

Cultivating peacemaking in its most creative and compelling forms

The vision of Martin Luther King, Jr. and many others **call us** to become people of peace and to resolve personal, community, and global conflict **nonviolently**. A new movement has proved amazingly effective at helping us **embrace** the power of love and truth for justice, peace, and care for the earth: "Campaign Nonviolence" taps the most powerful means of **compassion & creativity, struggle & resistance, healing & forgiveness**. A means for personal growth and a method for effective action, it has become a national **grassroots movement**.

Campaign Nonviolence, a movement to **mainstream active non-violence**, was launched in early 2014 with a goal that thought was overly **ambitious**: to hold 100 actions around the nation in one week. **Yet** that Sept., 238 marches, rallies, vigils, prayer services, fasts and festivals in all fifty states took place. It has **grown in size** each year since. Last year, **1,600 activities** were organized throughout the US and around the globe! This year may exceed **2,400 separate events**. The Campaign **envisions a world** with dignity, justice, and peace for all, a vision rooted in the remarkably clear and compelling **biblical call to Shalom**: for peace, justice, healing... see: campaignnonviolence.org

Lutheran Peace Fellowship has been active **from the beginning** and **encourages Lutherans across the U.S.** to participate. For example, the local **LPF chapter** in Raleigh, North Carolina got involved in 2015. LPF members and several congregations invited other faith communities and groups to **work together** to host actions – 5-7 per year! Their efforts **blossomed** to the point they formed "Campaign Nonviolence NC," which has become an **ongoing movement** in their area.

The **2018** Campaign Nonviolence "Week of Actions" will take place Sept. 15-23. Click on "Events" on the website to see the **growing list** of activities. You might **begin** by inviting others to join you in selecting and **taking part in an event** this year. Some groups **organize their**

own event, adding it to the website list. The North Carolina group has found that an **especially compelling activity** is a prayer vigil for non-violence held in one of their churches. (It's also one of the **less** difficult actions to plan.) It can include **singing**, participants **naming** the violence in our world, a call to **reflection**, lifting up the **voices** of both well-known and local peace activists, as well as **prayers** of healing and awareness.

You can **invite** your congregation – and others – to use the enclosed Day of Prayer for Peace **worship resource** on a Sunday before or after Sept. 21 (it's on our website). Encourage them to **share** information and **invite** participation in activity you've **planned** in the "Week of Actions."

Many LPF members have **participated** in or organized vigils, children's activities, processions, workshops, or other actions. Whatever path you choose, it can be inspiring for **both new** and **seasoned peacemakers**. Give us a call with any **questions...**to **explore** your options...to **share** your plans...Advocacy, worship, and other **resources** are on the LPF website...**Please consider participating. You'll be glad you did!**

Advocacy Concerns

There are quite a few pressing advocacy issues that call for our attention and best efforts. Here are four notable ones. LPF has, or is planning blog and *Facebook* posts on these and other **urgent advocacy priorities**:

- protecting key **hunger programs** from budget cuts, including SNAP and WIC in the US, and international aid programs serving needs abroad...
- opposing costly, unneeded expansion of **US military spending**, especially given the huge impact our already bloated military budget has on other priorities... reducing spending on and proliferation of nuclear weapons...
- working for sensible (and long overdue) **gun control** measures, from state and local ballot initiatives, to federal restrictions on semi-automatic weapons, large bullet magazines, the new "3-D-printed" guns...
- defending **Palestinian civilians** from harm, especially children, in the face of unfair and abusive treatment by the Israeli military...