



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



Holy Land Companions

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL)

The [Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land](#) (ELCJHL), the only indigenous Arabic speaking Lutheran church in the world, is our companion church in the Holy Land. With six congregations and their ministries, four schools and four additional educational ministries, the ELCJHL is training a new generation of Christian and Muslim youth who are learning to build a democratic society with human rights for all, regardless of religion, political affiliation, ethnicity or gender.

Though Palestinian Christians have been in the Holy Land since the first Pentecost, the roots of the ELCJHL are in the mid-19th century when German and English missionaries came to teach and minister to the local people. The ELCJHL has established a strong presence in both [Congregational](#) and [Educational](#) Ministries. With support for men, women, and children of all faiths, ethnicities, and economic foundations, the ELCJHL is a living, breathing testimony to the ELCA's "God's Work. Our Hands" philosophy.

The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) – Jerusalem Program

The [Lutheran World Federation](#) has been serving the needs of Palestinian refugees in the Palestinian Territories for more than 65 years. As a major Christian presence on the Mount of Olives, the LWF/DWS Jerusalem Program provides essential health care, vocational training, scholarships and material aid, and promotes justice, peace and reconciliation. This service, or "diakonia," is the embodiment, through human actions, of God's love for the world, and it is the very essence of what it means to be the church in a place suffering from poverty and injustice.

The Lutheran World Federation's Augusta Victoria Hospital provides specialty care for Palestinians from across the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Cancer Care Center, the Artificial Kidney Unit (dialysis), the Ear, Nose and Throat Department, the Diabetes Care Center, the Specialized Center for Child Care, and the Skilled Nursing and Long-Term (Sub-Acute) Care Unit provide specialized treatments that are not available in the majority of hospitals in Palestine. The hospital is in the process of establishing the first bone marrow transplantation unit and also a separate building for elder care.

The LWF's Vocational Training Program (VTP) has been providing vocational training to Palestinian youth since 1949. In 2012, the VTP began a new chapter in its history with the opening of three new departments: catering and craftwork departments in Beit Hanina and

a vocational secretary department at the VTCR. These departments have significantly increased the VTP's outreach to women. In addition to these three new departments, the VTP offers training in auto-mechanics, auto-electronics, carpentry, metalwork, aluminium work, telecommunications, and plumbing and central heating.