



Check out our website at [www.diakoniausa.org](http://www.diakoniausa.org)!



## Zoom Classes Forming

Several synods are forming classes using the Zoom online platform! They are open to students from any synod.

Find out more [here](#).



## Taking a Spiritual Inventory

Pastor Traci Smith (PCUSA) offers a tool to help evaluate our own spiritual wellness.

Spiritual health is intimately connected to physical, emotional, financial, and psychological health. It's hard to write about "spiritual health" divorced from these things. Often a detailed look into all of life will yield interesting results or connections, and often one life change can show results in all of these areas.

To download the questions in one easy worksheet, click [HERE](#) for a DOCX version and [HERE](#) for a PDF

Check out Traci's [website](#) and [sign up](#) for her weekly newsletter, Treasure Box Tuesday.



## Good Reads

**Title:** Sabbath in the Suburbs: A Family's Experiment with Holy Time (The Young Clergy Women Project)

**Author:** MaryAnn McKibben-Dana

"Life felt like a 500-piece jigsaw puzzle with 600 pieces." So writes MaryAnn McKibben Dana in the introduction of her [book](#). As she considered her family's frenetic suburban existence--a relentless list of work, errands, carpool, dishes, email, bills, yardwork--she knew something had to change.

Dana documents the Sabbath experiment as a guide for families of all shapes and sizes. Each chapter includes tips to help you claim Sabbath moments--to see time not as an enemy to subdue, but as a friend to savor.



## Retreat News

Metro Chicago Synod is planning a retreat on September 7, 2019. Details to come...mark your calendars!

The national board is considering having a national diakonia graduates' gathering in 2020. More info to come!



## Ecumenical meeting in U.S. to follow up on Joint Declaration on Doctrine of Justification

A multilateral ecumenical meeting at the University of Notre Dame will chart a path forward for the Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification (JDDJ). This year marks the 20th anniversary of the JDDJ, which began as a Catholic-Lutheran agreement, but which has recently been affirmed by World Methodist Council, the Anglican Communion and the World Communion of Reformed Churches.

Read more [here](#).

## 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!



## Get Social!

Join our Facebook Group. Click the logo!



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!](#)



[Connect](#) with LinkedIn!