

Social Ministry and Justice Advocacy team  
Central/Southern Illinois Synod  
524 S. 5th Street  
Springfield, IL 62701

May 7, 2017

Congregation Council Presidents  
C/SIS of the ELCA

Dear Friends in Christ:

This letter is a request for your congregation's engagement regarding the lack of a comprehensive budget for the State of Illinois.

Specifically, through this letter, members of the Social Ministry and Justice Advocacy Team of the Central/Southern IL Synod (SMJA) are contacting all congregation presidents asking them to initiate a letter writing campaign within their congregations to our respective State legislators and Governor Rauner. The letter writing campaign will be most effective if our legislators and Governor are contacted before the current legislative session ends in mid-June. A follow-up letter campaign is planned for the fall of 2017 when the legislature reconvenes for the veto session.

The attached sample letters appeal to our legislator's and Governor's sworn duty to uphold the State's Constitution. This approach has been adopted from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois' "Lutheran Day." SMJA has also learned from other organizations that, while email is fast and convenient, email lacks the stature of a written letter. Meeting with our legislators and Governor, while very effective, is especially difficult because of time constraints and availability. Hence, a letter writing campaign is recommended.

Sample letters have been included in this correspondence to guide your members in their letter writing efforts.

Thank you for your time and for your initiative in this very important matter.

In Christ's service,

SMJA

Pastor Ryan Anderson, St. John Lutheran, Toluca  
Ms. Ellen Davis, St. Luke Lutheran, Campbell Hill  
Pastor Priscilla Geerdes, St. Paul Lutheran, Roberts  
Mr. Mark Golden, Grace and Peace Lutheran, Peoria  
Ms. Sue McClennan, Christ Lutheran, Quincy  
Pastor Wayland Middendorf, Faith Lutheran, O'Fallon  
Pastor Robert Rasmus, St. Matthew Lutheran, Urbana  
Pastor Amy Zietlow, Holy Cross Lutheran, Decatur