

May 2009

Giving thanks for “Living Witness – Creative Diakonia”



The ELCJHL celebrates its 50th anniversary this month. Pictured here is the Beit Jala congregation during the year of its formation, 1883.

“Living Witness – Creative Diakonia” is the theme for the upcoming ELCJHL anniversary celebration. As well as its own 50th anniversary, the synod will observe the 30th anniversary of the Arabic bishopric and 170 years of evangelical mission in the Holy Land.

Festivities kick off May 16 at the campus of the Lutheran school and church in Beit Sahour. From 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. there will be a variety of activities. ELCJHL school children will

present dabka dancing, singing and drama performances. Items made at the schools, such as candles and ceramics, will be for sale. A book fair will feature books by church pastors and laypeople. There will be children’s games and snacks.

The celebration moves to the International Center of Bethlehem at 4 p.m., where there will be interviews about the church’s past, present and vision for the future. Next is a 3 p.m. celebratory worship service the afternoon of May 17 at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Jerusalem with ELCJHL Bishop Munib Younan preaching. A small reception and an exhibition on the church’s history will follow the service. There are also plans for a special commemorative edition of *Kanisatuk*, the ELCJHL’s quarterly Arabic magazine. Please join us for this joyous event!

Sun	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24 / 31	25	26	27	28	29	30

Living God, we thank you and praise you for establishing, equipping and preserving the ELCJHL for these years. We ask that you continue to allow us to be your witnesses in the land called holy. We ask this in the name of the risen Lord, your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.