



**Evangelical Lutheran  
Church in Canada**  
Living Out God's Grace & Unconditional Love



**Canadian Lutheran  
World Relief**

Creating a world where people live in justice, peace and dignity

October 7, 2025

Dear Beloved Members of God's Family in the ELCIC,

We write to you with heavy hearts as October 7 marks the second anniversary of the war between Israel and Hamas. In the two years since, thousands of innocent civilians have lost their lives through imposed starvation and indiscriminate attacks, including attacks on hospitals, schools, places of worship, and encampments. This war is the latest wave in a long history of tension, violence, occupation and oppression.

We continue to call urgently for a cessation of all violence in Israel and Palestine, an immediate release of hostages, and unhindered humanitarian access to those in critical need. Our hope is for peace based on justice, an end to the decades-long occupation, and a robust Palestinian economy, a thriving education sector and protections for the rights of all. We welcome Canada's formal recognition of the state of Palestine, aligning with a broad international consensus on a solution based on international law and human dignity. We believe that every step that affirms the equal dignity, rights and security of Palestinians and Israelis is a step toward a just peace.

Please join us in prayer:

*God of hope, we pray for justice, dignity and peace for all who live in the land we call Holy. Grant comfort and safety to all the people who are facing displacement, hunger, injury, illness, and trauma as a result of war. Strengthen our siblings in Christ who continue to offer a witness for peace during these difficult days. Bring down the powerful from their thrones, lift up the lowly, fill the hungry with good things, and bless all with the gift of peace. Amen.*

In Christ Jesus,

*+ Bishop Larry Kochendorfer*

The Rev. Dr. Larry Kochendorfer  
National Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

*+ Michael*

Rev. Dr. Michael Pryse  
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*The ELCIC acknowledges that its buildings and ministries, from coast to coast to coast,  
are on traditional territories of Indigenous Peoples.*