

CHICAGOLAND CHRISTIANS UNITED FOR THE CARE OF CREATION

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

January 24, 2026

A CALL TO RESPECT LIFE:

PROTECT CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, FUTURE GENERATIONS BY PROVIDING CLEAN, SAFE DRINKING WATER

"Choose life, then, that you and your descendants may live" Dt 30:19

Whereas, considering that the state and federal governments have created regulations and funding programs, the responsibility of lead service line replacement falls on the community water supplies, such as municipalities or local water districts.

Whereas, under the federal Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, states are required to allocate 49 percent of state lead service line replacement funds as grants or principal forgiveness loans and 51 percent as traditional low-interest loans.

Whereas, in 2023 a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report estimated the State of Illinois has more than 1 million lead service lines.

Whereas, in May of 2024 the U.S. EPA announced \$240,899,000 from the Investing in America agenda to help Illinois identify and replace lead service lines. This funding builds on the Administration's Lead Pipe and Paint Action Plan and EPA's Get the Lead Out Initiative. The State of Illinois has the most lead pipes per capita in the United States.

Whereas, in 2021 the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) estimated there to be 679,292 lead service lines in Illinois. In 2023, the U.S. EPA put the estimate at over one million lines in Illinois.


Whereas the NRDC puts the estimate for replacing every lead service line in Illinois at \$2.2 billion at the low end and up to \$7.2 billion based on the EPA's estimate, the Illinois Environmental Council estimates it would cost between \$10 billion and \$12 billion.

Whereas the FY24 project list from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) included 47 projects, totaling over \$100 million. Illinois received around \$107 million in FY24 and will receive \$230 million in FY25 from federal funding.


Whereas, on March 7th, 2025 the IEPA announced the recipients to date from the fourth round of Lead Service Line Inventory (LSLI) grants, which will assist 15 additional community water supplies (CWSs) in meeting the requirements outlined in the Lead Service Line Replacement and Notification Act (LSLRN Act). The LSLI Grant Program offers grants to local government units ranging from \$20,000 - \$50,000 to fund the creation of a complete lead service line inventory. A total of 264 Illinois drinking water systems have benefited from this funding since the LSLI grant program was announced in October 2022.

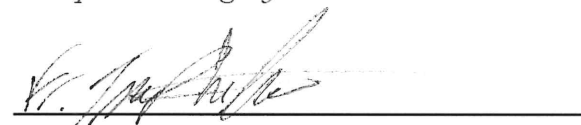
Wherefore, Be It Resolved: We Proclaim a Call to Respect Life: thus, to insist Congress and the Illinois representation make every effort to replace all the lead water pipes in Illinois as quickly as possible.


American Baptist Churches of Metro Chicago

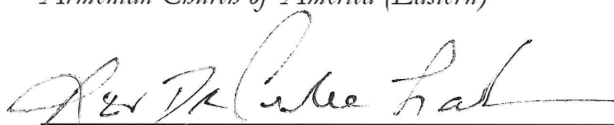

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,
Metropolitan Chicago Synod

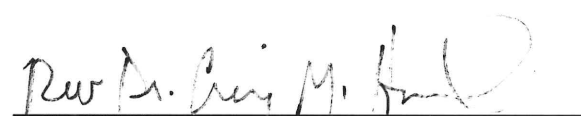

St. Thomas Syro-Malabar Catholic Church,
Diocese of Chicago


Armenian Orthodox Church, Diocese of the
Armenian Church of America (Eastern)

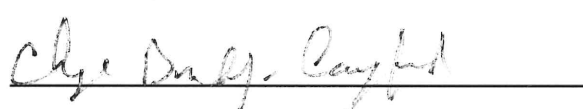

Greek Orthodox Church, Metropolis of Chicago


The Ukrainian Greek Catholic Church Eparchy of
St. Nicholas

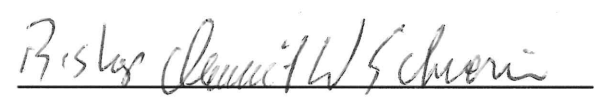

Christian Methodist Episcopal Church,
3rd Episcopal District


Presbyterian Church (USA), Presbytery of Chicago

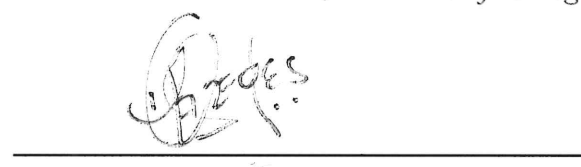

The United Church of Christ, Illinois Conference


Church of the Brethren Illinois and Wisconsin
District


The Roman Catholic Church, Archdiocese of Chicago


The United Methodist Church,
Northern Illinois - Wisconsin Episcopal Area


The Episcopal Diocese of Chicago


The Salvation Army,
North & Central Illinois Division