



Canadian Lutheran
World Relief

World Refugee Day, June 20

CHANGE A LIFE!

PRAY • LEARN • GIVE



WORSHIP RESOURCES

www.clwr.org/WRD



On World Refugee Day, we are mindful of the ways in which we may find belonging, and find a place to call “home.”

It is easy for us in Canada to feel comfortable and safe, but that is not the case for so many who find themselves fleeing war, famine and natural disaster. For such people—refugees is the name we use—feeling secure and at home can be a foreign concept. Can you imagine leaving everything you have, often ending up in a camp and being there for many years? That is the experience of many refugees: leaving occupations, schools, communities, possessions and sometimes even friends and relatives, and trying to find some place safe to settle down. While a refugee camp may provide for basic needs, it can be hard to feel at home there. In Canada, we can open our arms in welcome and help people feel rooted once more, even as they may need time to establish themselves in this new place, surrounded by new people and new customs.

Jesus reminds us to love our neighbours, whoever they may be. “Love your neighbour as yourself.” (Mark 12:31) As we consider our own needs, we are urged to consider the needs of others. While we seek to meet the basic needs of our neighbours—helping them with things like food, shelter and clothing—we also want to help them to feel value in the gifts they have to share. CLWR works through partner organizations to help with psychosocial counseling and educational opportunities in refugee camps around the world.



You will find a “mythbuster” webpage among the resources for World Refugee Day. These are helpful to find out more about the refugee resettlement experience. Take a look at suggestions for readings that you might use on a Sunday to hold up World Refugee Day in your community. Consider some of the hymn suggestions!

On our YouTube channel (bit.ly/WRDvideo) you will find a playlist of videos related to refugee experiences; on our “Voices from the Field” blog (clwr.wordpress.com/category/refugee-support) you will find stories about refugee situations where Lutherans are providing support. Make use of these in holding up refugees in your community.

May the Spirit that moved the early church move us, as Christians in our day and age, to be generous in how we address the needs of others.



Scripture passages about refugees

[Exodus 12:37-39](#) (because they had to leave quickly, the Israelites baked unleavened cakes of dough for food on the journey)

[Leviticus 19:33-34](#) (care for the refugee [“alien”] as you would your family and yourself)

[Deuteronomy 10:17-19](#) (don’t forget that you, Israelites, were strangers in Egypt; God loves and provides for the strangers)

[Psalm 137:1-6](#) (it is hard to sing praises when uprooted and away from home)

[Ezekiel 47:21-22](#) (the “aliens who reside among you...shall be to you as citizens of Israel”)

[Matthew 2:13-15](#) (Joseph, Mary, and Jesus flee to Egypt for safety)

[Romans 12:13](#) (extend hospitality to strangers)

[2 Corinthians 8:13-15](#) (“it is a question of a fair balance between your present abundance and their need”)

[Ephesians 2:11-22](#) (we are one in Christ—no longer strangers and aliens, but members of the household of God)

[Hebrews 13:1-2](#) (“show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels”)

[James 2:5](#) (“Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him?”)

[1 John 4:7-21](#) (called to show God’s love in the world: “...those who love God must love their brothers and sisters also.”)



Prayer

(may be included/adapted for use in Prayers of the Church, or as a Prayer of the Day)

God our refuge, we hold in heart and mind those who flee their homes and who seek safety in a new place. We cannot imagine the fear, the uncertainty, the discomfort of leaving what one has known to venture to the unknown, often with little or nothing in their possession. May we be filled with a spirit of compassion and grace to welcome with open arms those who come to us in need. Show us a way of hospitality, help us to be generous; bring peace where there is turmoil. In the name of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, we pray. Amen.



Hymn Suggestions

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

- #624 “Jesus, Still Lead On”
- #641 “All Are Welcome”
- #646 “The Peace of the Lord”
- #698 “How Long, O God”
- #704 “When Pain of the World Surrounds Us”
- #784 “Grant Peace, We Pray, in Mercy, Lord”
- #808 “Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

Lutheran Service Book

- #725 “Children of the Heavenly Father”
- #729 “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”
- #734 “I Trust, O Lord, Your Holy Name”
- #748 “I’m But a Stranger Here”
- #749 “There Is a Balm in Gilead”
- #752 “Be Still, My Soul”
- #884 “Lord, Support Us All Day Long”



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MYTH:

There are so many refugees in the world. There's nothing one person can do to help the situation.

FACT:

It is the unfortunate truth that there are many refugee crises in the world. The main reason why people become refugees is because of situations beyond their control, like war, genocide, and persecution based on race, gender or religion. These are large-scale, political situations that require much time and political power to resolve. That doesn't mean, however, that one person cannot make a difference. Even the smallest deed can have a major impact in the lives of refugees.

Just by being aware and concerned about the global refugee crisis is important, because that's what causes people to take action. You can take action in many ways:

PRAY:

- Pray for refugees and peaceful resolutions in conflict areas

LEARN:

- Educate yourself and others about the global refugee crisis and refugee settlement issues
- Befriend refugees in your community

GIVE:

- Donate Quick Kits to give a refugee child a great start at school
- Be a refugee sponsor in Canada

Visit www.clwr.org/WRD to learn more
1.800.661.2597



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Litany for Refugees

Leader: Mighty Lord, as you guided the Israelites through the wilderness,

People: be a pillar of fire by night and a pillar of cloud by day for refugees in search of new hope and new life.

Leader: As you brought the Israelites out of bondage to freedom,

People: bring refugees out of persecution to safety.

Leader: As you protected the Israelites through 40 years in the desert,

People: protect those who languish for years in refugee camps.

Leader: Wipe away their tears of sorrow,

People: that their mourning may give way to joyous hope.

Leader: Put an end to warfare and tyranny,



People: that some may return home without fear of violence.

Leader: Open the doors of safer nations,

People: that some may find new homes in new lands.

Leader: Rebuild their lives,

People: that they might enjoy the fruit of labours in peace.

Leader: Restore their material goods,

People: that they might sustain their families in prosperity.

Leader: Revive their hope,

Leader: Shine your grace upon them,

People: that they might know your love.

Leader: Strengthen their bonds of friendship and family,

People: that they might serve one another with encouraging love.

Leader: And inspire your churches to welcome the stranger,

People: that together we might build communities of hope where strangers become neighbours and friends, and brothers and sisters.

Amen

credit: www.lirs.org

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Leader: Revive their hope,

Amen

People: that they might face a future with promise.

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