



THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN JORDAN AND THE HOLY LAND

News from the ELCJHL: July 2015

Bishop Younan Releases A Statement Concerning the Tabgha Arson

July 14th, 2015 - Dear Fathers, we have come from Jerusalem to stand in solidarity with the brother monks of this monastery after the arson and burning of this historic Church. The atrocity is not only against you and this particular church vicinity, but against every Christian and believer in the One True God, and must be denounced vehemently. This Church was built on the real story of the blessing of the loaves and fish, and despite the atrocity against it, it will survive the hatred and will remain a spiritual haven and blessing to all who enter its doors.

Dear Fathers, the problem which we face is sadly the recurrence of these incidents on religious sites. We have heard recently the authorities arrested suspects who are thought to be the perpetrators. We strongly recommend that they are taken into justice. However, the problem is much deeper and succinct: the prevalence of intolerance, religious bigotry and discrimination. This, in turn, creates a mentality of non-acceptance of diversity and of the otherness of the other.

The Lutheran Church demands a change in the public discourse, a total reform of the education systems and complete transformation of how one sees the other who is different. There is absolutely no other solution in this place other than educating our children to tolerate and co-exist with other religions in the region: Christianity, Judaism and Islam. If this Country wishes to continue being seen as Holy, this is only possible through egalitarian right, and freedom of religion where every religion has the right to equally worship the One Holy True God and to equally respect the Church as the Synagogue as the Mosque.

We are saddened by the silence vis-à-vis these atrocities. To be silent is to allow the extremists including the perpetrators to turn us to hostages and pawns. We demand that all believers in God speak up and raise their voices to denounce hostile acts such as this venomous act. Once we speak up, then future generations would learn to accept the other who is different. This way, we promote peace and justice, living with others and reconciliation which are desperately needed in this Country. *To read more, visit the ELCJHL's website.*

Know Any Upcoming Delegations?

Know any upcoming delegations to the Holy Land? Interested in meeting your brothers and sisters in Christ in the Holy Land? All delegations are welcome to visit the Lutheran Churches for worship, talk to groups about Palestinian Christians and Lutherans, or visit a site of Lutheran pilgrimage at the Baptismal Site in Jordan. For those interested in pilgrimage at the Baptismal Site, feel free to e-mail lutheranpilgrimcenter@gmail.com. To set up a speaking engagement with one of our pastors or to visit one of our churches, you can contact communication@elcjh.org

Worship Times

Jerusalem

Arabic Speaking Congregation (Main Chapel): 9:00am
English Speaking Congregation (St. John's Chapel): 9:00am

Amman

Summer Time: 7:00pm
Winter Time: 6:00pm

Bethlehem

10:30am

Beit Jala

10:15am

Beit Sahour

9:00am

Ramallah

10:30am

Prayer Requests for August 2015

- Please pray for our teachers and students as they prepare to head back to school this month.
- Please pray for our young adults as they complete their summer travels.
- Please pray for those who work outside. The heat has been nearly unbearable.
- Please pray for our pastors and for all they do for their congregations.

For more information, you can find us at www.elcjh.org