

Five months after leaving El Paso, we gathered for a powerful week in community, processing together what is often labeled the “immigration crisis.” What we quickly discovered is that there is no crisis of people, but rather disceptation: communities fractured, not only by a physical barrier, but by a political one. While birds flew freely from country to country above us, human beings remained bitterly divided below. In our own neighborhoods, the threat of state violence is real. National Guard troops and border enforcement have been empowered to profile brown-skinned neighbors, many of whom work as day laborers. We have seen them show up at wildfire sites near the Canadian border and in our own communities. Too often, these encounters end in harassment—or worse, as in the brutal beatings. In the face of such injustice, we must ask: how do we respond as the church?

In just a few months, immigration laws have shifted. We want to bear witness to the impact of these changes: How are families affected? What burdens have deepened? And what opportunities do we have, right here in our communities, to show up in solidarity?

From November 9-15, Pastor Jill Ross will be leading another Borderlands Immersion Trip in partnership with the Sierra Pacific Synod and the Border Servant Corps. This time, we will cross into Ciudad Juárez to wrestle with the urgent question: what comes next? Through it all, one truth remains clear: **immigrants are still welcome here.**

There is one remaining space if you would like to join us.

Please contact Pastor Jill Ross directly at [revjillross@gmail.com](mailto:revjillross@gmail.com) or 360-270-0295.

- Rev. Paul Larson  
Synod Border Trip Participant