

WELCOMING IMMIGRANTS

by Beth Schabel

*You are to have the same laws for the foreigner and the native born, I am the Lord Your god.
(Leviticus 24:22)*

There has been much conversation in our country (and specifically Portage Co) lately about our hospitable attitude towards immigrants . If the bible is our guiding moral compass on this issue, it seems as though this has been a long-standing issue. God's wishes are clear.

It can be fun to be hospitable to our neighbors...having dinner parties, campfires, weddings,etc. It can be stressful too! We make ourselves uncomfortable for a bit, in order to make our guests comfortable. It takes work to clean and cook, and money to buy the food and drink. But at the end of the night, memories are made and the stress of preparing feels well worth the effort.

Have you ever stopped to consider what lengths you would go to, to be hospita-

ble? Would you break the law? Put your family at risk? I was recently in Harpers Ferry and was thinking about the risks people took to help strangers on the Underground RR. There are examples throughout history of people risking their lives in order to save others. But to what length are we willing to risk our livelihood in order to be hospitable? What does God really ask us to do in those moments? For me I've not come face to face with that decision. Yet. But I can at least have hospitality towards ALL, and use my voice and vote to make those situations not illegal so that if I ever am faced with that choice, I can safely make the loving and kind, hospitable decision my loving God has taught me to do.

**GOD OF ALL NATIONS AND PEOPLES,
WE THANK YOU FOR CLEARLY GUIDING US TO BE HOSPITABLE TOWARDS OTHERS. EVEN WHEN ITS HARD,..EVEN WHEN IT'S UNCOMFORTABLE. YOU SHOW US THAT KINDNESS IS NEVER THE WRONG ATTITUDE. WE KNOW THAT YOU ARE BESIDE US EACH TIME WE MAKE THOSE HARD DECISIONS, AND THANK YOU FOR GIVING US THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT. AMEN.**