

# Kairos Discussion Material

*A quotation that may be helpful to encourage discussion: "As a community of moral deliberation, the Church is a setting of freedom and respect where believers of different perspectives may learn from one another." Moreover, "the church is a disturbing presence when it refuses to be silent and instead speaks the truth... when it names and resists idols that lead to false security, injustice, and war, and calls for repentance." (ELCA social statement *For Peace in God's World*, page 5)*

***Strive to create a climate that encourages respect for and expression of diverse viewpoints. Each of us has a piece of the truth; none of us has all the truth.***

1. As you read and discuss the *Kairos* materials what speaks to you most clearly? Does any part trouble you?
2. Have you had conversations about politics lately? How does your faith influence how you understand or participate in politics?
3. Are we in a "Kairos moment" as described in the opening paragraphs of the Statement? Why or why not?
4. Share examples of individual or community fears or anger that created opportunities for peace, love, justice.
5. How can we respect views different from ours while encouraging each to be true to our conscience and our call to discipleship?
6. What concern raised by the *Kairos* Statement would you like to learn more about?
7. What action do you feel moved to take, if any? What examples of social movements offer insight on how we might make needed changes?
8. How can we continue to support, encourage, and challenge one another about what we have discussed?

The *Kairos Resource Guide* offers reliable, helpful websites, activities, and print resources on the issues raised in the *Kairos* materials. 10-06

Handout:

## What Can We Do?

1. Talk with your friends and co-workers about the issues raised here. Don't be silent.
2. Read and share information from the Resource Guide about current strategies for change. Support groups involved in serious efforts to address issues raised in the *Kairos* materials.
3. Invite your congregation or group to plan an adult forum, series, or workshop on *Kairos*.
4. Write a letter to the editor on a concern raised here; also send it to your elected officials.
5. Join and encourage efforts to change our daily lives to reflect our values: purchase fair trade products, reduce energy consumption, ride sharing, sister parish relationships, etc.
6. Support hopeful protests grounded in the power of active nonviolence.
7. Help make *Kairos* issues visible in political discussions and campaigns.
8. Sign the *Kairos* Stand of Confession by filling out the form below, and returning it to Kairos, 19829 39th Dr. SE, Everett, WA 98208, *or email to:* charlie\_mays@msn.com

name and address: .....

email, phone, and affiliation: .....

## Kairos – Brief Resource Guide . . . Sources for Discussion and Action

Reliable, helpful **websites**, ♦activities, □articles and brief **books** for adult and youth groups and personal use

### *Moral Deliberation, Public Church*

ELCA Advocacy, [www.elca.org/advocacy](http://www.elca.org/advocacy) articles and examples of Christian advocacy and participation in public life

♦**What is Christian Peacemaking?** Biblical activity for an adult group to explore the full power of Biblical *Shalom*: justice, peace, community, wholeness, [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org) (1, 2, 5 sessions); Cynthia Moe-Lobeda, *Public Church* (AugsburgFortress) brief, eye-opening survey, great for group discussion; □Larry Rasmussen, The Steep Price, *Sojourners* magazine, 2-06

### *Christian Perspectives on Shalom: Justice, Peace, Community, Wholeness* (e.g. paragraph 3)

Journal of Lutheran Ethics, [www.elca.org/jle](http://www.elca.org/jle); Lutheran Peace Fellowship, [www.LutheranPeace.org](http://www.LutheranPeace.org); Sojourners: [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net); Equip4Peace, [www.elca.org/nonviolence](http://www.elca.org/nonviolence); Fellowship of Reconciliation, [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org)

□The Potential of a Distinctly Christian Perspective on Conflict, ♦What Is Christian Peacemaking, [www.LutheranPeace.org](http://www.LutheranPeace.org); Walter Wink, *The Powers that Be* (Doubleday), a superb overview for a forum series, class or personal reading

### *Policy Concerns Raised in the Kairos Statement* (by paragraph #)

*On Ethics and Foreign Policy*: Journal of Lutheran Ethics, [www.elca.org/jle](http://www.elca.org/jle); Sojourners: [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net); Lutheran Peace Fellowship, [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org); Paul A. Wee, *American Destiny and the Calling of the Church* (AugsburgFortress)

paragraph 8. *Preemptive War, War on Terror*: ♦**It's Time to Talk** and **Just War** activities, □**"Invisible Option"** article, [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org); good web sites: [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org); [www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org); [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net); [www.unitedforpeace.org](http://www.unitedforpeace.org); [www.DeclarationofPeace.org](http://www.DeclarationofPeace.org); [www.globalpolicy.org](http://www.globalpolicy.org)

9. *Military Spending, Budget Priorities*: ♦**What Brings Security?** computer-based activity with leaders guide on a CD or at [www.lutheranpeace.org](http://www.lutheranpeace.org), includes links for further information; National Priorities Project, [www.nationalpriorities.org](http://www.nationalpriorities.org); Center for Defense Information, [www.cdi.org](http://www.cdi.org); Arms Trade Resource Center, [www.worldpolicy.org](http://www.worldpolicy.org); [www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org) (above)

10. *Information Control, Playing on Fears, Media Manipulation, Silencing Critics*: ACLU, [www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org); Center for Public Integrity, [www.publicintegrity.org](http://www.publicintegrity.org); Fairness & Accuracy in Media, [www.fair.org](http://www.fair.org); [www.bordc.org](http://www.bordc.org); [www.fcnl.org](http://www.fcnl.org)

12. *Prejudice, Enemies, The 'Other'*: ♦**Inside/Outside Circle Game** (LPF); [www.lhra.org](http://www.lhra.org); [www.cair.org](http://www.cair.org)

13. *Torture, Treatment of Prisoners*: Human Rights Watch, [www.hrw.org](http://www.hrw.org); Amnesty International, [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org)

15. *Hunger and Development*: Bread for the World, [www.bread.org](http://www.bread.org); One Campaign, [www.one.org](http://www.one.org); Jubilee USA network, [www.jubileeusa.org](http://www.jubileeusa.org); [www.foodfirst.org](http://www.foodfirst.org); [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org); ♦**Hunger Awareness Meal** (LPF); Craig Nesson, *Give Us This Day* (AugsburgFortress); George S. Johnson, *Beyond Guilt*; Bob Dole, et al, *Ending Hunger Now* (AugsburgFortress)

16. *International Cooperation*: Global Exchange, [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org), Global Policy Forum, [www.globalpolicy.org](http://www.globalpolicy.org)

17. *Democracy*: □Bill Moyers, A Culture of Corruption ([www.commondreams.org/views06/0406-29.htm](http://www.commondreams.org/views06/0406-29.htm)); Center for Public Integrity, [www.publicintegrity.org](http://www.publicintegrity.org); [www.citizen.org](http://www.citizen.org); [www.commoncause.org](http://www.commoncause.org); [www.publiccampaign.org](http://www.publiccampaign.org)

19. *Economic Justice*: Global Exchange, [www.globalexchange.org](http://www.globalexchange.org); Interfaith Center for Corporate Responsibility, [www.iccr.org](http://www.iccr.org); United for a Fair Economy, [www.ufenet.org](http://www.ufenet.org); Intn'l Forum on Globalization, [www.ifg.org](http://www.ifg.org)

20. *Environment, Simplicity*: Worldwatch, [www.worldwatch.org](http://www.worldwatch.org); [www.earthministry.org](http://www.earthministry.org); Friends of the Earth, [www.foe.org](http://www.foe.org)

*General sources of commentary on public policy issues*: [www.commondreams.org](http://www.commondreams.org); [www.fpif.org](http://www.fpif.org); [www.globalpolicy.org](http://www.globalpolicy.org); [www.truthout.org](http://www.truthout.org); [www.thenation.org](http://www.thenation.org); [www.oneworld.org](http://www.oneworld.org); [www.indymedia.org](http://www.indymedia.org)

### *Nonviolence, Social Change*

Pace e Bene, [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org); Fellowship of Reconciliation, [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org); Sojourners, [www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net); [www.cnvc.org](http://www.cnvc.org)

Lutheran Peace Fellowship, [www.LutheranPeace.org](http://www.LutheranPeace.org) activities, workshops, and resources; ELCA Equipping for Peacemaking Network, [www.elca.org/nonviolence](http://www.elca.org/nonviolence), "equip4peace network" for information and links on resources, trainings, and support; World Council of Churches, [www.overcomingviolence.org](http://www.overcomingviolence.org); UN Culture of Peace site, [www3.unesco.org/iycp](http://www3.unesco.org/iycp)

♦**Wall of Hope** activity, exhibit, or project on nonviolence movements throughout history: [www.LutheranPeace.org](http://www.LutheranPeace.org); PBS videos: [www.aforcemorepowerful.org](http://www.aforcemorepowerful.org); Paul Loeb, *The Impossible Will Take a Little While*, 60 inspiring essays; Walter Wink, ed., *Peace Is the Way* superb anthology; Richard Deats, *Martin Luther King, Jr.*, brief biography emphasizing spiritual dimension

[Send comments and suggestions to: [ShalomLinks@hotmail.com](mailto:ShalomLinks@hotmail.com). For a more detailed guide and other material, see: [www.KairosAction.org](http://www.KairosAction.org)] 7-06