



Rev. S. Ibrahim Azar
The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land

Uppsala, January 19, 2017

JERUSALEM

Dear Bishop-Elect,

Jesus said: "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life." (John 8:12)

With these words from one of the readings of Epiphany, and with gratitude to the Triune God, I have received the good news of your election as Bishop of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

I look forward to getting to know you and send my prayers and blessings for this special time of transition in your life and the life of your church. I pray that God may strengthen and guide you as you grow into your new ministry. We are many who feel connected to the ELCJHL and are grateful for the faithful, energetic and courageous witness of your predecessor.

This year we commemorate 500 years of Reformation – a Reformation that has become a global citizen. As Christians and Lutherans we share this one world with one another and with others. Thus we are partaking in structures that do not always support unity and peace, structures that are unhealthy for humans and the rest of creation, structures engrained with fear and hatred – a fertile soil for violence, racism and extremism of various kinds – all of which are defiling the face of the earth that God so loved. And yet, the precious gift of the gospel has been entrusted to us.

I am deeply grateful for the resources and the gifts God has given the ELCJHL in its ministry and commitment to a just peace in the Holy Land.

Let us follow our Lord Jesus Christ, the Light of the World, as witnesses in the world's darkness. May he lift you up, make your ministry vibrant with joy and wisdom, and empower you to face the challenges with boldness.

Yours in Christ,

Dr. Antje Jackelén
Archbishop