

**Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey**  
**Weekly Witness | July 27, 2017**

A message to farmers, bakers, merchants, fishermen and women, the crowd, and for you: The Kingdom of Heaven is present in our everyday lives. God ushers in a Kingdom of joy and justice. And as recipients of God's grace, we are called to witness to the expansion of the Kingdom in our world--one where all people have their basic needs met and where we care for God's creation.

There are many opportunities to witness to God's will and work in the world. One opportunity to help encourage an equitable Kingdom is by reaching out to your representatives today to talk about the new budget. The U.S. House Budget Committee is working on a Fiscal Year 2018 budget that includes trillions in cuts for programs that help struggling families afford basics, including SNAP food assistance, school meals, housing, and health care. These cuts are alongside granting more tax breaks to the wealthy.

Your voice matters. Please call your congressional representative today. It's easy! Just [click here](#), enter your address, and it will give you contact information for your representative.

**Sample script:** "I am a Lutheran or Episcopalian calling to urge (**Name of your representative**) to reject cuts to food assistance for children and adults and other anti-poverty programs. Caring for all of God's people and for their basic human needs is possible in New Jersey; it is our moral obligation that we speak out. These programs provide essential supports to many New Jersey residents struggling to make ends meet. Please protect this critical safety net."

You can also reach out to your members of congress through social media. [Find your Members' Twitter](#) handles on this site.

Our federal representatives will soon return to New Jersey and our state legislators are also available to hear from you this summer. Please schedule a visit, write a note, or call your elected officials to share how your faith informs your views on budget cuts and other issues affecting our siblings in Christ. Lutherans, [click here](#) to learn how you can engage this summer through the national advocacy organization. Episcopalians, [click here](#) to engage with your DC office.