



Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service

“But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was,
and when he saw him, he had compassion.”

(Luke 10:33)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ:

One of the key tenets of our faith is to welcome the sojourner and show love and care for the vulnerable. No matter how often we read the parable of the Good Samaritan, it ignites a renewed commitment within us to live a life that embraces and supports others in times of need.

Jesus' story of the wounded traveler speaks powerfully at a critical and unsettling time for migrants and refugees seeking protection in our nation. In the face of such uncertainties, we must, more than ever, live boldly into our Lutheran faith tradition and our shared legacy of courageous and compassionate welcome for those who seek refuge in our communities.

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) invite your congregation, your school and your community to join us in celebrating the power of God's love to transform the lives of those fleeing horrifying dangers. By setting aside one Sunday this year to reflect on the courageous and often perilous journeys made by millions of refugees, we can prepare our hearts to welcome all newcomers in Christ's name and support their new lives in America.

Join us in nourishing the Lutheran spirit of welcome by praying for the protection of those forced to flee, by embracing those who have made it safely to our shores, and by celebrating how our congregations and communities have been transformed by the gifts new immigrants bring.

As we celebrate the extraordinary power of Jesus Christ's love to transform the lives of every person seeking refuge, we invite you, your congregations, schools and communities to welcome the stranger. Set aside any Sunday this year as Refugee Sunday to celebrate this transformative journey of courage and renewal. Visit www.lirs.org/refugeesunday for materials and ideas to take the first step. A Refugee Sunday service will provide your congregation with a powerful experience of how the grace of God turns journeys of loss and pain into new beginnings filled with peace and hope.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Pat Nichols'.

Pat Nichols
Acting President and CEO
Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service