



## **An Appeal for Support During the COVID-19 Crisis**

*Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.*

As the highly contagious and dangerous COVID-19 Virus spreads across the world, the leaders and members of the ELCJHL continue to hold the communities affected by this pandemic in prayer, naming especially the ill, the vulnerable, and those who care for them. This is a time for greater physical distancing, but not for social and spiritual isolation. We must continue to care for one another, reaching out to support those in need.

Therefore, we write this letter to appeal to you, our siblings in Christ, not only to continue to pray for us, but also to consider financially supporting the ELCJHL in this time. We are expecting significant financial shortfalls as a direct result of this crisis, and we are deeply concerned that we may be forced to shut down some of our institutions and lay off valuable staff members. Your accompaniment is now needed more than ever before.

The economic shortfalls that we will face are as follows:

- During March and April, we typically open registration for the upcoming academic year. Registration fees account for 149,500 USD of our yearly cashflow. We expect that this inflow will be greatly reduced due to financial strain on our parents.
- From May through August, we typically collect tuition fees from our parents, amounting to 180,000 USD critical to our yearly cashflow. Again, we expect that this inflow will be greatly reduced.
- From March through June, we expect to face a loss of approximately 160,000 USD in unrealized income from our two Lutheran Guesthouses.

Any funds that are collected during this time will be directed to the COVID-19 Emergency Fund for the ELCJHL, which will be used in one of two ways:

1. To provide food boxes to 100 economically strained and at-risk families in the West Bank, particularly in the Bethlehem District. Each box will cost approximately 200 USD for one month of food. In order to provide three months of food to each of 100 families, we will need approximately 60,000 USD.
2. To pay at least half of our employees' salaries during the two-month shutdown period. This includes our church staff, pastors, educators, and other employees. This will cost approximately 200,000 USD.

*The Evangelical Lutheran Church  
in Jordan and the Holy Land*



الكنيسة الإنجيلية اللوثرية  
في الأردن والأراضي المقدسة

We are doing all we can to provide our community with hope and the resources they need to both survive and thrive during this difficult time. With your help, we pray that the people of the Holy Land can weather through this storm, as they have so many others.

Many of you, we know, are facing difficult times as well. These are uncharted waters for all of us, fraught with uncertainty and insecurity. Despite this, we know that Jesus Christ, our protector and defender, is with us. Know, also, that we are praying for you and for all people across the world who have been so deeply affected by this crisis.

**Your Brother in Christ,**

**Sincerely,**

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**Bishop Sani Ibrahim Azar**



**The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land**