



Check out our website at www.diakoniausa.org!



A Prayer for Hope

As the new year begins, we look to You for our hope, joy, and peace. Give us the courage to do all that You ask of us. Show us how to walk in grace and embrace Your love even more.



New Year Faith Challenge

Last year, the ELCA created a New Year Faith Challenge and shared this on its social media pages. The challenge involved a series of interactive templates designed to encourage you to experience your faith in new ways.

This year we hope you will take some inspiration from these timeless templates and allow yourself to connect with your faith in ways you haven't considered.

We invite you to save these templates to your phone or computer, or even print them out, and join in this challenge—whether you post your answers on social media, share them with friends and family, or just keep them to yourself.

The New Year Faith Challenge

20+ Questions for the New Year

I've dusted off and republished this list of 20 reflection



questions as we move into a new year. It's quite fitting for New Year's Eve but just as good in that first week of the new year!

[Read the Article](#)



Resources for Crisis in the Holy Land

In response to the Hamas attacks in southern Israel on Oct. 7 and Israel's declaration of war against Hamas, including the ongoing siege of Gaza, the ELCA offers the statements from some of our Lutheran and global partners in the region. Included are ELCA resources for a deeper understanding of the context, the humanitarian crises of the current war, and the ELCA's work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

[Explore Resources](#)



Good Reads

Title: A Year to... **Be Still: A Journal** describing your intent for the year.

Author: L M Montavon

Is this the year to quiet your anxious spirit and simply be still? This journal describes your intent and focus for the year. This year you choose to "Be Still", in a fast paced world. Be inspired all year long with quotes sprinkled throughout the journal to encourage you to reach your goals and dare to be something more.

[Available Here](#)

We Need You!

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!

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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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