

## Our Peacemaking Journey in 2017... and into 2018!

We are **deeply grateful** for the support of LPF from members and followers. It has been especially appreciated given the unprecedented political context of our efforts in 2017. With extra work by our volunteers, we held a very exciting event with **Rick Steves** Oct. 8! And we've made real strides on many of our **priority issues**:

When **conflicts erupted** in countries from Syria to Afghanistan, and refugee and immigrant challenges moved onto center stage, LPF stepped up to **offer information** and **promote advocacy** through calls, blogs, *Facebook* posts... LPF members also worked to end **violence against women, migrants, and people of color**...

**Nonviolent action:** LPF has **held** peace actions annually since 2014 during the week of the Day of Prayer for Peace, Sept. 21, as part of **Campaign Nonviolence**. LPF members **planned** forums and vigils, youth programs and protests in 2 dozen congregations and communities, and joined many others (see photos below). Across the U.S., **people of faith organized** 238 actions in 2014... 700 in 2016... Over 1600 in 2017! Yes! You, your friends and groups you're part of can view **ideas** for the 2018 "**Week of Actions**," Sept. 16-23, and discuss what you can join or do: [www.campaignnonviolence.org](http://www.campaignnonviolence.org)

On **military spending** we led member efforts to oppose increasing an already bloated **defense budget** and cutting our tattered **safety net**. LPF groups from Wisc. to N.C. to Calif. joined and led efforts on **refugees** and **hunger, drones** and **nukes**. We expanded our hunger efforts with help from an ELCA hunger grant. Issues with a new urgency as we move into 2018 include **Israel-Palestine** and **gun violence**.

**Forums and workshops** of LPF were again a big hit in congregations, events, and synod assemblies. They encouraged the creative exploration of: **Hunger Amidst Plenty...** The **Biblical Basis of Peacemaking...** **Nonviolence in the Real World...** **To Be a Bridge in a World of Walls...** **Leadership training...** Hosts across the U.S. called them "**unusually creative**," "**very effective**," "the year's **best forum**!" We led 28 and shared our widely-praised **leaders guides** and resources used in many more.



LPF again created many tools for peace leaders in 2017: **resources** and **advocacy alerts** in print and on **social media**. We shared over 80 blog and *Facebook* pages highlighting 2017's most pressing issues and over 100 resources, videos, and links. Don't forget the fine LPF **Youtube** video (just search by our name).

Our web, blog, and facebook volunteers are leading a major **upgrade** of LPF's **website**, in part, to make it more accessible by today's popular phones and tablets. Donations for it are needed and appreciated: mailed to **LPF's address** below, on our **website** using a credit card or PayPal, **or online** through "Go Fund Me."

Lutherans nationwide, as well as leaders in a dozen other denominations, have expressed **enthusiasm** regarding our web resources, e.g. "I found more helpful material on your website **than any other** I've used!"

Concerned members of Holy Spirit Lutheran Church, Kirkland, WA founded **an LPF Chapter**. They have met monthly the third Sunday evening, sharing a short worship time and a presentation, followed by a simple meal & table discussion. **Topics** so far have included U.S. immigration policies, health care, islamophobia, homelessness, skills for engaging difficult issues, and with each, **advocacy options**. Doug Jacobson, a chapter leader, was elected to the national LPF board.

We are grateful 2017 wasn't as tight a **budget** year as the last few as we prepare for a huge transition. If all goes well, we will be interviewing candidates for a new LPF **National Coordinator** this summer. Yes, our coordinator for the past two decades will be stepping down. We're well into planning as effective a process as possible for hiring and bringing up to speed a new person in this key leadership role. We'll post a **job description** soon on our website to share with people you know.

We **thank** all our members for your extra support as we seek to find and hire a top-notch individual, pay an adequate salary, and offer them ample volunteer support to launch this new phase in our journey.

Examples of LPF-organized activity in the Campaign Nonviolence "Week of Actions"



For more information and ways to help, contact LPF's coordinator, Glen Gersmehl: 206.349.2501, [ggersmehl@hotmail.com](mailto:ggersmehl@hotmail.com), 1710 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122, and check out all the resources to use & share: [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org)