



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](#).



The Five Gifts of Discipleship Online Devotions

Using the Christian Education Network Devotions on the Five Gifts of Discipleship, we invite you to join with others and reflect on what these mean in your own life and ministry. The devotions can be found on the CEN [website](#) under the "Living Our Baptism" resources - the Five Gifts of Discipleship.

When: Running from May 30–August 8; join us for one or more 90 minute sessions, starting at 12:30 p.m. Central Time. Facilitated by Dr. Diane Shallue.

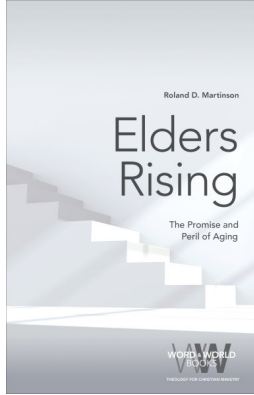
Session One: Thursday, May 30
Session Two: Thursday, June 13
Session Three: Thursday, June 27
Session Four: Thursday, July 11
Session Five: Thursday, July 25
Session Six: Thursday, August 8

How: [Email](#) the Christian Education Network Coordinator, Stephanie Pasch, to sign up for a session by the day before. An access code will be emailed to you for a video conference by Zoom. You may join by computer or phone. Please make sure you test out the Zoom app before the session!

Good Reads

Title: *Elders Rising: The Promise and Peril of Aging*

Author: Roland D. Martinson



Roland D. Martinson draws on the folk wisdom and experience of over fifty persons between the ages of sixty-two and ninety-seven. He puts this wisdom in conversation with scriptural and theological understandings of elders in the last third of life and sets forth perspectives on aging for individuals, groups, civic organizations, and congregations to utilize in developing a vital, resilient, and productive quality of life for elders.



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!



ELCA Presiding Bishop Delivers Easter Message

In her Easter message, the Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton, presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), reminds us that Easter makes it possible, even at the grave, to sing alleluia.

[Read or listen](#) to Bishop Eaton's message.

ELCA GLOBAL LINKS

Love Along the Journey

"Love Along the Journey" is the title of a blog written by Erica Bryer, who recently began a three-year term as an ELCA missionary in Japan. In a recent [newsletter](#), Erica shares insights into Japanese culture, as well as her six months of in-country orientation and the experience of living into her call as a missionary. Erica will be working with two congregations, Murozono Lutheran Church and Kumamoto International Service, helping with worship, music, their children's program and congregational planning. You can learn more about Erin and her work by [signing up for her newsletters](#) and by supporting her with a gift.

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!](#)



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