

Introduction to Peace Not Walls

Three Session Series

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.



Session One – Use the resources and outline provided in “One Session for Adults.”

**Session Two – Go deeper into the experiences of our Lutheran companions
(If you only have time for two sessions, choose your favorite from below:)**

Step 1 - Review information in the *Peace Not Walls* FAQs <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/What-We-Do/FAQs.aspx>

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 **Resource** link - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources.aspx>

You can order bookmarks, color fliers, and map cards for all participants by emailing peacenotwallsinfo@elca.org.

Step 2 - Use the power point presentation “The Holy Land: Recent History and the Quest for Peace” which has a script and a user’s guide at <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources/Presentations.aspx> to bring participants more details about the geopolitical history of the region and introduce them to the Palestinian Lutherans. From the user guide print the handout “20th/21st 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 **Our Companions** page <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Our-Companions.aspx>:

- Augusta Victoria Hospital - <http://www.avh.org/english.html>
- LWF World Service projects in Jerusalem - <http://www.lwfjerusalem.org/index.htm>
- The Mount of Olives Housing Project - <http://www.mtofoliveshousing.org/>
- Watch the Love Thy Neighbor “Living Nonviolence Peace Camp” video from Ramallah at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=8363315519387011867&hl=en#>

Step 4 - Look for resources and maps at the **Resources** page - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources.aspx>



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.

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 **Resources→Worship** page for examples - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources/Worship/Prayer.aspx>

Session Three – Learn about how to get involved to promote peace with justice

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 on the video page – <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources/Videos/2008-Video.aspx>

Step 2 - Explore the resources at the **Get Involved** link - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Get-Involved.aspx>

Familiarize yourself with the main issues at the ELCA Advocacy page - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Advocacy.aspx>

Through *Peace Not Walls* the ELCA calls for an end to the construction of portions 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/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources/Worship.aspx> and click on “Communion Ware.”

Step 3 - Print for everyone the list of Middle East News Sources found on the **Resources→Handouts** page <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Our-Partners.aspx>

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/globalmission/support>.

Close with prayer - <http://www.elca.org/Our-Faith-In-Action/Justice/Peace-Not-Walls/Resources/Worship/Prayer.aspx>





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