

## Mount of Olives Housing Project

**What:** The project is sponsored by the Lutheran World Federation, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land, and Kaiserin Auguste Victoria Foundation. The project will provide 84 housing units on land owned by the LWF adjacent to the LWF-administered Augusta Victoria Hospital. The project will cost \$8 billion dollars. The housing units will be leased to Christian couples and families at subsidized rates.

The project will enable Christians to continue to live in Jerusalem, crucial to strengthening Jerusalem as a city of peace shared by Jews, Christians, and Muslims. But without adequate housing, these families are being forced to leave the city of their heritage and to relinquish their rights. (In 1946, there were 31,400 Christians living in Jerusalem along with 99,000 Jews and 34,000 Muslims. Today there are more than 440,000 Jews, 200,000 Muslims, but fewer than 10,000 Christians.)

The Master Site Plan was approved by LWF in 2007 and submitted to the Jerusalem Municipality. Groundbreaking is planned for 2009/10. There is enough money and pledges now to begin building the housing units.

**When:** Ongoing

**Who:** Pastor Nancy and John and Eunice Lemkul have visited the project. We solicit contributions at the request of the synod, which has occurred particularly when Bishop Payne travels there.

Ascension has felt this, along with the support of the Christmas Church, as an important part of our Lutheran ministry in the beleaguered Christian communities in the Holy Land.

**How:** Members help by being aware of the project, praying for it, and offering contributions. We have information about it in the Narthex, including brochures.