In Search of PEACE

Together we can Make a difference

PEACE NOT WALLS
Stand for Justice in the Holy Land

The Peace Not Walls campaign seeks to connect ELCA members to their Lutheran sisters and brothers in Jordan and the Holy Land. Focused on the three “A”s of Accompaniment, Awareness-building and Advocacy, the campaign seeks to implement the ELCA’s Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine, especially by accompanying and listening to our companions there so we can know what we can do together. This is the lens by which we encounter the complexities of this blessed but bruised Holy Land. Contact the Peace Not Walls Team at peacenotwalls@elca.org or call 773 380 2720.

OUR GROUP CAN ASSIST YOU...

by providing speakers, workshops, forums, discussion groups and interfaith activities for your congregation, council or Bible study group regarding: Israeli-Palestinian conflict issues, Augusta Victoria Hospital and our role in keeping it viable, reality of the Separation Wall issues and proposed resolutions, Kairros Document study. The role and effect of Christian Zionism, and (BDS) Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions.

We will bring video support and visual materials to aide in your understanding of the issues.

For independent study and guides for your group, we have listings of video and DVD resources as well as a comprehensive list of reading materials and websites regarding Kairros Documents.

REQUESTED BY:

Name: ____________________________
E-mail: ____________________________
Address __________________________
City: __________________________
State: ______ Zip: __________
Tel: ____________________________

WGME CONVENER

Rev. Joanne Fitzgerald
Martin Luther Church
6850 W. Addison Street
Chicago, IL 60634
Email: joaneelcw@yahoo.com

ELCA Churchwide calls for ACTION:

- Participate in curbing religious extremism
- Engage with conservative Christians expressing Lutheran theology of grace and justice
- Provide moral, social and economic support to Palestinian Christians
- Support Palestinian products and explore other economic initiatives such as boycott of products from illegal Israeli settlements
- Provide financial support for Palestinian Lutheran churches and schools, the Mt. of Olives Housing Project, the Lutheran World Federation’s Augusta Victoria Hospital and Vocational Training Centers.

Metropolitan Chicago Synod calls for:

⇒ Continued commitment of the Peace Not Walls campaign enacting the 2005 Churchwide Strategy on the Middle East www.elca.org/peacenotwalls

⇒ Celebration of PALESTINE CHRISTIAN SOLIDARITY MONTH each November

⇒ Contact with our companions The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land. www.elcjhl.org

Working Group on the Middle East
Metropolitan Chicago Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

(November 2012)
PALESTINIAN LUTHERAN CHRISTIANS . . .

- Live in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, on both sides of the Separation Wall
- Live in Diaspora all over the world
- Are seriously affected by the Occupation with its checkpoints, Israeli only roads, settlements and shattered economy
- Are denied basic access to health and hospital care
- Seek emigration opportunities to escape stressful living conditions
- Are a diminishing population
- Urgently need moral, humanitarian and financial support

. . . NEED MORAL SUPPORT
- To make their voice for reconciliation and peace heard among the governments, community and political leaders.
- To refute the effects of Christian Zionism
- To offer hope to all generations in their search for justice, reconciliation and peace
- To be assured that the USA will be an honest broker on the path to peace

. . . NEED HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT
- Educational, Medical and Social Services
- Employment Opportunities

. . . NEED FINANCIAL SUPPORT
- High quality Lutheran schools and educational programs
- LWF Augusta Victoria Hospital & Medical Facilities
- Mount of Olives Housing Project
- Vocational Training Centers

A DIVERSITY OF OPINION:

- “Affirming a vision of a region where two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side with secure and recognized borders…” U.N. Resolution 1397
- “Everybody has to move, run and grab as many hilltops as they can. Everything we don’t grab will go to them.” Ariel Sharon, Former Prime Minister, 1998
- “We will have to face the reality that Israel is neither innocent, nor redemptive. And that in its creation and expansion, we, as Jews, have caused what we historically have suffered; a refugee population in Diaspora.” Martin Buber Jewish Philosopher, addressed Prime Minister Ben Gurion on the moral character of the state of Israel with reference to the Arab refugees in March 1949.
- “I am a black South African, and if I were to change the names, a description of what is happening in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank could describe events in South Africa.” Archbishop Desmond Tutu
- The Palestinian Christian community wants to be a broker for justice, a catalyst for a just peace, a minister of reconciliation, a protector of human rights, an initiator of interfaith dialogue and an apostle of love”. Bishop Munib Younan, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELC in JHL)

Fragmentation of the West Bank by Israeli Settlements; illegal by International Law (2007)

OUR CHALLENGES TOGETHER:

* Financial support for life with dignity
* Educate to counteract religious extremism
* Awakening the church to take action
* Advocate a change in our foreign policy