

Immigration

The social message on "Immigration" presents basic themes for discernment on questions of immigration that our society is facing. It draws from Scripture and the experience of Lutherans in America as an immigrant church in a country of immigrants. The basic themes are grounded in the call to welcome the stranger (Matthew 25:35) together with the commitment to justice that advocates for fair and generous laws.

The message calls for the church to be a welcoming place and points out that immigration, refugee and asylum policies express who we are as a nation and influence the nation's future character. It focuses on questions for discussion and discernment such as facilitating citizenship, newcomers without legal status and the border with Mexico. The message should be read in conjunction with "Toward Compassionate, Just, and Wise Immigration Reform," a 2009 ELCA social policy resolution on immigration that governs how the ELCA publically addresses contemporary questions about immigration policy reform.

You can read or download the full social message on "Immigration" in English or en español. This social message was adopted in 1998 by the Church Council of the ELCA. - See more at:

<http://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Social-Messages/Immigration#sthash.YDGVUilx.dpuf>

Note from Bishop Aitken:

Over the last week, we (Bishops of our ELCA) worked on a response to the recent immigration reform announcement by President Obama. You can read it by going to the link below.

http://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_Bishops_Statement_on_Immigration_Anouncement.pdf

+Bishop Thomas Aitken
Northeastern Minnesota Synod, ELCA
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