

Spring 1994

## The LDA Today, Vol. 1, No. 1

Lutheran Deaconess Association

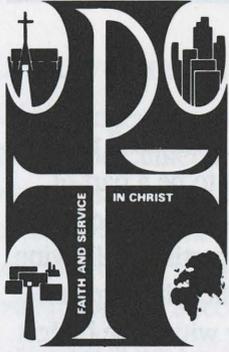
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# THE LDA *Today*

A Newsletter of the Lutheran Deaconess Association • Valparaiso • Indiana • Vol.1 No.1 • Spring 1994

## *Among you as one who serves*

**Name:** Deaconess Sabine Smith

**Position:** Staff, Zion Lutheran Church, North Manchester, Indiana

**Responsibilities:** Teaches confirmation, co-directs youth ministry program, assists in worship, and does hospital and shut-in calls.

**Quote:** *Teaching confirmation is one of the most fulfilling aspects of my work. I have a classroom full of average 11 and 12 year-olds, yet not one of them is average. They each have their own special hurts and joys. Working with them is a challenge, and I love it.*

**From Adam Fletcher, age 11:** "When Deaconess Sabine sees me in the hall she asks my opinion about things and she always says 'Hi.' I've learned new things from the Bible--more than just Jonah and the whale. Some of it is pretty exciting." ■



**Deaconess Sabine Smith helps Adam Fletcher, 11, with a confirmation class learning activity.**



**Deaconess Gail Musolf (standing) serves tea during lunch at the Friendly Center.**

**Name:** Deaconess Gail Musolf

**Position:** Parish Worker, St. Mary's Lutheran Church, Kenosha, Wisconsin

**Responsibilities:** Directs the Friendly Center, an ecumenical seniors' program (300 members) that meets weekly at St. Mary's Lutheran Church, coordinates the volunteer program for the parish, leads Bible studies, and does nursing home and shut-in calls.

**Quote:** *My calling as a deaconess is to work with seniors. Here at St. Mary's I have daily contact with seniors and that is the part of my ministry that gives me the greatest joy.*

**From Doris Kupferschmidt, a member of the seniors' group:** "Gail is very well versed in theology. Her Bible studies are excellent. She's wonderful. We're blessed to have her here." ■

*Among you as one who serves*, profiling deaconesses and their ministries, is a regular feature of *The LDA Today*.

## From my perspective . . .



**Deaconess Louise Williams**

It's not just a new look. The change in format of this newsletter is a sign of changes that have been taking place quietly here at the Lutheran Deaconess Association. Those changes reflect our renewed commitment to strengthen and expand deaconess ministry for the future.

We have reshaped our educational programs to respond to those students who want to combine deaconess ministry with social work, nursing, education, or music. We have developed new education/formation processes to accommodate an increasing number of second (or even third) career students.

We regularly work with congregations and other agencies and institutions who want a deaconess on their staff. We are exploring ways of providing better support to graduate deaconesses so that their ministries will remain alive and satisfy-

ing. (This summer we expect 150 deaconesses to gather at Valparaiso University for the annual deaconess conference. The theme will be "A Future with Hope: Diakonia for the 21st Century.")

We continue to offer programs and encouragement to the church's laity in their Christian service through our discussion series for mothers and the occasional newsletter *Diaconalogue*. New possibilities are on the horizon.

During the past two years we have examined our priorities and restructured our staff. The first step in our restaffing came in January as we welcomed Kristi Bangert as Director of Development and Public Relations. Kristi comes with a rich understanding of the church and its mission. She has a strong appreciation for deaconess ministry, and she has the skills and knowledge we need to tell our story

more effectively and to invite others to be a part of this ministry. (By the way, Kristi's expertise is allowing us to produce this expanded newsletter within the budget of our old newsletter by using desktop publishing and changing some of the ways we print and mail the newsletter.)

This summer we hope to be fully staffed again when we welcome another deaconess to the staff to work with me in services to deaconesses, students, and laity.

We look forward to the future. For nearly 75 years people like you have made the LDA possible. We are very grateful. We count on your support to help the dreams for the future take shape as we share Christ's love in a hurting world today and tomorrow. ■

**Louise Williams**  
Executive Director

*The LDA Today* is published semi-annually by the Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc., Valparaiso, Indiana.

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## 50th Anniversary Celebration Continues

Banquets have been spread, speeches and sermons have been given, guests have come to the campus, and a hymn has been written--all in celebration of 50 years of cooperation between Valparaiso University and the LDA. And it isn't over.

In July the VU campus will be the site of the annual conference of deaconesses. The conference will be a fitting culmination of this jubilee year. Deaconesses in attendance will be some of the more than 500 women who have been prepared for

diaconal ministry by VU and the LDA since 1944.

This 50th anniversary year continues to be not only a celebration of the past but also a celebration of what is to come. ■

## LDA welcomes development/pr director

Kristi Bangert has joined the staff of the Lutheran Deaconess Association as director of development and public relations. A service of installation and a reception were held at the Center for Diaconal Ministry on February 25th to welcome her to the LDA.

In this newly created position Kristi is responsible for the fund raising and communications programs of the organization. "I am pleased to be a part of the LDA," she says. "And I am

fully committed to furthering the ministry of this diaconal community which quietly, lovingly washes the feet of the world."

Before coming to the LDA Kristi worked for more than five years at the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago, serving most recently as associate vice president of the LSTC Foundation. She also has held development and public relations posts with Lutheran Social Services of



**Louise Williams (left), LDA Board President Lynn Bahls, and Kristi Bangert at Kristi's installation.**

Illinois and La Rabida Children's Hospital and Research Center (Chicago). ■

## This call is for you

Early in the merry month of May the LDA will hold its sixth annual phonathon. Each year we look forward to this special opportunity to thank you for your financial and prayer support of deaconess education and minis-



**Ellen and Bob Schnabel**

try, and to ask for your continued partnership.

We are most grateful that Bob and Ellen Schnabel have agreed to serve as the volunteer coordinators of the phonathon for the third consecutive year. (Bob is president emeritus of Valparaiso University and a former member of the board of the LDA.) These enthusiastic and faithful friends of the LDA not only help organize the phonathon callers but also pitch in and work as callers themselves.

So when Ellen or Bob Schnabel (or any one of our many volunteer callers) phone you, please say "Yes" to this ministry we share. ■

## Mom's find support, encouragement

*"We have continued our group into a monthly meeting. Great results!"* - Broomfield, CO

*"I would recommend this series to any Mom."*

- London, Ontario, Canada

*"Good stuff!"* - Vienna, WV

These comments are from participants in "The 'M' is for Me--A Discussion for Mothers," program produced by the LDA. The program, with video-taped guides, is a seven-session series designed for mothers of young children who

- feel confused by the many messages they hear about mothering;
- want to talk with other mothers about the real joys and frustrations of mothering;
- sometimes wonder, on difficult days, if they're really cut out to be a mother;
- want to explore how their Christian faith can make a difference in their mothering.

A brochure detailing the series may be obtained from the LDA. (The series may be rented or purchased.) Contact Lauretta or Mary at the Center for Diaconal Ministry, 1304 La Porte Ave., Valparaiso, IN 46383. Phone: 219-464-0909.



Sharon McDonald



Mary Phillips



Judy Schroeder



Jean Warren

## New students begin *Plan 4* program

**Sharon McDonald**, Ashland, Kentucky, is on the pastoral care staff of a hospital; **Mary Phillips**, Peoria Illinois, works part-time in her church and community as an advisor to HELP-MATES, a singles group; **Judy Schroeder**, Orion, Illinois, has worked as a sales manager and most recently for the Girl Scouts of America; and **Jean Warren**, Round Rock, Texas, is a social worker for Lutheran

Social Services of the South.

These four women are the new students in the LDA's *Plan 4* program this year. They are preparing to become deaconesses.

*Plan 4* is the LDA's education/formation program for non-traditional students--usually women with lengthy volunteer experience who cannot leave their home communities to enroll in college full time, but who have the gifts and the spirit of

*diakonia*. They complete their training locally, under the guidance of nearby deaconesses, with several week-long sessions each year at the Center for Diaconal Ministry in Valparaiso.

Do these women sound like you or someone you know? For information on *Plan 4*, write or call Mary at the Center for Diaconal Ministry, 1304 LaPorte Avenue, Valparaiso, IN 46383. Phone: 219-464-0909. ■

## *Nominations sought for award*

Do you know a Lutheran lay person who in following Christ reaches out in care and compassion to the hurting world? If so, here is your opportunity to hold up a witness and example of faithful diaconal service for the whole church to follow by nominating the individual for the 1994 *Diakonia en Christo* (Service in Christ) award.

The award is made annually in honor of two deaconesses, Martha Eber and Martha Boss, whose diaconal hearts have especially exemplified the service to which Christ calls us all.

You may request a nomination form by writing or calling Mary at the Center for Diaconal Ministry, 1304 LaPorte Avenue, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383. Phone: 219-464-0909. ■

## Where there's a will . . .

Have you included the LDA in your estate plans?

For a Christian steward, a will can be an expression of faith which extends far beyond ones lifetime.

To share in the ministry of the LDA, your documents should bear our legal name which may be written as follows: I bequeath to **The Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc.**, Valparaiso, Indiana, . . .

## *Save your receipts*

Did you know that canceled checks are no longer accepted as proof of a single charitable donation of \$250 or more? Save the acknowledge letters that the LDA sends so that you have written substantiation of your gifts. ■