View in Browser

ELCA

sumud
for Justice in Palestine and Israel



Sumud and ELCA Young Adults Advent Solidarity Pilgrimage in Palestine 2026

ELCA Sumud has a 2026 Advent Solidarity Pilgrimage in Palestine collaboration with ELCA Young Adults coming soon! The theme of this year's Advent Devotional Series is:

We wait for Christ, We work for Justice, We hope for Peace.

We will be hearing from a young adult in the ELCJHL, a young adult Sumud Ambassador, a young adult in the ALAMEH community, and a young adult YAGM Jerusalem-West Bank alumn. This series will be four written Advent devotions centered around the ELCA Advent lectionary for this year.

This series can be used as bible studies, youth group devotions, small group devotions, and more! Resources will be available starting November 22nd via the ELCA Sumud webpage and sent out to the ELCA Sumud email list.



ELCA Sumud Ambassadors Gathering Chicago, IL

Sumud Ambassador Gathering

This fall has been full of momentum for ELCA Sumud in our accompaniment, awareness-raising, and advocacy work. In October, ELCA Sumud gathered 25 ELCA Sumud Ambassadors

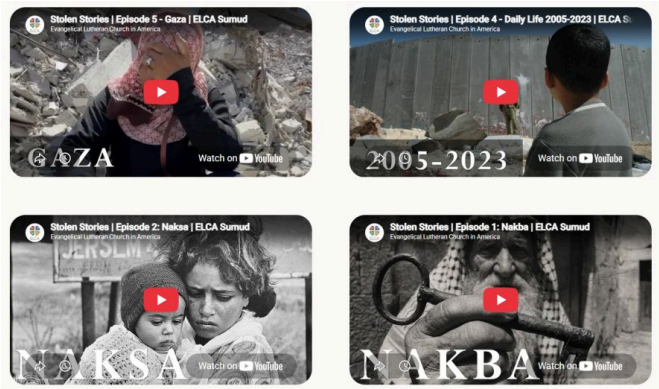
from 21 ELCA Synods to empower them with tools and strategy for their synod's ELCA Sumud presence, to build community together, and to nourish their faith and spiritual health together. We were honored to have with us Bishop Dave Nagler of the Pacifica Synod and Bishop Stacie Fidlar of the Northern Illinois Synod to lead devotions, workshops, and worship during this powerful weekend together. We were also honored to have Pastor Gabi Aelabouni and MENA Policy Program Director Sasha Ghosh-Siminoff with us to share with our Sumud Ambassador Community the work of the MENA Desk, as well as our advocacy work through the Witness in Society Advocacy office.



Bishop Imad meets with ELCA Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and Executive Director for Service and Justice Rev. Khader Elyateem

Bishop Imad Visits ELCA

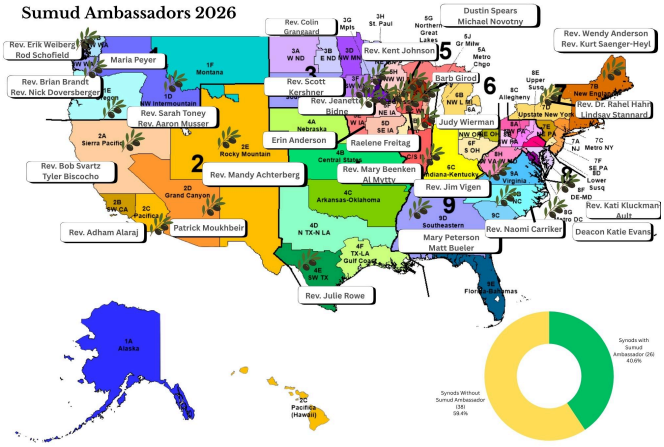
At the beginning of this month, Bishop Imad of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) conducted an official visit to the ELCA, where he spent time with the New England Synod and Bishop Pipho and our New England Synod Sumud Ambassadors Rev. Kurt Saenger-Heyl and Rev. Wendy Anderson. Bishop Imad also met with U.S. Government representatives on Capitol Hill in Washington D.C. alongside Sasha Ghosh-Siminoff and Rev. Gabi Aelabouni to talk about the ongoing concerns in Gaza and the West Bank before meeting with our Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry in Chicago. His final stop was in the Southeastern Michigan Synod where he met with Bishop Kreiss and other synod leaders at their synod's Justice Summit. We are so honored Bishop Imad could be with us and meet with some of our key leaders, as we continue our Church's accompaniment of the ELCJHL.



Stolen Stories Video Series

Our ELCA Sumud "Stolen Stories" video series is now fully uploaded online to the ELCA Sumud webpage, as well as the ELCA's Youtube Channel. Please take the time to watch these important videos which outline the historic, political, and theological contexts which impact our siblings in Palestine and Israel each and every day. A discussion guide for these videos will be released very soon.

Access all 5 "Stolen Stories" Episodes Here



The Sumud Ambassador Network is Growing!

Since early 2025, we have been meeting with ELCA bishops to begin the process of building a Sumud Ambassador network among ELCA synods. Bishops across the ELCA have been working with their synods to select qualified volunteers to be their synod's Sumud Ambassador—and we now have a robust 26 synods represented with a Sumud Ambassador! Sumud Ambassadors serve as a point person for budding, growing, or even well-established work for justice in Palestine and Israel within the synod. In the short year and a half of this network's existence, our Sumud Ambassadors have written letters from their synod and bishop to representatives, led synod solidarity trips to the Holy Land, hosted Palestinian Christian speakers in their synod, led synod bible studies using Sumud resources, screened films to educate their synod about justice in Palestine and Israel, and more! If your synod does not yet have a Sumud Ambassador, email your bishop and ask them to meet with Sumud Program Director Mrs. Maddi Froiland.

ELCA Sumud Program Director Role Open

The ELCA is hiring a new Program Director for Sumud: for Justice in Palestine and Israel. Do you know anyone with experience working for justice in Palestine and Israel from a faith-based perspective? Encourage them to apply below. **This is a Chicago-based position.**

Apply Here!

You have received this email as a member or supporter of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

© Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
8765 W. Higgins Rd.

Chicago, IL 60631-4101
800-638-3522