

AMM PARO

Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

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Churchwide Memorial

At the 2019 Churchwide Assembly, the ELCA became a sanctuary church body, publicly declaring that walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith.

Being a sanctuary church body means that we want to be public and vocal about this work.



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Saint Paul Area Synod Resolution

WHEREAS Sanctuary means “the provision of shelter and a RESPONSE to raids, detentions, deportations, and the criminalization of immigrants and refugees, a STRATEGY to fight individual cases of deportation, to advocate for an end of mass detention and amplify immigrant voices, a VISION for what our communities and world can be, and a MORAL IMPERATIVE to take prophetic action of radical hospitality rooted in the ancient traditions of our faith communities;”



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Synod Resolution

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod declare itself ready to protect refugees and undocumented persons from arrest and deportation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), in partnership with organizations including Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services, Immigrant Law Center of MN, Advocates for Human Rights, ISAIAH's Sanctuary Network, Legal Rights Center, Arrive Ministries, International Institute of Minnesota, and the Interfaith Coalition on Migration; and



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Synod Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod recruit leaders from congregations across the synod to join the leadership of the joint Minneapolis Area Synod and Saint Paul Area Synod AMMPARO (Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities) Task Force, invite congregations to become AMMPARO Welcoming congregations, and in coordination with Churchwide and the Joint synod AMMPARO Task Force, develop and provide resources for congregations to discern the call to sanctuary, learn about sanctuary and immigration in the US, and partner with local immigrant-led organizations in their community; and



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Synod Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod Office of the Bishop advocate for immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers in the Minnesota State Legislature and county and municipal governments within the Synod's jurisdiction, consistent with the ELCA's 2009 social policy resolution "Towards Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform." Such advocacy would assure that "the stranger, the alien and the resident alien" in Minnesota, without regard to legal status, has full access to all the public benefits enjoyed by the people of Minnesota. These include Driver's Licenses, Child Care Assistance, MinnesotaCare, Food and Cash Assistance programs, Minnesota Family Investment Program Emergency Cash Assistance, Paid Family and Medical Leave, Earned Sick and Safe Time, and Housing Support; and



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Synod Resolution

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Saint Paul Area Synod Office of the Bishop encourage pastors and congregations to join the Synod in advocating for equal justice for “the stranger, the alien and the resident alien” living in our communities and that the Synod Office support them in advocating on behalf of their neighbors.



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In a **holistic, whole church** commitment by the ELCA, as a church in the world, AMMPARO was envisioned to accompany children who are forced to flee their communities today and in the future.



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Four Commitments

- Uphold basic human rights and safety of migrants
- Address the root causes of migration
- Work towards humane policies affecting migrants
- Engage and advocate as a whole church in response to the migration situation



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How To Get Involved

- **Pray** for the safety of migrant children and families on the journey and for justice as they reach their destinations
- **Become a Welcoming Congregation** to accompany these children and families through their transition to life in the US
- **Advocate** for justice for migrant children and families
- **Accompany** migrant children and families through the Guardian Angel program as a physical presence of the church in the courtroom
- **Give** to AMMPARO to provide opportunities for children and families in Central America and in the U.S.



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Saint Paul Area Synod Involvement

2017 joint SPAS/MAS AMMPARO work group forms to awaken, engage, and equip congregations to have solidarity with oppressed immigrants.



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How To Get Involved

- Global Partnerships
- Welcoming Congregation
- Guardian Angels Program
- Sanctuary and Sanctuary-supporting Congregation



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Welcoming Congregations

Helping immigrants navigate life in their new community.

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat,
I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink,
I was a stranger and you invited me in.

— Matthew 25:35 (NIV)



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Welcoming Congregations

- Identify who will lead the effort
- Decide how you will accompany immigrants
- Designate a contact person with language skills
- Engage with the AMMPARO Network



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Welcoming Congregations

Examples

- All Saints Lutheran Church - Cottage Grove
- Lutheran Church of the Redeemer – St. Paul
- Gloria Dei Lutheran Church – St. Paul



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Welcoming Congregations

How to get involved

- Complete the Commitment Form and send to synod office (Alicia.rodriguez@spas-elca.org)
- Access AMMPARO resources
- Receive support from an AMMPARO Leadership Team member



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Guardian Angels Program

Accompany migrant children and their families through the immigration court process.

- Be a visible sign of the church in court
- Provide spiritual support at court hearings
- Connect immigrants with a Welcoming Congregation and encourage legal counsel



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Guardian Angels Program

How to get involved

- Contact Claire Hoyum (clairehoyum@comcast.net) or Lenore Franzen (lfranzen18@gmail.com)
- Review orientation materials
- Attend training (via Zoom)
- Receive occasional updates
- Expand your involvement



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Sanctuary Congregation

How to get involved

- Learn about the need for and responsibilities of becoming a sanctuary or sanctuary-supporting congregation.
- Form a working group to assess ability to host an immigrant family.
- Identify crucial areas where support will be needed and recruit volunteers with needed expertise.
- Seek financial and material support from within and outside the congregation.
- Join with interdenominational coalitions committed to sanctuary.
- Contact Sandy Iverson (sandraliverson@gmail.com) for guidance and additional resources.



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Education

Transformed Community Bible Study (2019)

https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/TransformedCommunityBibleStudy_2019.pdf



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Advocacy

MN Sanctuary State Coalition

We are a united, interfaith and grassroots Coalition whose sole purpose is to advance progressive immigrant and refugee rights in Minnesota. We believe in treating all members of our community with dignity, respect, and compassion. We believe families are stronger together and diversity makes our communities healthier. We believe that all policies and practices that work with immigrants and refugees should represent these values. Together, we represent approximately one million Minnesota residents.



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Advocacy

What we propose

The Minnesota State Legislature pass a law making Minnesota a sanctuary state, and that such a law cover local jurisdictions.

What this means

This law is intended to prevent local law enforcement from collaborating with federal (e.g., ICE) officials to detain, incarcerate, and deport immigrants.



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Advocacy

ISAIAH Legislative Priorities

- Driver's Licenses for Immigrants
- Justice through Sanctuary (affordable housing protections, paid family leave, and sick leave)



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Advocacy

Biden Administration Executive Actions

- Task force to reunite children separated from families
- End to Muslim ban
- Moratorium on deportations
- DACA protections
- Reversing the restrictions on refugee resettlement
- Immigration bill with pathway to citizenship
- Reversal of previous administration's immigration focus



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Twin Cities AMMPARO Interest Form

Open link in Chat



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Resources

Workshop slides, all materials and handouts mentioned will be here:

www.spas-elca.org/toolkit



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QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU!



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