

Highlights of LPF Activity, 1994 to the present

Seeking to do the things that make for peace...

2018-20

LPF members join protests around the US on police violence and racism led by Black Lives Matter & others. We call on Lutherans to join **Campaign Nonviolence Week of Actions** around the nation: over **200** vigils, protests, youth actions, etc. are held in Sept. 2014, **370** in '15, **760** in '16, **1600** in '17! **2400** in '18! **3300** in 2019). LPF supports advocacy to increase US spending on hunger/safety net/climate/etc. and reduce our ever-expanding military budget (larger than military budgets of the next 30 nations combined!)

2015-17

185 nations commit to avert **climate disaster** at a 2015 **Paris conference**; yet Trump pulls out in 2019 (see our update). LPF is part of fruitful efforts to curtail Syria's **chemical weapons** and Iran's **nuclear program**... Our **Women's Initiative** develops widely-admired resources on **violence against women**, **women's peace efforts** now and throughout history, **inspiration from women**, and a **video gallery**.

2012-14

Minnesota LPF members expand their **resources and support** for congregations to **assist youth** who face decisions about **military service**... Several **school shootings** raise gun violence to national prominence, encouraging many LPF members and groups to advocate for strengthening **background checks** and other needed reforms.

2011

The deepest **depression** since the 1930s and the rise of the **Occupy movement** highlight growing **inequality** in the U.S., and **corporate money's** corrupting role in U.S. politics. Evidence grows of the threat posed by **climate change**. Among the biggest problems we now face, each is deeply interwoven with core LPF concerns like **militarism** and **hunger**.



symbol of LPF's
Women's Initiative

2010

LPF is among the most active faith-based groups working for **Senate ratification** of "New Start" to reduce **nuclear weapons** and improve **verification**... 3 grants help LPF offer **training** and mentoring for food bank and meal site **volunteers** on leadership, dealing with **conflict**, needs of the **homeless**...

2009

LPF leads Learning Tree **workshops** and a large activity area building on LPF's **Path of Hope**, for 35,000 youth & advisors at the ELCA **Youth Gathering** in New Orleans... We expand our inspiring **PeaceDeck**: over 38,000 cards are now in print.



2008

Our Youth Coordinator launches a new LPF **youth website**, expanding **LPF networking** and action with youth. LPF forum **leaders guides** and **computer activities** on **peace, hunger** and **justice issues** are **widely praised** and have **benefitted hundreds of 1000s** of congregation members, students, etc.

2007

LPF co-sponsors a moving **prayer service** at the National Cathedral and **candlelight procession** to the **White House** calling for peace in Iraq... The ELCA Peace Task Force holds a second **nonviolence training** for 45 leaders from across the U.S. LPF's director again develops the deeply participatory program and manual, and serves as lead trainer.

2006

LPF holds a major gathering in Seattle with **Rick Steves**, host of public radio and TV programs on travel, and author of numerous books... LPF begins producing **Spanish translations** of over a dozen **LPF resources** for use in the U.S. and Latin America.



2005

The ELCA Decade for Peace Task Force holds a **Nonviolence Training for Trainers** for 50 leaders from every part of the U.S. The program is based largely on LPF's leadership trainings and manual, and LPF leaders serve as lead trainers. It launches a significant ELCA peace **network** and **website**.

2004

LPF receives a **grant** for Nonviolence trainings... LPF's computer-based **Budget Priorities Activity** earns rave reviews... LPF leaders Jean Martensen and Glen Gersmehl develop a **peace worship insert** for the first **International Day of Prayer for Peace** that is used in **10,000 churches** around the globe.

2003

LPF's 8-page **Iraq resource** is sent in Jan. to 35,000 church leaders and pastors. LPF leaders reach **over 5 million people** through 20 **radio and TV interviews**, and **articles** in *The Lutheran*, *Journal of Lutheran Ethics*, and many secular publications... Our **computer activity** on hunger is included in the nation's largest public school **critical thinking curriculum**, ultimately used in over 65,000 classrooms.



2002

LPF members around the U.S. **oppose war with Iraq** through **vigils**, forums, **protests**, the media and **advocacy**... Monica Fisk, our second Youth Trainer, co-coordinates **peace activities** of all ELCA peace ministries for 30,000 young people at the ELCA **Youth Gathering**. LPF's "**Path of Hope**" is again a focus.

2001

Kate Reuer is chosen as LPF's full-time **Youth Program Coordinator** through Lutheran Volunteer Corps, which we continue for 7 years, expanding LPF's work with **students**, **youth leaders**, and **youth directors**... Requests for **peace resources** and **workshops** increase greatly following the **Sept. 11** tragedy.

2000

In 2 years, LPF shares over 100,000 **resources** and leads 16 day and weekend **Leadership Trainings** and 60 **workshops on nonviolence**. Participants applaud the program's insight and empowerment. ...The ELCA's Dept. of Schools mails LPF materials to **2200 Lutheran schools**.



1999

LPF receives an "**Innovations**" **grant** to develop nonviolence resources and workshops. LPF's resolution supporting the **Decade for Peace** is approved by **31 synods** and the **Churchwide Assembly**. An ELCA **Task Force** including LPF is set up to plan peace education and resources. LPF's director is named the **U.S. delegate** to UN Decade meetings in India to help plan the largest peace education effort in UN history... We create a **website** and an **Endowment Fund**.

1998

12 synods endorse LPF's resolution on an Appeal signed by every living Nobel Peace laureate, committing the ELCA to **teach nonviolence** at every level in the church. The UN designates 2001-10 as **The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence**... LPF leads a **study trip to Central America**.

1997

Lutheran Peace Fellowship plays a key role in gaining ratification of the **Chemical Weapons Treaty** in the U.S. Senate... LPF co-leads the **social justice "trek"** at the ELCA **Youth Gathering** held in New Orleans. It features 12 engaging, room-sized **activities**, and our dramatic 120-foot "**Path of Hope**" exhibit of over 150 **peace and justice movements and heroes** from around the world and throughout history.



Daniel W. Erlander

1996

LPF leadership and resources help Lutherans gather more petitions for a **global landmines ban** than any other U.S. group. LPF's **landmines worship resource** is mailed to every ELCA pastor and leader. The Campaign to Ban Landmines, of which LPF is part, receives the **Nobel Peace Prize** in 1997.

1995

The ELCA closes its Peace Education office shortly after approving a major **Peace Statement**. LPF expands its peace education efforts, exceeding **100 workshops and forums** in many years on Biblical Shalom, Christian Nonviolence, War & Militarism, Conflict Education, Hunger, etc. Glen speaks on a plenary panel at the 178-nation UN Nonproliferation Treaty Review Conference, held every 5 years.

1994

LPF's office moves to Seattle, and Glen Gersmehl becomes national coordinator. Its program builds on significant peace efforts and skills of **previous coordinators** Bonnie Block (1990-94) and Tom Witt (1983-90), and **volunteer leaders** John Backe, Lloyd Berg, Jean Martensen, Alton Motter, Jon Nelson, and many more.

LPF's logo:



"Many members...
one call to peacemaking"

Programs and successes like these can provide **inspiration, ideas** and **confidence** for today! Together, let's **build** on these efforts, **reach out** to others, and **make a difference** on the problems that matter now! For more about LPF vision, activities, and insight on a wide range of today's crucial concerns, see our **blog** or **Facebook** page, and browse the wealth of resources, advocacy updates, leaders' guides, and intros available at: www.lutheranpeace.org Share your interests and questions: 206.349.2501, lpf@ecunet.org Lutheran Peace Fellowship, 1710 11th Ave., Seattle, WA 98122.