

# PEACE NOT WALLS EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES USER GUIDE

## INTRODUCTION

This User Guide to Web Resources seeks to point to ways the *Peace Not Walls* web site can help pastors and teachers introduce concerns about justice in Palestine and Israel and expand understanding of the issues and our options for taking action.

*Peace Not Walls* is the campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to learn, pray and act for peace with justice in the Holy Land. The Churchwide Assembly adopted a strategy to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, to call for an end to construction of the separation barrier and removal of the barrier from Palestinian land.

Our church is working with other Christians and with interfaith partners toward:

- safety and security for all Israelis and Palestinians
- reduction of poverty and unemployment and
- a negotiated final status agreement that includes a shared Jerusalem as capital of two independent states and with access and full rights in the city for Jews, Christians, and Muslims

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### ONE ADULT SESSION

In one 50-minute session you can introduce the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls* campaign and the Lutheran people of the Holy Land.

**Step 1.** Start at the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls* home page - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/>

You'll find an introduction to *Peace Not Walls*, the campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to learn, pray and act for peace with justice in the Holy Land. The Churchwide Assembly adopted this strategy to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, to call for an end to construction of the separation barrier and its removal from Palestinian land.

#### **Step 2.**

A good starting point is the *Peace Not Walls* FAQs at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

You can download the **Frequently Asked Questions** sheet (pdf file) and print copies for all participants - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/PnwFaqMar2008.pdf>

Or, use the *Peace Not Walls* FAQ on line to address this first set of questions with your group (section A):

1. Why is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict important?
2. Why is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) involved?
3. What changes are Lutherans and the ELCA advocating?
4. What is the ELCA's position on peace in the Middle East? How does it justify its position?
5. What does the ELCA say about violence and terrorism?
6. Can we make a difference? Three-part response

The FAQ web page continues with questions about the Bible and theology, global accompaniment, and ecumenical partners. This resource provides so many links that you won't have time to pursue them all, but invite participants to follow up on their own.

*If you can plan a longer session*, use the new ELCA video, <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html> "Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land" (28 minutes).

Work through all FAQ sections:

- B. Biblical and theological dimensions
- C. Partners and collaboration
- D. The ELCA's distinctive role in Middle East peacemaking.

Take a 10-minute break and return for Steps 3 and 4.

### Step 3.

Follow up with a more thorough introduction of the Lutherans of our companion church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). There is a link from the FAQ page, or go back to the home page and click on **Lutherans in the Holy Land** - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/index.html>

From there you can click on the link to the home page of the ELCJHL - <http://www.elcjl.org/> - and to links outlining the church's ministry of education - <http://www.elcjl.org/ed/emmission.asp> women's programs - <http://www.elcjl.org/cong/women/> and youth ministry - <http://www.elcjl.org/cong/youth/>

There is more about the ELCJHL in the Global Mission Country Packet at <http://www.elca.org/countrypackets/palestine/church.html>

The ELCJHL is the only Arabic-speaking Lutheran denomination in the world and the only indigenous Lutheran church in the Middle East. It has a special calling to work for reconciliation among those who have been victimized by war, to concentrate actively on peace education, and to initiate dialogue among Christians, Muslims and Jews for truth and reconciliation.

The ELCJHL currently has 2,000 members in six congregations: five in Palestine (Jerusalem, Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Jala and Beit Sahour) and one in Amman, Jordan. Membership has declined due to emigration caused by the difficult economic situation and unstable political climate.

To find stories of the struggle of Lutherans in the Holy Land, click on **Life in Palestine** at the ELCJHL home page, and choose **On the Ground Reports** - <http://www.elcjl.org/palestine/conditions/> - or one of the other options there.

### Step 4.

Talk about ways we can be involved in helping to advance peace with justice in the Holy Land.

Prayer – Resources for prayer and organizing a prayer vigil are at the *Peace Not Walls* web site. Go to **Accompany** or click directly to - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

Giving – Support the education programs of the ELCJHL and a new housing project in Jerusalem through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Again, the link is at **Accompany** or click directly to the link - <https://www.elca.org/scriptlib/DS/giving/featuredgiving.asp?pageid=3>

Be an advocate – Print out for participants the advocacy sheet from the **Communion Ware** kit - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/AdvocacyB&W.pdf> - and

click on **Advocate** to show them how to find and explore the web pages of ELCA advocacy on behalf of peace with justice in the Holy Land - <http://www.elca.org/advocacy/issues/middleeast/default.asp>

Also helpful is the new reproducible flyer with separation barrier and other advocacy issues outlined at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/wall/index.html> or directly at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/Flyer%20-%20Jan%202008%20Final.pdf>

Close with prayer. Click the link <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html> for ideas.

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### THREE SESSIONS FOR ADULTS

#### SESSION ONE

Expanding to three-sessions allows you to outline the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls* campaign, meet the Lutherans of the Holy Land, and encounter some of the obstacles to peace with justice.

Explore the three aspects of *Peace Not Walls*: Educate, Accompany and Advocate for peace with justice in the Holy Land. The strategy seeks to engage ELCA members in an effort to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people.

For Session One, use the resources and outline provided in "One Session for Adults."

#### SESSION TWO

**Step 1.** Review information in the *Peace Not Walls* FAQs

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

Get ready to dig deeper into the burdens of Lutherans and others living under occupation in the West Bank and Gaza. Look through the resources at the **Educate** link -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

You can order bookmarks for all participants at the **Educate** page.

**Step 2.** Use the Powerpoint presentation "The Holy Land: Recent History and the Quest for Peace" (<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/holylandhistory.ppt>) to bring your participants more details about the geopolitical history of the region and introduce them to the Palestinian Lutherans. A user's guide

(<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/holylandhistoryguide.pdf>) to the Powerpoint presentation is very helpful. From that guide, print the handout "20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> Century Holy Land History" for everyone.

**Step 3.** Follow up with more information about the vital ministries of the Lutheran World Federation in the region. These links are found on the **Lutherans in the Holy Land** page <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/index.html>:

- Augusta Victoria Hospital - <http://www.elca.org/disaster/article.asp?id=57&mode=1>

- LWF World Service projects in Jerusalem - <http://www.lwfjerusalem.org/index.htm>

- The Mount of Olives Housing Project - <http://www.mtfoliveshousing.org/>

**Step 4.** Look for resources and maps at the **Separation Barrier** page -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/wall/index.html>

Plenty of maps are provided on these web sites. Maps help participants see the way the barrier works its way through the West Bank. Discuss the nature of the barrier and its route through the occupied Palestinian lands.

Go to the **A Shared Jerusalem** page -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/index.html> and explore what is available at the **Churches for Middle East Peace Shared Jerusalem Resource Center** - <http://www.cmep.org/SharedJER/Resource.htm>

Close with prayer. See **Prayer** on the **Accompany** page for examples -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

### SESSION THREE

You have covered so much ground. Now it is time to talk more about ways to be engaged in advancing peace with justice in the Holy Land through advocacy.

**Step 1.** Show the video, “Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land – <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html> If you have extra time, use the discussion guide –

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/videodiscussionguide.pdf>

**Step 2.** Explore the resources at the **Take Action Now** link -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/takeaction/index.html>

Familiarize yourself with two main issues at the ELCA Advocacy page -

<http://www.elca.org/advocacy/issues/middleeast/default.asp>

Through *Peace Not Walls* the ELCA calls for an end to the construction of the Israeli separation barrier being built on Palestinian land.

Second, we are concerned about the future of the Lutheran hospital in Jerusalem. The advocacy pages will help you get started writing to members of Congress and the Department of State in regard to these issues.

Review the advocacy sheet from the **Communion Ware** kit -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/AdvocacyB&W.pdf>

**Step 3.** Print for everyone the list of media sources found on the **Educate** page

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

**Step 4.** Learn more about how to support the work of the ELCJHL and the Mount of Olives Housing Project in Jerusalem at **Financial Support** link to the ELCA Good Gifts catalog - <https://www.elca.org/scriptlib/DS/giving/featuredgiving.asp?pageid=3>

**Step 5.** Celebrate the good work being done in communities like Beit Jala, where

Lutherans and others gathered for a summer peace camp. Watch the “Living Nonviolence Peace Camp” video at the **Lutherans in the Holy Land** page – <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/index.html#>

Close with prayer - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### YOUTH SESSION

Modify the adult session for middle school and high school youth. Use these resources for a youth retreat, lock-in or summer program.

**Step 1.** Start at the *Peace Not Walls* home page and work through the first two questions in the FAQs: <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

1. Why is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict important?
2. Why is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) involved?

Go to FAQ section B and discuss question 1. How do the Bible and Lutheran theology relate to the ELCA Middle East peace campaign?

**Step 2.** Meet the young Lutherans of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL). Watch the video clip highlighting the visit of youth from Ramallah to the ELCA - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/alraja/index.html> - and read their web page.

**Step 3.** View the “Accompaniment” section of the new video, “Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land – <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html>

You might also view the 16-minute video, “Through their Eyes,” listed on the Peace Not Walls video resource page - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/videos.html> (available in ELCA resource centers). In this program two young adults, one from the USA, one from Palestine, meet and share their experiences.

[Web link at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-5033210488592142482&q=ELCA+through+my+eyes&total=8&start=0&num=10&so=0&type=search&plindex=0>]

Explore the youth pages of the ELCJHL to see what young people in Palestine are up to <http://www.elcjh.org/cong/youth/>

**Step 3.** Move on to talk about ways we can be involved in helping to advance peace with justice in the Holy Land. (Adult Session Step 3.)

Close with prayer. See **Prayer** on the **Accompany** page for examples - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### ONE SESSION FOR CAMPUS MINISTRY OR YOUNG ADULTS

Modify the adult session for young adults and campus ministry. Use this outline with young adults and college students in a small group setting (or at a synod assembly).

**Step 1.** Start at the *Peace Not Walls* home page and focus on the first three questions in the FAQs at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

Why is the Israeli-Palestinian conflict important?

Why is the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) involved?

What changes are Lutherans and the ELCA advocating?

Skip to the FAQ section C (Partners and collaboration) and discuss

Why should ELCA members be supportive of both Israel and the Palestinians?

What is Churches for Middle East Peace (CMEP)? What is the relationship between the ELCA and CMEP?

**Step 2.** View the first three sections of the video, “Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land,” (the Introduction, The Separation Barrier and The Settlements)

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html> or the entire 28-minute program if you have time.

Now go to the Separation Barrier page =

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/wall/index.html> - for a wide range of resources on the barrier and why the ELCA opposes its construction and route. Look for links to maps.

Print for everyone the information flyer, “Many Walls Stand in the Way of Peace” -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/Flyer%20-%20Jan%202008%20Final.pdf>

Use the Powerpoint presentation “The Holy Land: Recent History and the Quest for Peace” (<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/holylandhistory.ppt>) if there is time or encourage participants to explore this resource on their own for more about the background to issues in the region. A user’s guide

(<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/holylandhistoryguide.pdf>) to the Powerpoint presentation is provided.

3. Move on to talk about ways we can be involved in helping to advance peace with justice in the Holy Land. (Adult Session Step 3.)

Close with prayer. See **Prayer** on the **Accompany** page for examples -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### ONE SESSION FOR WOMEN

In one 90-minute session you can introduce the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls* campaign and the beauty, faithfulness and struggle of Lutheran women in the Holy Land. Suggested for a retreat or synodical women's assembly.

Plan to use a projector to show your group our web pages, or download handouts to share.

**Step 1.** Start at the ELCA's *Peace Not Walls* home page - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/>

You'll find an introduction to the campaign of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to learn, pray and act for peace with justice in the Holy Land. The Churchwide Assembly adopted this strategy to promote a peaceful solution to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinian people, to call for an end to the separation barrier and removal of the barrier from Palestinian land.

View the "Introduction" section of the video, "Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land" (<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html>)  
[Offer the opportunity to view the entire 28-minute video at a later time and/or encourage participants to turn to it at home]

**Step 2.** Go to <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/wall/index.html> for the ELCA video, "Forbidden Family." Using the study guide at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/ForbiddenFamilyUsersGuide.pdf>, you can plan a second session based on issues raised in the video.

**Step 3.** Click on **Lutherans in the Holy Land** - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/index.html> - to find the link to **Women's Programs** of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) - <http://www.elcjh.org/cong/women/>

The concerns of the women of the ELCJHL are much like our own, but they face complications most of us can barely imagine.

Housing is a major issue for Palestinian women and their families. Another link at **Lutherans in the Holy Land** deals with plans to build homes for Palestinian Christians on the Mount of Olives - <http://www.mtofoliveshousing.org/>

Click the link for **Family Stories** - <http://mtofoliveshousing.org/family.html> - to find stories that illustrate the situation for Palestinian Christians. You can print these brief stories and photos to share with the group.

A video outlining the project (three minutes long) is available at the Mount of Olives

Housing Project home page -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/videos/MOHPvideo.html>

**Step 4.** Participants may have many more questions and want to know what we can do to help our sisters in the Holy Land. A good place to go for answers is the *Peace Not Walls* FAQs listed at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

You can print these for everyone to take home -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/PnwFaqsMar2008.pdf>

Lutherans in the Holy Land seek our prayers. Resources for prayer and organizing a prayer vigil are at the Peace Not Walls web site. Go to **Accompany** or click directly to - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

We can give to support the Mount of Olives housing project through the ELCA Good Gifts catalog. Again, the link for the **Giving Catalog** is at **Accompany**, or click directly to the link - <https://www.elca.org/scriptlib/DS/giving/featuredgiving.asp?pageid=3>

Close with prayer. See **Prayer** on the **Accompany** page for examples -

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html>

## PEACE NOT WALLS RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP

Lutheran sisters and brothers in the Holy Land have asked for our prayers. Here are some ways to incorporate prayer for peace with justice into worship in your congregation.

Start at the *Peace Not Walls* home page; click on **Accompany** -  
<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/accompany/index.html>

Each synod received a set of communion ware as the ELCA launched the *Peace Not Walls* campaign. Find the link to “Communion Ware” -  
<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/communionware.html> - for helpful resources for worship.

Click on “Prayer” - <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/pray/index.html> - to find litanies, interfaith prayers, and much more, including information on the Ecumenical Prayer Vigil.

Another place to look is under “Lutherans in the Holy Land.”

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/jerusalem/lutherans/index.html>

From the home page of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, go to “Resources” and “Prayer and worship” <http://www.elcjh.org/resources/worship/>

## PEACE NOT WALLS

### TRAVEL AND EXPLORE

Visiting the Holy Land is an important way to accompany people of peace in the region. To learn more go to the **Accompany** page and click on “Travel”

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/accompany/travel.html>

Imagine what it might be like to visit the Holy Land by reading the detailed travel guide at <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/holylandvisit.pdf>

Explore the world of Islam and learn about our inter-religious partners in the struggle for peace at the Peace Not Walls **Educate** page

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

See the downloadable guide to Lutheran-Jewish and Lutheran-Muslim relations, “Windows to Understanding” <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/online.html>

Check out the very last question in section D of the Peace Not Walls FAQ sheet, dealing with travel in the Middle East <http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/index.html>

Take a closer look at the problems posed by Christian Zionism. View the last section of the video, “Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land,”

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/educate/2008video.html>

Called “Working with People of Other Faiths.” Use the corresponding portion of the discussion guide to the video

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/videodiscussionguide.pdf>. At the

Peace Not Walls web site, find the question in section two of the FAQ sheet: How is the Lutheran approach to Israel and Palestine different from that of Christian Zionism

<http://www.elca.org/peacenotwalls/downloadable/PnwFagsMar2008.pdf>

Look for further resources on Christian Zionism in the May 2007 issue of the *Journal of Lutheran Ethics* <http://www.elca.org/jle/archive/07-05.asp>