Accompanying Migrant Minors with Protection, Advocacy, Representation and Opportunities
God is our **refuge** and strength, a very present help in trouble.” – Psalm 46:1
“In a holistic, whole church commitment by the ELCA as a church in the world, AMMPARO was envisioned to accompany children today and in the future who are forced to flee their communities”
History of AMMPARO

- **Fall 2014**: Lutheran Roundtable
- **Summer 2015**: Consultation
- **Fall 2015**: Conference of Bishops, Synodical Vice Presidents, Latino Ministry Strategy
- **Spring 2016**: ELCA Church Council
- **Summer 2016**: Churchwide Assembly
AMMPARO commitments

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. – Psalm 46:1

In a whole church response, we will:

• uphold and **guarantee basic the human rights and safety** of migrant children and their families;
• **address the root causes** of migration in countries from Central America’s Northern Triangle and Mexico and **the treatment of migrants in transit**;
• work toward **just and humane policies** affecting migrants in and outside the U.S.; and
• **engage as a church body** with all of its companions, affiliates and partners to respond to the migration situation as a whole context and to advocate for migrant children and their families.
Independent guiding principles

• **Accompaniment** – projects in the region and US, congregational and synodical engagement

• **Awareness building** – learning opportunities, communication, immersion visits, calls, webinars

• **Advocacy** – organized by the ELCA Washington Office and state public policy offices
Countries of Origin

El Salvador: Iglesia Luterana Salvadoreña
Honduras: Iglesia Cristiana Luterana de Honduras, Mennonite Social Action Committee and Lutheran World Federation (LWF)/World Service (WS)
Guatemala: Asociación Pop Noj, Iglesia Luterana Agustina de Guatemala and LWF/WS
In Transit

Mexico: Iglesia Luterana Mexicana, AMEXTRA, GTPM
In the U.S:
U.S.: Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service, Lutheran Services in America, Church World Service
Q. When did the surge start?

- From Mexico
- Honduras
- Children caught at the border, in thousands
- El Salvador
- Guatemala

FY '09 '10 '11 '12 '13 '14
2018 numbers from the US Southwest Border

- Unaccompanied children/Families

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>El Salvador</th>
<th>Guatemala</th>
<th>Honduras</th>
<th>Mexico</th>
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<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>112,963</td>
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Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God’s work. Our hands.
Welcoming Congregations

• Accompany migrants in their community
• Build awareness
• Advocate
• Pray
PLUS 5 Sanctuary Synods and 109 Welcoming and Sanctuary Congregations in 29 synods of the ELCA

- Sanctuary Synods are Oregon, Southwest CA, Sierra Pacific, New England and New York
- Sanctuary Congregations are in California, New England, Oregon, Madison, Wisconsin, Minnesota, New York and Washington, DC.
- Welcoming congregations: California, Texas, Wisconsin, Illinois, Minnesota, Iowa, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nebraska, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Virginia, Washington and D.C.
Five Guardian Angel programs with two more in the works in 2018
Pro Bono Representation

• Know Your Rights Seminars
• Volunteer legal services
• Preparing people for credible fear interviews in Dilley
Advocacy

Ensure the **immediate protection** of unaccompanied children and families fleeing Central America, while focusing on addressing the **root causes** of their forced displacement.
2 Advocacy Actions

1. Funding to keep families in detention

Resources

• Learn how you can make a difference at ELCA.org/ammparo

• Sign up for the ELCA Advocacy Network: www.elca.org/advocacy

• Follow on Facebook: Facebook.com/ELCAammparo
QUESTIONS?

THANK YOU
“Tearing children away from parents who have made a dangerous journey to provide a safe and sufficient life for them is unnecessarily cruel and detrimental to the well-being of parents and children.”

- Bishop Elizabeth Eaton