



## Addressing the State of Immigrants and Refugees Things Congregations Can Do

A Growing Resource: [www.lopew.org](http://www.lopew.org)

### Small Group Studies

Review the Talking Points from the ELCA on what it means to be sanctuary as a denomination. Available on our website [www.lopew.org](http://www.lopew.org), click on to *Resources*, *Reflections*, *Reflections & Tools*, on dropdown click on to *Immigration & Refugees*

*Dialogues On/The Refugee Crisis/Learner* book, also see DVD and Facilitator Guide. [Click Here](#)

### Become a Welcoming Congregation

ELCA AMMPARO Strategy: [Click Here](#)

### Hold Legal Clinics (Apply for a grant from AMMPARO)

Open up a day or more in which anyone with immigration questions can receive free consultation from attorneys. Example: \$5000 grant from AMMPARO will cover about 3 clinics in 1 year, can apply multiple years, clinics are 4 hours each beginning with group presentation followed by a first come first serve 25-30 minute consultation by stipend lawyers (~\$250 each per clinic).

State Bar of Wisconsin Lawyer Referral and Information Services: (608)257-4666/(800)362-9082, or [www.wisbar.org](http://www.wisbar.org)

### Courtroom Accompaniment (Guardian Angels program via AMMPARO)

Congregation members can offer rides to people who are going to court for immigration-related issues, and also accompany them during the hearing. Visibility helps!

You may also have local groups that are involved with similar programs.

### Start a Bond Fund

Raise funds to help those who have been detained or are facing legal charges but cannot afford an attorney.

### Pen Pals

Write letters to people who are already detained in detention facilities.

### Partner with a Congregation already Involved

Is there a congregation in your area holding clinics, is raising funding, etc.? Consider supporting their efforts.

**Sign up for LOPPW Action Alerts** - Scroll down to bottom right of [www.lopew.org](http://www.lopew.org) Home page to Join the Advocacy Network.

## **Letter Writing to Legislators and to the Editor**

LOPPW resources for letter writing available in Our Church Our World: Partnering in God's Mission [www.lopeppw.org](http://www.lopeppw.org), click on to *Resources, Reflections, Reflections & Tools*, on dropdown click on to *Advocacy Ministries* or workshop available. Set time for folks to gather to write letters to congress, using talking points, list of contacts, postage, and envelopes

## **Other things to add or consider:**

- Community stories for bulletin/newsletter: Who in your community is an immigrant?
- Know your rights cards- add as detachable section of the handout: hotline numbers and basic "know your rights" if ICE shows up- to be carried and handed out to those who are vulnerable, one side English, one side Spanish
- Include immigrants and refugees in prayers of the people- congregations can write these

## **What does it mean to be a sanctuary denomination? Talking Points:**

[https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA\\_SanctuaryDenomination\\_TalkingPoints.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/ELCA_SanctuaryDenomination_TalkingPoints.pdf)

[www.lopeppw.org](http://www.lopeppw.org) Scroll down to the bottom right to click on to *Join the Advocacy Network*

## **Resource List and Ideas from our ELCA Office of Advocacy**

<https://blogs.elca.org/advocacy/responding-to-our-sorrow-with-action/>

## **Other Statewide Resources**

Voces De La Frontera: [www.vdlf.org](http://www.vdlf.org)

Michigan Immigrant Rights Center: [www.michiganimmigrant.org](http://www.michiganimmigrant.org)

Wisdom: [www.wisdomwisconsin.org](http://www.wisdomwisconsin.org): [www.wisdomwisconsin.org](http://www.wisdomwisconsin.org)

Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice: [wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.weebly.com](http://wisconsinfaithvoicesforjustice.weebly.com)

Wisconsin Council of Churches: [www.wichurches.org](http://www.wichurches.org)