

Response to Recent Attacks in Washington D.C. and Boulder, Colorado



ELCA Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel

As people of faith who believe in the language of prayer, dialogue, and uplifting the dignity and humanity of all human beings no matter their background, ELCA Sumud grieves for the loss of life and injury of the recent victims of violent attacks whose attackers have cited “Free Palestine” as the cause for their violence. In both instances, this violence ended potential opportunity for peaceful dialogue surrounding the humanitarian aid block on Gaza and the safe return of Israeli hostages.

As we express deep disturbance at the lack of humanity shown to Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, so also do we express the same deep disturbance that two individuals saw no humanity in the Jewish victims of the Washington D.C. shooting and the Boulder, Colorado attack. Violence begets violence, and as peacemakers we seek to find alternative ways to uplift the dignity, humanity, and beloved being in all people, everywhere. We are further disturbed by the phrase “free Palestine”, a phrase our partners and communities use to advocate for the end to violent military occupation and the right to a life of dignity and safety in the Holy Land, as a justification for violence.

These individuals do not represent the Palestinian community. As we learn in relationship with our Palestinian partners and siblings in Christ, freedom is a gift we all deserve as children of God, and none of us are free until all of us are free. We pray for the families of the victims in D.C., for a speedy recovery of the injured in Boulder Colorado, and for the nonviolent means to achieve a just and sustainable peace in the Holy Land.