



Check out our website at www.diakoniausa.org!



Bishop-Elect
Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld

Bishop-Elect
Patricia A. Davenport

Historic Synod Bishop Elections

The ELCA has made history with the elections of the first female African-descent synod bishops.

Read about it [here!](#)

Resources for Ministry



Advocacy

We are called to be a publicly engaged church. Download sign templates used with [ELCA Advocacy](#) at last month's rally against racism with the [National Council of... Churches](#) for use in your congregation or community. <http://elca.org/Resources/Advocacy#Toolkit> [Files are titled "Advocacy Rally Signs."]



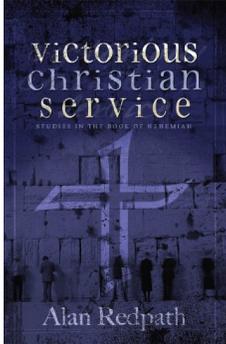
"God's work. Our hands" Sunday

It's an opportunity to celebrate who we are as the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America — one church, freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. Service activities offer an opportunity for us to explore one of our most basic convictions as Lutherans: that all of life in Jesus Christ — every act of service, in every daily calling, in every corner of life — flows freely from a living, daring confidence in God's grace. You work every day to make your community a better place. Let us continue doing this work together in 2018! View the [video](#) and access [resources](#) to guide your congregation's planning, promotion and more.

It's Diakonia graduation season!

We're looking for graduation photos, stories and reflections to feature on our website and summer

newsletters. You can email them [here](#).



Good Reads

Title: Victorious Christian Service: Studies in the Book of Nehemiah

Author: Alan Redpath

The events of Nehemiah's life may not be as familiar as the feats of David, the ark of Noah, or the storms tossing Jonah, but the hand of God is clearly upon this man's heart and mind. Dr. Redpath guides us through the book of Nehemiah and reveals for us the abundant life of Christian service. Nehemiah's motivation is both compelling and convicting as he risks much to honor God's house and, thus, God's name.

Available from [Amazon](#).

We Need You!

Are you interested in being featured in or submitting a Servant Story for a future issue of TheTool Box? Are you an instructor who would like to share a bit of yourself in "Instructor Focus?" Are you a site coordinator who would like to give us a peak into your program? Do you have observations to share from your a class?

We can all learn from each other's journeys before, during and after the program.

[Email us](#) and tell us your story!

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We're trying to build our own diakonia [YouTube](#) channel, but we need your help! If you have cool videos from classes, graduations or topics of interest, please [send](#) them our way and we'll upload them. [Subscribe!](#)



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