

WELCOMING AND ADVOCATING FOR REFUGEES

Social Policy Resolution
CA16.05.18



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

Resolved:

To receive with gratitude the memorials of the Eastern Washington-Idaho, Metropolitan New York, Northwestern Pennsylvania and Southeastern synods regarding refugee resettlement;

To reaffirm the work of ELCA leaders and Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service in working to welcome refugees from across the globe;

To support bishops, pastors and other Lutheran leaders as they continue to call on members of Congress and state legislators to open their hearts to the suffering of refugees around the world and support legislative actions to welcome these newcomers to new communities;

To request that the presiding bishop communicate this church's commitment for the resettlement of refugees in the United States and encourage steadfast support for this program to the U.S. President and members of Congress;

To encourage and support all Lutherans in welcoming refugees by building awareness, volunteering, hosting refugees, speaking out against hate, advocating for a more generous U.S. response and observing Refugee Sunday, and to open up congregations, seminaries and all able Lutheran organizations to help house refugees; and

To request that units of the churchwide organization, in cooperation with Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, provide easy access to resource materials for congregations to learn about and take part in ministries with refugees.

Adopted by the Churchwide Assembly in August 2016