allot it as an inheritance for yourselves and for the aliens who reside among you and have begotten children among you. ..Ezekiel 47:22*