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THE LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN

**OF THE
LUTHERAN
DEACONESS
ASSOCIATION
WITHIN THE
SYNODICAL
CONFERENCE**

Deaconess

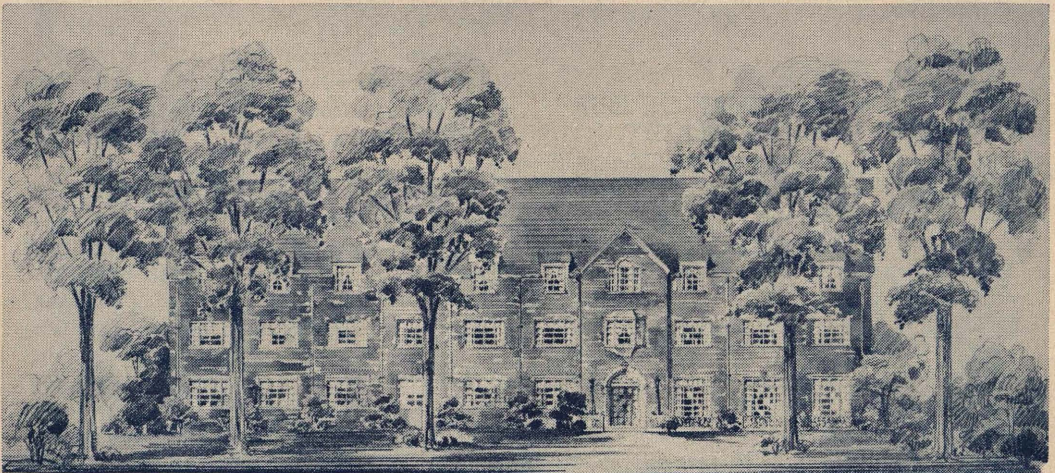
Vol. 30

No. 3



July, 1953

*Architect's Drawing of the New Deaconess
Chapter House
To Be Erected on the Campus of
Valparaiso University*



Froese, Maack & Becker, Architects, Saint Louis, Missouri.

Lutheran Deaconess Association, Fort Wayne, Indiana

IF GOD BE FOR US—ROMANS 8:31

"If God be for us," oh, my soul;
 Make this each day your ardent goal
 To have the Everlasting LORD
 With you in ev'ry deed and word.

The enemies that seek your harm
 Are many, but their fierce alarm
 Can never really hurt a child
 Of God, Whose grace and mercy mild

Surround it e'er in all its way,
 And give new courage ev'ry day;
 For "who can be against" the one
 Whose "God is for him" in HIS SON?

Pride and discouragement are foes,
 That often cause one bitter woes;
 But with our God we gain so free
 In each new strife the victory.

Theodore Wuggazer, Sr.

Note: At the consecration of Miss June Finger as a deaconess in Immanuel Lutheran Church, Bay City, Michigan, March 1, 1953, Pastor Wuggazer was so deeply impressed that he could not forego the pleasure of putting down these verses and sending them to us. We are very happy to publish these verses of Pastor Wuggazer who for 18 years was a neighboring pastor to us when we served at the Canal Church, Mt. Clemens, Mich.

**MEET MISS SHIRLEY GROH OUR
NEW FIELD SECRETARY**

On July 5th a three-year dream started to come true! Miss Shirley Groh in her freshman year at Valparaiso University first learned of the Lutheran Deaconess Program through deaconess students in her classes. It was then that she knew this was the work for which she would like to prepare. Sunday, July 5th, she was consecrated as a Lutheran Deaconess, and she begins her service on July 15.

One of fourteen 1953 Deaconess graduates, Miss Groh will serve as Field Secretary for the Lutheran Deaconess Association and will assist Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, Superintendent of the Association, to promote, publicize and raise funds for the Deaconess Program at Valparaiso University, where the training



Miss Shirley Groh, new Field Secretary of the Lutheran Deaconess Association

program is centered. She will be available to interested groups for lectures and discussions concerning this growing work in our church—deaconess service to parishes, institutions of mercy, and foreign missions. Prospective students may also contact her for information concerning their career as a Lutheran deaconess—how to plan and prepare for it.

Rev. Krentz and Rev. C. A. Hinz, pastor of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Mason City, Iowa, performed the consecration service there with Deaconess Kathleen Gaudian of Waterloo, Iowa, pinning on the deaconess cross.

In her home church Miss Groh, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Groh, has served as Sunday School teacher, Walther League officer, choir member, part-time organist, and VBS teacher. Her deaconess field work training has included one summer's work in a parish at Centralia, Illinois, and another summer in St. Louis City Mission Work.

In both high school and university she was an honor student, editor of the yearbook, member of honor societies, orchestra, dramatic groups and athletic teams. She received her B. A. from Valparaiso University this June with majors in religion and sociology and a minor in geography.

Shirley Groh.

CONSECRATIONS

Years ago it was customary to consecrate the deaconess candidates as a class in Fort Wayne, Ind., Watertown or Beaver Dam, Wis.

In recent years the deaconess candidates have been consecrated in their home congregations. This is advantageous in several ways: The local pastor can assist in the rite of consecration; parents and other relatives and friends can witness this beautiful rite of consecration; the Deaconess Cause receives excellent publicity.

The following candidates have recently been consecrated:

1. Lucille Zimmerman, St. Matthew's Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill., May 17. Rev. Ewald Lorenz assisted in the rite of consecration and Deaconess Gloria Guetzke pinned on the deaconess cross.

2. Elaine Yoreo, Christ Lutheran Church, Hartford, Conn., May 24. Pastors John Kavasch, Paul Prokopy, Martin Duchow and Karl E. Blake participated in the rite of consecration, while Deaconess Anita Rentz pinned on the deaconess cross.

3. Eleanor Weidner, First Trinity Lutheran Church, Clinton, Mass., with Pastors Theodore Martin and Melvin Hering assisting in the rite of consecration. Mrs. Gertrude McBride pinned on the deaconess cross.

4. Rose Marie Harms, Trinity Lutheran Church, El Reno, Okla., June 21, with Pastor Robert Biel assisting in the rite of consecration and Mrs. H. O. Lokengard, President of the Oklahoma District of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League pinning on the deaconess cross.

DEACONESS CONFERENCE AT CAMP PIONEER

A feature of the Deaconess Conference assembled in Camp Pioneer, Angola, New York, June 3-5, was the report of Deaconess Martha Boss on our mission work in Hong Kong. It was heart-warming to see the pictures of the many Chinese who have been baptized in our mission there.

Much interest was shown in the report that the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod had granted the Deaconess Association permission to collect \$250,000.00 towards the erection of a new Deaconess Chapter House on the campus of Valparaiso University.

Interesting papers delivered were: "Approaches to the Aged" by Deaconesses Strehlow, Roepke, and Schrader; "Helps in Working with Young People" by Pastor Arlan Brandt; "Enlisting and Training Volunteer Workers" by Deaconess Seckel; "Christian Citizenship" by Pastor Paul Gassmann; "Keeping our Mental Health" by Pastor Harold Haas; and "Efficient Sunday School Work" by Deaconess Grace Pomerence.

At the testimonial banquet the following deaconesses were honored for long and consecrated service: Anna Schrader, 25 years; Marie Bliefnick and Christine Seckel, 20 years; Martha Boss and Frieda Bremermann, 15 years.

Officers serving Conference are: President, Mary Arlbeiter, Vicksburg, Miss.; Vice-President, Frieda Bremermann, Chicago, Ill.; Secretary, Lois Roepke, Buffalo, N. Y.; Treasurer,

(Continued on page 7)



Deaconess May Graduates in their academic caps and gowns. Left to right: Shirley Groh, Lucille Zimmerman, Betty Buss, Naomi Schubkegel, Eleanor Weidner, Barbara Looman, Rose Marie Harms. Absent: Dorothy Murphy and Elaine Yoreo.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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All matters pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the Superintendent, the Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, 2808 Hoagland Avenue, Fort Wayne 6, Indiana.

Officials of Lutheran Deaconess Association

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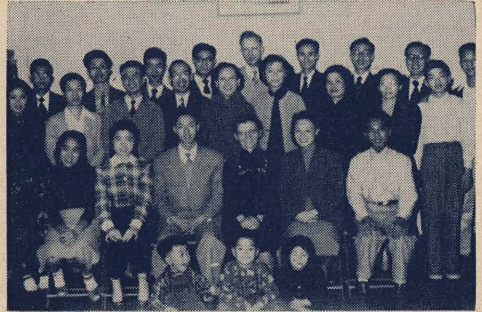
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DEACONESS CHAPTER HOUSE VALPARAISO, INDIANA

House Director: Mrs. Sylvia Trautmann



Deaconess Martha Boss with the Kowloon Sunday School Teachers whom she taught until August, 1952

DEACONESS CAREER DAY

On May 1, 1953, a student-initiated plan was carried out by having a Deaconess Career Day. In order to familiarize the young women of our church with the deaconess program, the student deaconess group at Valparaiso University extended an invitation to many young women who are interested in deaconess work to participate in their career-day activities.

The day began by registration of all guests in Recital Hall of the Administration Building on the university campus. Miss Betty Buss, president of Pi Delta Chi, gave the welcoming address. Then the entire group attended chapel services in the university at 11 a.m. Reservations had been made at the university cafeteria, and the luncheon was served there.

The first part of the afternoon was spent in touring the campus. Upon returning to Recital Hall, interesting lectures were heard as Deaconesses Grace Braeger and Frieda Bremermann gave descriptions of their work. Deaconess Braeger is a parish deaconess in La Grange, Illinois; and Deaconess Bremermann is institutional missionary for the Northern Illinois District in Chicago. After the lectures, Mrs. Sylvia Trautmann, house director, gave a brief talk about the Chapter House. Dr. Luther Koepke, academic counsellor to student students, outlined the curriculum for student deaconesses. Rev. Arnold Krentz showed some colored slides on deaconess work. A skit, "Life at 605 Chicago Street," presented by the members of Pi Delta Chi ended the day's activities held on the university campus.

Catherine Bewie.



*Student Deaconesses Enjoy Singing.
Do you agree?*

Mission Work in Hong Kong

Hong Kong is one of the three most beautiful seaports in the world. Many of our missionaries had passed through Hong Kong to and from their stations in the interior of China, but it is only since 1950 that our church started to work here. Hong Kong is a British Colony and in 1949 it really became a "city of refuge" to many Chinese who were trying to escape the Communists. Those who had relatives and friends in other parts of the world tried to continue their flight, but of course many of them had to remain in Hong Kong. Rumor had it that Hong Kong would soon fall into the hands of the Communists so that people were living in constant fear of losing their lives.

Just at this time four of our missionaries, Rev. Holt, Miss Simon, Miss Behling and Miss Boss, arrived in Hong Kong. Rev. Holt and Miss Simon had been asked to return to the States, and Miss Behling and I were to go to India to help in our Mission there, but somehow we all felt that we should stay in Hong Kong as long as possible and work among the Chinese. The Mission Board gave our group permission to stay in Hong Kong.

All four of us busied ourselves with studying Cantonese, which is quite different from the Mandarin dialect which we had learned in the interior. Soon we found many opportunities for teaching English Bible Classes. We visited some of the refugee camps and settlements and found many people there who spoke Mandarin, the dialect we had learned. These people who had lost every hold on life were very receptive to the Gospel. It was a pity to see them horded together on the streets and in the courtyards of the Tung Hua Hospital. These people were glad to see us and to hear the Gospel. The singing of a short Gospel hymn would usually be the beginning of such meetings, and soon large groups would gather to listen intently to the message of Rev. Holt or Miss Simon. The most favorite hymn of the refugees were the words of John 14:1-3, which had been put to some Chinese music. It was so touching to hear them sing: "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I

go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Many of them accepted Jesus as their Savior and asked to be baptized. Our hearts rejoiced when on one Sunday 37 were received into the Church of Christ through holy baptism.

Later the government moved the refugees to Rennie's Mill Camp, a place outside the city. The refugees were provided with a little shelter, also with two meals of rice daily. Our church was the first to erect a chapel in this camp. We opened a Bible School because many of these men were eager to learn more about the Word of God. There was no opportunity for the men to find work because the population had increased so rapidly. Here was our opportunity to teach Christ and Him Crucified. In this camp we had the great joy of seeing **120 people baptized on one Sunday.**

In Kowloon, which is a part of Hong Kong, a chapel was opened on October 15, 1950. Sunday schools were opened all over the city and many people enrolled in our correspondence course. Later the Lutheran Hour was broadcast every Sunday night at 6 o'clock. The Lutheran Hour Correspondence Course was translated into Chinese and at the present time there are 3000 students enrolled.

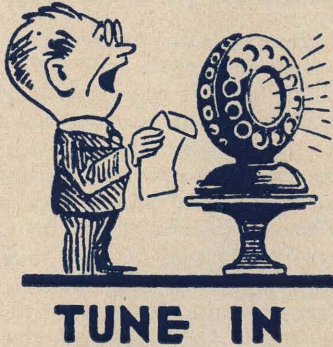
There are about 2000 children enrolled in our various Sunday schools. Our latest Sunday school is conducted on a boat in Macau. A total of 3000 people have been baptized within the last three years. Many of these people have gone to Formosa and some of them have started to teach classes in Formosa.

We are unable to correspond with our Chinese Christians in the interior. If we did, their lives would be endangered. Pray for them because their faith is being tested to the uttermost.

There is one lesson which we can learn from our young Chinese Christians, and that is NOT TO COMPLAIN, but rather thank God for having called us out of darkness into his marvelous light. Since I have been in the States, I can't help but think how often we must offend our Heavenly Father by our complaints.

Martha Boss.

STATION LDA



● We wonder sometimes whether too much stress is laid in child-training on vitamins and repressions and too little emphasis on the doctrines of sin and grace. Basically, sin causes repressions and grace liberates from repressions. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

● In the United States probably the first women's organizations of any kind were the "cent" or "mite" societies to raise money for missions in the early 1800's. One of the earliest was such an organization in Boston in the very early 1800's. It was concerned particularly with the work for the Indians, which was thought of as "foreign missions," but which we would now consider home missions.

● Synod has raised the monthly pension for retired pastors, teachers, and deaconesses to \$100.00 a month. This certainly will be appreciated by our deaconesses when they retire at 65. So far only one deaconess is living in retirement, Miss Katherine Laesch—this because Deaconess Work is still quite recent in the work of our Church. However, others will soon reach the age of retirement. This \$100.00 a month will give our deaconesses considerable financial security at the retirement age.

● The architects for our new Deaconess Chapter House at Valparaiso are the firm of Froese, Maack and Becker, the same firm that designed the new Synodical Building, 210 North Broadway, St. Louis, Mo. At the present time the firm is doing the architectural work for the addition to the Lutheran Hospital in St. Louis.

● Our new Field Secretary, Deaconess

Shirley Groh, is available for lecture purposes before women's organizations, Walther Leagues, etc. The best plan is to work out a week's schedule for her so that she can stay in one community for a longer period of time. Address your communications to her to our Fort Wayne office.

● In all likelihood Deaconess Erna Bartsch, who has taught in our Indian Mission in Pe-ridot, Arizona, since 1943, will begin teaching in Trinity Lutheran School, Wahiawa, Hawaii, this fall. We often marvel at the many fields in which our deaconesses are active.

● In Switzerland all six universities grant degrees in theology and make no difference in the acceptance of men and women students. In Lutheran Finland there are 194 women taking university courses in theology. Most of them are absorbed in teaching, but some are doing parish work. (About one deaconess to every four parishes in Finland.) There are about 200 women theological students in Germany.

● The Rev. Martin Kosche, pastor of Peace Lutheran Church of the Deaf, Indianapolis, Ind., writes: "Our little congregation of deaf-mutes has decided to sponsor a different charity each month. For June, 1953, we have decided to give attention to Lutheran Deaconess Work. Send us 35 pieces of literature and 35 contribution envelopes." Most encouraging, Brother.

● A felt need in our Church as well as in other Protestant church bodies is to bring the Scripture teaching of women church workers into sharp focus. The entire problem of women in church work needs to be rethought on the basis of Scripture.



Deaconess Martha Boss (upper left) with part of the Kowloon Sunday School classes March 8, 1953. Twenty children were baptized that day.



Grand Central Station, The Annex, Valparaiso. Four students sleep, live and study here part of the time. Since it is the only lane to the bathroom for 13 students the name "Grand Central Station" has been given to it by the students. Too bad if you live in this bedroom.

QUESTION DEPARTMENT

1. Am I right in assuming that all student deaconesses are nurses?

No, our student deaconesses are not automatically nurses. When the deaconess educational program was launched in 1919, it was tied up with the nursing school of the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind. At that time all of our students were nurses. But today they may or may not be nurses. If the student is a nurse, she may take either a one- or a four-year course at Valparaiso University. During this one year her courses will be mainly religious courses. She may take the full four-year course and obtain her A.B. degree.

Another question might well be, Do we need Deaconess nurses today? Most emphatically. Nurses are sorely needed in our overseas mission today, as well as in our Lutheran hospitals, health centers at our Concordias and in our widespread charitable institutions.

DEACONESS CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 3)

er, Christine Seckel, Watertown, Wis.; Board Members at Large, Grace Braeger, La Grange, Ill., and Anna Schrader, Buffalo, N. Y.

THE MOST UNUSUAL MAN I MET AT THE HOUSTON CONVENTION

I have just returned from that impressive convention of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, held in Houston, Texas, June 17-26. The most unusual person I met at the Convention was a lay delegate, a farmer. He came to me after I had addressed the Convention for a few minutes in the interest of our Deaconess Program. He sought information on the Program so that he might pass the information on to his daughter. Nothing unusual so far. He seemed so cheerful and content that I thought: Here is a man who has been regaled by life's sweetest roses without being scratched by the thorns. I was mistaken.

We started to talk about his family. In passing, he mentioned that one of his children had suffered a brain disease which left the child feeble-minded. More yet. This child is both deaf and blind, and the father finds it difficult to send the child to any institution. In relating this chapter of his family history, there was no tone of complaint in his voice. Rather he expressed his faith that God meant all this for his welfare, that all things work together for good to them that love God.

So simply expressing his faith in the merciful providence of his Creator and Savior, this man made a profound impression upon me; he was the most unusual man I met at the Houston Convention. No mental case is he, not frustrated, but mentally healthy. Why? Because he trusts his Savior and can say with Paul: "I have learned, in whatever state I am, therewith to be content." What a sermon that man preached to me!



Senior Irma Thoele making up Freshman Mary Jungemann for the University Players Production



Siberia, The Annex, Valparaiso. The Annex is the only building the Deaconess Association owns in Valparaiso. Joan Smith from Colorado studying on top of her bunk in what is affectionately called "Siberia" by the students because the furnace continues to snub this little room. Four girls live in these crowded quarters.

OUR BUILDING FUND

Mention was made in the last issue of the *Lutheran Deaconess* that the Board of Directors of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod had given permission to the Deaconess Association to collect \$250,000.00 for the erection of a new Deaconess Chapter House on the new campus of Valparaiso University. Likely the cost of this new Chapter House will be about \$300,000.00, equipment extra.

When the new Deaconess Chapter House becomes a reality, the growing number of students will be adequately housed. The Deaconess Association owns one residence in Valparaiso with a capacity of housing only thirteen students—that with the aid of double-deckers. Last school year forty-eight student deaconesses were in residence in Valparaiso. This necessitated housing the students in private homes, one, two or more blocks away. Such decimated housing makes for problems in management and breaks the unity of the group.

Our thanks to the following donors to our building fund:

Mrs. N. J. Mellies, Oklahoma City,	
Okla.	\$ 2.00
Rev. Otto Frincke, Royal Oak, Mich.	5.00
Pi Delta Chi, Valparaiso, Ind.	98.61

Mrs. Otto Koenemann, Decatur, Ind.	2.00
Bertha Froemming Estate, Milwaukee, Wis.	100.00
Mrs. Freda Krentz, Solon Springs, Wis.	10.00
Clara Linnemeier, Fort Wayne, Ind.	1.00
Deaconess Martha Eber, Pittsburgh, Pa.	2.00
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Oscar Salzbrenner, Fort Wayne, Ind.	5.00
Zion Ladies' Aid, Wisner, Nebr.	5.00
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Florence Ruhlig, Detroit, Mich.	5.00
Mt. Olive Women's Guild, Minneapolis, Minn.	10.00
St. Andrew's Missionary Guild, Pittsburgh, Pa.	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. George Rentz, Decatur, Ind.	50.00
Mrs. A. H. Rubin, Shelbyville, Ill.	5.00
Holy Cross Church, Davenport, Iowa	25.00
Lutheran Deaconess Ass'n, St. Louis, Mo.	10.00

	\$548.16
Previously acknowledged	\$11,659.27
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	\$12,207.43