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The Lutheran

DEACONESS

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION
WITHIN THE SYNODICAL CONFERENCE

Vol. 34 No. 2

April, 1957

Deaconess Hall Being Erected in Valparaiso, Indiana



Tonn & Blank, Inc. Contractors, Michigan City, Indiana, are doing all in their power to have Deaconess Hall ready for occupancy for the fall semester of this year. The picture above tells the story of their activity at this date.

WOMEN LOYAL TO OUR LORD

The loyalty of Christian women to our blessed Savior is quickly noticeable to readers of the New Testament. Especially St. Luke's Gospel puts Christian women in focus. Seldom indeed does Christ criticise women. Repeatedly he commends Christian women. He said: "O woman, great is thy faith". What a finale to a story that excites the reader's interest (Matt. 15:28) He said of another woman, "Her sins are forgiven for she loved much". (Luke 7:47).

Loyal women attain their height during Lent—the season of our Savior's suffering and death. To a woman, Mary of Bethany, was given the privilege of anointing Christ's body for his burial. The apostles protested her act of love—they judged and misjudged her action, murmured, grumbled. Jesus defended her: "Let her alone; why trouble you her. She hath wrought a good work on me."

Loyal women—the last under the cross and the first at the open sepulchre. When Jesus looked down from the cross during those six hours of excruciating pains he beheld a small group of faithful Christian women—a scene to stir the heart and hand of the Christian painter.

First at the open tomb. The story of Mary Magdalena meeting the Risen Lord on that first Easter morning is so fraught with emotion that it far transcends any Shakesperian drama or Hollywood movie. When Christ addressed her "Mary" she was electrified. I've often wondered how Christ inflected her name. Did he address Mary with a falling inflection to denote criticism? Or did he say "Mary" with a rising inflection indicating wonderment and approval? At any rate, her reaction was "Rabboni," Master—filled with the deepest emotion, an epitomized creed: My Jesus, you are alive, I trust you. I'll live for you. She did—she told the disciples she has seen the Lord—the first Christian to testify of the Risen Christ.

Following the long line of loyal women down the centuries are the deaconesses who offer their talents to the Lord Jesus in parishes, missions, both at home and abroad, and in institutions of mercy.

BROCHURE ON GIFTS AND MEMORIALS FOR DEACONESS HALL

Before us lies the attractive new folder gotten out by the Deaconess Association ex-

NOTATIONS IN THE LITTLE RED POCKET DIARY

The little red pocket diary given me by Concordia Publishing House accompanies me on all my travels, thousands of miles each year.

On the outside cover I read and re-read "Verbum Dei Manet in Aeternum" — The Word of God abides forever. Included in that Word of God which abides forever are those various sections of Scripture in which our Lord speaks of women, for example: "Mary hath chosen the good part which shall not be taken from her." Again, speaking of Mary, Christ said: "She hath wrought a good work on me . . . she hath done what she could".

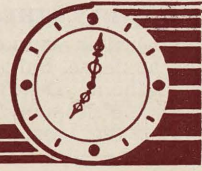
Inside the little diary is my preaching schedule—my opportunity to stress the beautiful texts speaking of serving Christian women. As I glance into the diary I think it is long overdue that I express my sincere gratitude to all pastors and congregations who have given me the opportunity to preach on the Deaconess Program in their congregations and have raised collections for our Cause. Here is a list of these loyal friends for whom I have preached so far in 1957:

- Jan. 6. St. John, Stryker, Ohio, Rev. Arnold Hahn.
 Jan. 13, Immanuel, Fairbanks, Iowa, Rev. W. F. Reddel.
 Jan. 16, Redeemer, Overland, Mo., Rev. F. Ritt-hamct.
 Jan. 27, St. Paul, Blue Earth, Minn. Rev. E. D. Eifert.
 Feb. 3, Redeemer, Philadelphia, Pa., Rev. O. H. Bertram.
 Feb. 17, St. Paul, South Bend, Ind., Rev. E. W. Broders.
 Feb. 24, Trinity, Sturgis, Mich., Rev. H. M. Heidenreich.
 March 10, Immanuel, Livermore, Iowa, Rev. D. E. Heck.
 March 17, Trinity, Lowden, Iowa, Rev. T. Eichelberg.
 March 24, St. Paul, Sioux City, Iowa, Rev. S. W. Holstein.
 March 31, St. John, May City, Iowa, Rev. R. Gutknecht.

plaining memorial gifts that may be established for Deaconess Hall. This folder has been sent to the friends of our deaconess cause. The brochure enumerates a total of 49 memorials that may be given, such as furnishings for bedrooms, lounges, prayer nooks, parlor-library, office, kitchen, dining room, piano practice rooms, guest room, house director's apartment, and carved stone figure outside of the chapel.

Small gifts, too, are welcomed and will be lumped together to secure a larger item.

The Deaconess's Day



Hurrying out of the house and into the station wagon, I find a bit of time to collect my thoughts for the important Walther League committee meeting we're having tonight. We have to make plans for the spring rally which will be held at our church this year. As the host society we must plan the program and the entertainment. "Let's try for a different approach. Nancy, you usually have ideas, do you have any suggestions? How about some thoughts from Bill or Diane?" "Jim, will you be sure to contact the guest speakers for our discussion groups?" This is really a busy group—they always seem so willing to pitch in and work. Just last year many of them were in my Sunday School class.

That Sunday School class presents a wonderful challenge—all 90 of them. They seem to enjoy the biblical movies that we have every Sunday and they retain so much of the subject matter. The visual aids program is a joy to present, for they are so eager to see what is coming next.

Speaking of Sunday School—I can't forget to prepare for the Sunday School teachers' meeting. This time I'd like to present a demonstration on the use of visual aids that might be helpful in our program. I've had so much success with visual aids that I'd like to see many more of them in use in our Sunday School.

Tomorrow morning I'll look in on Grandma Becker, she always looks forward to our visits and it's such a joy to be able to spend some time with her. Her cheerful talk and her interesting recollections of the church when it was just a renovated house always make me wish that I had much more time to sit and visit with her, but I can't forget to see Mrs. Jones at the hospital, Mrs. Kurth at the convalescent home and Mr. Schultz who is at home with a broken leg. Unable to attend church services, they are eager to hear a short devotion or perhaps to listen to a tape recording of last Sunday's service.

In the evening there will be a group of about forty members gathering in the lounge for a Fireside meeting. In a congregation

that is growing as rapidly as ours (last year we gained 200 members, making the communicant membership about 1550) it becomes increasingly difficult to maintain personal contacts with the members. Our lounge, which was specifically equipped for the purpose, affords a relaxed atmosphere for an evening of Christian fellowship. It's so pleasant to hear someone remark, "Why there are the Muellers, we met them at the Fireside meeting."

A stop in our small chapel will finish out the day with a visit with God. Then back home and thoughts of another busy day tomorrow. The joys of working amid the hustle and bustle of a busy parish are far too numerous to mention in detail, for God is always showing me another avenue of service to Him.

—Deaconess Hertha Fischer



Deaconess Hertha Fischer counseling with Walther Leaguers of Capitol Drive Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

OTHER NEEDS FOR DEACONESS HALL.

Some items not mentioned in the Memorials but needed for our Hall are listed below:

1. Rubber stair treads and floor coverings for landings\$930.00
2. Flood light for end of Chapel 132.00
3. Wiring, time clock and lighting for north and west sides 90.00
4. Plastering both sides of partitions between all bedrooms and between bedrooms and lounges and utility rooms 750.00

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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BUILDING PROGRESS

The foreman of Tonn and Blank, Inc., contractors who are erecting Deaconess Hall thinks that our new Hall will be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next school year. Much will depend on the prompt supply of steel and weather conditions. At any rate, the workmen are making remarkable progress, as of this date.

Excavation is complete, cement has been poured, steel beams are being erected. It is, of course, too early to predict with certainty when Deaconess Hall will be completed. By June 1 we will be able to judge better. But we nourish the hope that the Hall will

FINANCES

BUILDING FUND

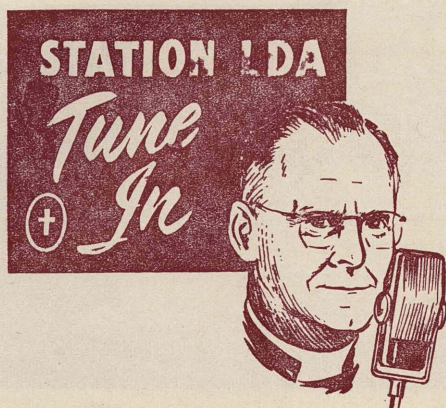
Below we list the names of friends who have remembered our building fund with a gift during the months of November - March. Our sincere gratitude to them. May others follow their example.

W. F. Dorow, Garner, Iowa	\$ 5.00
Mrs. Andrew Fuelling, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	25.00
Epiphany Lutheran Ch., Detroit, Mich.	250.00
Mrs. Carl Naish, Buffalo, N. Y.	3.00
H. E. Walz, Bismarck, No. Dak.	5.00
Deac. Emma Wehrenbrecht, Kan. City, Mo.	50.00
Earl A. Holl, Indianapolis, Ind.	3.00
Mrs. John Meyer, Hammond, Ind.	1.00
Esther Hoffman, Clinton, Iowa	25.00
Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Behrmann, Ridgeville Corners, Ohio	100.00
Prof. E. A. Hoppert, Lansing, Mich.	15.00
Mrs. J. Hedin, Swan Lake, Mont.	.50
Helen Klemke, Milwaukee, Wis.	5.00
Alfred Lehrmann, Houston, Texas	1.00
Mrs. R. Tresemer, Sherburn, Minn.	5.00
Mrs. Agnes Mitzner, Vernon Center, Minn.	1.00
Frank Kohlrantz, Angola, N. Y.	2.00
Mrs. Freda Krentz, Solon Springs, Wis.	10.00
Oscar Salzbrenner, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	25.00
Lucy Bruhn, Boston, Mass.	25.00
Mr. R. Rossow, Wausau, Wis.	2.00
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Groh, Mason City, Ia.	50.00
Mrs. G. Brandes, Quincy, Ill.	1.00
Messiah Luth. Ch., Sterling, Ill.	40.00
Zion Mission Society, Decatur, Ind.	25.00
Calvary, Luth. Church, Indianapolis, Ind.	25.00
Our Savior Luth. Ch., Gary, Ind.	10.00
Trinity Luth. Ch., Elkhart, Ind.	300.00
Mrs. Wm. Grein, Lakefield, Minn.	5.00
Mrs. Ben Hawkins, Pontiac, Mich.	3.00
Concordia Sewing Circle, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	25.00
Deac. Christine Seckel and others, Watertown, Wis.	12.00
Albert Schroeder, Madison, Wis.	10.00
Elsie B. Hoernemann, Brooklyn, N. Y.	5.00
Trinity Ladies Aid, Lowell, Ind.	10.00
Deac. Evelyn Middelstadt, Elk River, Minn.	5.00
Emmaus Ladies Aid, Ft. Wayne, Ind.	25.00
Doris Stieve, Mill Neck, N. Y.	5.00
Elsie Herzberg and family, Winona, Minn.	550.00
Lutheran Deaconess Association of Greater St. Louis	2000.56
TOTAL	\$3665.06

be completed by the beginning of the next academic year at the University.

We so sorely need housing space for our new students. Applications to enter our Deaconess Program are coming from all parts of the country. When our new building will be completed we shall be able to house 74 students, which is just about double the number of students we can house with our present housing facilities. And it looks as though we can almost fill Deaconess Hall with students the first year it is ready for occupancy.

More students mean more deaconess graduates and more graduates mean more Kingdom workers.



● Miss Ruth Mueller, deaconess nurse, will leave for our New Guinea mission field in June. She spent one year in our deaconess educational program at Valparaiso University which is all the academic work required of a nurse to be consecrated as a deaconess. At the present time Ruth is taking a course in nurse-midwifery at John Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, Md., in preparation for her mission duties.

● Deaconess Martha Eber, R.N., now serving at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, New York City, writes: "In a day's calls, I had contact with the following nationalities: Norwegian, Puerto Rican, Portuguese, Negro, Chinese, German, Irish and Hungarian. The last named are a family of refugees from Budapest, who arrived here three weeks ago. What a great mission challenge faces Miss Eber in parish work.

● Somewhere on these pages you see a picture of Deaconess Esther Matz, ministering to a crippled boy at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis. The Deaconess Association considers it a privilege to have three deaconesses serving at the present time in this "Home of Mercy", Christine Seckel, matron, Erna Heck and Esther Matz.

● We have just returned from another marvelous institution of our church, the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, Michigan. Here, too, three deaconesses serve: Miss Marie Twenhafel and Miss Marie Bliefnick, both of whom have devoted all years of their diaconate to serve deaf children as housemothers, and Miss Ada Mundinger, who has her Master's degree in education, having specialized in education of the deaf.

● On his vacation last summer, Pastor O. H. Bertram, of Philadelphia, conducted a

service in a prison in Connecticut, which he had formerly served while stationed in the New England States. Later on an inmate of this prison wrote him a letter, in which he stated that he had spent one year at a seminary, played the organ in church, but later lost Christ, forsook all morality while playing for night clubs. He further stated in this December letter: "I want to give the Christ child a gift. The gift is myself. I want to live a better life and serve him". Now Pastor Bertram is instructing this prisoner by correspondence in preparation for confirmation.



Deaconess Esther Matz lovingly serving a spastic boy at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis.



In March the 1957 June graduates were placed in various parishes, missions, and child welfare agencies. May these deaconess graduates experience joy and satisfaction in their blessed privilege of working in the Lord's Kingdom.

* * *

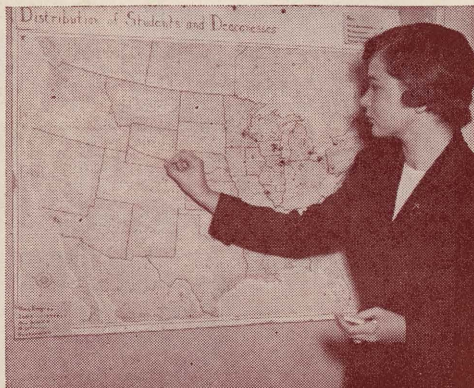
We have mentioned our deaconess uniform before, (why not invite a deaconess speaker for your group and see for yourself?) Another example of the impressive qualities of our deaconess uniform comes from Deaconess Irma Pflueger, Grace Lutheran Church, Malverne, N. Y. When a 4 year old Sunday School child was asked by her parents what she wanted for Christmas she answered, "I want a Jesus dress like Miss Irma's." She went on to explain that it had a cross on the sleeve and also on the collar. After seeing the deaconess uniform of "Miss Irma" the mother said she could tell what her daughter had meant.

* * *

During a recent speaking trip I told the story of Susie who came to one of our Lutheran Children's Homes with a scar on her nose. Her mother had thrown a can of beans at Susie because she had brought home the wrong kind. After my talk a friendly lady came forward and asked me if I knew where Susie had come from etc. This fine Christian lady had taken Susie into her home. Susie is now a young lady, but still with the scar on her nose. However, due to the love and care that Susie had received from our deaconess at the Lutheran Home and also from her foster parents she seems happy and well adjusted.

* * *

Various committees are hard at work preparing for our annual Deaconess Confer-



ence, July 1-3, at Island Camp, Henning, Minnesota. If any of you are vacationing in Minnesota during that time (it is a wonderful vacation spot - - my home state) you would be most welcome as visitors to our conference. A fine program is scheduled.

* * *

Heartiest congratulations and the choicest blessings of our Lord are extended to Esther Kusch of Omaha, Nebraska. Esther, a 1957 June graduate of Valparaiso University, has been selected as the Field Secretary of the Lutheran Deaconess Association. You will enjoy meeting Esther and will greatly benefit from the inspiring message she will bring to you about Deaconess Service.

* * *

The Mennonite group which is organizing a program for women patterned after our deaconess program met recently in our Fort Wayne office. They were at that time planning the educational program for their group. They will not be called deaconesses, but W.C.V. (Women's Church Vocations)

* * *

Have you seriously considered and earnestly prayed about giving a Memorial for our Deaconess Hall? What finer tribute could be given to a loved one than an investment in our Deaconess Hall?

* * *

Deaconess Louise Fox, this coming summer will be operating the 1st Vacation Bible School in the 99 year history of St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Columbus, Indiana.

* * *

May the boundless joys of our risen Lord be with you and yours now and always.

Mary

VALLEY STUDENTS SPEAK

"The steel is up!" This is one of the exclamations of joy frequently made by the Deaconess students who has just seen the progression in the construction of the new Deaconess Hall.

With the exclamations, we hear a few sighs of remorse. Remorse, because inspite of the crowded conditions and some minor inconveniences, many happy hours have been spent in our home at 605 Chicago Street—at the dinner table, over evening chats, and especially in the quiet devotions held in the living room.

The girls are confident, however, that just as many happy hours will be spent in the new Deaconess Hall. This confidence is expressed in some of their remarks, such as:

"We'll be in the center of "new" campus—right next to the new library, across from the Student Union, and only a short distance from the campus Chapel".

"More privacy!" "We will all be housed in one building." (We now live in 7 different residences.) "We will have recreational facilities which will serve as aonther means of achieving further unity."

The unity we now have as a group will find its basis in the new Deaconess Hall in our evening devotions held in the Chapel. This Chapel is being furnished by the Deaconesses in the field. As students we say, "Thanks, Deaconesses" for your contribution to Deaconess Hall.

We realize, too, that additional funds are needed to furnish our new home. Our hearts are filled with gratitude to all who have contributed, and to those who will continue to contribute to make our new home possible.

Our greatest source of joy is centered in the fact that upon the completion of Deaconess Hall, twice as many students will be trained for the work of the Kingdom. With God's blessings and the continued support and prayers of our many friends in the church, the Deaconess program will grow and serve!

Esther Kusch

SUMMER FIELD WORK

Deaconess students are still available for summer field work in parishes, institutions of mercy and city or institutional mission work.

Send in for an application blank for a summer field worker NOW if you wish student help for the summer.



Deaconess students packing food, the necessary item, for an outing at the dunes.



Students looking admiringly at their formals for special activities.



Deaconess Martha Herzberg in her nurse's uniform at the time of her consecration as a Lutheran Deaconess

MARTHA HERZBERG

1893 - 1957

IN MEMORIAM

As we looked at Deaconess Martha Herzberg lying in her coffin in her home in Winaona, Minn., on February 12, attired in her nurse's uniform, with her nurse's pin plainly visible and the deaconess cross above the nurse's pin, we were deeply moved. A consecrated and efficient worker in the Kingdom gone to her coronation!

Hers had been a unique deaconess service. She had spent her entire diaconate from 1929 to 1947 serving in Lutheran Homes for the Aged, first in Arlington Heights, Ill., then in Belle Plaine, Minn., and lastly in Fountain City, Wisconsin. On account of sickness she was forced to resign the service she loved so much—ministering to aged pilgrims.

To demonstrate that a deaconess could be of considerable help as a matron of a Home for the Aged, she served for the first six months at the Fountain City Home for the Aged without any remuneration whatsoever.

PLACEMENT OF 1957 DEACONESS GRADUATES

On March 8 the Committee on Placement met in Valparaiso to place the 1957 Deaconess candidates.

In all there were fifteen applications for the graduates, mostly from congregations, some from child welfare agencies, city missions, combination congregation and Crescent Office, and from the Deaconess Association for field secretary.

After careful deliberation the graduates were placed as follows:

Ilene Behlmaier, Metropolitan Lutheran Mission Society, New York, New York, the Rev. Wm. Stieve.

Jane Codwise, Our Savior Lutheran Church, Fairlawn, N. J., the Rev. Egbert J. Dunker. This was the fourth successive year this congregation had asked for a deaconess graduate.

Lorraine Ehmann, Lutheran Child Welfare. Details of this placement are still to be worked out.

Rhoda Gilmer, St. James Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe, Mich., the Rev. George E. Kurz.

Lois Graesser, Village Church, Bronxville, N. Y., the Rev. Howard L. Halter.

Esther Kusch, field secretary, Lutheran Deaconess Association, Fort Wayne, Ind.

Pastor Nommensen, under whom she served, gives her the highest commendation for her devoted work. Certainly another, our beloved Savior, Jesus Christ, will give her the commendation: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

At the church, her pastor, the Rev. A. L. Mennicke, preached a very heartwarming and comforting sermon on the beautiful text, "Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel and afterward receive me into glory (Ps. 73:24). In his sermon he also stressed the great services that Deaconesses have rendered down the centuries and mentioned particularly the appreciated service that Miss Herzberg had given.

Later we received a letter from her sister Elsie, in which she enclosed a check for \$550.00, to establish a Martha Herzberg memorial by furnishing one of the rooms of Deaconess Hall, now in the process of construction. What an appropriate way to perpetuate the service of Martha Herzberg!