



# *Who is my neighbor?*

“The **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** has roots in church bodies with a strong immigrant history. These churches kept the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 3) in ways appropriate to the cultural background of their membership. Besides preserving the faith, they furthered mission and ministry.”

“Throughout Scripture the people of God are called to love sojourners in our midst, treating them “as if they were one of your citizens” and loving them as we do ourselves (Leviticus 19:33-34) ... As the people of God were liberated from oppression, they too were charged to be instruments of redemption in the lives of the most vulnerable in their midst-the sojourner.”  
**(United Methodist Church, Book of Resolutions)**

“Not just to see but to look. Not just to hear but to listen. Not just to meet and pass by, but to stop. And don’t just say, “what a shame, poor people,” but to allow ourselves to be moved by pity.” **(Pope Francis)**

## **OTOC Migration Education Opportunities**

Hear the stories of our newest Omaha neighbors who are impacted by our current migration impasse. What will your response be to **Love Your Neighbor: Journey with Migrants and Refugees?**

OTOC exists to recreate community in our fragmented society. People are often disconnected and conversations about important issues are difficult. OTOC seeks to reweave the frayed social fabric and connect people across the lines that tend to divide them: race and ethnicity, economics, religion, geography and language.”

### **OTOC Mission Statement**

We know that immigrants and refugees face significant challenges and risks. To move past the current stalemate, we must educate ourselves on these issues. OTOC has helped several congregations to sponsor presentations with Dreamers, DACA youth, refugees, and recipients of Temporary Protected Status. First Unitarian, First United Methodist, San Andres Lutheran, St. John’s, and Sacred Heart have participated. We hope more institutions will foster these uplifting encounters. Let’s resist divisiveness. Let’s come together and build community.

*“Recently Sacred Heart Church hosted speakers from the immigrant and refugee communities. As a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church, I would strongly encourage any local church to host a similar event where members from these communities can share their stories and have an open discussion with your parishioners. These immigrants, refugees, and Dreamers are our doctors, teachers, students, and most importantly, God’s children.” **Tim McTaggart, Youth Minister, Sacred Heart Church***



## *Will you invite us to:*

**Our goal:** Each OTOC member institution will host one or more sessions in the next 4 months and possibly invite one non-OTOC member institution to join in the presentation. Please talk with your congregation leaders about hosting an event in the coming months. OTOC can help to arrange speakers, films, and fact sheets on proposed legislation.

### **Possible formats for your congregation could include:**

- Information and Reflection Insert in your bulletin
- Host a DREAMer or TPS Recipient to speak at Sunday School or Adult faith formation with an OTOC Immigration Action Team Member
- Host a Parish dinner or gathering of some sort and invite speakers from the list below
- View and discuss the “We are DREAMers” documentary (30 min) about local DACA recipients with OTOC speakers or

### **Possible themes to pull from and connect to:**

- **July:** American Values (July 4)
- **August:** Back to school: child migrants, education interrupted by forced migration

### **Potential Speakers and Resources:**

**OTOC Immigration/Refugee Action Team will contact these speakers for you as needed:**

- Lutheran Family Community Service Dept. (resettling refugee families)
- Refugee Empowerment Center (resettling refugee families)
- Immigrant Legal Center (lawyers providing services to immigrant families)
- Young Nebraskans in Action (Dreamers)
- Nebraska DREAMers
- Creighton and UNO speakers on immigration history, current laws, proposed laws
- Catholic Charities (Immigrant 101 presentations—answers basic questions)
- Temporary Protected Status, Nebraska TPS Salvadoran group
- Brian J. Blackford from Blackford Law LLC [www.blackfordlawllc.com/attorney-profile/](http://www.blackfordlawllc.com/attorney-profile/)
- Ross Pesek, <https://peseklaw.com/en/>
- Mark Curley, attorneys <https://www.curleylawoffice.com/>

**To discuss how we can help you set up any of the events, contact:**

Jeanne Schuler at [jschuler@creighton.edu](mailto:jschuler@creighton.edu) or Kathleen Grant at [kathleen.grant2@hotmail.com](mailto:kathleen.grant2@hotmail.com)