

IMMIGRANT WELCOME

Social Policy Resolution

CA11.05.31



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

RESOLVED, that the 2011 Churchwide Assembly declare its support of and encouragement for all efforts to prevent the enactment of punitive and unjust federal and state laws that target immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all congregations and institutions of this church are called to welcome and serve persons regardless of their documented status; and be it further

RESOLVED, that congregations, seminaries, camps, colleges, universities, synods, and all expressions of the ELCA are hereby called upon to deepen their understanding of the current issues related to immigration and their calling to stand for welcome, including the widespread study and use of the ELCA social policy resolution titled "Toward Compassionate, Just and Wise Immigration Reform," adopted by the Church Council in 2009; and be it further

RESOLVED, that all members of this church, including its leaders, be encouraged to protest laws and proposed laws that ignore the Bible's witness to care for the stranger among us and to serve all people and strive for justice and peace in all the earth, by communicating with legislators, governors, and the media; participating in public gatherings opposing unjust immigration policies; and taking all actions that demonstrate welcome and live out accompaniment of immigrants; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Churchwide Assembly affirm the church's cooperation with and support for the ministry and advocacy of LIRS; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Church Council be asked to consider the designation of one day each year for "Stand for Welcome Sunday," a moment to bring particular attention in congregations and communities to the presence and gifts of refugees and migrants, and the opportunities for mission and ministry with newcomers; and be it

RESOLVED, that the presiding bishop and synodical bishops be called upon to communicate this resolution and the commitment of the ELCA to stand with and advocate for immigrants to the U.S. administration, Congress, all governors and state legislatures, and the media.

Adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2011