

International Day of Prayer for Peace

Litany for Peace

One: From words and deeds that provoke discord, prejudice and hatred,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From suspicions and fears that stand in the way of reconciliation,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From believing and speaking lies about other peoples or nations,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From cruel indifference to the cries of the hungry and homeless,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: From all that prevents us from fulfilling your promise of peace,
All: O God, deliver us.

One: ***Deliver us from*** our brokenness, we pray, O God,
All: and by your grace and healing presence ***deliver us to You...***

One: To still waters and green pastures,
All: O Creating God, deliver us.

One: To the freedom and forgiveness we find in you,
All: O Risen Christ, deliver us.

One: To the tough task of loving our enemies,
All: O Jesus, deliver us.

One: To joyful service in your name,
All: O Servant of All, deliver us.

One: To the promise of a new heaven and a new earth,
To the wholeness of justice,
To the power of your peace,
All: O Holy Spirit, deliver us now and in the days to come.

Closing Prayer Charge our lives and our churches with the power of your peace, O God. Overcome our fears and self-deceptions with the promise of your presence. In this time of diminishing resources for families and nations, make us signs of your generosity and justice. Light us each day with hope, we pray, so that we may walk in your truth and be love in your Name. Amen.



Prayer is central to Peacemaking. We are more effective when we place our efforts in the hands of the One who is Peace, who has called us to be peacemakers, and who walks with us on the Path of *Shalom*.

Peacemaking is at the Heart of the Gospel. . .

The Jewish and early church understanding of peace embraced not only conflict resolution but also justice, welcoming community and wholeness. This larger vision has given energy and spirit to the efforts of millions around the world to “build a culture of peace and nonviolence” in the words of an appeal signed by every living Nobel peace laureate that launched the United Nations Decade for Peace. LPF gained support of 100 congregations, 31 synods and churchwide for an ELCA Decade initiative. An Interunit Task Force was formed that met monthly for a decade to develop and share scores of activities & resources and support action from 2001-10.



The International Day of Peace (Sept. 21) was created in 1981 by the UN and has been observed as a world **Day of Prayer for Peace** since 2004 by people of faith around the world. LPF wrote the worship guide for the first Day of Prayer for Peace, used in 10,000 churches worldwide (the basis of this resource). The Day also centers the Campaign Nonviolence “**Week of Actions**” in which LPF has helped spark growing levels of peace activity.

How Can I Participate in the Day of Prayer for Peace?

- ✧ Make peace in all its forms a regular part of your prayer life.
- ✧ Think of those with whom you are in conflict. Plan time for listening, sharing your truth in love, confession, and reconciliation. For insight: www.cnvc.org www.lutheranpeace.org ('Conflict Education' offers helpful materials for reflection & forums)
- ✧ Suggest a forum in your congregation on biblical peacemaking or conflict transformation in the family, church, community, world... For resources and leadership tips see LPF's ten *PeacePoints* leaders guides: www.lutheranpeace.org
- ✧ Advocate for local and national policies that build a culture of peace; see alerts and updates from: www.lutheranpeace.org www.elca.org/advocacy www.fcni.org
- ✧ Join or plan a vigil, forum, peace witness, etc. A good time is during the annual Campaign Nonviolence “Week of Actions” that LPF helps organize the week of 9-21 (1600 activities in 2017): campaignnonviolence.org www.lutheranpeace.org ideas: www.christianpeacewitness.org www.idpvigil.com www.onearthpeace.org
- ✧ For other ways for observing the Day of Peace, see: www.worlddayofprayer.net http://internationaldayofpeace.org/your_peace_day.html Most denominations have a Religious Peace Fellowship: www.forusa.org/who-we-are/chapters-and-affiliates.php
- ✧ See calendars for peace activities and events to observe: www.lutheranpeace.org (as well as our Facebook page) www.forusa.org www.christianpeacewitness.org