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By Ken Schram

There are more than 12 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

What to do with them never fails to kick up a contentious debate.

Among conservatives, a popular answer is to round them all up and send them all packing.

Well, I'm sure as hell no conservative.

Which is why I stand here applauding those churches and synagogues who say they are launching a new sanctuary movement.

It will offer shelter and protection for illegal immigrants on the bubble for being deported.

I think that's exactly what churches and synagogues should be doing.

I know we're talking about people who broke the law.

I know we need to secure our borders.

I know there are other immigrants who dotted all the "i's" and crossed all the "t's."

I also know that, other than being vindictive and petty, there is no practical purpose in herding up 12 million people and kicking them out, breaking up families and destroying lives in the process.

Look, by all means, we must fix the border problems.

We must stop the flow of illegal immigration.

But deal with the people already here in a way that reflects the values of America, and not just America's laws.

And be thankful we have religious leaders willing to live what they preach.