Caring for the Stranger

Here are some simple ways for all of us to respond with compassion to the refugee crisis in the world and in our own neighborhoods.

Reflect on the following scriptures
(These scriptures are written out on the back of this sheet.)

- Deuteronomy 10:17-19
- Exodus 23:9
- Jeremiah 22:3
- Zechariah 7:10
- Matthew 2:13-18
- Matthew 25:35-36
- Hebrews 13:2

Pray

- For peace in the home countries that refugees are fleeing
- For peace, safety and a home for refugees and their families
- For our Government—for wisdom and compassion towards refugees

Advocate

- Become aware of the issues by reading up via the websites of refugee agencies working in our area:
  - International Rescue Committee (www.rescue.org)
  - Lutheran Social Services (www.lssnca.org/programs/refugees_immigrant/resettlement.html)
  - ECDC (www.ecdcus.org/What_We_Do/Refugee-Resettlement.html)
  - World Relief (www.worldrelief.org/refugee-crisis)
- Write to your local politicians and pursue established channels to petition the Government about compassion and justice for refugees
- Speak up on behalf of refugees and immigrants whenever you hear anyone speak unkindly

Act

- Respond to suggestions from the above agencies
- Respond to local needs and ways to serve highlighted on the Montgomery County website (montgomerycountyinterfaithmd.org/programs/welcoming-our-new-neighbors)
- Donate Giant gift cards to Cedar Ridge to help us support a Syrian family at Greencastle Elementary School
- Look out for more direction from Cedar Ridge shortly (we are currently preparing other practical ways to respond locally)
For the Lord your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great God, mighty and awesome, who shows no partiality and accepts no bribes. He defends the cause of the fatherless and the widow, and loves the foreigner residing among you, giving them food and clothing. And you are to love those who are foreigners, for you yourselves were foreigners in Egypt.

(Deuteronomy 10:17-19)

Do not oppress a foreigner; you yourselves know how it feels to be foreigners, because you were foreigners in Egypt.

(Exodus 23:9)

This is what the Lord says: Do what is just and right. Rescue from the hand of the oppressor the one who has been robbed. Do no wrong or violence to the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow, and do not shed innocent blood in this place.

(Jeremiah 22:3)

Do not oppress the widow or the fatherless, the foreigner or the poor. Do not plot evil against each other.

(Zechariah 7:10)

When they had gone, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream. “Get up,” he said, “take the child and his mother and escape to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you, for Herod is going to search for the child to kill him.” So he got up, took the child and his mother during the night and left for Egypt, where he stayed until the death of Herod. And so was fulfilled what the Lord had said through the prophet: “Out of Egypt I called my son.” When Herod realized that he had been outwitted by the Magi, he was furious, and he gave orders to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and its vicinity who were two years old and under, in accordance with the time he had learned from the Magi. Then what was said through the prophet Jeremiah was fulfilled: “A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.”

(Matthew 2:13-18)

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.

(Matthew 25:35-36)

Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.

(Hebrews 13:2)