

# How Can I Help? Our Response in Uncertain Times

**Challenging. Interesting. Confusing. Scary. Historic.** These are all adjectives used to describe the times that we're in. Here is a partial list of some ways that you can learn, respond, and reach out. All items have been vetted and/or used by your fellow Bethlehem members.

## Advocacy Efforts

**Christians Against Christian Nationalism** ([christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/](http://christiansagainstchristiannationalism.org/)). Get information about the Minnesota chapter at [secure.everyaction.com/NcRBG65APki90aWKmthk\\_w2](http://secure.everyaction.com/NcRBG65APki90aWKmthk_w2). Learn more about Christian Nationalism; “our group exists to bring together Christians in Minnesota who are committed to upholding a faith-rooted vision of justice, equality, and religious freedom for all. Together, we are building a faithful movement to protect democracy, advance justice, and affirm the dignity of every person.”

**Conversations with Friends** ([conversationswithfriendsmn.org/](http://conversationswithfriendsmn.org/)). “A dedicated, humanitarian, all-volunteer, 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose members write weekly pen-pal letters and send birthday cards and Sunshine Club cards to people detained by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in the Freeborn County Adult Detention Center (Albert Lea), Kandiyohi County Jail (Willmar), and Sherburne County Jail (Elk River).”

**Franciscan Action Network** ([franciscanaction.org/](http://franciscanaction.org/)). “A collective Franciscan voice seeking to transform United States public policy related to peace making, care for creation, poverty, and human rights.”

**Global Refuge** ([globalrefuge.org/](http://globalrefuge.org/)). Formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services. Global Refuge “walk[s] alongside individuals, families, and children as they begin their new lives in the United States through our work in refugee resettlement, welcome and respite services, economic empowerment and employment, and family unification for unaccompanied children.”

**ICOM-MN Interfaith Coalition on Immigration** ([mnicom.org](http://mnicom.org)) “Engages in courageous spiritual, multicultural action in solidarity with immigrants and refugees to achieve justice and stand up to systems of oppression...ICOM is an antiracist organization.”

Today ICOM has three programs:

- Monthly vigils outside the immigration courts at the Bishop Whipple Federal Building.
- Advocacy in support of just, humane immigrant policies at the city, county, and state levels.
- AID, a program of accompaniment and support for immigrants in need and their families.

**Indivisible Twin Cities** ([indivisibletwincities.org/](http://indivisibletwincities.org/)). “A grassroots group of volunteers dedicated to increasing civic engagement and education on progressive policies at the city, state and national level.”

**MONARCA** ([monarcamn.org](http://monarcamn.org)). Provides legal observer training during ICE raids.

## Financial and Volunteer Support

(Any of the organizations on this list welcomes your support!)

**Community Emergency Services (CES)** ([cesmn.org](http://cesmn.org)). An ongoing outreach partner with Bethlehem, “CES reaches nearly 150,000 neighbors each year through our Food Market, one of Minnesota’s largest Meals on Wheels program, and Ani-Meals program.”

**Division of Indian Work: Empowering Urban American Indians** (<https://www.diw-mn.org/>). “Division of Indian Work’s mission is to support and strengthen urban American Indian people through culturally-based education, traditional healing approaches, and leadership development. This is achieved by focusing on community and delivering programs and services directly or in partnership with other organizations.” Louise Mattson, CEO of DIW, delivered the keynote address at Bethlehem’s annual Day of Service in February.

**Haven Watch** (formerly Safe Haven; <https://havenwatch.org/>). This new organization, founded in January 2026, “was created to help individuals released from ICE detention centers who are often discharged with no phone, ID, transportation, or resources. Many are released into freezing weather after experiencing severe trauma. They provide immediate support, warmth, transportation, and connection to resources so no one is left alone at the gate.”

**Intercongregation Communities Association (ICA)** (<https://www.icafoodshelf.org/>). ICA supports the west metro area with food services, employment assistance, housing assistance, mental health services, and other community resources. ICA welcomes donations and offers a variety of volunteer opportunities.

**Minneapolis Area Synod Welcome Fund** (<https://mpls-synod.org/giving/welcome-fund/>). “The Welcome Fund [supports] mutual aid for immigrant and refugee communities, advocacy efforts related to immigration and immigrant rights, and training opportunities for Minneapolis Area Synod members and congregations working with immigrant communities.”

**MIRA Richfield** ([mightycause.com/organization/Modulo-De-Informacion-De-Recursos-Y-Apoyo-Mira](http://mightycause.com/organization/Modulo-De-Informacion-De-Recursos-Y-Apoyo-Mira)). “Empowers Latino families, children and individuals in South Hennepin County by promoting their educational, economic and social development. MIRA continues to be the only minority led, culturally and linguistically relevant agency serving the diverse population in Richfield. ”

**Nokomis Heights Lutheran Church** ([secure.myvanco.com/L-YTNX/campaign/C-12T7D](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YTNX/campaign/C-12T7D)). This link supports their Accompanying Immigrants initiative.

**Stand with Minnesota** ([standwithminnesota.com/](http://standwithminnesota.com/)). “A directory of places to donate to all comes from activists on the ground, plugged into the situation. Everything is vetted, with the exception of individual GoFundMes.”

**Starfish Ministry** (<https://www.bethlehem-church.org/ministries/starfish/>). Starfish is a joint ministry of Bethlehem and Judson Memorial Baptist. “It provides emergency funds to individuals at risk of losing housing and utilities. Starfish is one of a few resources that will make rent payments directly to the landlord or the utility company to keep the individual housed and living with working utilities.”

## ELCA Statements and Resources

### ELCA Social Message on Immigration

([elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/ImmigrationSM.pdf](http://elcamediaresources.blob.core.windows.net/cdn/wp-content/uploads/ImmigrationSM.pdf)). A comprehensive statement on the Lutheran history and approach to immigration. Updated in 2018.

**Here I Pod: ELCA Advocacy** ([youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSTE-nX6ZGi70UDGxvNsVyKfZnRNPztCd](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLSTE-nX6ZGi70UDGxvNsVyKfZnRNPztCd)) “We connect faith-based advocacy with current events that matter in our worship communities, social ministries and neighborhoods. Each episode brings you insights on important advocacy topics and shows you how to get involved.” Podcast is available on YouTube or wherever you access podcasts.

### ELCA Bishop Curry’s Statement on the ICE Shooting

([elca.org/news-and-events/bishop-curry-issues-statement-on-ice-shooting-in-minneapolis](http://elca.org/news-and-events/bishop-curry-issues-statement-on-ice-shooting-in-minneapolis)).

### Minneapolis Bishop Jen Nagel’s Statement

([mpls-synod.org/news/bishops-statement-on-ice-in-minnesota/](http://mpls-synod.org/news/bishops-statement-on-ice-in-minnesota/))

**Minnesota Bishops’ Statement** ([mpls-synod.org/news/a-letter-from-the-bishops-in-minnesota/](http://mpls-synod.org/news/a-letter-from-the-bishops-in-minnesota/))

**Minneapolis Area Synod: Racial Justice** ([mpls-synod.org/community/racial-justice/](http://mpls-synod.org/community/racial-justice/)).

**Minneapolis Area Synod: Faith and Neighboring Practices** ([mpls-synod.org/community/faith-neighboring/](http://mpls-synod.org/community/faith-neighboring/)). Bethlehem is participating in this initiative. See Pastor Meta with questions.

## Finding Hyper-Local Resources in Your Neighborhood

There are many ways to find ways to help in your local neighborhoods and communities! Right now block clubs, condo associations, local watch groups and local businesses are organizing food and clothing drives, vigils, fundraising, and other activities to support those who have been affected by recent events. Your block leader may be a good place to start as a contact with your local government. Here is a list of resources for municipalities near the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities campuses.

### City of Minneapolis Response

([https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/city-federal-response/?utm\\_content=&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_name=&utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_term=](https://www.minneapolismn.gov/government/programs-initiatives/city-federal-response/?utm_content=&utm_medium=email&utm_name=&utm_source=govdelivery&utm_term=)). Frequently updated list of resources and announcements from the City of Minneapolis.

### **Minneapolis Community and Neighborhoods**

(<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/resident-services/neighborhoods/>). Use this interactive page from the Minneapolis website to identify your home neighborhood and neighborhood organizations. Many neighborhoods and organizations have created their own pathways for mutual aid and community support.

### **City of Bloomington Support Resources**

(<https://www.bloomingtonmn.gov/pd/city-response-federal-immigration-enforcement#community>)

### **City of Edina Community Resources** (<https://www.edinamn.gov/2228/Immigration>)

### **City of Hopkins Community Resources** (<https://www.hopkinsmn.com/1221/Community-Resources>)

### **City of Minnetonka Immigration Resources**

(<https://www.minnetonkamn.gov/our-city/about-minnetonka/diversity-equity-and-inclusion/immigration-resources>)

### **City of Richfield Community Resources** (<https://www.richfieldmn.gov/residents/immigration/index.php>)

### **City of St. Louis Park Community Resources**

(<https://www.stlouisparkmn.gov/our-city/resident-resources/local-resources>)

## **More Online Resources for Understanding Historical and Current Political Issues**

“**The Convocation Unscripted**” with Jamar Tisby, Diana Butler Bass, Robbie Jones, and Kristin Du Mez ([https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvLx0ZfrEvhUhSdfFDPjvWRRkE9-RQhur&si=1C3ZMEAERqMu\\_7UH](https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLvLx0ZfrEvhUhSdfFDPjvWRRkE9-RQhur&si=1C3ZMEAERqMu_7UH)). See Substack notes below.

**Substack** (A publishing platform for independent creators [writers, podcasters, artists]. A paid subscription is NOT required.

- **Diana Butler Bass** ([substack.com/@dianabutlerbass/](https://substack.com/@dianabutlerbass/)). Author, speaker, preacher, and commentator on religion and contemporary spirituality.
- **Angela Denker** ([angeladenker.substack.com/](https://angeladenker.substack.com/)). Author and Lutheran Pastor at Lake Nokomis Lutheran.
- **Kristen Du Mez** (<https://kristindumez.substack.com/>). *New York Times* bestselling author and Professor of History at Calvin University. She is currently a Senior Democracy Fellow with the Public Religion Research Institute. She holds a PhD from the University of Notre Dame, and her research focuses on the intersection of gender, religion, and politics.
- **Robert P. Jones** ([substack.com/@robertpjones](https://substack.com/@robertpjones)). President and Founder of PRRI and a leading scholar and commentator on religion, culture, and politics.
- **Heather Cox Richardson** ([heathercoxrichardson.substack.com](https://heathercoxrichardson.substack.com)). Letters from an American: A Newsletter about the history behind today's politics.

- **Jemar Tisby** ([substack.com/@jemartisby](https://substack.com/@jemartisby)) “Author, national speaker, and public historian on a mission to deliver truths from the Black experience with depth and clarity.”
- **Joyce Vance** ([joycevance.substack.com](https://joycevance.substack.com)). Civil discourse; former United States Attorney, currently a law professor and legal analyst for MSNow.

## Additional Learning

### Historical Context of United States

*The Constitution of the United States*

Meacham, Jon, *The Soul of America: The Battle for Our Better Angels* (2018)

Richardson, Heather Cox, *Democracy Awakening: Notes on the State of America* (2023)

Wilkerson, Isabel, *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents* (2020)

### Current Events and Analyses

Alberta, Tim, *The Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory: American Evangelicals in an Age of Extremism* (2023)

Haas, Richard, *Bill of Obligations: The Ten Habits of Good Citizens* (2023)

McQuade, Barbara, *Attack from Within: How Disinformation is Sabotaging America* (2024)

Snyder, Timothy, *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century* (2017)

Snyder, Timothy, *On Freedom* (2024)

Stewart, Katherine, *Money, Lies, and God: Inside the Movement to Destroy American Democracy* (2025)

Vance, Joyce, *Giving Up Is Unforgivable: A Manual for Keeping a Democracy* (2025)

### For Developing Relationships

Brooks, David, *How to Know a Person: The Art of Seeing Others Deeply and Being Deeply Seen* (2023)