

## MEMORIAL THREE

### For an End to the Occupation of Palestine and Recognition of its Statehood in the United Nations

**WHEREAS** there is currently a war in Palestine that is affecting our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) and their neighbors; and

**WHEREAS** the ELCA in its 2017 social message *On Human Rights* states that “concern for the well-being of others lies at the very heart of Christian faith (Matthew 22:36-40)”;<sup>1</sup> and

**Whereas** “in response to God’s call to comfort God’s people (Isaiah 40) ... our church seeks to accompany those among our global partners who suffer human rights violations”;<sup>2</sup>

**Whereas** the ELCA has committed to promote and defend human rights, support international organizations that work to safeguard human rights, advocate for ratification of international treaties and agreements that protect human rights, seek to understand and be sensitive to the needs of indigenous people, and provide resources to help deepen our understanding of and commitment to promoting human rights;<sup>3</sup> and

**Whereas** the United States occupies a pre-eminent position in the world but has failed to accept instruments of international human rights law or ratify many treaties and agreements of the United Nations, isolating itself and undermining the work of the international community; and

**Whereas** the United Nations has declared Israel’s military occupation is illegal according to international law;<sup>4</sup> and therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** that the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2025 ELCA Assembly to encourage its members continue to advocate for the human rights, justice, and peace for all Palestinians and Israelis; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2025 ELCA Assembly to encourage the Presiding Bishop to direct a letter to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, calling for the U.S. to take action in its foreign policy that would support the recognition of Palestine as a legitimate state in the United Nations as other United Nation member states have done; and be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Northwest Washington Synod memorialize the 2025 ELCA Assembly to encourage the Presiding Bishop to direct a letter to the President of the United States, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House, calling for the U.S. to take action in its foreign policy that will support the human rights of all Palestinians and Israelis by calling for an end of the illegal occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

**Submitted by:** The Justice Seekers Committee of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church, Bellingham, WA

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1. There should be no financial impact on the synod or ELCA budget.
2. Personnel involved in carrying out this resolution would be Synod and ELCA Bishops and administrative staff.
3. NWWA Synod Staff.
4. Resolution supports our church’s commitment to peace and social justice and the ELCA program of SUMUD.

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<sup>1</sup> *Human Rights*, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, 2017, [https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Human\\_Rights\\_SM.pdf](https://download.elca.org/ELCA%20Resource%20Repository/Human_Rights_SM.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>4</sup> *United Security Council resolutions 446, 452, 465, 471 and 476*