



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

## **ELCA Joins Ecumenical Family in Condemning Plans to Defile Armenian Christian Sites**

Recently the government of Azerbaijan announced plans to defile Armenian Christian monuments in the region of Nagorno-Karabakh, effectively erasing the Armenian Christian history and people of that region.

A [statement](#) of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA condemns these plans and calls upon the ecumenical family to join in prayer and solidarity with Armenian Christians. In our context this includes the Eastern Diocese of the Armenian Church of America and its primate bishop, Daniel Findikyan.

At the Heidelberg Disputation of 1518, Martin Luther reminded us that “a theology of glory calls evil good and good evil. A theology of the cross *calls the thing what it actually is.*” Remembering the Armenian Genocide of a century ago, we condemn the Azerbaijan government’s plans to erase Armenian Christian history and Armenian Christians in the Nagorno-Karabakh region today.

May our Lenten journey lead us together, as the body of Christ, beyond all suffering and loss to renewed hope in the ultimate sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who vanquished death forever.

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### **About the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America:**

The ELCA is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with nearly 3.3 million members in more than 8,900 worshiping communities across the 50 states and in the Caribbean region. Known as the church of “God’s work. Our hands.,” the ELCA emphasizes the saving grace of God through faith in Jesus Christ, unity among Christians and service in the world. The ELCA’s roots are in the writings of the German church reformer Martin Luther.

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