



# LIRS | HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS



You can bring joy and hope to families in immigration detention, and to children who crossed our borders alone, by writing and decorating holiday cards in English and Spanish.

## Step 1

Write messages of hope and encouragement in English and Spanish on holiday cards (see Spanish messages below for inspiration). Draw a picture or share your favorite poem, quote or Bible verse to personalize the card. Sign the card (first name and city/state). Do NOT put cards in individual envelopes. Please place all cards in one large manila envelope or box.

## Step 2

Download and fill out LIRS's Hope for the Holidays cover sheet, found below. Tuck it into your manila envelope or box. Be sure to share your contact information so we can follow-up with other opportunities to get involved.

## Step 3

Mail the cards to our Hope For The Holidays church partner, First English Evangelical Lutheran Church (address below). LIRS will ensure every family in detention has a card and gift to open on Christmas morning. **To ensure delivery to children and families in time for the holidays, cards and donations must be sent in by December 6, 2019.**

## SAMPLE GREETINGS INSPANISH

Note: when you see a "/" use "-o" if writing to a male, "-a" if writing to a female

Dear friend,	Querido/a amigo/a,
Greetings from [city/state]. My name is [first name].	Saludos desde [city/state] Me llamo [first name].
Merry Christmas	Feliz Navidad
Please know that you are not alone or forgotten.	Queiro que sepa que no está solo/a, ni olvidado/a.
I am praying for you and your family. I am also fighting for justice for you and your family, and for all our brothers and sisters who leave their countries in search of a better life.	Estoy orando por usted y su familia. Sigo luchando por usted y su familia y por todos nuestros hermanos y hermanas que dejan su país en busca de una mejor vida.
Please know that thousands of people are working to keep you and your family safe. You are not forgotten.	Miles de personas están trabajando para que usted y su familia esten protegidos. No los olvidamos.
Never forget that we are praying and fighting for you and your family.	Nunca olvide que estamos orando y luchando por usted y su familia.
God's blessings and peace at Christmas and for the New Year.	Dios los bendiga y les conceda paz en esta Navidad y en el Año Nuevo.
May God bless you!	¡Que Dios los bendiga!

Mail cards to:

First English Evangelical Lutheran Church • Attn: Hope for the Holidays 3807  
North Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21218



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Thousands of families flee violence and persecution from their home countries across the globe for the protection of America. However, when they arrive at our borders, many find shackles, not safety. The United States holds thousands of mothers and children (including nursing moms and babies) in detention centers – think jails – while their immigration cases are determined by the government. Families may be held in detention for months, sometimes years.

**Right now, thousands of families are being held in three family immigration detention centers:**

Karnes Family Residential Center, Karnes City, TX  
South Texas Residential Center, Dilley, TX  
Berks Family Detention Center, Berks, PA

## Here are some important facts and additional information about family detention:

- Since 2014, family detention has increased by 4,000%. There are more than 2,000 beds in detention centers for mothers and children seeking safety in America.
- Family detention can cost up to nearly \$319.37 per person per day; successful and secure community-based alternatives to detention exist for a mere fraction of that amount.
- An estimated 90% of families in immigration detention seek protection from violence and persecution, which means they should be treated as refugees.
- Poor conditions and lack of adequate medical care continue to be pervasive problem

**THANK YOU FOR SHINING A  
LIGHT INTO THE DARKNESS OF  
DETENTION.**





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## **HOLIDAY CARD COVER SHEET**

Thank you for your contributions to the  
Hope for the Holidays Card and Gift  
Campaign!

Please fill out this form and return it to the  
address below along with your cards.

**Congregation Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Congregation Address:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Pastor's Name and Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Point of Contact Name and Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Number of Cards Sent:** \_\_\_\_\_

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First English Evangelical Lutheran Church • Attn: Hope for the Holidays  
3807 North Charles Street • Baltimore, MD 21218