

LIFE Talk • November 19, 2025

FAITH & CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ. 2 Peter 3:18



TODAY'S TOPIC

Sumud—Faithful Steadfastness Under Occupation

Explore the meaning of sumud, an Arabic word that embodies the spirit of resilience, dignity and hope among Palestinians living under occupation. Through personal story, theological reflection and lived experience, hear how faith empowers people to endure injustice without surrendering their humanity.

ABOUT OUR PRESENTER



Rev. Khader Kahlilia is a Palestinian American Lutheran pastor from Brooklyn, NY, raised in the Greek Orthodox tradition. He now serves Redeemer– St. John's Lutheran Church and is the Program Director of Arab and Middle Eastern Ministries in the ELCA. He is active in ecumenical and interfaith work and regularly leads solidarity trips to the Holy Land. He proudly calls Brooklyn home.

Replay videos available at saintandrews.org/LIFEU.

LIFEU will resume January 2026!

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LIFE Group Sheet

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GETTING STARTED

Share in a spiritual practice, discuss an igniter question, and/or begin with prayer.

Creator God, thank you for the opportunity to gather with each person here, to grow in faith and knowledge together, and for the gift of your Holy Spirit. Bless our time, our conversation, and how we care for one another. Amen.

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Briefly share (in pairs or 3s) your initial reaction to what you heard in the LIFE Talk.

Prompts: What stood out to you? What is stirring inside of you? What are you thinking, feeling, or wondering about?

DIGGING DEEPER

1. When you witness suffering especially on a large scale—what does your faith invite you to see or do?
2. What stories or assumptions shaped your early understanding of the Holy Land and how does hearing a Palestinian Christian's perspective challenge or expand that?
3. How should Christians respond when Scripture or theology is used to justify violence or the oppression of others?

CLOSING PRAYER

Offer a prayer to draw your time to a close, using one of your own or the one below.

God of wisdom and beauty, thank you for this time together. Help us as we live out our faith this week and share what we have learned. Make us instruments of your peace and healing love, as we grow in grace and knowledge of Jesus. In Christ's holy name we pray, Amen.

To join a LIFE Group, contact Sue Lennartson at slennartson@saintandrews.org