

ELCA International Disaster Response Alert: Middle East Crisis

“I ask ELCA congregations to continue to pray for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East that will bring an end to the pain and misery experienced by all people in the region.” Mark S. Hanson, Presiding Bishop, ELCA

The war between Israel and Hezbollah has reached a critical level, contributing to death and destruction in both Israel and Lebanon, and resulting in what the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) describes as a “catastrophic humanitarian crisis” in Lebanon. Estimates suggest that 600,000 civilians have been displaced in Lebanon by the bombing, and over 200 people have died and hundreds more injured in Lebanon and Israel during the first 10 days of the war. Meanwhile, violence continues in Gaza and the West Bank.

The Middle East Council of Churches has sent letters to its partners calling on the international community for an immediate intervention for a cease fire. MECC is also responding to the needs of people displaced and wounded. Emergency food, bedding, household items, medical supplies and assistance are all critically needed as displaced families and individuals find their way to schools and other available



**DISASTER
RESPONSE**

community centers for refuge. Of special concern are children, the elderly, people with disabilities, and those with critical health care needs. In the cross-fire of war, those most vulnerable are often the forgotten victims of the violence and its aftermath.

ELCA International Disaster Response (IDR) committed initial funds to partners in the region for emergency aid: \$20,000 for the MECC and \$30,000 to disaster partner Action by Churches Together (ACT). Additionally, IDR has committed \$15,000 to long-time ELCA partner Contact Resource Center (CRC) for their emergency aid for people who are disabled.

Your gifts and prayers are urgently needed to respond to the humanitarian crisis caused by the violence and displacement. Please pray for peace and justice for all those affected by this crisis.

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Yes! I want to help!

- Middle East Crisis \$ _____ S8
 All International Disaster \$ _____ D9

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Give through your congregation or directly to: **ELCA International Disaster Response, P.O. Box 71764, Chicago, IL 60694-1764.** Note “Middle East Crisis” or “International Disaster Response” on the check’s memo line. **To give by credit card**, call 800-638-3522 or visit www.elca.org/disaster and click on “Giving” or “How You Can Help.”

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