

ELCA Actions Prior to “Peace Not Walls” Campaign

- 1989:** Churchwide Assembly affirms the ELCA’s solidarity with the ELCJHL and encourages ELCA members to familiarize themselves with the history of the Middle East and the current issues and to be advocates for “responsible political action” (CA89.8.114).
- Churchwide Assembly affirms the Church Council’s adoption of the “Message on the Israeli/Palestinian Conflict” and encourages ELCA members to be advocates for “responsible political action” (CA89.8.114).
- 1991:** Churchwide Assembly encourages individuals and congregations “to reach out to people in the Muslim and Jewish communities in North America, in order to foster interreligious dialogue and mutual understanding so that we may build trust relationships” (CA91.6.33).
- 2001:** Churchwide Assembly affirms efforts to accompany Palestinians and Israelis in nonviolent efforts to end the occupation (CA01.02.09).
- 2003:** Churchwide Assembly encourages continuation of “interfaith activities in the United States to promote mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect” (CA03.02.07).
- Churchwide Assembly reaffirms commitment to accompany the ELCJHL and to offer humanitarian relief and development assistance (CA03.02.07).
- 2005 April:** A “Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine” was adopted by the ELCA Church Council

Era of “Peace Not Walls” Campaign

- 2005 Aug:** The 9th ELCA Churchwide Assembly urges “members, congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, and church-related agencies and institutions . . . to participate in the churchwide campaign for peace—Peace Not Walls: Stand for Justice in the Holy Land—by engaging in awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy activities...” (CA05.06.23). This is the beginning of the “Peace Not Walls” Campaign.
- 2007:** The 10th ELCA Churchwide Assembly (CA07.06.30):
4. [calls] upon the ELCA, in all of its expressions, to recommit itself to the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine through awareness-building, accompaniment, and advocacy activities, including pilgrimage visits, sustained financial support, and other forms of economic stewardship;
 - and*
 5. [calls] upon the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to underscore the call for economic initiatives by this church and its members in the “Peace, Not Walls” campaign. Such initiatives, in consultation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, could include:
 - purchasing of products from Palestinian providers
 - and*
 - exploration of the feasibility of refusing to buy products produced in Israeli settlements. Also to be explored is the entire investment activity by this church. Examination of investments would exclude the option of divestiture.
- 2008:** The video, “Peace Not Walls: Making a Difference in the Holy Land,” is distributed widely to synods.
- 2009 Jan:** The ELCA Conference of Bishops’ academy is held in the Holy Land. Forty-five bishops from the ELCA and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada participate in a week-long visit that includes worship experiences and meetings in Jordan (for a portion of the group), Jerusalem, Israel, and the West Bank.
- 2009 Aug:** The 11th ELCA Churchwide Assembly reaffirms the ELCA’s commitment to the work of the Peace Not Walls campaign through eight tasks relative to the Churchwide Strategy for Engagement in Israel and Palestine (CA09.06.36). Seven of the tasks were part of memorials brought to the assembly with an eighth being added at the assembly. This addition is a reference to balance taken from Section II of the Strategy which states in full:
2. **Balance.** Effective ELCA action will be balanced in terms of its care for all parties in the conflict, but must address forthrightly imbalances of power as they play out in the lives of people in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories.