



Preparing for Lutheran Day 2010

Thank you for registering for Lutheran Day, Wednesday, April 21, 2010 in Springfield.

<http://www.lutheranday.org>

These five steps will prepare you for one part of Lutheran Day, which is visiting your State Senator and State Representative.

If you **do** these steps, you will feel more prepared in your visit.

If you do **not** do these steps – that's OK! Lutheran Day activities will still equip you adequately.

1. Today (five minutes): Register to attend Lutheran Day if you haven't already. Register at <http://www.lutheranday.org>.
2. By Friday, April 2, (fifteen minutes), get familiar with your elected officials in the Illinois General Assembly. Go to <http://www.lutheranadvocacy.org> and go to "Find Your Elected Officials" and enter your zip code to identify your State Senator and Illinois State Representative. Get to know what they stand for: biography, campaign finances, positions, and interest group ratings at <http://www.votesmart.org>. Bills they have sponsored are at <http://www.ilga.gov> - select House or Senate members, scroll to yours, and select "Bills" by their name.
3. By Friday, April 9 (ten minutes), Write a personalized message to each one, send it by e-mail, identifying an action or position they have taken that you appreciate and support. And write,
"I will be visiting the Capitol on April 21 for Lutheran Day and would like to schedule 15 minutes to meet with you. I will call your office to follow up. I will want to talk about the budget crisis and the impact on children and families, preserving the common good, and preserving essential human services."
Sign with your name and address.
4. By Monday, April 19 (10 minutes), Call the Capitol (217 area code) Office of your State Senator and your State Representative, and say

“My name is _____ and I live in the District at _____. I will be visiting the Capitol on April 21 for Lutheran Day and would like to schedule 15 minutes to meet with the Senator/Representative. Is there a time between 7:30 AM and 9:00 AM (if you will be there early) or between 2:00 PM and 4:00 PM? I will want to talk about the budget crisis and the impact on children and families, preserving the common good, and preserving essential human services.”

Listen to their response! They may say:

- “Here is an appointment time.” Great! Thank them.
- “Please call the day before when we know more.” OK. Do it.
- “Please call early on that morning and we will see.” OK. Do it.
- “The Senator/Representative never schedules during the session.” Don’t quit! Ask about alternatives... **“what would you recommend to me to increase my chances for meeting”... “is there a better time to stop by”... “would you suggest that I call the day before and learn the likely schedule”** ... or other polite and creative inquiry. Don’t be discouraged – there will always be a way to track her/him down that day even if s/he is not accommodating in advance.

Thank them!

5. If you are able to make an appointment, please let Jennifer DeLeon know. Jennifer is coordinating visits statewide and may have someone to suggest to add to your delegation. Contact Jennifer at Jennifer.deleon@lssi.org or 773-593-1205.