

RESOLUTION ADDRESSING THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT THE U.S. SOUTHERN BORDER

Whereas First Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Nebraska Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has committed to be a worshipping community whose expressed love and care for all people know no boundaries;

Whereas the Congregation Council of First Lutheran Church voted to become a member of the ELCA Network of Welcoming Congregations of AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunity) in March 2017;

Whereas AMMPARO “is a commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, to accompany vulnerable children today and in the future;”

Whereas the Congregation Council of First Lutheran Church is in agreement with the positions stated in the pastoral letters and statements of concern received from ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth A. Eaton on May 28, 2019 and June 6, 2019;

And whereas details of dangerous conditions faced by infants, children and adults housed in government-funded detention facilities along the southern border of the United States have been well-documented by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General, by elected officials, by independent observers and by migrants themselves;

Now, therefore, be it resolved that the Congregation Council of First Lutheran Church recommends the following actions:

- Through available church media, members of the congregation shall receive Bishop Eaton’s pastoral letters and statements regarding the detention of migrant minors and treatment of asylum seekers.
- Members of the congregation shall be offered information about the root causes of migration from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and the challenges faced by migrants in transit.
- Links to resources available from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, AMMPARO, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) shall be published on the church website and in the newsletter.
- Members of the congregation shall be urged to contact elected officials as advocates for humane and just treatment of those seeking asylum in the United States and to participate in lawful activities that name injustice and call for reform, remaining vigilant until such changes are implemented.
- During corporate worship, the collective voices of the congregation shall be lifted in prayer for the most vulnerable, including those seeking asylum.
- This resolution shall be published and shared through church media, submitted to the Nebraska Synod of the ELCA, the ELCA AMMPARO Program Director, the Faith Coalition of Lancaster County and to the greater Lincoln community as a public witness.

Approved by the Congregation Council of First Lutheran Church
1551 South 70th Street, Lincoln, Nebraska 68506
July 9, 2019

