

Guardian Angels



Until the pandemic led to the shutdown of immigration court in the Spring of 2020, I was participating in the ELCA AMMPARO “guardian angel” program in Denver. In groups of two, we observed court days on days when unaccompanied minors from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador were appearing before an immigration judge. We would introduce ourselves to the children and family members (if present) while they were waiting for court to begin. We would tell them that we were praying for them and that the church was standing with them, and then we would offer them a prayer card printed in Spanish. Although many of the minors were teenagers, I also observed toddlers and young children appearing before a judge. My experience with AMMPARO deepened my understanding of bearing witness and accompaniment.

Although COVID halted in-person court watch, I have continued to seek opportunities to advocate for justice for migrants and refugees through LIRS and other organizations. As unaccompanied children and families continue to arrive at the southern border it is urgent that we join with other people of faith and goodwill to continue to advocate for comprehensive reform to repair our broken immigration system and address the underlying injustices that drive people to flee their home countries.

Carolyn Swenson
St. Paul Lutheran and Catholic
Community of Faith Denver, CO

We will have a Migrant Ministry meeting with Mary Campbell, director of ELCA AMMPARO, on May 22 at 10am via Zoom. For more information email rmsammparo@gmail.com

Questions for Reflection

Where are there migrants in your community?

Can you identify how they are struggling?

How might you accompany them on their journey?