



Northeastern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Message to the congregations of the NE MN Synod of the ELCA:

In response to the situation at the United States southern border, the following resolution was adopted at the May 3 – 5 Synod Assembly:

MIGRANTS AT THE UNITED STATES – MEXICAN BORDER

WHEREAS, God proclaims throughout the scriptures that people are to act in a loving way; and,

WHEREAS, recent actions by the United States government toward immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers (migrants) trying to cross into the United States at the Mexican border are a violation of God's proclamation, as well as a violation of international law; and,

WHEREAS, there are migrants seeking a life where there is hope for themselves and their children, and many fleeing violence in their countries; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Immigration, Refugee, and Asylum Seekers Committee draft a letter urging the President of the United States and the United States Senators and Representatives from Minnesota to encourage policies that welcome migrants; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that our synod Bishop share this resolution, the drafted letter, and the February 5, 2019 statement of the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service with the congregations of the Synod for study and action.

Discussion followed.

VOTED SA19.05.06. To adopt Resolution 19-1 (Migrants at the US – Mexican Border).

STATEMENT: LIRS Chooses Greatness, Not Fear. The President Should Do the Same.

For Immediate Release:

February 5, 2019

MEDIA CONTACT:

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Washington, D.C.—Minutes ago, during his State of the Union address, President Trump called for the deployment of an additional 3,750 troops to our southern border. In his justification, he reinforced a number of misconceptions and misinformation about the people fleeing to our country for safety.

LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has been actively working with migrants at our southern border and has witnessed first-hand the detrimental impacts the administration's haphazard policies have had on families seeking safety in the United States.

"The only border crisis is one the administration concocted—one that separates families and makes it more difficult for those with a credible fear to claim asylum," said Bp. Michael Rinehart, LIRS Board Chair. "Children are dying out there. Families desperately seeking protection in the U.S. are being turned away or told to wait."

The President's State of the Union Address relied heavily on misleading statistics designed to fuel fear and anger toward immigrants, and to garner support for a border wall. While the President claimed our southern border was in a dangerous and lawless state, the data paints a different picture—22 of the 23 counties on our southern border are safer than similar counties nationwide.

Alongside the vast majority of American people, LIRS supports improving border security. A wall will not accomplish this goal, and it will compromise our moral leadership and humanitarian values.

"Tonight, the President called for us to choose greatness," continued Bp. Rinehart. "And we do choose greatness. A great country welcomes refugees. A great country provides asylum. A great country is built on the love and commitment of immigrants. In the President's own words, immigrants enrich our nation and strengthen our society in countless ways. In the face of fear-mongering, LIRS will continue to stand by our faith and offer protection and welcome to those seeking refuge on our shores and at our borders."

LIRS urges Congress to find bipartisan solutions that improve safety at our border while maintaining the integrity of our American values.

Contact Information:

Information follows which will assist in making contact with the President and the Minnesota Congressional delegation. Those “in the know” tell us contacts from constituents can help make a difference. We need to let these leaders know that the present actions being carried out at the border by the US Government are not acceptable. The Lord God calls us to care for those needing a new home. (Matthew 25).

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Senator Tina Smith
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Representative Pete Stauber
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