



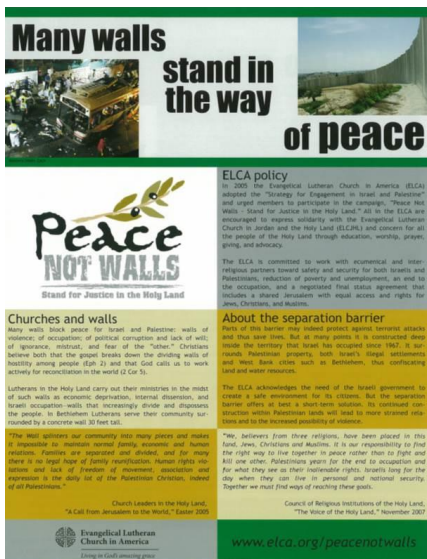
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.



Free Printed Resources on Palestine and Israel

To order these **Peace Not Walls resources** contact Constituent Care staff by email at info@elca.org (preferred) or by phone, 800-638-3522, ext. 2700.

To talk to someone about resources, speakers, ideas for your event or your travel, contact peacenotwalls@elca.org or phone 800-638-3522, ext. 6466.



Many walls stand in the way of peace

Peace NOT WALLS
Stand for Justice in the Holy Land

ELCA policy
In 2005, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) adopted the "Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine" and urged members to participate in the campaign, "Peace Not Walls - Stand for Justice in the Holy Land." All in the ELCA are encouraged to express solidarity with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Israel and the Holy Land (ELCAI) and donors for all the people of the Holy Land through education, worship, prayer, giving, and advocacy.

The ELCA is committed to work with ecumenical and inter-religious partners toward safety and security for both Israelis and Palestinians, reduction of poverty and unemployment, an end to the occupation, and a negotiated final status agreement that includes a shared Jerusalem with equal access and rights for Jews, Christians, and Muslims.

Churches and walls
Many walls block peace for Israel and Palestine: walls of ignorance, mistrust, and fear of the "other." Christians believe both that the gospel breaks down the dividing walls of hostility among people (Eph 2) and that God calls us to work actively for reconciliation in the world (2 Cor 5).

Lutherans in the Holy Land carry out their ministries in the midst of such walls in economic deprivation, internal division, and Israeli occupation walls that increasingly divide and disempower the people. In Bethlehem, Lutherans serve their community surrounded by a concrete wall 30 feet tall.

"The wall separates our communities into many pieces and makes it impossible to maintain normal family, economic and human relations. Families are separated and divided, and for many there is no legal hope of family reunification. Human rights violations and lack of freedom of movement, association and expression is the daily lot of the Palestinian Christian, loved of all Palestinians."

Church leaders in the Holy Land, "A Call from Jerusalem to the World," Easter 2005

About the separation barrier
Parts of this barrier may indeed protect against terrorist attacks and that have been, but at many points it is constructed deep inside the territory that Israel has occupied since 1967. It surrounds Palestinian, private, local towns, illegal settlements and West Bank cities such as Bethlehem, thus confining land and water resources.

The ELCA acknowledges the need of the Israeli government to create a safe environment for its citizens. But the separation barrier offers at best a short-term solution. Its continued construction within Palestinian lands will lead to more divided settlements and to the increased possibility of violence.

"We, believers from three religions, have been placed in this land, Jews, Christians and Muslims. It is our responsibility to find the right way to live together in peace rather than in fight and kill one other. Palestinians yearn for the end to occupation and for what they see as their inalienable rights. Israelis long for the day when they can live in personal and national security, together we must find ways of reaching these goals."

Council of Religious Institutions of the Holy Land, "The Voice of the Holy Land," November 2007

www.elca.org/peacenotwalls

An 8 1/2" by 11" color flier "Many walls stand in the way of peace" offers information about the Peace Not Walls campaign, the situation in Palestine and Israel, quotes from local religious leaders and ideas for how to become involved in working for peace with justice in the Holy Land.



A colorful bookmark with a painting by a local Palestinian artist of Bethlehem and the separation wall. The back has the Peace Not Walls website address, urges people to learn, pray and act for peace with justice and offers a prayer for people in the Middle East.