

# The ELCA as a Sanctuary Church Body



# ELCA Structure

## Churchwide Expression

- Churchwide Assembly
- ELCA Church Council
- ELCA Staff

## Synods

- Synod Assembly
- Synod Council
- Bishop/Staff

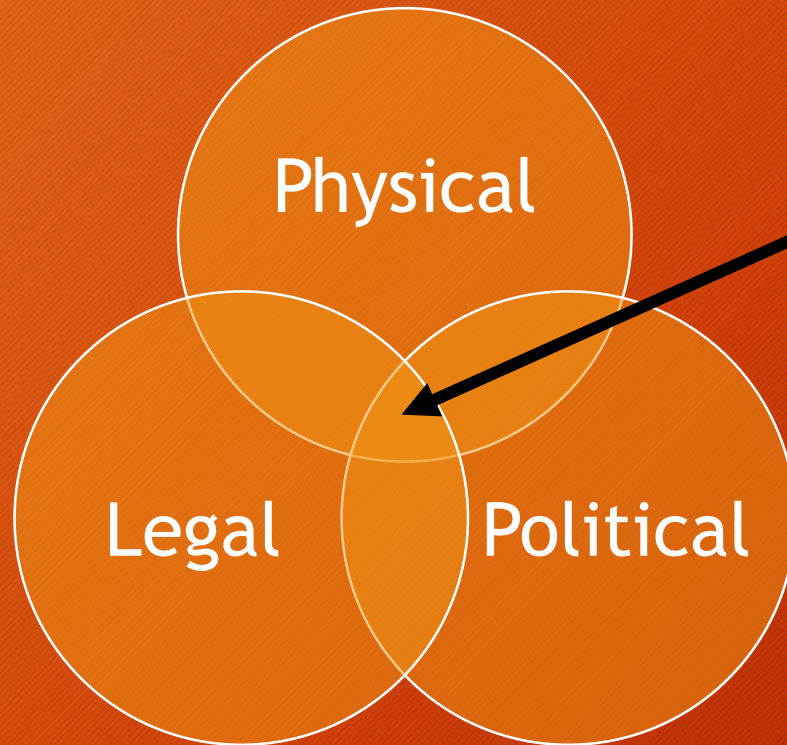
## Congregations

- Congregation meeting
- Congregation Council
- Pastors/Staff

# Brief History of ELCA Sanctuary Vote

- A memorial was proposed at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in August of 2019 by the Metropolitan New York Synod and adopted
- The memorial included language that the ELCA declare itself a “Sanctuary church body”
- Language was added to request the ELCA Church Council to clarify what it means to be a “Sanctuary Church Body,” reporting to the 2022 CWA

# The 3 Dimensions of Sanctuary



At the center of it all is the person/family seeking sanctuary.

# Physical Dimensions of Sanctuary

- Purpose: to provide a safe place for those fearing deportation
- Place to live
- Food
- Medical care
- Relationships
- Spiritual care
- Place to wash clothes, and more

# Legal Dimensions of Sanctuary

- It's complicated!
- Lawyer for individual/family seeking sanctuary
- Lawyer for congregation/ministry providing sanctuary
- Finances to pay for lawyers, applications, bond, etc.
- Accompanying people to court
- More

# Political Dimensions of Sanctuary

- It's complicated!
- Proposing new laws
- Communicating with legislators
- Public attention (social media, TV, press)
- Petitions requesting leniency
- More

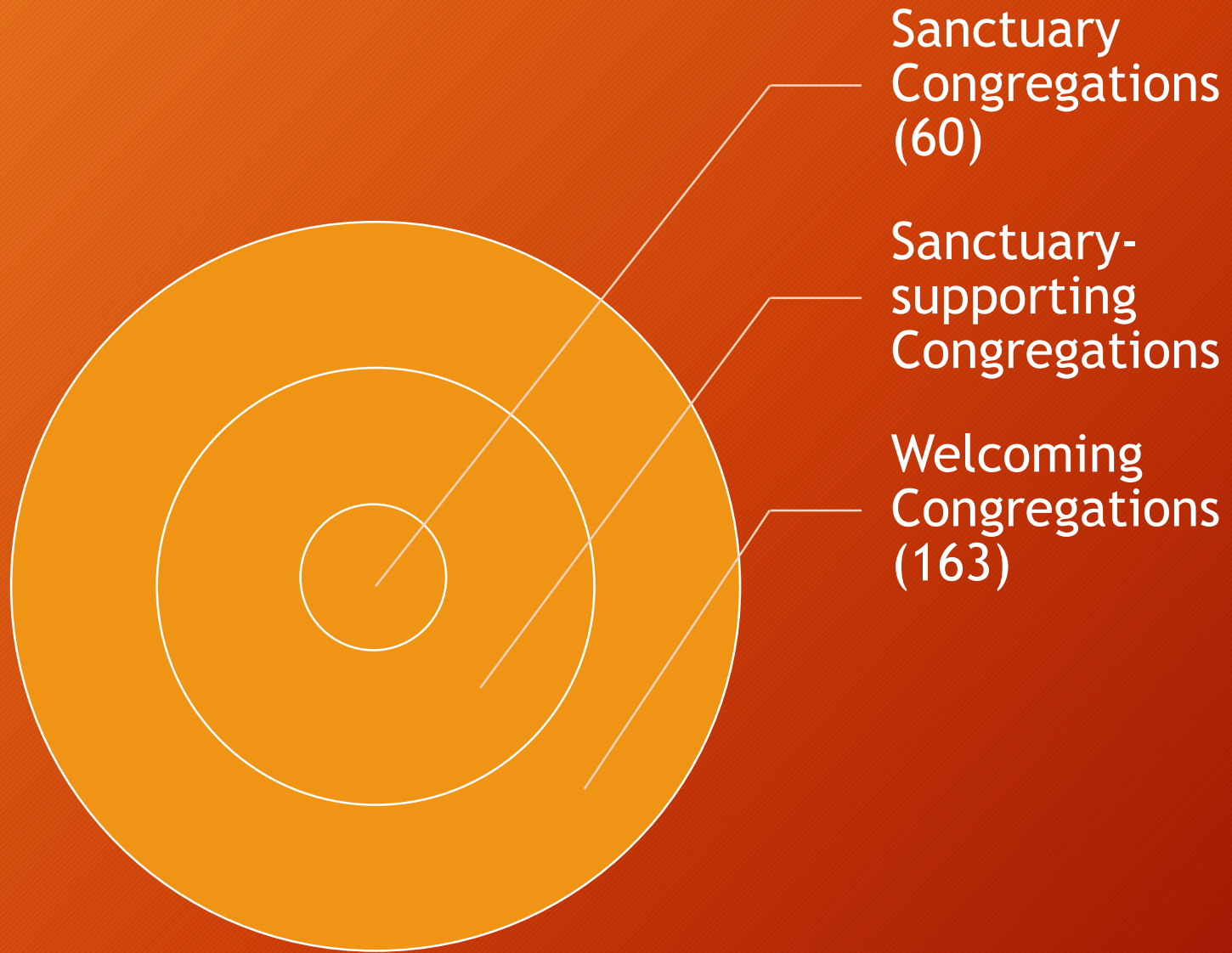
# Sanctuary is:

- A public declaration that “walking alongside immigrants and refugees is a matter of faith”
- A broad and complicated response to a broken immigration system
- A way to protect those most vulnerable to the sharp edges of our broken immigration system
- A strategy for individuals and congregations to love their immigrant neighbors with concrete, specific actions



## Sanctuary is not:

- Widely or well-understood
- Agreed to by all ELCA congregations, pastors, and members
- A way to immunize undocumented immigrants from immigration law
- A permanent solution to a complex and broken system



For More information:

[www.elca.org/sanctuarychurch](http://www.elca.org/sanctuarychurch)

- Talking points
- Videos
- AMMPARO Resources

*“The alien who resides with you shall be to you as the citizen among you; you shall love the alien as yourself, for you were aliens in the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God.”*

**Leviticus 19:34**