

# MIDDLE EAST STRATEGY

## Selective Purchasing Policy Guide



**Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
God's work. Our hands.

**Issue Description:** The ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2005 adopted the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine which calls for stewarding economic resources in ways that support the quest for peace in the region. See Recommendations: Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine [http://download.elca.org/ELCA Resource Repository/Engagement Israel PalestineSPR09.pdf](http://download.elca.org/ELCA_Resource_Repository/Engagement_Israel_PalestineSPR09.pdf). In 2007, the Churchwide Assembly elaborated on these economic measures with the following action:

“To call upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the “Peace, Not Walls” campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:

- purchasing of products from Palestinian providers and
- exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church.” (See Minutes of the Tenth Churchwide Assembly, page 333, located here: <http://www.elca.org/assemblyminutes>.)

Several issues may be added to a purchasing policy concerning this strategy.

**Sample wording:** This organization desires to implement the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine in its purchasing decisions. In addition the ELCA will seek to provide opportunities to support economic development in the region and avoid purchasing products from settlements.

This church will:

Offer a list that may include, for example, an annual sale of LWF olive oil, a craft sale, travel decisions for companion synod travel, etc.

### **Resources – What to buy:**

Lutheran World Federation Olive Oil - <http://lwfjerusalem.org/projects/olive-oil/>

Peace Not Walls Palestinian Crafts - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/What-We-Do/Advocacy/Palestinian-crafts.aspx>

Peace Not Walls Travel suggestions - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Work/Publicly-Engaged-Church/Peace-Not-Walls/Travel>