



What can I do to serve refugees and stand for welcome?

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me."

- Matthew 25:35, NRSV

What are we advocating for?

At this urgent moment, we need everyone to speak out in favor of maintaining the United States' position as the world leader in protecting the most vulnerable and ensure the full and continued operation of the refugee resettlement program.

Why?

As people of faith, we are called to welcome the stranger. In fact, Lutherans have been boldly resettling refugees since 1929, more than 40 years before the United States passed the Refugee Act of 1980 which created the modern U.S. Refugee Resettlement Program that we support today. We cannot allow our generation to repeat the mistakes of the past when refuge was intentionally denied to those in need, as was the case with members of the Jewish community who were escaping the carnage and destruction of World War II. With over 21 million registered refugees and over 65 million displaced in the world today, this is a crisis that has no equivalent in recorded history. Communities of faith are willing, ready, and able to support refugees as they begin a new life in our country. As a church with deep immigrant roots, Lutherans have been responding to God's call to welcome and care for migrants and refugees and we need to encourage members of Congress, Governors, and state legislators to do the same.

So what can I do?

You can do a lot! Whether it's writing a letter or calling your Congressional delegation (your individual member of Congress and both your Senators), signing a petition, organizing a prayer vigil, or visiting a member of Congress's office in-district - every action small or large helps to show support for refugees. Even a tweet or other social media post can be a way to advocate - but don't let that be all you do. Below are some actions you can take to tap into that Lutheran legacy of bold and courageous generosity of spirit and advocate for welcoming refugees.

- Sign the Refugee Sunday Petition - then get other members of your congregation to do the same. Don't forget to send it back to us at LIRS, so we can make sure it gets to the President.
- Organize a letter writing campaign - don't just send letters to your members of Congress. Make sure you contact your Governor, Mayor, and state legislators and vocalize your support for refugees in your community.
- Join your local refugee advocacy organization. Don't have one? Start one!
- Write a letter to the editor of your local newspaper sharing the wonderful gifts that refugees bring to your congregation and community.
- Explore volunteer opportunities that is right for you with your local resettlement agency.

(continued...)



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What are some specific "asks" that I can encourage my members of Congress to do?

- Encourage the member to support refugees and call on the Administration to resettle at least 75,000 refugees for the remainder of this fiscal year and next year.
- During the appropriations process, support robust funding for the refugee resettlement program.
- Ask the member to meet in their district/state with a group of faith leaders about the refugee program, with the local refugee resettlement agency, or join in a refugee roundtable.
- Encourage the member to make floor statements, hold press events, write opinion editorials, and encourage colleagues to speak out and support the refugee program.

*"Truly I tell you, just as you did it to the least of these...
you did it to me"*

- Matthew 25:40, NRSV