

**NORTHEASTERN OHIO SYNOD COUNCIL RESOLUTION  
REGARDING COMPASSIONATE ASSISTANCE TO MIGRANT PARENTS  
AND CHILDREN ENTERING THE UNITED STATES<sup>1</sup>**

WHEREAS, On June 5, 2018 the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) officers arrested 114 undocumented workers, both men and women, from a landscape firm in Sandusky and Castalia, Ohio<sup>2</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the adults and children leaving their native countries often leave to escape severe threats of violence with little to no financial stability and safe social structure thereby risking bodily harm along the escape route and often suffer greatly from post-traumatic stress disorders and depression<sup>3</sup>; and

WHEREAS, the Trump Administration officials had no interagency plan in place to reunite children with their parents when Attorney General Jeff Sessions announced President Trump's 'zero tolerance' policy in April<sup>4</sup>; and

WHEREAS, "Resolution 3," submitted to the 2018 Synod Assembly concerning assistance to detained migrant children was referred to the Synod Council for action; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America encourages its congregations and members to call for humane, compassionate treatment of persons designated as undocumented minors, including maintaining family unity; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council calls upon the United States Congress, the President of the United States, the Attorney General of the United States, and the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security to continue the reversal of their previous policy of separating children from their parents at the border or anywhere undocumented children and their families are found, and be it further

RESOLVED, the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council urges the Bishop of the synod, or his designee, to continue to make the council's committed position on this matter known throughout the synod and to the public at large; and be it further

RESOLVED, the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council calls upon our synod leaders, pastors, deacons, and congregations to support the work of Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS), and the ELCA's Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities (AMMPARO) program<sup>5</sup>, to welcome immigrants, and to advocate for public policies welcoming the stranger as we would the Lord. And be it finally

RESOLVED, the Northeastern Ohio Synod Council act to assist in equipping our congregations, institutions and ministries to engage in these expressions of advocacy appropriate to local contexts, capacity and discernment.

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<sup>1</sup>Incorporating ideas based on The Upper Susquehanna Synod, meeting in assembly at Susquehanna University, passed A RESOLUTION: REGARDING THE TREATMENT OF MIGRANT CHILDREN IN THE CUSTODY OF THE UNITED STATES, Friday, June 15, 2018.

<sup>2</sup><https://www.cnn.com/2018/06/06/us/ice-undocumented-immigrants-arrests-garden-ohio/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.evidenceaid.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/03/1-s2.0-S0140673611600512-main.pdf>

<sup>4</sup><https://slate.com/news-and-politics/2018/07/more-evidence-emerges-that-trump-intended-for-family-separation-to-be-permanent.html>

<sup>5</sup>Details, opportunities, and scope of the ELCA's AMMPARO program are available at <https://www.elca.org/ammparo>.

