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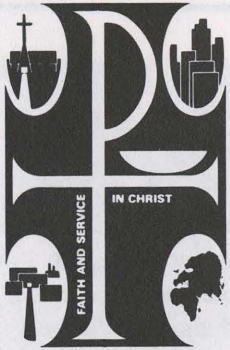
Lutheran Deaconess Association

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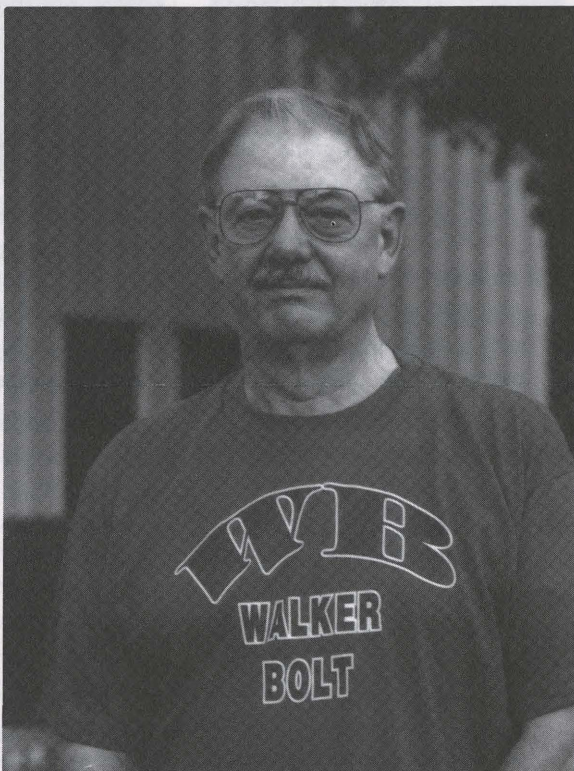
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THE LDA *Today*

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Calvin Remmert

Executive models servanthood

It was an easy decision really.

Each year the LDA recognizes the diaconal ministry of a lay person as he or she follows Christ's example of care and compassion for those in our hurting world. This year, Calvin Remmert was selected to receive the *Diakonia en Christo* (Service in Christ) award.

Remmert, a member of Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Houston, is the president of Walker Bolt. He models

diaconal ministry each day as he relates to those who work for him and to those who live in the community around the Walker Bolt plant.

"Many of Walker Bolt's employees are Hispanic," says Deaconess Doreen Leptien, who nominated Remmert for the award. "Calvin sees to it that the company not only offers employees a class in English as a second language (ESL), but also pays them to take the class.

"He also encourages the employees to become involved with Helping One Student to Succeed (HOSTS). In this program, employees spend their lunch hour at a local school tutoring 2nd graders," explains Doreen. "They donate 30 minutes of their lunch time, and the company pays them for the additional 30 minutes."

And Calvin ministers to the prisoner. "He hired two men who had served prison terms," says Doreen. "Both are still employed by Walker Bolt. And recently, when an employee was arrested, Calvin bailed him out and is helping him get some counseling."

These are only a few examples of the ministry Calvin Remmert models each day in his work place. A ministry of service to people in need.

Diakonia en Christo. ■

Do you know a lay person who could be nominated for the *Diakonia en Christo* Award?

Nominations for the 1998 award are now being accepted.

Contact Mary Hurst at the LDA for a nomination form. Phone: 219-464-6925

LDA receives generous gifts

Two new endowed scholarships have been established and are fully endowed. They are the **Edward and Ella Weber Endowed Scholarship**, given by Ella Weber, Schenectady, NY, and **The Rentz Family Scholarship**, given by Mrs. Marjorie E. Rentz, Ft. Wayne, IN. Also, bequests have been received from the estates of **Marie Prange**, St. Louis, MO, and **George K. Dennison**, Bloomfield Hills, MI.

The LDA is grateful for these gifts and givers. ■

From my perspective . . .



Deaconess Louise Williams

"We do feet!"

A couple dozen deaconesses and friends of the LDA wore "We do feet" t-shirts while washing hundreds of feet this summer. You might have seen them in Charlotte, NC at the International Lutheran Women's Missionary League convention, in Atlanta at the LCMS Black Ministry Convocation, or in New Orleans at the ELCA Youth Gathering. They might have washed your feet, tired from a day of walking on hot streets or long convention center corridors.

They provided a welcome service. They symbolized deaconess ministry. They told the story of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

"We do feet!"

About 80 pairs of feet hit the sidewalks of Valparaiso for a walk-a-thon to raise money to support the LDA. Most of the walkers were deaconesses in town for the annual meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Conference. They came from throughout the United States and

Canada. One came from El Salvador and another family had just returned from two years in Hong Kong. The walkers had solicited sponsors as had the other deaconesses who cheered them on, served water and fruit at rest stops, and washed the walkers' feet at the end of the 10-kilometer course. They raised nearly \$15,000. They might have asked you for a gift.

They had a good time walking. They expressed their commitment to diaconal ministry. They helped the LDA gather the resources we need to educate more deaconesses.

"We do feet!"

We do feet because Jesus, the one we seek to follow, did feet. When he took a basin of water and a towel and washed the disciples' feet in that upper room, he showed disciples of every time how it is that we are to serve. When he walked those ancient roads and touched people with every kind of need, he showed all who would follow the kind of service the world requires.

"We do feet!"

It is Jesus' example that deaconesses seek to follow today — bringing comfort and aid to people who have special needs, staying with those who have a difficult journey, addressing the roots of problems like poverty and homelessness, working to change systems that oppress people, washing feet and walking the extra mile.

"We do feet!"

And you do too. Through your gifts, prayers, and other support, you are part of the LDA's mission and ministry. For that we thank you, and we ask for your continued involvement. We know, too, that our friends and supporters are most often people who "do feet" in their congregations, neighborhoods, families, and places of employment. May God bless you as you seek to follow the servant Christ.

Sharing Christ's service,

Louise Williams

Bangert resigns

Kristi Bangert, Director of Development and Public Relations for the LDA for the past 3½ years, has resigned to become Director of Internal Church Communications and Marketing of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.

Kristi accomplished a great deal in her time with us — re-designing our publications and brochures, editing *LDA Today*, beginning the endowed scholarship program, increasing sig-

nificantly our contribution income, writing applications for special grants, overseeing production of the new video, training board members to be more involved in fund raising, telling the LDA story in person and in print, coordinating phonathons, washing lots of feet at women's conventions and youth gatherings, and more.

She resonated so well with diaconal ministry that the deaconesses gathered at the annual conference in August named her an honorary deaconess.



Kristi Bangert

We'll miss you, Kristi, and pray God's blessing on your new venture. ■



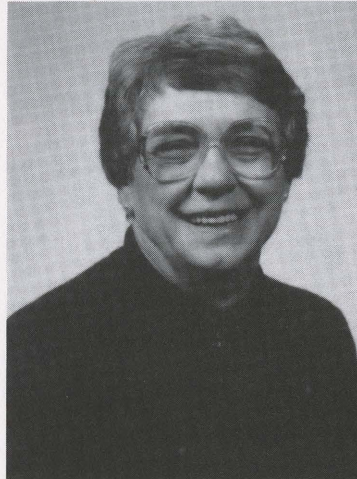
Deaconess Elaine Plackner

In memoriam

Deaconess Elaine Plackner, Northbrook, Illinois, died June 25, 1997, just seven weeks after she received the diagnosis of a rare and difficult-to-treat cancer. A memorial service was held on June 30.

Following her consecration in 1964, Elaine was Director of Education and Youth at Concordia Lutheran Church, South St. Paul, Minnesota. After her marriage, she assisted the parishes where her husband Jim was pastor. Later she served with Lutheran Social Services of Northwestern Ohio, the Charlevoix, Michigan school district, and as manager of the Pastoral Counseling Center at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Illinois.

Elaine followed in the footsteps of her father, Pastor Edgar H. Albers, by serving for six years on the LDA board of directors, four of those years as board president. She was a steady, competent, positive, forward-looking servant leader.



Deaconess Beverly Boone

Deaconess Beverly Boone, Tucson, Arizona, died September 2, 1997, following complications from a heart attack suffered earlier in the summer.

Beverly was accepted in the LDA's distance learning program for non-traditional students in 1988, and was consecrated in 1993. Her deaconess consecration was a public affirmation of what had been a part of her life for a long time—a commitment to the church and its ministry, compassion for those who suffered in any way, a desire to use her talents in service to others and a deep love for the servant Christ. At the time of her death, she was on the staff of Resurrection Lutheran Church, Tucson.

Deaconess Margaret Heine Towe died at her home in Cincinnati, Ohio, September 29 after battling cancer of unknown origin since April. A memorial service celebrating her life was held at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati, where she and her husband Jack had been involved in community ministries for 25 years.

Margaret was consecrated in 1961. She served as chaplain



Deaconess Margaret Heine Towe

with the Lutheran Mission Society of Maryland; as the first dean of women at Concordia College, Milwaukee; as staff for several congregations; and most recently as chaplain/deaconess at University Hospital. She had earned a Master of Arts in Religion from Concordia Seminary in St. Louis, and had been inducted into the College of Chaplains.

We thank God for the years these women were among us and for their faithful service in Christ's name. ■

Pennekamp elected to LDA Board

Members of the LDA's Board of Directors welcomed Eleanora Pennekamp to their ranks last spring. Ella, as she is known, is a long-time friend of the LDA.

"We are blessed to have Ella on our Board," says Lynn Bahls, president of the group. "She brings valuable experience and insight to our table."

Pennekamp and her husband, Elfried, live in Lakeland, Florida.



Eleanora Pennekamp



Judy Schroeder (second from left) was consecrated a deaconess during the Lutheran Deaconess Conference this summer. With her are (from left) Deaconesses Louise Williams, Heidi Michelsen and Karen Westbrooks.

Consecration anniversary reflections

Being a Lutheran Deaconess means. . .

. . . being called into service to one's neighbor, whether it is ministry within a church setting or in secular society. . . and being connected to Christ and to a larger community.

Tracy Benditz - 5 yrs

. . . being an example to others, calling them to the life of service. . . and being part of a community of servants who try to listen, encourage and lift up one another.

Lori Helmuth Wagner - 5 yrs

. . . being a person with a heart for service--wherever that service may take me. Extending service in Christ's name to those around me. Feeling the bond of community and calling with my sisters in ministry--and knowing I am not alone.

Brenda Bass - 10 yrs

. . . a community and heritage. It means feeling happy and proud to be called as a minister of God's mercy.

Carol Bowers - 10 yrs

. . . being dedicated to learning how to be the most difficult thing in the world...a servant. It

means being bonded to a group of amazing women, all using their gifts to glorify God. . . and my full-time ministry (which has been the most challenging so far) has been trying to show Christ to my children through my love for them.

Mary Hackbarth - 10 yrs

. . . to be committed to and invested in a community of women who share the same calling on the one hand, but are richly diverse from one another on the other, which creates a wonderful balance of being challenged as well as held both personally and professionally as we each live out that calling in our unique ways.

Carleen Miller - 10 yrs

. . . always caring for many people, whether in a congregation or institution and purposefully growing in my skills.

Lois Diebel- 15 years

. . . to try and put the Lord first in all things and to look for His voice and purpose in all that I do. That has translated into doing a lot of behind the scenes

activities which I love to do and have abundant opportunity to do in the congregational setting.

Katie Gosswein - 15 yrs

. . . participating in a ministry of service far bigger than my own position. . . being a part of our community. I have sisters who will support and encourage me and keep me in their prayers even as I remember them.

Kathleen Dornon - 20 yrs

. . . a very special connection with the larger church. The ministry offered by Lutherans in diaconal service is a most important blessing to God's church in this country and throughout the world.

Nancy Eaton-Reding - 20 yrs

. . . a place to belong, a frame of reference, a calling. It also brings a sense of worthiness, responsibility, direction. It is a name which at once frees me and defines me.

Jan Reaver - 20 yrs



Deaconess Rose Ziemke celebrated the 55th anniversary of her consecration during the Lutheran Deaconess Conference. Rose served most of her ministry as a missionary in India.

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