

Fellow Church Workers of the Oklahoma District,

With the media focusing on the immigrant family crisis at the border, especially the separation of families, I would like to share with you the latest message from Rev. Dr. Herb Mueller, First VP of the Synod. I have also included an attachment of the articles to which he refers.

Writes Mueller:

“... we have received a couple dozen or so inquiries asking for the Synod’s position on immigration and the separation of families. While we do not take a political position on the issue, there are several resources to which you might point people. **First**, we have published on our Facebook page and in other places a prayer for people affected by these situations:

Heavenly Father, You are our great provider and protector. Be with families throughout our world who are facing difficulties and separation. Comfort and bless children separated from their parents. Guide all parents in their calling to care for their children in obedience to You. Give the governing authorities the wisdom to make and enforce just laws that foster security and the common good, and to look with compassion and mercy on those who seek protection and provision. Strengthen those who work with immigrants and refugees with the endurance needed to fulfill their calling with compassion and wisdom. Grant insight, understanding and patience to the citizens of our nation as we wrestle with the many difficult and divisive issues that confront us daily. Draw all to the cross of Jesus, that the love of Your Son might reign over all things; through Christ Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

Secondly, there are a couple of documents that have been published in the past, one from the CTCR, Immigrants Among Us, (see especially page 33) and one from the CTCR staff (much shorter). Hopefully these will be helpful as people respond to these difficult issues. I have attached pdfs of both documents.”

Mueller continues to say:

Mike Newman (Texas District President – Elect) just informed us that Upbring, formerly Lutheran Social Services of the South, “is actively involved in this situation with separation of families at the border. Foster families of Upbring are caring for a number of these children in the Corpus Christi and El Paso areas. That means health care, trauma care and spiritual care are being given to these precious young people. Please assure people you talk to that we are involved in a wonderful way and kids are being blessed. CEO Kurt Senske let me know that you can feel free to share this information with people so they can be assured that one of our LCMS RSOs is addressing this very important need.”

If anyone wants to donate to help these efforts, they can send a donation to Upbring, 8305 Crosspark Dr., Austin, TX 78754. And, of course, they can keep lifting up prayers. We will have more information about Upbring’s work in the future. Peace be with you!

+ Herbert Mueller
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Finally, there is a video made available through President Harrison thanking the Oklahoma District for their work with the Synod: Oklahoma District Thank You <https://vimeo.com/263343672>

*Rev. Barrie Henke
President, Oklahoma District*