

## **A RESOLUTION CONCERNING A CALL FOR CEASEFIRE IN THE HOLY LAND.**

**WHEREAS** the Gateway Mission District, along with the support of others throughout the New Jersey Synod, stand in solidarity with those affected by the hostilities,

**WHEREAS** the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, which includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, are calling for a ceasefire, "...that allows for the speedy disbursement of relief supplies throughout the Gaza strip..." (Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, "Statement on the Recent Attack on Crowds Gathering to Receive Humanitarian Aid," March 1, 2024, <https://www.lpj.org/en/news/hoc-statement-on-the-recent-attack-on-crowds-gathering-to-receive>)

**WHEREAS** the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Conference of Bishops is, "... calling for a permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza," ELCA Conference of Bishops calls for permanent bilateral cease-fire in Gaza, March 3, 2024, <https://www.elca.org/News-and-Events/8217>

**WHEREAS** the hostilities in the Holy Land do indeed have an effect on the lives of Lutherans in New Jersey, in their communities, schools, neighborhoods, and beyond;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the New Jersey Synod in assembly stand in solidarity with and echo the calls of the Patriarchs and Heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, which includes the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Conference of Bishops for a ceasefire that allows for the speedy disbursement of relief supplies throughout the Gaza strip, and for the enactment of a negotiated release of those held as captives and prisoners, for the sake of those affected by the hostilities in the Holy Land.

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the New Jersey Synod identify places and moments of solidarity with our neighbors living in the Holy Land and share resources widely to encourage support among churches, including, but not limited to: contacting governmental representatives, financial support of Lutheran Disaster Response (specifically designating it for the Middle East Crisis), and by engaging with resources from Sumud, the ELCA's new name for our church's engagement in accompaniment, awareness-building and advocacy for justice in Palestine and Israel.

