

**Lutheran Episcopal Advocacy Ministry of New Jersey**  
**Weekly Witness | September 21, 2018**

*Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, 'What were you arguing about on the way?' But they were silent, for on the way they had argued with one another about who was the greatest. He sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, 'Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.' Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, 'Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.' Mark 9:33-37*

Join the [National Call-in Day](#) on Wednesday, September 26 to call on Congress to protect families and stop fueling unjust detention, deportation, and border policies. The Gospel reminds us this week, "Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." While the national crisis of family separation and harmful immigration enforcement persists, Congress has an important role to play. Let us be encouraged by the Gospel and let our voices be heard.

Right now, Congress is debating pouring billions more dollars into immoral immigration detention and enforcement, while considering legislation that would expand family incarceration and allow for the indefinite detention of children. Lutherans and Episcopalians must make our voices heard: all families deserve to be treated humanely.

Call your Members of Congress: Call (866) 940-2439 three times to be connected to Senator Booker and Menendez and to your representative.

Here is a sample script:

"I am your constituent from [CITY/TOWN], and [as a Lutheran or Episcopalian] I urge my Senator/Representative to reduce funding for immigration detention, deportation, and border militarization. Enforcement alone without underlying reform is causing harm in my community and tearing families apart.

I also urge my Senator/Representative to reject family detention. Incarcerating children with their parents is not a solution to family separation. Rather than detention, Congress and the administration should use and invest in community-based alternatives to detention such as the [Family Case Management Program](#).

The administration must end 'zero-tolerance' criminal prosecution of families and asylum seekers for crossing the border, and immediately reunify families already separated. My community welcomes and values immigrants, and we urge you to do the same."

For more information and resources, see this interfaith toolkit: [bit.ly/EndFamilySeparationToolkit](https://bit.ly/EndFamilySeparationToolkit)