



Ways We Can Participate

- Begin with prayer.
- Learn, practice, model, and teach nonviolence.
- Strengthen your commitment to peacemaking in all you do and say using *Families Living the Pledge of Nonviolence*, available from the ELCA at 800/638-3522 or www.elca.org/eteam/resources/connect1.htm.
- Promote peace and nonviolence education in your congregation. Explore the program *From Violence to Wholeness* by Pace e Bene. Contact Lutheran Peace Fellowship, 206/720-0313 or www.LutheranPeace.org about this or other resources.
- Plan a time for confession and reconciliation with those closest to you.
- Consider the impact of the toys, games, television, and material goods around your child. Make use of video programs for all ages from the Center for Media Literacy, www.medialit.org or 800/226-9494.
- Help create a peacemaking plan for your congregation, school, neighborhood, and place of work. Visit www.elca.org/dcs/socialjustice.html for ideas, worship suggestions, and resources.
- Advocate for community and national policies that build a culture of nonviolence. Use action alerts and briefing papers from the Lutheran Office for Governmental Affairs, www.loga.org or 202/783-7507.
- Utilize the skills of music, art, stories, and drama to explore nonviolence.
- Support victims of domestic and civil violence.
- Read and study *For Peace in God's World*, the ELCA social statement on peace.
- Visit www.elca.org/dcs/socialjustice.html for a list of recommended resources to use during the Decade, or call the ELCA Resource Information Service at 800/638-3522 for a printed copy of the list.

For further information about the Decade, contact the ELCA Task Force on the Decade at decade@elca.org or 800/638-3522, ext. 2716.

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Evangelical Lutheran
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THE DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF NONVIOLENCE

"Blessed are the peacemakers." As followers of Christ, we are called to a way of peace. How do we bring the blessing of peace with justice to our families, neighborhoods, and around the world? What are the ways we can address the conflict in our lives? How can we say, "We are the peacemakers?"

In 1998, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly voted to designate the years 2001-2010 as "The Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World." The Decade originated with an appeal to the UN from twenty Nobel Peace Laureates, including Nelson Mandela, the late Mother Teresa, Desmond Tutu, and Dalai Lama.

The passage of a resolution at the 1999 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) commits this church to join other denominations and organizations in designating 2001-2010 as the Decade for a Culture of Nonviolence and 2000 as a Year of Education for Nonviolence.

The UN Decade focuses on:

- the harm and suffering experienced by children through different forms of violence;
- the promotion of respect for life and dignity of every human being;
- the critical role of education at every level of society to build a culture of peace and nonviolence;
- the importance of children and youth learning the skills to live together in peace and harmony;
- the ways a culture of peace and nonviolence would strengthen the international peace and cooperation.

PRAYERS FOR PEACE WITH JUSTICE



Lord, Teach Us

L: Lord, so many people are in pain,

C: Teach us the way to peace.

L: When people around us don't agree and think differently,

C: Lord, teach us to listen and understand.

L: When we see people getting hurt,

C: Lord, teach us to speak up.

L: When we see people who are hungry and poor,

C: Lord, teach us to give to them as you give to us.

L: When we see people treated poorly because of their skin color or language,

C: Lord, teach us to be an example of love.

L: When we see war and conflict around the world,

C: Lord, teach us how to make a difference and bring peace.

L: When we see pain,

C: Lord, teach us to bring healing.

L: When we feel low and things don't seem to be going well,

C: Lord, teach us to talk to our friends, our family, and to you.

L: When we stop and see all you have given us.

C: Lord, teach us to be thankful.

L: In our lives, our neighborhoods and the world

C: Lord, teach us to pray and teach us the way to peace.



Prayer from Children

Jesus, please help us to respect others—even when they are mean to us and hurt our feelings. Show us how to love them and to share your peace with them. Thank you for taking care of all of us. Amen.



Prayer from the Young People of the World

(to be read by a group of young people)

O God of all, we pray to you.

We are young people, and we want to celebrate life!

We cry out against all that kills life:

hunger and violence,
physical and verbal abuse,
selfishness and injustice.

We want to announce fullness of life:

respect for the contribution of everyone, young and old,
education about life and the skills to make a difference,
food and housing and equality for all,
peace in our schools, our communities, our nations.

We want a world renewed.

With the Lord of history we want to make all things new.

(written by young people from Brazil and the United States)

Hymns and Scripture of Peace

Lutheran Book of Worship: 126,

366, 383, 415, 416, 423, 463

With One Voice: 628, 724, 753,

762, 763, 765, 773, 774

Matthew 5:38-48

Luke 6:20-36

Romans 12:2

Matthew 5:9

