

PEACE POINTS

Lutheran Peace Fellowship

Peace in our world • Peace in our nation • Peace in our neighborhoods • Peace in our homes • Peace in our hearts

ONE by ONE toward justice for All

Everywhere I go, I see the same compassion for people who live half a world away. I see the same concern about events beyond these borders. And, increasingly, I see the same conviction that we can and we must join together to stop the scourge of AIDS and extreme poverty. — Bono

What are the Millennium Development Goals?

At the United Nations Millennium Summit in 2000, 191 Heads of Government pledged to end poverty by 2015. They signed the Millennium Declaration, promising to “free men, women and children from the dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty,” committing developed and developing countries alike to eight Millennium Development Goals. These goals include:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve universal primary education
3. Promote gender equality and empower women
4. Reduce child mortality
5. Improve maternal health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Create a global partnership for development with targets on aid, debt and trade.

What is the ONE Campaign?

The ONE Campaign is an effort to rally Americans, ONE by ONE, to the cause of ending poverty in our world and achieving the Millennium Development Goals. Many leaders feel the strength of this effort offers a unique chance to achieve significant gains. The campaign’s political goals are:

Ways to Act

Locally...

- ◇ Encourage your church, school, or group to commit to support the ONE Campaign and Millennium Development Goals.
- ◇ Use resources like LPF’s “What Brings Security?” computer-based activity to spread awareness of how little funding from the U.S. budget goes toward addressing poverty.
- ◇ Create artwork, poetry, music, theater, or stories to share online or in print; organize a concert, reading, exhibit, or theater production to raise awareness and funds to end hunger.

Nationally...

- ◇ Use your e-network to share information about the Goals.
- ◇ Write members of Congress and the President, urging an additional 1 percent of the U.S. budget go toward ending extreme poverty.
- ◇ Join youth groups or councils that are active in the political process and advocate for the Millennium Development Goals.

Internationally...

- ◇ Buy fair trade products that help ensure fair wages to the workers who produce the goods you use, and encourage others to do so.
- ◇ Join organizations like Bread for the World, ELCA ONE Campaign, Lutheran Peace Fellowship, and Sojourners/Call to Renewal.
- ◇ Support projects that help poor communities become healthy and sustainable, like Lutheran World Relief and Heifer International.

“Peace Points” is an activity series of Lutheran Peace Fellowship that offers practical ideas and leadership tips to help encourage youth and adults in our justice seeking & peacemaking.

◆ Direct an additional one percent of the U.S. budget to address extreme poverty.

◆ Support debt relief for the world’s poorest countries to help them meet the Millennium Development Goals.

◆ Make the rules of international trade fair so poorer nations are not penalized in the global economy.

Lutheran Peace Fellowship (LPF) is a community of Lutherans across the U.S. and around the globe responding to the gospel call to be peacemakers and justice seekers. Founded in 1941, LPF offers workshops, a web site, education and worship resources, expertise, and encouragement.

For more information:

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It is not in the United Nations that the Millennium Development Goals will be achieved. They have to be achieved in each country by the joint efforts of the governments and people. — former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

Activity on ONE and the MDGs

Copy this sheet and cut up the goals, giving each group two. Invite each group to read and discuss theirs: Why is each goal important? What stands out about each? What organizations are helping achieve each goal? What information would be good to share with a member of Congress or other leader?

When everyone is finished, join back together and have each group use their creativity to present their goals as they would to urge an elected official to support the Goals (don't just read statistics). Then take a few minutes to discuss how all of the goals relate to one another and to ending global poverty. What might help encourage Congress or other leaders to join us in making justice for all a priority?

Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger

- 1.2 billion people live on less than \$1 a day.
- Every day, 28,000 children die from poverty-related causes.

Goal 2: Achieve Universal Primary Education

- 115 million children are not in school—56 percent of them are girls and 94 percent of them live in developing countries.
- Only 37 of 155 developing countries have achieved universal primary school completion.

Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women

- Two-thirds of the world's illiterate people are female.
- The employment rate for women is 30% lower than the rate for men.

Goal 4: Reduce Child Mortality

- Every three seconds a child under the age of five dies. A disproportionate number of them live in developing countries, without access to clean water or basic medical care.
- 70% of deaths before age five are caused by disease, or a combination of disease and malnutrition, that would be preventable in developed countries.

Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

- More than 500,000 women die from complications of pregnancy and childbirth every year.
- 99 percent of maternal deaths from childbirth occur in the developing world.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases

- An estimated 13,000 people become newly infected with HIV every day.
- Among young people (age 15-24) in sub-Saharan Africa, there are 36 young women living with HIV for every 10 HIV-infected males.
- An estimated two million deaths from tuberculosis occur annually.

Goal 7: Ensure Environmental Sustainability

- 2 million children die every year from infections spread by dirty water or the lack of toilets.
- The collapse of fisheries around the world threatens to increase hunger and poverty among poor coastal communities throughout the developing world.

Goal 8: Create a Global Partnership for Development

- Developed countries pledged to give 0.7% of their national income in aid. Only 5 countries are living up to the commitment; the U.S. is giving less than 0.2%
- It is estimated that were developed countries to break down trade barriers, this could help lift 300 million people out of poverty by 2015.

For Further Information

- www.bread.org – Bread for the World offers expert issue, organizing, group, and congregation resources
- www.elca.org/hunger – the ELCA offers one of the most active and creative religious-based efforts to end hunger
- www.heifer.org – Heifer International provides livestock and other sustainable resources for communities in need
- www.interaction.org – Interaction is the policy research and advocacy arm of 160 aid and development organizations
- www.lwr.org – Lutheran World Relief
- www.lutheranpeace.org – activities and updates on advocacy and root causes
- www.millenniumcampaign.org – includes resources, action ideas, and updates on what people are doing in developed and developing countries
- www.one.org – the ONE Campaign
- www.youthoftheworld.net – The World Scouts program on the MDGs

Leader Tips for Group Activity

1. Begin with prayer. Read and discuss these passages: Matthew 25:35, Luke 1:53, Isaiah 58:10, James 2:15-17, Luke 18:22
2. Hand out copies of the front side of this sheet and read through the Millennium Development Goals. Split into small groups for discussion (see directions at top of this page) and return to the full group for sharing.
3. Providing postcards and postage, encourage pairs to write a brief note to one or more representatives, local leaders, and/or family or friends about the Goals. (If possible, have sample cards and names and addresses of elected officials available.)
4. Discuss other ideas for acting on the Goals, especially ways your group can respond.
5. Conclude with a prayer: for those who remain hungry, for those who have the means to help, and for Christians everywhere to follow Jesus' call to build a world where no one is left hungry.