



Check out our website at www.diakoniausa.org!



Meet Joanie Williams

It all began as I was leaving a funeral and walking to my car. That is when I overheard Pastor Walter Hermans mention to my husband Warren that the Greater Milwaukee Synod was hoping to offer a new Diakonia site in Racine Wisconsin and did he know of anyone who might be interested. I spun around and raised my hand high saying, "I am! I am interested!"

I had heard about Diakonia at a Synod Assembly, but attending was not an option for me because I was the primary caregiver for my frail, elderly parents who lived with me and my husband. Leaving them and driving to classes in Milwaukee was not an option for me. But if

the program were offered in Racine?...then I could attend.

So in the fall of 2008 we began the Racine location and in June 2010 I was one of 12 students to graduate from that site.

Read the rest of Joanie's story [here](#).



The Voldemort Effect

Check out this [blog entry](#) by Dr. Rich Melheim

Rich is the founder/CEO of RICH Learning Global, the RICH Learning International Foundation, the Preschool Incubators Project, Faith Inkubators, the Faith Inkubators Foundation, and curator of Cross+Gen Life.

Take some time to explore his [website](#). His blog, "Ruminations on Life" is worth a read, and his podcasts are worth a listen!



ELCA presiding bishop responds to Supreme Court decision on travel ban

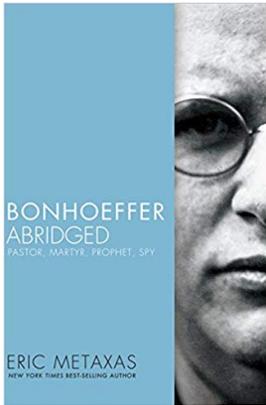
The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), has issued a statement addressing concerns over this recent

of certain countries.

Read the statement [here](#).

It's Diakonia graduation season!

Check out our 2018 graduation [photos](#)!



Good Reads

Title: Bonhoeffer Abridged: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy

Author: Eric Metaxas

A definitive, deeply moving narrative, *Bonhoeffer* is a story of moral courage in the face of monstrous evil. As Adolf Hitler and the Nazis seduced a nation, bullied a continent, and attempted to exterminate the Jews of Europe, a young pastor named Dietrich Bonhoeffer became one of the first to speak out against Hitler. As a double agent, he joined the plot to assassinate the Führer, and he was hanged in Flossenberg concentration camp at age thirty-nine. Since his death, Bonhoeffer has grown to be one of the most fascinating, complex figures of the twentieth century.

Bonhoeffer brings the reader face-to-face with a man determined to do the will of God radically, courageously, and joyfully—even to the point of death. It is the story of a life framed by a passion for truth and a commitment to justice on behalf of those who face implacable evil.

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.

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