



Check out our website at www.diakoniausa.org!



Zoom Classes Forming

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

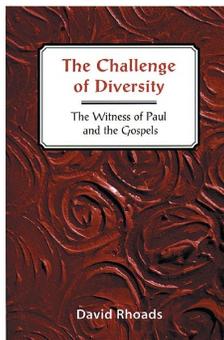
Find out more [here](#).

What Happens When We Ask People to Serve?

Why Ask?

A great article by Heather Roth Johnson on how we move people who see ministry as an obligation to an opportunity and ownership.

From [Storyboard](#).



Good Reads

Title: The Challenge of Diversity: The Witness of Paul and the Gospels

Author: David Rhoads

The book is useful in teaching, preaching, spiritual formation, and mission. Its aim is simply to be a source of Christian renewal at both the personal and the parish levels as together we seek to minister to one another and to the world. It is an invitation to reach beyond our own perspective and to embrace a wider circle of diverse viewpoints as legitimate expressions of the Christian life—both in the New Testament and in the contemporary church—and to be open to learn and grow from them.

Available from [Augsburg Fortress](#).

Retreat News

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



ELCA Churchwide Assembly Declares ELCA a Sanctuary Church

In a key action, the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly voted to approve a memorial that declares the ELCA a sanctuary church. The ELCA is the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. As a sanctuary church, the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country.

Read the full article [here](#).



50 Years of Ordained Women

In 2019 and 2020 we celebrate 50 years of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, 40 years of women of color being ordained, and 10 years of LGBTQIA+ individuals being able to serve freely.

Read the full [article](#).

[Watch the video](#).

We Need You!

Graduations are coming up!

[Send us](#) your graduation photos!

Are you interested in being featured in or submitting a **Servant Story** for a future issue of **The Tool 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!](#)



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