Dear Fellow Lutheran:

It’s unprecedented. For the first time in most of our lifetimes, there are more than 50 million refugees worldwide. That’s six times the population of New York City.

Many flee severe religious persecution. Others exit war-torn countries where there is little hope of peace or livelihood. We all have witnessed the gruesome executions of confessing Christians on our TVs and computer screens.

Our partner church in Germany, die Selbständige Evangelisch—Lutherische Kirche (SELK), is preparing to respond to the immediate physical needs — food, clothing, shelter — of these refugees and the expected 800,000 more to come, and with that, spiritual care centered on the Gospel.

As they do, the LCMS will be walking alongside them.

And this is just one reason why:

SELK Pastor Gottfried Martens has witnessed the conversion and baptisms of hundreds of former Muslims who are now active members of his Berlin congregation.

“Even though the challenges are enormous, we always experience that these refugees are a great blessing and encouragement for our faith,” said Martens.

In response to the ongoing global refugee crisis, we have established a unique fund to enable us to provide the Gospel of Christ and His mercy when and where it is needed: Christ’s Care for the Persecuted & Displaced

To help, contact LCMS Mission Advancement at 888-930-4438 or visit: lcms.org/givenow/CCPD

May we, who have received the undeserved and abundant mercy of Christ, bear His mercy as God enables us to will and to do. Will you please join me now in coming alongside our German partners, and other partners in the future, as they care for so many strangers in their midst? May God grant it.

Rev. Dr. Matthew C. Harrison
President, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

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