

Letter from Bishop Steven Ullestad regarding the ICE action in Postville, IA

In consultation with Pastor Steve Brackett, St. Paul Lutheran Church in Postville, Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services and Lutheran Disaster Response, I am making these requests:

1. Continue to lift up the people of Postville in your prayers. Quite probably, hundreds of families will be relocated with the possibility of many people being imprisoned for an extended period of time. Families and friends are suffering tremendous loss and grief. The long term implications for these families as well as the impact on the schools and businesses of Postville are significant.
2. We are developing a list of Spanish speaking pastors to assist with communication. These pastors will be called on as needed. Please contact us if you are available to assist in this way.
3. We are inviting you and your congregation to engage in a conversation on immigration. The following links may assist in your conversation. I am also attaching comments that I made at an immigration rally held in Dubuque in August of 2006.

ELCA message on immigration:

www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Messages/Immigration.aspx

Article by Bishop Mark S. Hanson

http://www.thelutheran.org/article/article.cfm?article_id=7019

Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services website

<http://www.lirs.org/>

4. Please make a gift to support the ministries of the church and the families who have been directly affected by this crisis. Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR), in consultation with me, has designated this crisis as a human disaster. LDR will be working with St. Paul Lutheran Church, Postville and other community service organizations to provide immediate and long term support. You can help by making a gift to ELCA Domestic Disaster Response, with a note or memo indicating your gift is designated to Postville. Gifts may be sent directly to Lutheran Disaster Response, ELCA, 8765 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago IL 60631-4101.

Thank you.

Bishop Steven L. Ullestad