Christmas Solidarity and Resilience Appeal 2026

Bringing Hope, Dignity, and Relief to Palestinian Children and Families

Dear Partners and Friends,

Grace and peace to you from Jerusalem, the Holy Land, where the message of Christmas was first proclaimed as a message of hope, peace, and God's enduring love for humanity.

As we approach the blessed season of Christmas, we are reminded of the words of the Gospel:

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." (John 1:5)

For our Palestinian communities, these words carry profound significance as we prepare to celebrate another Christmas amid extraordinary hardship and uncertainty.

Our people continue to endure the devastating consequences of escalating settler attacks, repeated military incursions, home demolitions, severe restrictions on freedom of movement, increasing unemployment, and deepening poverty. These circumstances have placed tremendous economic, social, and psychological pressures on Palestinian families, leaving many struggling to meet their basic needs and maintain a sense of security and hope for the future.

Our children are growing up surrounded by uncertainty, while their families face mounting financial challenges. At the same time, our teachers and staff continue to serve faithfully and with dedication, despite experiencing the same economic pressures and hardships affecting the wider Palestinian community.

In these difficult circumstances, Christmas is not merely a season of celebration. It is an opportunity to translate our faith into meaningful acts of compassion, solidarity, and practical support.

With this conviction, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land (ELCJHL) is launching its ***Christmas Solidarity and Resilience Appeal 2026***, inviting our valued partners and friends to join us in bringing hope, dignity, and much-needed relief to our students, teachers, staff, and their families.

Through this appeal, we seek to implement three initiatives:

1. Christmas Gifts for 1,250 Students

Our children deserve opportunities to experience the joy and wonder of Christmas despite the difficult realities surrounding them. Through Christmas gifts, we hope to bring smiles to their

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faces and remind them that they are loved, valued, and remembered. These gifts represent more than material presents; they are tangible expressions of care, belonging, and hope.

2. Christmas Fellowship Dinner for 150 Teachers and Staff Members

Our teachers and staff continue to demonstrate extraordinary commitment to their educational and humanitarian mission under increasingly challenging circumstances. A Christmas fellowship dinner will provide an opportunity to come together, share a moment of joy, strengthen community bonds, and recognize their dedication and perseverance. It will also offer a welcome moment of emotional relief and encouragement amid the pressures of daily life.

3. Direct Christmas Cash Assistance for 170 Teachers and Staff Members

Recognizing the growing economic hardships faced by our employees and their families, a central component of this appeal is the provision of direct financial assistance to 170 teachers and staff members.

With rising living costs, economic instability, and the increasing financial burdens placed on Palestinian households, many employees are struggling to meet their families' essential needs. These challenges become particularly difficult during the Christmas season, when families hope to provide their children with moments of celebration, joy, and normality.

Through direct cash assistance, we aim to ease some of these financial pressures, allowing employees to address their most pressing household needs and meet essential expenses while preserving their dignity and freedom of choice.

This assistance is not simply a seasonal gesture of appreciation. It is a concrete expression of humanitarian solidarity and financial relief for employees and their families during a period of exceptional hardship.

The proposed Christmas Solidarity and Resilience initiative has a total budget of USD 62,500, of which USD 60,000 is requested from our partners and friends. The detailed budget is attached for your consideration.

Dear friends,

While the financial assistance and Christmas activities proposed in this appeal cannot resolve the structural challenges facing our communities, they can make a meaningful difference in the daily lives of those we serve. They will help ease immediate financial burdens, offer emotional comfort, strengthen community solidarity, and encourage families to face their circumstances with renewed hope and resilience.

For our children, these initiatives will create moments of happiness in a time marked by uncertainty. For our teachers and staff, they will offer tangible relief, encouragement, and recognition of their continued commitment to serving others despite their own hardships.

Above all, they will reaffirm that our communities are not forgotten and that the bonds of Christian fellowship and international solidarity remain strong.

Throughout the years, your partnership and generosity have been a source of strength for our Church and the communities we serve. Your commitment has enabled us to sustain our educational, humanitarian, and spiritual mission despite the many challenges confronting the Palestinian people.

Today, we turn to you once again with a heartfelt appeal to stand alongside our children, teachers, staff, and their families.

Your contribution will not only help provide Christmas gifts and fellowship but, more importantly, deliver direct and much-needed financial relief to families facing economic hardship.

As we celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ, we are reminded that the true spirit of Christmas is reflected in our willingness to share with others, support those in need, and bring hope where despair threatens to prevail.

Together, we can make Christmas 2026 a meaningful expression of compassion, human dignity, solidarity, and resilience.

We thank you wholeheartedly for your continued friendship, generosity, prayers, and unwavering commitment to the Christian communities and people of the Holy Land.

May the peace and light of the newborn Christ strengthen us all and guide our shared commitment to justice, peace, and human dignity.

With gratitude and Christmas blessings,

Bishop Dr. Imad Haddad

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