



# THE SHEPHERDS TRAIL

HANDMADE OLIVE WOOD HANDICRAFT FROM BETHLEHEM TO THE WORLD

Local initiative to support Bethlehem Communities in cooperation with our Evangelical Lutheran Church

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The Bethlehem District is one of the most beautiful and historical sites in the world. The district's main characteristics can be described as inclusive and hospitable, as it has always opened its arms to refugees, visitors, and pilgrims from all around the world. This historic traditional blend of various cultures, languages and customs has shaped the city while keeping its traditions alive.

Bethlehem is the birthplace of Christianity and Beit Sahour, one of its suburbs, the town of the Shepherds' Field, where the shepherds were the first to receive the Good Message and from there it was spread to the world. Together they resemble a beacon of hope and peace.

Throughout the course of time, the Bethlehem District underwent turmoil and hardship but was always able to stand back on its feet. Bethlehem's children are creative, innovative, and resilient. Indeed, they are a people of a small town, but by heritage and history they are citizens of the world.

This exclusive nature of a traditional cosmopolitan town is reflected in its artisans and craftspeople, a blend of various flavors, aromas, and spirits.

Bethlehem is known for its handicraft, particularly pieces of olive wood. Those crafted products are a unique way of keeping the communication between Bethlehem and the world alive. Each crafted piece tells a story of its own.

Today, the Bethlehem District is suffocating from the decades-long occupation and its policies and practices of isolating it from its surroundings, most notably from its twin city Jerusalem. This has resulted in socio-economic hardships as well as political turmoil. Poverty and unemployment are rising especially among youth who are left in despair with limited choices and chances. This is pushing many people to migrate and is resulting in social instability and extremism.

As many people are trying to combat this alarming situation to keep Bethlehem alive; we have launched an entrepreneurship to present, market and sell handicraft products from the Bethlehem District globally.



# WHO WE ARE?

## LOCAL INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT BETHLEHEM COMMUNITIES IN COOPERATION WITH OUR EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

We are a group of young Palestinian Christians who refuse to surrender to the socio-economic situation and political turmoil of our area. Our history and our future lie within the stones and spirit of Bethlehem.

We are operating in partnership with our church, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Beit Sahour to empower and support the communities in the Bethlehem District. Since the art and handicrafts sector in addition to tourism is the largest employment generator in Bethlehem, our vision is to set the foundation for a decent economic life in dignity and satisfaction for the youth.

We believe in the witness of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and its ministries; and support its work with youth, women, and marginalized communities.

We believe in fair trade which is based on the simple idea that the products bought and sold are connected to the livelihoods of others. Therefore, we are committed to responsible, sustainable, fair, and community-based production and trade.

We believe in our handcrafted olive wood pieces of

rich Palestinian heritage and unique traditional- as well as modern- designs. Our pieces are made from local olive trees that are up to 800 years old. Olive trees are not cut for their wood. Instead, off-cuts from the annual pruning and trimming are used. Olive trees provide us with oil for cooking, olives for eating, and wood for handicraft. The olive wood is known for its unique quality, durability and it is particularly resistant to scratches and heat. This distinctive and strong wood is characterized by its beautiful grain and natural shape. Each product is unique and has its own grain.

We offer heritage with uniqueness and exclusive designs by authentic artisans. We understand the importance of quality and customer service in handicraft merchandise. Our catalog offers you a variety of products and pieces of art.

We have faith in our networks of churches, organizations, friends, and partners to further market and sell our products in various regions and countries worldwide.

Please feel free to contact us at [bisan@theshepherdstrail.com](mailto:bisan@theshepherdstrail.com) in case you have questions or comments.

We would love to get in touch with you.





**ANGELS**



## Angel SMALL

**Item size: 2.5\*6 cm**

This simple faceless angel figurine serves as an anti-stress charm. It can easily accompany wanderers and comfort those hit by a stroke of fate.

Item No. 107



## Angel TALL

**Item size: 3\*9 cm**

This faceless angel with wings figurine serves as a meaningful baptism gift.

It also represents the guardian angel which can be placed in one's surrounding.

Item No. 106

# BETHLEHEM



## Magnet Bethlehem

Item size: 7\*5 cm.

This small magnet with the Nativity Church engraved on it is a nice addition to your refrigerator collection.

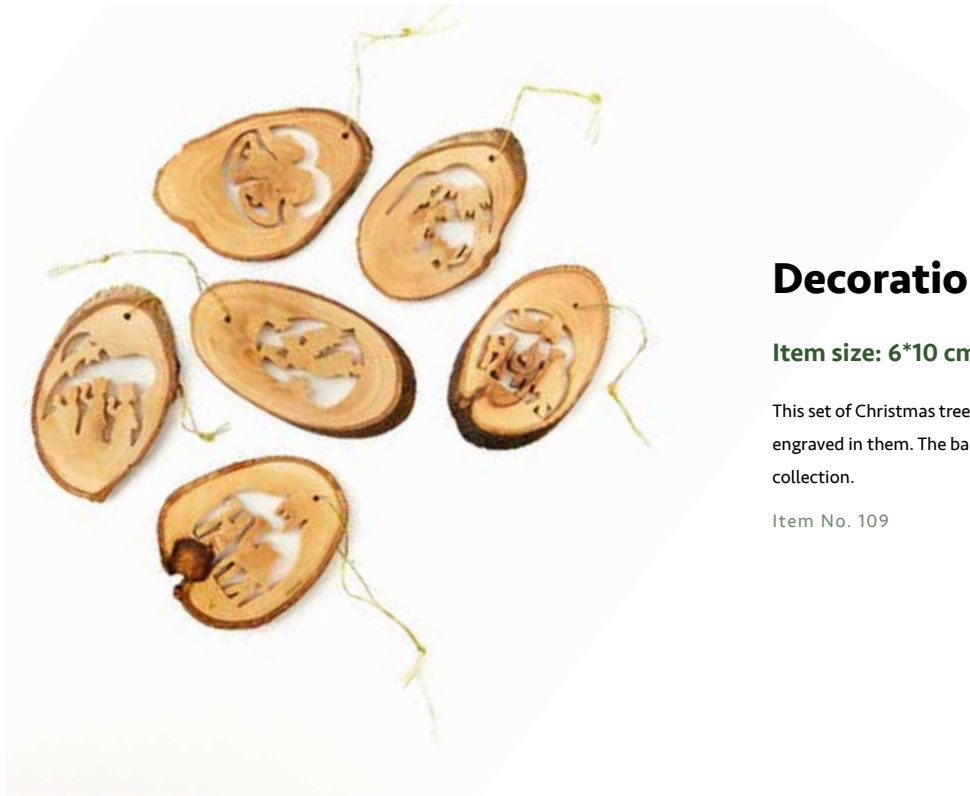
Item No. 128



**CHRISTMAS**







## Decoration with tree bark

Item size: 6\*10 cm (6 pieces)

This set of Christmas tree ornaments contains six pieces with nativity scenes engraved in them. The bark frame adds an authentic touch to this beautiful collection.

Item No. 109

## Simple Decoration

Item size: 5\*5 cm (10 pieces)

This set of Christmas tree ornaments contains ten pieces of nativity symbols and scenes engraved in them.

Item No. 110





## Star of Bethlehem

**Item size: 11\*5 cm**

This decorative Star of Bethlehem has the nativity story engraved in its design.

What a better gift than the Star of Bethlehem hand made in Bethlehem itself.

Item No. 108





## Holy Family candle shape with tree bark

**Item size: 20cm x 50cm**

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

The Holy Family engraved in a candle shaped bark and a flame on top.

Item No. 112

## Nativity Scene with tree bark

**Item size: 10\*8 cm**

*She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.*

Matthew 1:21

Engraved Nativity Scene with a bark frame around it.

Item No. 111





## Annunciation to the shepherds

**Item size: 3\*11 cm. 3\*9 cm. 3\*8 cm.  
4\*2.5 cm.**

*And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people."*

Luke 2:8-21

This elegant faceless set of two shepherds, one angel and one sheep resembles the Annunciation to the shepherds at the Shepherds Field (location today Beit Sahour).

The set is hand made in the town of the Shepherds Field.

Item No. 113

# CANDLE HOLDER

## Tee Candle Holder

**Item size: 4.5\*12 cm**

This tea candle holder in the shape of the early secret Christian symbol provides a nice and warm atmosphere. It fits well on church altars, dinner tables, and as living rooms meaningful decoration.

Item No. 123



**CROSSES**









## Jesus Name

**Item size: 14\*20 cm**

This wall cross provides an elegant and decorative touch in living rooms and offices.

The design contains the word Jesus in the horizontal bar.

Item No. 102



## Cross with stand

**Item size: 8\*12 cm. (base: 6.5\*4 cm.)**

This simple and graceful cross with a base which fits perfectly on any table, desk or shelf.

Item No. 103

## Hand Cross

This cross lies smoothly in the hand and conveys a soothing feeling.

**Size: 4.5\*10 cm**

Item No. 101

**Size: 3\*6 cm.**

Item No. 1011



# PROVERBS



## Mountain Sermon

**Item size: 11 cm. (fish: 2\*6.5 and bread: 2 cm)**

*"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."*

Matthew 5:1-7:29

This simple and elegant plate with fish and bread is an ideal gift for any occasion.

Item No. 118

## The Shepherd

**Item size: 3.5\*13.5 cm.**

*"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me— just as the Father knows me and I know the Father—and I lay down my life for the sheep."*

John 10:1-21.

This faceless figure of the Good Shepherd with the sheep is an ideal gift for Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Communion.

Item No. 117



# Mother with Child

**Item size: 4\*21 cm.**

This graceful faceless figure of a mother holding her child is an ideal gift for a Baptism, Birthday or Mother's Day.

Item No. 132



# EASTER



## Head of Christ

**Item size: 8\*14 cm**

This detailed head of Jesus with thorns fits perfectly on any desk, table or shelf.

Item No. 115



## Christ with Cross

**Item size: 5.5\*16 cm. (cross: 7\*13 cm.)**

*They took Jesus, therefore, and He went out, bearing His own cross,*

John 19:17

This faceless figure of Jesus kneeling while carrying the cross is powerful and graceful.

Item No. 114

# Last Supper

**Item size: 27\*8 cm**

*When the hour came, he took his place at the table, and the apostles with him.*

Luke 22:7-23

This Last Supper sculpture with faceless Jesus and the Apostles figures is elegantly cut and catches the eye at any Easter celebration and beyond.

Item No. 116





**JEWELRY**



## Wooden Heart

**Item size: 4\*4 cm. (engraving: love, hope and faith)**

*"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."*

1 Corinthians 13:13

This set of three hearts has the words Faith, Hope, Love engraved on them. The set is a perfect engagement or wedding gift.

Item No. 124

# Jewelry Box

**Item size: 7\*11 cm.**

This small elegant box fits perfectly for jewelry or any other precious items.

Upon request words, symbols, or logos can be engraved on the cover.

Item No. 122



# Cross Necklace SIMPLE

**Item size: 1.5\*2 cm**

This simple and graceful cross will decorate any wall or neck. It comes in combination with a simple fabric collar (necklace).

Item No. 119







## Cross with Fish

**Item size: 1.5\*2 cm.**

This simple and graceful cross will decorate any wall or neck. It comes in combination with a simple fabric collar (necklace).

Item No. 120

## Cross in Circle

**Item size: 1.5 cm.**

This simple and graceful cross will decorate any wall or neck. It comes in combination with a simple fabric collar (necklace).

Item No. 121



# KITCHENWARE





## Nut Crusher

**Item size: 3.5\*13**

This nut cracker is an authentic kitchenware item with an elegant touch.

Item No. 129

## Salad Cutlery

**Item size: 20cm x 50cm**

This salad cutlery is an authentic kitchenware item with an elegant touch.

Item No. 131



## Lemon squeezer

**Item size: 3.5\*13.5 cm.**

This lemon squeezer is an authentic kitchenware item with an elegant touch.

Item No. 130

# ROSARY



# Rosary

**Item size: 1.5\*49 cm. (cross: 2\*4 cm.)**  
**59 beads**

This Rosary of 59 beads has soil from the Holy Land in its center piece.  
May it accompany you with blessings during your prayers.

Item No. 125



# Masbaha

**Item size: 2\*30 cm. (33 beads)**

This 33 beads Masbaha is an Islamic, cultural or folklore symbol.

Item No. 126

# THE CRAFT PROCESS

THIS UNIQUE ITEM HAS A BEAUTIFUL CRAFTING PROCESS



**STEP 1**



**STEP 2**



**STEP 3**



**STEP 4**



**STEP 5**



**STEP 6**



**STEP 7**



**STEP 8**



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