



Check out our website at www.diakoniausa.org!

Learning to Share Our Faith Stories

buildingfaith

One way to proclaim the Good News of Christ is by telling our own story in our own words, but that can be intimidating. Most of us would rather share stories about our favorite restaurant, movie, book, sports team, or travel destination than discuss our faith. As Christians, how do we encourage and support sharing our faith? What steps are needed to equip and empower adults for these conversations?

Read the full article at Buildingfaith.org.



February is Black History Month:

Did you know?

Sister Emma Francis was the first African-American deaconess to serve in North America and the first Lutheran deaconess to come from the West Indies. She taught at the Ebenezer Home for Girls, Fredenkstad, St. Croix, Danish territory for the majority of her career. She spent 1921-1927 in Harlem, New York where she helped found the Lutheran Church of the Transfiguration, now the Christ Center at Transfiguration.



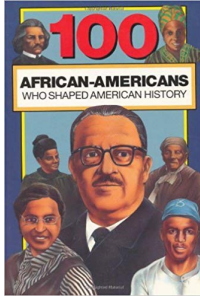
ELCA presiding bishop issues response to President Trump's "Peace to Prosperity"

ELCA Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton has issued a response to President Trump's announced "Peace to Prosperity" document. The plan would "bring greater insecurity for Israelis and Palestinians instead of peace," the statement read, in part.

"Rather than drawing together Israelis and Palestinians to reach a peace accord, the effect of this plan will be further alienation and, I am afraid, more tension, with the possibility of new, violent

responses. This path will not lead to peace with justice. It will not promote reconciliation. But it will reinforce extremists in Israel, in Palestine and throughout the region, decreasing security for everyone.”

Read the full [response](#).



Good Reads

Title: 100 African Americans Who Shaped American History

Author: Chrisanne Beckner

Teeming with interesting nuggets of fact and information, 100 African Americans Who Shaped American History includes such legendary men and women as Benjamin Banneker, Dred Scott, Mary Church Terrell, George Washington Carver and Bessie Smith. Also included are Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., Thurgood Marshall and many, many more.

Organized chronologically and meticulously researched, this book provides an educational look at the prominent role that these individuals played and how their varied talents, ideas and expertise contributed to American history.

We Need You!

[Send us](#) photos from your class!

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.

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