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Lutheran Diaconal Association

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Lutheran Deaconess Association

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# THE LUTHERAN Deaconess

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VOL. 35 No. 4

October, 1958

## Deaconess Student Group Valparaiso University



Above you see the present Deaconess Student Group, the largest Deaconess Student Group ever to be assembled in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and affiliated Synods. For description of this group see page 3.

## ANOTHER SCHOOL YEAR BEGINS

It's fascinating to arrive in Valparaiso for the first time after classes are in session. During the summer months Deaconess Hall is quiet, almost deserted. But now there is activity; six dozen girls in one building are bound to be seen and heard: singing, greeting, joking.

We have the privilege to welcome the returnees and to become acquainted with our new students. When we look at our large and select group of students we feel a justifiable pride, for it is the largest deaconess student group in America.

We discuss with each student her summer field work. On the basis of comprehensive reports on the summer field work of the students from pastors and other executives, we evaluate with the student her service and may offer suggestions on the continued preparation and improvement of the student for the Christian service that lies ahead after graduation.

We hold a conference with each new student on the tests and inventories the student took under the guidance of Dr. Lawrence Hess, our personnel consultant. The student wants to receive the benefit of these tests and so she listens intently to the interpretation of the tests.

The heart throbs faster when we enter the chapel of Deaconess Hall for the evening devotion. Lights are dimmed—there is a hush. Here spiritual life with dedication is being deepened. Each student realizes that God has given her one, two, or five talents—on the basis of the parable we spoke on—and that she is to use her talents for the furtherance of the Kingdom of Christ.

The next morning at 11:40 we attend Chapel at the new Chapel-Auditorium of Valparaiso University. The immensity of the building is overwhelming. The chapel and the address of the speaker bring to us the thought that God too is big, generous, helpful, forgiving, strengthening—our refuge and our strength.

We step into the classroom where we are privileged to teach the course: "Principles of Religious Education." The class consists mostly of deaconess students but some are engineering students or are

## I GAVE MY LIFE FOR THEE

1858-1958

Hymn 405 in our Lutheran hymnal, "I Gave My Life for Thee," is one of the few hymns written by a woman, Frances Havergal. Frances wrote this hymn one hundred years ago. A beautiful hymn which has gripped the hearts of millions.

Frances lived her hymns before she wrote them. Already at the age of fourteen she wrote: "I committed my soul to the Savior, and heaven and earth seemed brighter from that moment."

Miss Havergal was pursuing studies in Duesseldorf, Germany, when she chanced to see Sternberg's celebrated painting, "**Ecce Homo**" with the inscription beneath:

"This have I done for thee,  
What has thou done for ME?"

She seized a piece of scrap paper and pencil and wrote the famous hymn "I Gave My Life for Thee"—our centennial hymn.

She thought her verses so poor after she had read them that she cast them into the stove. Fortunately, the piece of paper fell out untouched by the flames. When she showed the words to her father, a rector of the Church of England, he was so touched by them that he immediately composed a tune by which they can be sung.

In the past we have sung this hymn many times and found its contents uplifting and strengthening. Today, you and I, and all our deaconesses can not only sing, but live this hymn, as stated in the concluding verse:

"Oh, let thy life be given  
Thy years for Me be spent,  
World's fetters all be riven  
And joy with suffering blent.  
I gave Myself for thee  
Give thou thyself to Me."

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taking a physical education major, or are in the youth program or are considering going on to the seminary to study for the ministry, while others plan on teaching in parish or secular aschools. A composite group, who have this in common—All of them feel the urge to teach in some area of church work.



*Deaconess Marilyn Siewert, 1958 Valparaiso graduate who will fly to Nigeria this month to serve as missionary teacher.*

### **BOUND FOR AFRICA**

Deaconess Marilyn Siewert, 1958 Valparaiso University graduate, was scheduled to leave by air the early part of September for our Nigerian mission field in Africa where she will serve as a missionary teacher.

Unfortunately, the visa from the British government has been delayed and thus Marilyn is still at her home in Milbank, S. Dakota. Marilyn spent the summer attending Concordia Teachers College in Seward, Nebraska, in preparation for her teaching in Nigeria.

According to latest information, Marilyn will leave for Nigeria some time in October.

God's protection on your flight to Nigeria, Marilyn, and His blessing upon your teaching.

### **OUR GROWING DEACONESS STUDENT GROUP**

Our Deaconess student group has increased from year to year. Last year we had 56 Deaconess students enrolled. This year 74 students are in our program.

The increase in size of the student group is the result of liberalizing the deaconess

### **PLACEMENTS**

Recent placements in 1958 Deaconess graduates:

1. Geraldine Eubanks, Faith Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Mo., Rev. Martin J. Nees, Pastor.
2. Della Henning, St. Paul Lutheran Church, Ida Grove, Iowa, the Rev. E. F. Dohrmann, Pastor.
3. Germaine Schwandt, Lutheran Children's Aid Society, Cleveland, Ohio, the Rev. Theodore Meibohm, Executive Secretary.

uniform, of raising academic standards by transferring our educational program to Valparaiso University, of giving the deaconess the necessary status, of abandoning the motherhouse idea with a stipend for the services of a deaconess and transferring to full and adequate salary with the option of security by joining the pension plan of Synod.

The 74 students represent 20 states. Illinois has sent us the largest number of students—14. Michigan and Minnesota have each sent us 11 students and we welcome 5 students from New York and another 5 from Wisconsin. Other students come from Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Maryland, Massachusetts, Missouri, Nebraska, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon and Pennsylvania.

A spectacular change in our student personnel is the enrollment of six nurses in our educational program. This may be meaningful for our overseas mission program.

We welcome into our program Miss Jeanne Louie, our first Chinese student, who comes to us from the True Light Mission in New York City.

Another noticeable trend is the large number of transfer students. Four students transferred to our program from various state colleges and universities, two girls transferred as regular students from Valpo's campus, as did seven additional students from our Concordias. We also received a couple of transfer students from St. John's Winfield, Kansas and St. Olaf's.

## THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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All matters pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the Executive Director, the Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, 3714 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

### Officials of Lutheran Deaconess Association

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### LUTHERAN DEACONESS HALL

VALPARAISO, INDIANA

House Director: Deaconess Clara Strehlow

## TRANSFERS

The following deaconesses have recently been transferred to new fields of service:

1. Elaine Yoreo to Peace Lutheran Church, Wyandotte, Michigan.
2. Gloria Zupfer to Redeemer Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
3. Naomi Schubkegel to Zion Lutheran Church, Abilene, Texas.
4. Ruth Broermann to Trinity Lutheran Church, Hyde Park, New York.
5. Martha Theilmann to Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisconsin.
6. Marie Hartos, put in Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisconsin.

# FINANCES

**CURRENT SUPPORT . . .** Our budget for the fiscal year which closed August 31 was \$55,472. We raised \$45,631.12. We did not reach our goal. This encourages us to try harder this fiscal year to attain a budget which will be higher than last year's budget.

There are encouraging signs of more fiscal support. More and more congregations and societies are remembering our cause with gifts, membership dues, collections. More individuals are taking out patron memberships which you, too, may want to do.

**BUDGETARY ALLOTMENTS . . .** A sign of greater financial help is the number of pastors who have returned cards to us pledging to ask their congregations to place our cause in their 1959 budget. The first two cards were received from the Rev. Norman Berning, Knox, Indiana, and the Rev. Fred Droegemueller, Decatur, Indiana.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND. 1.** A great help to the furtherance of our educational program is the scholarship monies received from LWML Districts such as Southern California, Southern Illinois, Colorado, Minnesota, North Dakota, Oklahoma, South Dakota totalling several thousand dollars. Also quite a few ladies aids and individuals support our scholarship fund. These various women's groups, individuals realize that if we are to give out scholarship help we need scholarship intake. It's as simple and basic as that.

**MEMORIALS . . .** Often pastors and laymen tell us how much they like our new Deaconess Hall. Some friends inquire about the financial needs for the Hall. We are happy to pass on the information that there is still opportunity to furnish a room either for two students at a cost of \$550 or for four students at a cost of \$1100 as a memorial to some departed friend or relative.

## STATION LDA

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In

- The Augustana Synod is easing its rules for Deaconesses. Their deaconesses will be allowed to abandon the traditional garb and the use of the title "Sister." According to Dr. Robert Holman, St. Paul, Minn., physician who headed the committee to study the vocational program of their church body, the lack of recruits, the high incidence of resignations and the resulting high cost of deaconess training were clear evidence that something is seriously wrong. Statistically, since 1948, the average yearly enrollment has been 13 students, but no more than two new deaconesses were consecrated in an average year.
- Our first parish deaconess in the State of Texas is Miss Naomi Schubkegel who began service in Zion Lutheran Church,

Abilene, Texas, on August 15. There she teaches Kindergarten, visits the non-member parents regularly, calls on Sunday School prospects and delinquents and on elderly women, plans and supervises the Vacation Bible School, works closely with the Youth Club and the Walther League, serves as administrative assistant in the office. Prior to serving in Texas, Naomi served as parish deaconess in Christ Lutheran Church, Chicago, Ill., 1953-1958.

- For various reasons deaconesses wish to be transferred from one area of service to another. At the present time one of our deaconesses, who is very adept at music, choir leading and organ mastery, is available. Also women write us who want to enter church work but do not desire to become deaconesses. We gladly assist deaconesses and others to be transferred to another field of service. Write our Fort Wayne office for help in your parish or institution or mission.
- We had preached in Fredonia, Wis., (Rev. Jagow) and the congregation was raising a collection for the support of the deaconess program. A small lad, Don Schumacher, put a dollar on the collection plate. When his mother asked him why he gave a dollar, for he had change in his pocket, he said, "Well, mother, you know, we've got to have those deaconesses." Don, you are right, so right.



The Rev. Louis T. Buchheimer, Pastor of the True Light Mission, New York City, with Miss Jeanne Louie, our first Chinese Deaconess student at Valparaiso.

The summer has come and gone and as I get ready for my first trip to Canada, autumn's rich colors are beginning to show. With the end of summer, my first year as Field Secretary draws to a close . . . and with it comes many wonderful memories. So it's time to say a hearty "Thanks" to the many people whose kind hospitality and sincere interest in the work of the Deaconess program made my first year such a wonderful one.

\* \* \*

My thanks are also extended to District Presidents G. Karkau, O. Krueger, G. Lobeck, W. Oetting, H. F. Krohn, F. Niedner, W. Meyer, A. Behrend, and P. Mueller for the time given to me to present the progress of the LDA to District Synodical Conventions.

\* \* \*

It was a pleasure to attend these Conventions and tell about the new high in the student enrollment. It was an even greater joy to relate to the Iowa-West, Oklahoma, and Kansas Districts that graduate Deaconesses had been assigned to do Kingdom work in their Districts.

\* \* \*

Joy was expressed by lay delegates and pastors over the completion of Deaconess Hall. Those who had had the opportunity to visit Deaconess Hall during the summer were impressed with its beauty.

\* \* \*

At Synodical Conventions, I, too, had

to talk about finances . . . about our increased budget . . . one made necessary by repayment and interest on our \$175,000 loan and the additional funds needed for scholarships. It is the sincere hope of this writer that lay delegates and pastors will encourage their congregations to place our work into their annual congregational budgets. Gifts from congregational budgets will help stabilize our budget. Our thanks to the many ladies' groups and the congregations who have become annual contributors.

\* \* \*

Something wonderful is happening in my native state of Iowa . . . four Deaconesses arrived in Iowa this fall; two are 1958 graduates, one transferred from Minnesota; another, a 1957 graduate, began service in the Lutheran Home Finding Society in Fort Dodge, Iowa after completing one year of graduate study in Social Work.

Three of the four Deaconesses are co-workers with pastors in the busy parish ministry in Cedar Rapids, Manning, and Ida Grove, Iowa.

The other Deaconess, Miss Lorraine Ehmann serves in the vitally important ministry of Child Welfare . . . showing love and understanding to an un-wed mother . . . interviewing prospective adoptive and foster-home parents . . . giving a child a "new start" in a Christian home . . . What rewarding work!

In His Name, Esther.

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**Annual Patron Membership — Lutheran Deaconess Association**

Date.....

Dear Christian Friends:

As the Lord blesses me, it is my intention to contribute each year for the current expenses of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, the sum of \$....., or more. I would like to be reminded of my Patron contribution on (date)

.....

Congregation ..... Patron Signature .....

Pastor ..... Address .....

.....



### SUMMER FIELD WORK

I spent the past summer working in St. Louis City Missions at Koch Hospital. It was a joy to share the knowledge of the love of Christ with the T. B. patients. One morning as I was walking down the corridor I heard a patient in a very weak voice manage to utter, "Are you the lady that prays for people?" She had become seriously ill during the night. Somewhat aware of her condition she breathlessly asked that I would pray with her that "God will make me well if it is His will." Listening to the testimony of one of the women gave me added trust in God's providence. An unchurched patient, knowing her baby's serious condition prayed fervently that he would recover. God miraculously spared him. The mother believed that this God whom she had previously ignored had heard her prayer and saved her baby. She brought him to be baptized. I had the opportunity to give her confirmation instructions. —Betty Bader.

Children are unpredictable—especially girls. I reached this conclusion after spending a wonderful summer living and working with approximately 15 girls at the Children's Home in Addison, Illinois. Two little girls who are today best friends may

tomorrow have chosen others to rate the title of "best." Quarrels? Yes, just as any other children share their little squabbles—so my Addison "charges" had theirs. But it was after a day when there had been an unusual amount of bickering that these children taught me the most and came the closest to my heart. Their prayers were not formal, stilted ones but prayers of heart-felt sorrow for the wrongs they had done. Forgiveness was asked for and a plea for a better day tomorrow was voiced.

—Lucille Wiese.

"Sometimes it takes a little eight-year-old preacher to make one remember that faith is an every day affair. This was brought home to me in a very real way during my summer of work among the little boys at Bethesda Lutheran Home for Mentally Retarded Children. One of our little "guys" was not feeling well so we took him down to the clinic for an examination. We discovered he had a very high temperature and it was decided that he should stay down in the hospital till he got well. Of course, this news brought on a torrent of tears. Stay in bed? On such a nice day? Never. He wanted to go home! Nothing I could say seemed to help too much. A little later I brought a little ten-year-old boy down to the hospital to visit our sick boy. Without hesitation our "little preacher" went into the room and said to his sick ward brother, "Don't cry. Jesus makes you better." To this little "guy" Jesus was the center of everything. —Judith Richardson.



*Deaconess students who did field work this summer at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wisconsin. From left to right: June Julius, R.N., Jacqueline Hawg, Judith Richardson, Helena Beers.*

## THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association will be held in Zion Lutheran Hall, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Nov. 9.

The business meeting will begin at 4:30 p. m. and will be in charge of the Rev. Edgar Albers, President of the Deaconess Association. At the business meeting election of officers will take place. The terms of the following officers expire this year: The Rev. Herbert Lindemann, Mr. Fred Uffelmann and Miss Pauline Krudop. The budget will be set for this fiscal year. Reports will be given by our Field Secretary, Miss Esther Kusch, by our treasurer, Mr. Oscar Salzbrenner, by our House Director, Miss Clara Strehlow and by the Executive Director, the Rev. Arnold F. Krentz.

The second portion of the Annual Meeting will be an informational and inspirational dinner meeting. Upperclassmen from our Deaconess student group will travel by chartered bus from Valparaiso to Fort Wayne (112 miles) to bring our educational program at Valparaiso University nearer to the friends and members of the Deaconess Association.

The Deaconess speaker will be Miss Jean Hoover, parish worker in St. John's Lutheran Church, Toronto.

## CONSECRATIONS

Deaconess Candidates Germaine Schwandt was consecrated in Faith Memorial Church, Valparaiso, Indiana, August 3. Pastor Milton W. Gundermann preached the sermon and Doctor Andrew Schulze read the rite of consecration.

Miss Marilyn Siewert was consecrated in Milbank, South Dakota, on August 10. Pastor A. F. Vomhof preached the sermon and pastor C. J. Schleicher read the consecration rite.

On the same Sunday Miss Geraldine Eubanks was consecrated in Good Samaritan Lutheran Chapel, St. Louis, Missouri. The Rev. Geo. H. Liebenow preached the sermon, Chaplain Edward P. Mahnke served as liturgist and Prof. Elmer Foelber performed the rite of consecration.

A week later, August 17th, Della Henning, was consecrated as a deaconess in Zion Lutheran Church, Cleghorn, Wis. Pastor George Fierke read the rite of consecration and the Rev. A. F. Krentz delivered the sermon.

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The annual meeting will conclude with a vesper service conducted by Prof. Robert Bertram, head of the Religion Department, Valparaiso University.



*A study room in Deaconess Hall. Comfortable and functional.*