

Meeting, Knowing, and Accompanying Our Partners in the Holy Land

Lutheran Partners

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is a member of **The Lutheran World Federation**, a global communion of churches in the Lutheran tradition, living and working together for a just, peaceful, and reconciled world. To support Holy Land ministries through ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response, visit <https://community.elca.org/middle-east-crisis>

Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel *Sumud* is an Arabic word meaning “steadfastness.” The term is widely used by Palestinian theologians and others to signify Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands and people. That resistance takes the form of nonviolent advocacy for political change as well as “resistance through existence,” embodied in education, social work, the arts and one’s relationships with the land and community. Visit [Sumud](#) to learn more.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) is a member with the ELCA of **The Lutheran World Federation**. The ELCJHL has six congregations in East Jerusalem, Bethlehem, Beit Jala, Beit Sahour, Ramallah, and Amman, Jordan. Christian roots of some members date back to the first Pentecost.

ELCJHL operates four K-12 schools, serving more than 2100 children in East Jerusalem and the West Bank: the Evangelical Lutheran School Beit Sahour, School of Hope in Ramallah, Dar al Kalima in Bethlehem, and Madhaba Nursery and Preschool on Jerusalem’s Mount of Olives, as well as the Environmental Education Center and Gender Justice. To financially support ELCJHL schools and ministries, visit <https://www.presbyterianfoundation.org/holy-land-support-fund/>

Opportunity Palestine's mission is to sustain the educational institutions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) through development and awareness building. The powerful vision for peace and justice instilled through the Lutheran schools is essential to overcoming the challenges facing the vibrant communities of the Holy Land. www.opportunitypalestine.org

Bright Stars of Bethlehem is a U.S. based organization supporting [Dar Al-Kalima University](#) in Bethlehem. Emphasizing arts and culture in its curriculum, Dar al Kalima this year inaugurated a Hospitality Education Center, a pivotal step forward in preparing students for careers in the hospitality industry. It was founded 25 years ago by the Rev. Dr. Mitri Raheb <https://www.brightstarsbethlehem.org/>

Augusta Victoria Hospital, established in 1950 by **The Lutheran World Federation**, is a medical center of excellence, located on the Mount of Olives in East Jerusalem. Augusta Victoria has been present in Jerusalem since the late 1800s. Today it is the primary source of cancer treatment and kidney dialysis for thousands of Palestinians. It is the largest project of LWF, the second largest hospital in East Jerusalem. <https://avh.org/support-us>.

Community Allies

Healing to Hope, a U.S. 501(c)(3) organization, works with its West Bank-based partner organization **Anar** to advance the well-being and resilience of Palestinian children, youth, and caregivers through mental health support and arts-based healing. This year, Anar, which means “to light up” in Arabic, has provided community-based psychosocial support for about 20,000 children in Bethlehem, Hebron, Nablus, Tulkarem and many smaller rural communities in and around Bethlehem. Healing to Hope raises awareness and provides direct financial support for this work.

<https://www.healingtohope.org/healing>

[Homepage | Anar for Empowerment and Psychosocial Support](#)

Churches for Middle East Peace brings together dozens of Christian denominations and organizations to advocate for equality, human rights, security, and justice for Israelis, Palestinians, and all people of the Middle East. The ELCA is a founding member and supporter. <https://cmep.org/>

Pilgrims of Ibillin supports the **Mar Elias Educational Institutions** in Arab villages in The Galilee region of Israel. Inspired and led by Melkite Catholic Archbishop Emeritus Elias Chacour, MEEI and other mission projects seeks to educate of children of all faiths while fostering a just peace in Israel and Palestine. Pilgrims of Ibillin provides this support through financial resources, education, and peace building projects.

<https://pilgrimsofibilin.org/>

Friends of SABEEL North America “is a nonprofit Christian ecumenical organization seeking justice and peace in the Holy Land through education, advocacy, and nonviolent action.” Friends of SABEEL sponsors advocacy, prayer, and awareness-raising programs. <https://www.fosna.org/>

Seraj Library Project works alongside Palestinian communities in establishing 13 libraries, a Cultural Center, and a Storytelling Center located throughout the West Bank of Palestine. Storytelling and the cultural arts help preserve voices, nurture resilience, and offer space for creativity and healing to take root. <https://www.serajlibraries.org/>

Parents Circle -- Families Forum brings together Israeli and Palestinian families who have lost loved ones to this long-standing conflict and sponsors reconciliation programs for all in the region. Their personal testimonials have been among the most treasured experiences for ELCA-sponsored Holy Land pilgrimages. <https://parentsclerfriends.org/>

B'Tselem, “The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories strives for a future in which human rights, liberty and equality are guaranteed to all people, Palestinian and Jewish alike.” The group’s mapping of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land is invaluable. <https://www.btselem.org/>

Jewish Voice for Peace envisions a world where all people — from the U.S. to Palestine — live in freedom, justice, equality, and dignity. Jewish Voice for Peace is the largest progressive Jewish anti-Zionist organization in the world...guided by a vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all people.

Questions? Email the Working Group at workinggroupmiddleeast@gmail.com

December 2025