

# Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Committee

Central/Southern Illinois Synod, ELCA

Assembly Report 2020

At the beginning of 2020, after a change in leadership for the Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Committee (SMJA), a small group discussed possibilities for increasing activities. But despite a number of social issues addressed by the ELCA, the main focus remained on distribution of synod mission and World Hunger grants for the remainder of the year.

The committee encourages congregations and individuals in particular to sign up for emails from [www.elca.org](http://www.elca.org), including [advocacy alerts](#), and follow various program units of the ELCA on Facebook or other social media. This is an expedient way to involve more of us in opportunities for doing God's Work with Our Hands. There could still be times and situations where a sharing through newsletter or social media of needs or projects could lead to mutual support and greater collaboration across our synod.

The SMJA committee reviews World Hunger grant applications, connects with organizations, and returns a score evaluation to churchwide staff. The food pantry at Grace Lutheran Church in Springfield is a current recipient. A total of unprecedented \$900 Mio has been awarded to 53 ministries for 2021-23. Applications are accepted annually March-April through [www.elca.org/domestichungergrants](http://www.elca.org/domestichungergrants). In response to the Covid-19 pandemic, ELCA World Hunger created smaller, one-time Daily Bread matching grants of \$500 maximum to congregations who applied directly. Several of them were provided.

Recipients of 2020 synod mission grants were a community social ministry in Camp Point, the Kids Club at Immanuel in Golden, and the Sola Gratia Farm in Champaign. For information about eligibility and a proposal form visit the synod website [www.csis-elca.org](http://www.csis-elca.org) and look for Social Ministry, Justice, and Advocacy Grants under the "For Congregations" tab. Grants average \$500, must involve connection to a local congregation, and the deadline is April 1st of each year.

Please contact me if you are interested in joining the work of our committee or want to invite others to share in your ministry.

Submitted by Rev. Stefan Munker, Chairperson

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