

## SESSION 4 OVERVIEW LET'S TALK: ABOUT THE HOLY LAND

Hear from ELCA Peace Not Walls network members and staff for a faith-centric update on circumstances in the Holy Land and on Lutheran-affiliated ministry. This issue-specific session 4 of the ELCA Advocacy Summer School series will enhance your appreciation of current issues as we walk alongside our siblings in the Holy Land.

- **Why and How Is the ELCA Involved?**  
Karin Brown, ELCA Program Director, Peace Not Walls and Middle East and North Africa Relationships
- **How Are Accompaniment and Advocacy Connected?**  
The Rev. Gabi Aelabouni, ELCA Director for the Middle East and North Africa Desk
- **What Change Is Needed?**  
The Rev. Dr. Munther Isaac, Pastor, Evangelical Christmas Lutheran Church in Bethlehem
- **Commitment to Gender Justice**  
Ranan Issa, Gender Justice Program Manager for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
- **What Are We Advocating For?**  
Dennis Frado, ELCA Director of the Lutheran Office for World Community
- **Advocacy for Augusta Victoria Hospital**  
Dr. Fadi Atrash, Head of the Radiation Therapy Department and Deputy CEO of Augusta Victoria Hospital

View this session  
from ELCA Vimeo  
channel -  
<https://vimeo.com/611888585/5611b6f632>

Series originally presented in summer 2021.

# LET'S TALK: ABOUT THE HOLY LAND

# ADVOCACY SUMMER SCHOOL

## SESSION 4 DISCUSSION STARTER

Offered by



advocacy

[ELCA.org/advocacy](http://ELCA.org/advocacy)

In collaboration with



[ELCA.org/PeaceNotWalls](http://ELCA.org/PeaceNotWalls)

## A REFLECTION FROM ELCA FOUNDATIONS

*“The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is ‘called and sent to bear witness to God’s creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world.’ As it participates with others in God’s mission, the ELCA is committed to ‘serve in response to God’s love to meet human needs . . . advocating dignity and justice for all people, working for peace and reconciliation among the nations . . . (ELCA constitutional provisions 4.01. and 4.02.c.). Nowhere is the task of transforming these words into action more challenging than in the land that Christians, Muslims, and Jews call ‘holy.’” - From “Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine” (p. 1)*

Find the full text of this Strategy for Engagement, which was adopted by the 2005 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, under “Learn More” tab at [www.ELCA.org/Resources/Peace-Not-Walls](http://www.ELCA.org/Resources/Peace-Not-Walls).

## GETTING CONVERSATION STARTED

- When you think about the region referred to as the Holy Land, do you think mostly of biblical history or contemporary history? How do you think the two do or do not relate?
- Have you or anyone close to you visited the Holy Land? If so, what was a strong impression?
- In the video “Let’s Talk: About the Holy Land,” did you hear anything new about how Lutherans are present in the area, from a geographically centered viewpoint? From a U.S. viewpoint?
- Has anything in the presentation invited you to rethink your perspective about this region of our world and faith story? If so, please share.

## MORE INFORMATION

Several excellent resources are stressed in session 4. Additionally, find a blog from ELCA Peace Not Walls at [blogs.elca.org/peacenotwalls](http://blogs.elca.org/peacenotwalls).

The Peace Not Walls Packet contains key information as well as “beginner” and “going deeper” books to expand your appreciation of the issues.

## TAKE ACTION

Be one of the thousands of people who act on their faith resourced with updates and invitations to use Action Alerts from the ELCA Advocacy Network. Sign up at [www.elca.org/advocacy/signup](http://www.elca.org/advocacy/signup). To receive Action Alerts related to Peace Not Walls, select “Middle East Network” on the signup form.

Join the ELCA Peace Not Walls network by contacting [peacenotwalls@elca.org](mailto:peacenotwalls@elca.org). On Facebook, request admission to the public Peace Not Walls group ([FB.com/groups/2209161569](https://www.facebook.com/groups/2209161569)).