

KIMBALL AVENEWS

Join the 2017 Lenten Compact Fast

“Stranger Love”

The season of Lent begins with ASH WEDNESDAY, March 1, 2017. And for the next 40 days, we invite you to participate in our 2017 Lenten Compact, “Stranger Love: Fast for Immigrant and Refugee Justice.”

We are living in a time of deep suspicion and mistrust—especially of those who are of a different race, national origin and/or religion. We are seeing a resurgence of xenophobia—a fear of strangers—and of symbols of hatred and white supremacy. And with President Trump’s Executive Order putting Syrian refugee resettlement on indefinite hold, an expansion of raids by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the uncertainty of the status of past orders such as DAPA (Deferred Action for Parents of Americans), there is fear that even those who have legal protections will be targeted for harassment and discrimination.

People of Biblical faith are called to “welcome the stranger” and “love our neighbor as ourselves.” And God speaks to us through Isaiah that true fasting should result in shelter for the poor wanderer. (Isaiah 58:7)

Find out more about our 2017 Lenten Compact Fast on page 2. And follow our journey with God out of xenophobia into xenophilia throughout Lent at the compact blog: www.lentencompact.wordpress.com.

*We tapped the trees, now
‘Go with the Flow’*

Maple Syrup Festival Saturday, March 25 10:00 am

On February 11, a group from Kimball had the unique experience of tapping maple trees at North Park Village.

Now, everyone is invited to return to the Nature Center, 5801 N. Pulaski Rd, to enjoy the results: maple syrup fresh from the tree. Transportation will leave the Kimball Avenue Church Oasis, 3413 W. Medill, at 9:30 am.

In addition to maple syrup, you—and your family and friends—will enjoy crafts, storytelling, live music and hiking. Maybe you’ll even see white-tailed deer or a flying squirrel. It’s all a part of the **Maple Syrup Festival**.

We’ll return to the Oasis around 12:30 pm. Register with Pastor Ray by March 19.

ASH WEDNESDAY

We will observe Ash Wednesday with two congregations that serve predominantly first and second generation immigrant families as we kick off our Lenten Compact, “Stranger Love”.

The service will be held at San Lucas United Church of Christ, 2914 W. North Ave. We will join the congregations of San Lucas UCC and Nuestra Señora de Las Americas Episcopal Church at 7:00 pm.

See Pastor Ray if you need transportation.

Design.Build.Grow.Eat

It’s almost Spring, which means it is time for the next session of the Design.Build.Grow.Eat. After School Matters Program at the KAC Oasis!

Once again, the 20-25 high school students will be working under the direction of Dawn Marie Galtieri to enhance the garden—starting plants indoors, helping to establish our bee apiary and working on the labyrinth.

The program begins on Wednesday, March 15, with the location to be determined.



“Stranger Love” Demands **STRONGER** Faith...

Lent is a time for taking action based on a deeper understanding of God’s heart. We need to know God’s heart for the immigrant and the refugee as revealed in Scripture, and we need to become more aware of the experience of immigrants and refugees and the struggle they face in these times.

Throughout Lent, we encourage you to read a book about immigration from a faith perspective. Here are several suggestions: “Our God Is Undocumented” by Ched Meyers or “Welcoming the Stranger” by Matthew Soerens and Jenny Hwang Yang. If you prefer fiction, you will enjoy the novel, “The Bean Trees” by Barbara Kingsolver.

We’ll also post “Weekly Briefs”—news articles, migration stories and Scripture readings—at our Compact blog, www.lentencompact.wordpress.com, and throughout Lent, we will engage the issue as a part of our 10:30 am Sunday worship service.

...And **BOLDER** Actions

Throughout Lent, we will put faith into action—standing with immigrants and refugees through vigils, rallies and engagement with our elected leaders. We don’t expect anyone to do everything, but we encourage you to act as you are available. Here are some opportunities.

1. Join the weekly Friday Prayer Vigils at the Broadview Detention Center. Starting at 7:15 am, we will join others in praying for immigrants slated for deportation from the center.
2. Participate in the Springfield Day of Action on Wednesday, March 15, organized by the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights. We will lobby our elected officials to make Illinois a Sanctuary State.
3. Rally with Resistance Tuesdays at the Federal Building, 230 S. Dearborn. The rally begins at 3:30 pm each week throughout Lent. Additional issues besides Immigration are also addressed at these events.
4. Support the “Justice For Our Neighbors” legal clinic at Humboldt Park United Methodist Church on the Fourth Saturday of March. Watch for details.
5. Participate in “Occupy Palm Sunday” on April 9. Together with the other churches of the Logan Square Ecumenical Alliance, we will take our faith into the public square in support of our immigrant and refugee neighbors.
6. Give resources to support organizations that advocate for immigrants and refugees.