THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH in Jordan & The Holy Land
Overview

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land has established a strong presence in both Congregational and Educational Ministries.

We have six congregations in Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour, Beit Jala, Amman, Jordan, and one in Beyond Bethany, Jordan. We also operate four schools as well as educational programs.

With support for men, women, and children of all faiths, ethnicities, and economic foundations, the ELCJHL is a living, breathing testimony to the Living Stones in the Holy Land. We invite you to discover the depth of our work in the challenging circumstances of occupied Palestine.

“God chooses us and calls us for a reason: to accomplish God’s mission. Jesus has asked us to join him in giving comfort to the grieving and strength to the weary. God asks us to go out into the world and not to stand still in our comfort zones. Therefore, we go to all people, empowered by the grace and the commission of the Almighty and Living God.”

Bishop Sani Thambiu Kac
CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES (CHURCHES)

Overview

Although foreign diaconal ministries were the first to take root in Palestine in 1851, each of the six ELCJHL congregations began at the request of the local Arab-Christian population. The congregational ministries of the ELCJHL continue to be the center of this small but vibrant church life. There are approximately 2,000 members total.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Jerusalem Arabic Speaking
Pastor Fursan Zumot

“Our inclusive and participatory approach will lead to more unity and spirituality in the church and in our life, and will help us find peace within and peace with our neighbor.”

Pastor Zumot

About Redeemer

The Church of the Redeemer works with women, youth, young couples and elders by implementing educational, theological, social, spiritual and charitable programs.
The Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah
Pastor Imad Haddad

“Rooted in God’s grace, we teach and preach the Gospel anew each day. Our message is a message that speaks to the context of this society. It is a message that speaks to the human being holistically.”

Pastor Haddad

About Hope

The Lutheran Church of Hope congregation has about 92 Palestinian families, nearly all of who are refugees. They have come to Ramallah as refugees after the 1948-49 war, primarily from Jaffa, Ramle and Lod, towns now inside the State of Israel. They have established themselves in businesses and homes in the Ramallah area but remember their towns of origin.
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour
Pastor Ashraf Tannous

“The presence of the school on the campus of the church, our active Scouts program and Alternative Tourism Group are all part of our ministries that keep the Lutheran identity at the forefront of the community.”

About Beit Sahour

The scouting program reaches out to area youth to include them in the church community. The program began in 1995 to offer youth activities such as camping, workshops and band performances. They participate with the ecumenical youth network in all community events.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Reformation in Beit Jala
Pastor Ashraf Tannous

“This is a community of ambitious people who want to work and hear the word of God. They want to work to give as much as they can for the church and be a witness for Christ in the community.”

About Beit Jala

Our social ministry is run by our church elders. The elders collect names of the sick and needy and keep the pastor up-to-date on what’s going on in the congregation. Once a month, the pastor administers Holy Communion and prayers to the elderly and homebound and makes hospital visits.
"We have to find a message of hope and steadfastness that truly motivates people to make a decision to stay. We have to be intentional and aggressive in our message to our people."

Pastor Isaac

Congregational life at the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem is active throughout the weeks and seasons of the Church Year. Programs and gatherings include Sunday school and youth programs, Bible studies and Christian education, social gatherings, special events, and retreats. Each year a new theme is chosen by the Church elders and a plan for the year is formed to encompass all members.
"The Church should not be limited to nourishing souls, but also considering the various aspects of social activities that any individual or society needs."

Pastor Azar

The congregation was developed because Lutheran refugees from Geographical Palestine, displaced from their homeland due to war and political upheaval in 1948 and 1967, wanted to keep up with their Lutheran traditions and heritage.

About Amman
“The congregation continues its mission to provide a spiritual home for internationals living in and working in Jerusalem and the surrounding area.”

Pastor Carrie Smith

The Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Redeemer
Jerusalem English Speaking
Pastor Carrie Smith

The English-speaking congregation of the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer is a ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) and a vital part of the work of the ELCJHL. We are a diverse congregation with a variety of expressions of the Christian faith, groups, nationalities, and backgrounds leading and participating in our gathered community.

About English Redeemer
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRIES (SCHOOLS)

The work of the ELCJHL Schools and Educational Programs is guided by nine overarching goals that form and shape all that we do:

- To develop wholesome, creative, and innovative students through a holistic approach to education that addresses their needs and develops their talents, competencies, inclinations, and ability to cope in an ever-changing world.
- To integrate peace education and culture, reinforce democracy, and encourage tolerance, co-existence, love, and respect toward others.
- To ameliorate the communication process and encourage exchanges with local and international communities.
- To mold and reinforce the national and Christian Palestinian identity.
- To provide quality and innovation in teaching and learning.
- To create a healthy, motivating, stimulating and nurturing school environment.
- To appreciate individual differences and assist in integrating students with special needs and/or disabilities in the school and the community.
- To reinforce and support the role of women in Palestinian society.
- To be financially responsible.

Overview

The ELCJHL Schools and Educational Programs employ nearly 200 educators in full and part-time positions as teachers, administrators, support staff and social workers. Nearly all faculty and staff are Palestinian, and most come from the Bethlehem, Ramallah, or Jerusalem areas. Many grew up attending our Lutheran schools. Most teachers and administrators have Bachelor’s degrees from local or international universities, and many have pursued Master’s degrees in education or in their fields of specialization. ELS offers co-education both Muslim and Christian students; boys and girls. There are approximately 3,000 students enrolled in ELS K-12 schools. Classes are taught, beginning in Kindergarten, in Arabic, English and German.
Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Sahour
Principal Georgette Rabaldi

“My dream is to become a pilot, to travel to as many countries I can, and to feel freedom while flying in the sky.”

Michael - 10th grade

Dar al-Kalima Evangelical Lutheran School in Bethlehem
Principal Anton Nassar Muallem

“I belong to Jesus. I am proud and lucky to be a Christian girl.”

Taleen - 10th grade

Talitha Kumi Evangelical Lutheran School in Beit Jala
Principal Rolf Lindemann

“I saw that the Lutheran Model United Nations program is a really good project which brings you many skills... but more over, it was basically a lot of fun.”

Said - 12th grade

Evangelical Lutheran School of Hope in Ramallah
Principal Naseef Muallem

“Our world is not perfect, and never will be, but working for a better world must always be our goal.”

Talia - 9th grade
Al-Mahaba Nursery and Preschool in Jerusalem
Director Maram Saeed

Mahaba Nursery and Preschool (MNAP), or "Kindergarten of Love," located on the Lutheran World Federation campus is a ministry of the ELCA/ELCJHL with over 40 years of service to children in Jerusalem. MNAP is a safe, exciting place to learn, offering services and facilities otherwise scarce in East Jerusalem neighborhoods.
OTHER MINISTRIES

- **Environmental Educational Center - Beit Jala**
  On the campus of the EEC are a botanical garden, a natural history museum, a greywater station, and a bird ringing and monitoring station. These facilities attract both local and international visitors to see examples of native Palestinian wildlife and plants.

- **Elderly Day Care - Jerusalem**
  The Elderly Day Care Center provides day care for aged people who are left alone during the day while family members work. They receive meals, medical check ups, physiotherapy, and fieldtrips.

- **Meals On Wheels – Ramallah**
  A community service project of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Hope in Ramallah, the Meals on Wheels Program has been serving the Ramallah area since 1995. Currently more than 60 elderly people in Ramallah are being served. Twice a week the Meals on Wheels workers and volunteers deliver hot meals. Other services, such as transportation to and from medical appointments; pick-up and delivery of pharmacy prescriptions; delivery of staple food such as rice, coffee, fresh fruit and vegetables; and help with light housekeeping and laundry are offered.

- **Deaf Ministry – Beit Jala**
  Deaf ministry helps those who are isolated within the community and experience the lack of knowledge about the Bible and Christian life due to their non-hearing status. We help deaf people learn about the work of God and how we can live in accordance with God’s calling and love.

- **Baptismal Site – Bethany Beyond the Jordan**
  The programs at the Baptismal site allow pilgrims to enrich their spiritual life, to inspire them to go deeper into their Christian identity and connect to the grace of God that was so strongly expressed when Jesus was baptized in the Jordan River. [www.baptismalsite.org](http://www.baptismalsite.org)
• **Women’s Desk - Jerusalem**

The aim of the ELCJHL women’s desk is to achieve gender equality and justice, have strong women in leadership positions and promote women’s education to qualify them for full participation in life and the workplace with the emphasis on co-existence, respect for other faiths and promoting peace and justice.

• **Youth Desk – Beit Sahour**

The Youth Desk maintains a full schedule of events locally and around the world. From the invitation of our partner churches, the youth are able to participate in cross-cultural and spiritual formation opportunities each year.

**PARTNERS**

COCOP, or The Coordination Committee for Cooperation between the ELCJHL and Overseas Partners, started in 1978 with an aim to support the ELCJHL in its ministries.

- Church of Sweden (CoS)
- Berliner Missionswerk (BMW)
- The United Evangelical Lutheran Church of Germany (VELKD)
- Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission (FELM)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Northern Germany (ELCNG)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA)
- Church of Norway (CoN)
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada (ELCIC)
- Evangelical Church of Germany (EKD)

**Affiliated Member**

- Lutheran World Federation (LWF)
COMPANION CHURCHES

- The ELCJHL has a number of companion synods and dioceses throughout the world. We partner with these churches in prayer and mission.
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, Diocese of Kuopio
  - Church of Sweden, Diocese of Strängnäs
  - Church of Norway, Diocese of Borg
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Bavaria, Dekanat Bad Tölz
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, New England Synod
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Southeast Michigan Synod
  - Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Eastern Synod

Map of ELCJHL ministries in Palestine
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
in Jordan  The Holy Land

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