



## Division for Higher Education and Schools

### Department for Schools

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The year 2000 is the ELCA Year of Education for Nonviolence. Children and young people in the United States and around the world have not been spared the pain and suffering of violence right at home and in school as well as the horrors of war. The schools and centers of the ELCA have a wonderful opportunity to participate in this Peace Education effort for the benefit of the children and families with whom we are in ministry.

The 24 Ways to Work for Peace was written by the Lutheran Peace Fellowship for secondary and college students. As you read these consider how you might adopt one from each category, and how the school faculty and school community would grow and benefit from doing this together.

May the Peace of God which passes all human understanding be with you.

# 24 Ways to Work for Peace

## For Yourself

- 1** Pray. Develop a worship life that includes a vision of peace, justice, and wholeness for a warring world. Keep a journal.
- 2** Explore the lives of peacemakers for book reports or open assignments, or just for yourself: Jesus, Harriet Tubman, Gandhi, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Dorothy Day, Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Oscar Romero... use LPF's "Wall of Hope"
- 3** Nourish yourself by reading publications that cover peace and justice issues from a Christian faith perspective. Subscribe to periodicals like *Fellowship*, *The Other Side*, *PeaceNotes*, and *Sojourners*.

## Learning with Others

- 4** Help organize films, activities, and forums on your concerns; help start or strengthen a campus peace and justice group, a chapter of Lutheran Peace Fellowship, [lpf@ecunet.org](mailto:lpf@ecunet.org), 206/720- 0313, [www.nonviolence.org/lpf](http://www.nonviolence.org/lpf) or Bread for the World, [bread@bread.org](mailto:bread@bread.org), 301/608-2500 [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org)
- 5** Take classes on peace and justice topics. Resources for organizing courses are available from the Peace Studies Association or COPRED, 703/993-2405 [copred@gmu.edu](mailto:copred@gmu.edu)
- 6** Urge your student government to support the implementation of the Nobel Peace Laureates Appeal for a "Decade to Build a Culture of Peacemaking and Nonviolence"; for ideas and resources on nonviolence contact LPF (above) and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), 914/358-4601, [www.nonviolence.org/for](http://www.nonviolence.org/for)
- 7** Learn a foreign language. Live or travel in a foreign culture. By learning how other peoples live and see the world, you can serve as a bridge of understanding. Contact the Center for Global Education, Augsburg College, *e-mail*: [globaled@augzburg.edu](mailto:globaled@augzburg.edu) 800/299-8889 [www.augsburg.edu/global](http://www.augsburg.edu/global)

**8** Volunteer for social justice. Work in a soup kitchen, shelter, AIDS ministry, or other service. Most schools have volunteer offices as well as ways to earn course credit for community or fieldwork activity.

## **Advocacy**

**9** Write a letter to the editor of your student or community newspaper giving your viewpoint on a peace concern. The chance of your letter being published is greater if your letter refers to a topic recently in the news, is concise, and deals with one issue.

**10** Be a thoughtful consumer. Research the practices of corporations that make the products you buy. Support businesses and public boycotts that reflect your values.

**11** Participate in lobbying efforts of groups like Lutheran Peace Fellowship, Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, Bread for the World, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Friends Committee on Legislation, and Peace Action. Join others in vigils, rallies, actions and marches for peace with justice.

**12** Protest the excessive and inappropriate violence in movies, television, or video games. Increase your media literacy; help others do so with videos, a magazine, and other resources from the Center for Media Literacy, 800/226-9494 [www.medialit.org](http://www.medialit.org)

## **In the Political Sphere**

**13** When you become eligible, vote. Vote and campaign for candidates who will work for peace, promote justice, human rights and environmental responsibility

**14** Keep up with current legislation and the position of your elected officials by joining the legislative alert networks of peace and justice groups and the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs in Washington, D.C. 202/783-7501 [www.loga.org](http://www.loga.org) A number of states have Lutheran Offices of Public Policy working on on state-level issues.

**15** Write letters, call, and meet with your elected officials. Express your opinion on issues such as votes on military spending, arms control agreements, and funding for human services and social justice. Be in touch while an issue is being debated in committee or before a key vote.

## **In Your Church**

**16** Ask your church youth group to focus on peace issues. Study biblical and church teachings on war, peace, and conscientious objection. Ask members of your church, local peace activists, and veterans to speak. Help plan a worship service on justice and peacemaking. Use your talent for art, theater, song, or poetry to express your views about peace and to educate others. Create a peace and justice display and a resource center at your church. Encourage your congregation to help its families and committees to improve peace skills. Use resources from the Families Against Violence Network, Institute for Peace and Justice, 4144 Lindell Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108. 314/533-4445.

**17** Help plan a worship service on justice and peacemaking. Use your talent for art, theater, song, or poetry to express your views about peace and to educate others. Create a peace and justice display and a resource center at your church.

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## Personal Peacemaking

**19** Be a peacemaker in your relationships with family and friends. Recognize that conflict is inevitable and can be a source of growth and change. Learn about alternative methods of conflict resolution. Contact the Alternatives to Violence Project, 15 Rutherford Place, New York, NY 10003.

**20** Simplify your lifestyle. Consider the relationship between over-consumption in the U.S. and poverty, injustice, and war in the Third World. Lowering consumption can reduce your need to compete and increase your ability to share.

## In Your Future

**21** If you are a female or male considering enlistment for military service or ROTC or a male nearing the age of 18 and facing the decision of registration for the draft, think carefully about your faith and these decisions. For information, contact the National Youth and Militarism Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102. 215/241-7176, [www.afsc.org/youthmil](http://www.afsc.org/youthmil)

**22** Give prayerful consideration to where you want to work. Consider a career in a field related to social justice, reconciliation, or international understanding. Think over how you feel about working for companies connected with violence in the media, or to the defense industry.

**23** Consider a short-term volunteer experience before you move on to a long-term job or more school. For example, the Lutheran Volunteer Corps (LVC) provides youth opportunities to give a year of full-time urban service for social justice, while also offering a supportive community living situation. Contact LVC at 1333 North St. NW, Wash., D.C. 20005. 202/387-3222.

**24** Lutheran Peace Fellowship can provide you with additional information on the issues and activities presented here. LPF publishes *Peace Notes* newsletter and has developed resources on such topics as the Nobel Peace Laureates Appeal, youth and the military, conflict resolution, and budget priorities.

LPF also offers resources on the biblical basis of peacemaking, global peace issues, and peace and justice heroes throughout history. LPF provides 100 speakers and workshops for national, synod, college, and congregation events each year.

*From:* **Lutheran Peace Fellowship** 1710 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122 206/720-0313 [lpf@ecunet.org](mailto:lpf@ecunet.org)

## ***At School, Home and Church***

The following suggestions are seeds that you can plant to help everyone focus on peacemaking efforts

1. List the things you do each day or week that contribute to a peaceful school, classroom, family, community, and world.
2. Designate one day or week at school or one Sunday each year as *Peace Day or Week*. Incorporate such things as drama, music, artwork, poetry, prayers, Bible study, small group discussions, large group presentations and so forth to highlight issues of nonviolence. Help all ages learn ways to live as peacemakers.
3. Invite classes, individuals and families to create a plan for peace to use at home, at school, in their neighborhood, in the congregation, and in places of work. Schedule several evaluation sessions for people to discuss how their peace plans are working and how they need to be modified.
4. Plan a time for confession and reconciliation with those closest to you. Communicate the behaviors for which you are truly sorry and discuss with those closest to you how you might make amends. Be willing to both ask for forgiveness and extend forgiveness to others.

5. Practice weekly affirmations of those closest to you. (Faculty, family, friends, church members, neighbors, classmates and so forth.) Words of encouragement, appreciation and love can go a long way to building people up and establishing and maintaining positive relationships. Discuss how words and actions can also be hurtful and ways to reduce these negative occurrences.
6. Look around your community to identify individuals and groups for whom issues of violence and personal safety, lack of acceptance and respect by the community and suffering are important. Plan and implement ways your school, church and neighborhood community can help them address these issues in a way that results in peace and justice for everyone.

# Resources

Visit [www.elca.org/dcs/socialjustice.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/socialjustice.html) for updates on ELCA events and resources throughout the decade.

Visit [www.elca.org/dhes/schools](http://www.elca.org/dhes/schools) for resources and links relating to peace, violence in schools, grief and suicide.

Order Peace for Children – a peace education curriculum for children through grade 3, from the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association. 800/500-7644

Visit [www.elca.org/dcs/nonvresource.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/nonvresource.html) for a listing of helpful resources and organizations for encouraging peace education.

Visit [www.elca.org/dcs/peacein.html](http://www.elca.org/dcs/peacein.html) to view For Peace in God's World, the ELCA social Statement on peace. For a single, complimentary copy or for further information on the statement, call 800/638-3522, ext. 2718.

Visit [www.loga.org](http://www.loga.org) for information about advocacy efforts.

Visit [www.nonviolence.org/lpf](http://www.nonviolence.org/lpf) for information about the work of Lutheran Peace Fellowship and for an extensive listing of peace and nonviolence resources. Read how their organizing efforts were key in getting ELCA synods and congregations to pass resolutions in support of the Nobel Peace Laureates Appeal.

Visit [www.salsa.net/peace](http://www.salsa.net/peace) for information about the work of the peaceCenter. Drawings on the accompanying poster were from young people participating in the Center's 1999 Picture the Peaces program.

Consider hosting a workshop in your congregation or area on anti-violence or nonviolence. Contact Loretta Norton in the Division for Congregational Ministries, ELCA, at 800/638-3522, ext. 2404 for information on ways to stop the violence in your community. For information on training people in nonviolence contact Jean Martensen in the Commission for Women, ELCA at 800/638-3522, ext. 2858.

For information about the ELCA Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence (2001.-2010) and the Year of Education for Nonviolence, contact Mary Ingram Zentner at 800/638-3522, ext. 2797, 8765 West Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, e-mail [mzentner@elca.org](mailto:mzentner@elca.org)

*Note: At School, Home and Church & Resources were developed by the ELCA Division for Church in society and edited for schools by the Division for Higher Education and Schools – Department for Schools.*

The poster was printed in partnership with the peaceCenter, P.O. Box 36, San Antonio, TX 78291

