



Grand Canyon Synod  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## Advocacy Ministries Fueling Justice in Arizona and Nevada

*How congregational giving lifts faithful voices  
in our state legislatures*

Every dollar given in **mission support** by congregations across the **Grand Canyon Synod** fuels ministry that transforms lives and strengthens communities. This impact extends beyond our sanctuaries into statehouses, neighborhoods, and public spaces. Through **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Arizona (LAMA)** and **Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada (LEAN)**, your generosity lifts voices of faith and action, working toward a more just and compassionate world.

**Mission Support is the portion of a congregation's financial gifts** that is shared with the Grand Canyon Synod and ELCA Churchwide ministries. These contributions connect people, proclaim the Gospel, and create new possibilities for ministry throughout our synod and beyond. **Advocacy ministries like LAMA and LEAN are a living witness to what it means to be church together, in public life and service.**

This year, **LAMA** reached a historic milestone by hosting its **largest-ever Arizona Lutheran Day at the Legislature**. More than **200 Lutherans and partners** participated, **representing 29 of Arizona's 30 legislative districts**. This was a 60% increase from the previous year. Attendees engaged in advocacy training, a Capitol tour, and scheduled meetings with **45 legislators**. They raised faith-grounded support for key policies such as **HB2213 (Free School Lunches)**. That bill continues to move through appropriations, and legislators like Rep. Nancy Gutierrez and Sen. Analise Ortiz are now proactively reaching out to the LAMA network for input and partnership.



**2025 Arizona Lutheran Day at the Legislature**

In Nevada, **Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada (LEAN)**, led by their new Director **Rev. Paul Larson**, held the Nevada Lutheran Lobby Day. Over 20 participants from seven ELCA congregations and one Episcopal church met with lawmakers in six separate meetings. **They advocated on more than 70 bills related to housing, immigration, food insecurity, and care for creation.** Your mission support fuels this growing advocacy presence and builds bridges between Northern and Southern Nevada.

A \$3,500 synod grant, made possible through mission support, allowed LAMA to purchase **essential bill-tracking software.** This investment significantly increased the ministry's capacity to monitor and respond to **more than 1,800 bills** introduced in the Arizona legislature this year.

Through the **Grand Canyon Synod Hunger Leaders Network** and events such as the 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge, congregations are directly engaging in advocacy for food justice, water conservation, and equity.

**These ministries thrive because of your congregation's faithfulness.** When your church gives mission support, you create space for public witness, for community engagement, and for justice to flow like an ever-flowing stream.

Whether it is a free school lunch for a hungry child, an emerging advocate learning to speak in the public square, or a leader discovering how faith shapes their civic responsibility, **your congregation's mission support makes these moments possible.** Thank you for living into our calling as church together.

**To learn more or get involved:**

- Visit Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Arizona at **[www.LAMAz.org](http://www.LAMAz.org)**
- Visit Lutheran Engagement and Advocacy in Nevada at **[www.LEANForJustice.org](http://www.LEANForJustice.org)**
- Visit the Grand Canyon Synod at **[www.GCSynod.org/publicly-engaged-church](http://www.GCSynod.org/publicly-engaged-church)**



**2025 Nevada Lutheran Lobby Day**



**Advocates from Mesa, AZ meet with their elected representative**



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