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Lutheran Deaconess Association

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THE LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
LUTHERAN
DEACONESS
ASSOCIATION
WITHIN THE
SYNODICAL
CONFERENCE

LET'S REFORM
OURSELVES
JOURNAL
Baptist

Deaconess

Vol. 28

No. 2



April 1951



STUDENT DEACONESS GROUP, VALPARAISO UNIVERSITY, 1950-1951. Missing in the picture is Miss Clara Hermes who was graduated in January. At the extreme right, first row is the House-Mother of the Deaconess Chapter House and the Annex; Mrs. Sylvia Trautman.

UNDERSTANDING OUR TIMES

The Children of Issachar were men that had understanding of the time, to know what Israel should do. 1 Chron. 12:32.

Israel was in a dilemma. King Saul had committed suicide. Some of the tribes were undecided what to do, whether they should cling to the family of Saul, or accept David as their king. The fewest of all tribes, 200 men of the tribe of Issachar, accepted a change in dynasty, David as their king. For that reason they are given a most unusual compliment: They had understanding of their time. They were keen analysts, showed intelligence, which is the ability to cope with a novel situation. They knew the course of action Israel should take. By accepting David as their king they were following divine leadership.

This text must be meaningful for us in the year 1951. The greatest problem facing our nation, our government, our church, our university, our individual lives, is to understand the times in which we are living and on the basis of our understanding to map out our course of action.

It would be an overstatement to say that any one of us fully understands the peculiar times in which we are living. Recently in coming to Valparaiso, I noticed a mother standing on the railroad platform with a strained face. Her soldier son had just entered the coach. As I watched her, drama took place. A tear or two came into her eyes. She probably thought: Why must this be? I don't understand it—symbolic of the thoughts of many today.

Yet next to our Bibles and our own hearts, our Lord wants us to study our own times. He severely censured the Jews because they did not discern the signs of the times, because they did not know the time of their visitation.

To some extent we can understand our times. It is quite apparent that in our day there is a lack of Christian conviction, religious stamina, deep faith in Christ. I fear myself, fear mere form, going through the motions. Religion so easily becomes dead routine. Today we need to feel the divine urge to approach Jesus with these words: "Just as I am, without one plea, but that thy blood was shed for me, O Lamb of God, I come, I come." Forgiveness in Jesus, that is desperately needed in times like these.

Again, today a feeling of futility is gripping men. "What's the use, why continue college?" men ask. Some men throughout the land did drop out of college during the past semester. Understand the times. God still rules. Our path is charted. "I know not what the future hath of marvel or surprise, assured alone that life and death his mercy underlies." What do? Serve our nation, here as students, there as soldiers. True, we are living in critical times. But it is not as bad as H. G. Wells would make it, that history had stopped with the atomic age. Remember: Christ remains the center of every crisis. His is not an empty promise: "Lo, I am with you alway even unto the end of the world"—that means Korea, that means everywhere.

Understand the times, and you will realize the pressing need for the Christian life. The Christian life so easily becomes suppressed by sins, sexual excesses, drunkenness, cursing—but why catalogue them? There must be restraints—thou shalt and thou shalt not—Freud to the contrary. And our Christian life should express itself in witnessing of our Savior. At one of our large universities the professor in class was explaining away Paul's supernatural conversion. He made it sound so plausible. Paul had suffered a sun-stroke. Cold reason had spoken. There was a clammy feeling in the classroom. Finally, in the back of the room a young man raised his hand: Professor, I quite agree with you. Only be sure to spell sun-stroke S-o-n-stroke. At once a different mood prevailed in that classroom.

A few years ago a best seller was Liebmann's book, *Peace of Mind*. All of which shows a mark of our times, we lack peace, composure, serenity. In one chapter of his book Liebmann severely criticizes the church because it speaks so much of sin, and he feels that psychoanalysis can restore the damage the church has done. Ah, but Jesus promises: "My peace I give unto you." If we understand our times of care and wear, of crosses and losses, we shall do well to get closer to Jesus, let him be a reality in our lives. Then neuroticism and the fear-complex will disappear, just as the bright sun breaks through the fog. Then we can courageously face trials, setbacks, disappointments and say with Paul: "I have learned in whatsoever state I am therewith to be

REGISTER OF STUDENT DEACONESSSES ACCORDING TO STATES 1950-1951

California

1. Natalie Gruner, Santa Monica
2. Dorothy Jordan, San Francisco
3. Ardele Stodieck, Hayward

Connecticut

1. Shirley Marks, Stratford
2. Verne Scheiderer, Forestville
3. Elaine Yoreo, West Hartford

Illinois

1. Mary Arbeiter, Murphysboro
2. Valda Dierks, Du Quoin
3. Lucille Zimmerman, Chicago

Indiana

1. Anita Rentz, Decatur
2. Irma Thoele, Seymour

Iowa

1. Shirley Groh, Mason City
2. Esther Young, Monticello*

Massachusetts

1. Eleanor Weidner, Clinton
2. Eunice Weidner, Clinton

Michigan

1. Elaine Davis, Muskegon
2. Fern Falkenstein, Sturgis
3. June Finger, Saginaw
4. Joanne Gilmore, Detroit
5. Elizabeth Kujawski, Detroit
6. Mabel Schulz, Sebawaing
7. Elaine Sohn, Saginaw**
8. Dorothy Stanke, Roseville

Minnesota

1. Ione Driver, Mora
2. Evelyn Middelstadt, Elk River
3. Naomi Schubkegel, Cass Lake

Missouri

1. Marilyn Heather, La Grange
2. Dorothy Villard, St. Louis

Nebraska

1. Marlene Dermer, Scottsbluff

New York

1. Audrey Anger, Buffalo
2. Carolyn Bockmier, Olean
3. Lois Hanewinkel, Buffalo
4. Florence Klettke, Niagara Falls
5. Barbara Looman, Schenectady**
6. Shirley Ponivas, Buffalo
7. Marilyn Schulz, North Tonawanda
8. Doris Stieve, Albany
9. Joan Wagner, Buffalo

Oklahoma

1. Rose Marie Harms, Yukon

Pennsylvania

1. Dolores Hackwelder, Oakmont
2. Florence McElroy, Pittsburgh
3. Rhae Ann Wiese, Yardley

content."

O God, understanding our times is understanding you, your redemption, your rule, your will, your peace.

Chapel Address, Valparaiso University,
March 6, 1951.

Rhode Island

1. Dorothy Eckhardt, R.N.*

South Dakota

1. Dorothy Murphy, Mitchell

Texas

1. Clara Hermes, La Grange

Wisconsin

1. Betty Buss, West Allis
2. Gloria Guetzke, Beloit

Ontario

1. Ruth Berg, Tavistock

* Absent, doing field work

** Has withdrawn

FAVORABLE FINANCES

Below are listed the contributions for current support during the first three months of 1951. Current support includes scholarship contributions.

During this quarter year the State of Michigan led in current support. Congratulations. To all supporters of our expanding Deaconess Program a hearty thank-you.

California	\$ 72.00
Colorado	15.00
Connecticut	100.00
Idaho	7.00
Illinois	610.66
Indiana	1302.33
Illinois	610.66
Indiana	1302.33
Iowa	449.94
Kansas	198.11
Maryland	10.00
Massachusetts	5.00
Michigan	1788.26
Minnesota	403.03
Missouri	188.12
Montana	5.02
Nebraska	239.69
New Jersey	40.00
New York	702.00
North Carolina	25.00
North Dakota	1.00
Ohio	637.40
Pennsylvania	64.75
Rhode Island	31.00
South Dakota	118.70
Tennessee	5.00
Texas	30.90
Wisconsin	791.67
Wyoming	2.00
Alberta	4.72
Ontario	3.78
LWML, Atlantic District	500.00

\$8352.08

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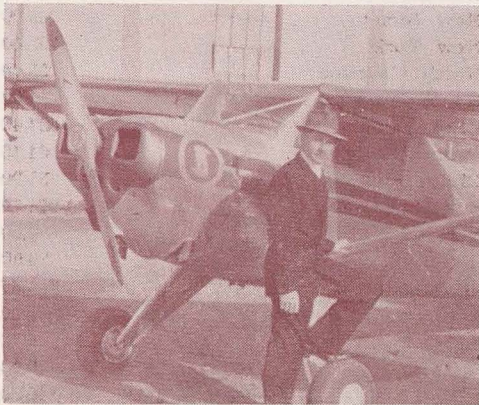
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VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

Matron: Mrs. Sylvia Trautmann



Page John Feiertag, Chinook, Montana, and plane he used to come to the Convention of the LWML, Billings, Montana

WHY NOT USE A PLANE IN YOUR PARISH WORK? ASKS PASTOR FEIERTAG

Pastor John Feiertag, Chinook, Montana, finds it highly practical to utilize an air-plane in his church work.

On March 11 he borrowed a light plane equipped with skis to fly over the ranch of one of his members, whom he had not seen in services for quite a while. The temperature was 16° below zero. As he circled over the ranch house, the member appeared at the door where he waved an "All's well." He will probably be snow-bound for another month, but it is a comfort both for pastor and parishioner to know that they can get in touch with each other.

Two years ago, when we met Pastor Feiertag in Billings, Montana, he had flown in to conduct a devotion at the Convention of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League of the Montana District. The flight of four hours back and forth by plane would have taken two days by auto. A practical pastor.

Probably in the first week in April Pastor Feiertag will have another parish to service, which means that his parish will be roughly 100 miles long and extending from the Missouri River to the Canadian border. Since he will need to conduct at least three services each Sunday in that area, Pastor Feiertag thinks that flying can be put to good advantage in his Master's Kingdom. He asks, For what greater purpose did He allow the plane to be invented and developed?

For quite a time Pastor Feiertag used a plane to tend to his instruction classes in another town in his parish. At other times he has made time-saving use of a plane for preaching trips. He claims that the vast distances in his area make flying an ideal means of getting to and fro with the least loss of time and energy.

Catholics and Jehovah's Witnesses are using aircraft to their advantage in Montana, according to Pastor Feiertag. We certainly are gratified that our Lutheran Pastor in Chinook is using this latest means of transportation so that the pure Gospel can be preached to a large number of people.

Writes Pastor Feiertag: "Urge your deaconesses who have the opportunity to learn to fly, to avail themselves of this privilege. Many will find occasion to serve their Lord more effectively thereby."

PROFITABLE WORK EXPERIENCES

Should Our Student Deaconesses Be Given Summer Work Experiences?

Several colleges and universities are emphasizing work experiences. They feel that field work experience should be integrated with classroom theory.

Colgate University, (Hamilton, N. Y.), has set up a new, required senior course designed to give students a better understanding of the principal problems inherent in a free society. The University has shied away from the formalized, ivory tower approach. A committee of students helped work out ideas for a desirable program. Of course, the success of the project will depend on the students.

Keuka College for Girls likewise seeks to accomplish a balance between liberal education and life experience. There the field work is compulsory and is taken in blocks of time set aside during the college year. For example, students majoring in religious education have been placed in churches. Aside from a meticulous system for all its students out on field work, the special feature of its work experience is the fact that the work experience is progressive. For freshmen a different field is mapped out than for juniors and sophomores.

Our own Concordia Seminary has made notable advances in its field work program, giving practical experience in hospital work while attending the Seminary and field work during two summers and a full year.

We are likewise working on the Field Work Program for our student deaconesses. Again and again, after having served in some mission, congregation, summer camp, or institution, returning students mention how much they profited by such field work under supervision. If our students are to function effectively after graduation, it is imperative that they should have work experiences similar to the work which they are expected to do later. Learning by doing, by actual experiences in a natural setting, is fundamental in the learning process for our student deaconesses.

Our students desire summer field work in Iowa, Minnesota, Michigan, California, New York, and elsewhere. Send for application blanks for student field workers to our Fort Wayne office.

OUR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

More and more friends of the Deaconess Cause are supporting the Scholarship Fund. From the Scholarship Fund come monies for the granting of \$150.00 Tuition Scholarships. Naturally, if more than forty Deaconess Scholarships are granted this academic year, we shall need almost \$7,000 in Scholarship contributions to cover this outlay of money.

Below are the names of donors to the Scholarship Fund during the first three months of 1951.

Mrs. Sophie Atz, Kendallville, Ind.	\$ 1.00
St. Thomas-St. Peter, Detroit, Mich. ...	\$ 10.00
Chas. Solter, LaGrange, Mo.	100.00
Roy A. Wilkinson, So. Pekin, Ill.	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Woessner, Byram, Conn.	100.00
St. Matthew's Church, New York, N. Y. ...	75.00
Immanuel Willing Workers, Mellen, Wis.	25.00
Immanuel Ladies' Aid, Mellen, Wis.	25.00
Hochheim-Town Theresa Ladies' Aids, Mayville, Wis.	25.00
Luther Memorial Guild, Milwaukee, Wis.	25.00
Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Joseph, Mich.	100.00
Erwin Fuelling, Decatur, Ind.	25.00
St. John Ladies' Aid, LaGrange, Ill.	50.00
LWML, Glidden, Wisconsin	50.00
Faith Ladies' Aid, Milwaukee, Wis.	100.00
LWML, Atlantic District	500.00

\$1091.00

THE DEACONESS CONFERENCE

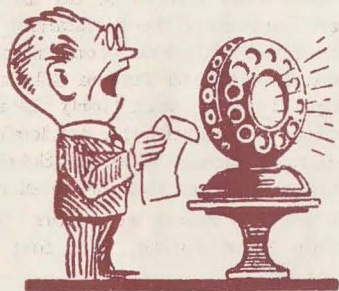
Once a year the deaconesses hold their Conference, to which they look forward with great anticipation.

Conference this year will be held for the first time in Valparaiso, Indiana, June 14-16.

Members of the faculty will make this a particularly fruitful Conference by delivering some of the papers and conducting some of the devotions.

Deaconesses who are alumnae of Valparaiso University will enjoy returning to the Deaconess Chapter House and the campus where they spent so many enjoyable and profitable hours. Deaconesses who are alumnae of other schools will count it a privilege to visit our University, which has greatly expanded in recent years.

STATION LDA



TUNE IN

● Nurses are greatly needed in our Deaconess Program in overseas missions, health centers, and in the charitable institutions of our Church. Nurses will find that our course of education at Valparaiso University is very challenging with its focus in Religion. To serve later as a deaconess nurse, ministering both to the body and the soul gives a deep satisfaction.

● Up in Superior, Wisconsin, one of our pastoral representatives of the Lutheran Deaconess Association got permission to speak on Deaconess Work. As a result of the fervent plea of this brother and the backing of all pastors present, six Lutheran Women's Missionary League societies pledged to raise \$310.00 before the end of June, 1951. One reason why the Deaconess Program is moving forward.

● Out in Westgate, Iowa, the Dorcas Society appointed three of its members to solicit \$1.00 memberships in the Lutheran Deaconess Association. What a progressive move and what a help for our Deaconess Cause! The idea of appointing a deaconess solicitor by the ladies' aid or the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is rapidly gaining ground. Why not?

● The United Lutheran Church, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, has twenty-four students in its training program. Thirteen of these are either in colleges or in the motherhouse. Eleven students are doing field work. This Deaconess School seeks to obtain a greater degree of integration between theory and practice for the students. The major in the academic work is Sociology.

● A pressing need in the Deaconess Educational Program is summer field work of our student deaconesses under the supervision

of our pastors. The benefits of such field work under the guidance of some pastor or superintendent can hardly be overstressed. If our graduate deaconesses are to serve effectively, they must have had fruitful work experiences before graduation.

● The Empire State, New York, ranks first this year in sending student deaconesses to Valparaiso University — eight New York girls are taking the Deaconess Course. Michigan is a close second with seven students. Applications are coming in for the fall semester from states which as yet have sent no student deaconess, all of which shows that our pastors are doing much to enlist new students for our Program.

● Deaconess Clara Strehlow is the leader of the Brownie Girl Scouts at Grace Lutheran Church, St. Louis, Mo. She keeps the records of the Sunday School and heads the Vacation Bible School. She also instructs children for baptism and makes sick and mission calls. Miss Strehlow has served Grace Lutheran Church since 1943 and has served as a Deaconess since 1927.

FEATURE ARTICLE IN THE WALTHER LEAGUE MESSENGER ON DEACONESS SERVICE

Editor Klausler of the *Walther League Messenger* has assured us that during the course of the year an article will appear in the *Messenger* featuring the work of Deaconess Mary Elaine Kluge, Metropolitan City Mission, New York City.

Look for this very informative article and have your Walther Leaguers discuss this article and the potentialities of the Deaconess Program. If you want some attractive folders for your discussion, or some topic discussion sheets, send a postal to our Fort Wayne Office.

INFORMATION ON DEACONESS EDUCATION

For information on Deaconess Education do not write to Valparaiso University but to our Fort Wayne Office. All letters sent to Valparaiso University for information on Deaconess Education are relayed to Fort Wayne. It will save the University time, effort, and postage and will expedite the reply if letters of inquiry on Deaconess Education are sent directly to Fort Wayne.



Deaconess Esther Matz, with a group of deaf boys whom she mothers at the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. See the very interesting account of her work on this page.

MISS CLARA HERMES CONSECRATED IN TEXAS

Miss Clara Hermes, a Texas girl, was consecrated in Zion Lutheran Church, La Grange, Texas, her home congregation, on Easter Sunday afternoon, March 25.

This is the first time that any Deaconess within the Synodical Conference was consecrated within the State of Texas, another Texas first.

As usual, the consecration service was deeply impressive. Rev. Arnold Krentz preached the consecration sermon and Pastor H. A. Traugott assisted with the rite of consecration. As is customary at every deaconess consecration, Miss Hermes wore her attractive deaconess uniform for the first time, and received her deaconess cross, which is very dear to all deaconesses, a symbol of the love the Savior showed them on that first Good Friday when He died for them and all others, and a constant reminder of the service they are to render Him and suffering humanity.

Miss Hermes was graduated from Valparaiso University in January of this year. She was one of four students to be graduated with high distinction out of a class of 91.

While at Valparaiso University, Miss Hermes took Spanish and will enter our Spanish Mission in San Antonio, Texas. To equip herself for her mission work, Miss Hermes spent two summers doing field work among the Latin Americans.

DEAF CHILDREN THE PRIDE OF A DEACONESS

From all over the United States deaf children come to the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf in Detroit, Michigan.

When they arrive, we house-mothers are there to meet them. The first few days we help unpack mountains of suit-cases. Some of the new children are home-sick and so we mother them, and make them feel at home in our large family.

I have charge of sixteen boys between the ages of seven to eleven. The day's activity begins at 7 o'clock when I wake my boys if they are not already awake. Then I see to it that they make their beds and get to breakfast in time.

My boys take great pride in making their beds and keeping their dormitory neat. The proof: After a floor has been waxed, they will not allow anyone to enter the room until he has first removed his shoes.

At times my boys try my patience. Being boys, they are always getting into things. They have an infinite capacity for getting on top of, climbing on, running around, or jumping to.

It still is an unsolved mystery how they can accumulate so much dirt on their hands and faces.

But that boy under the dirt—you can't lock him out of your heart.

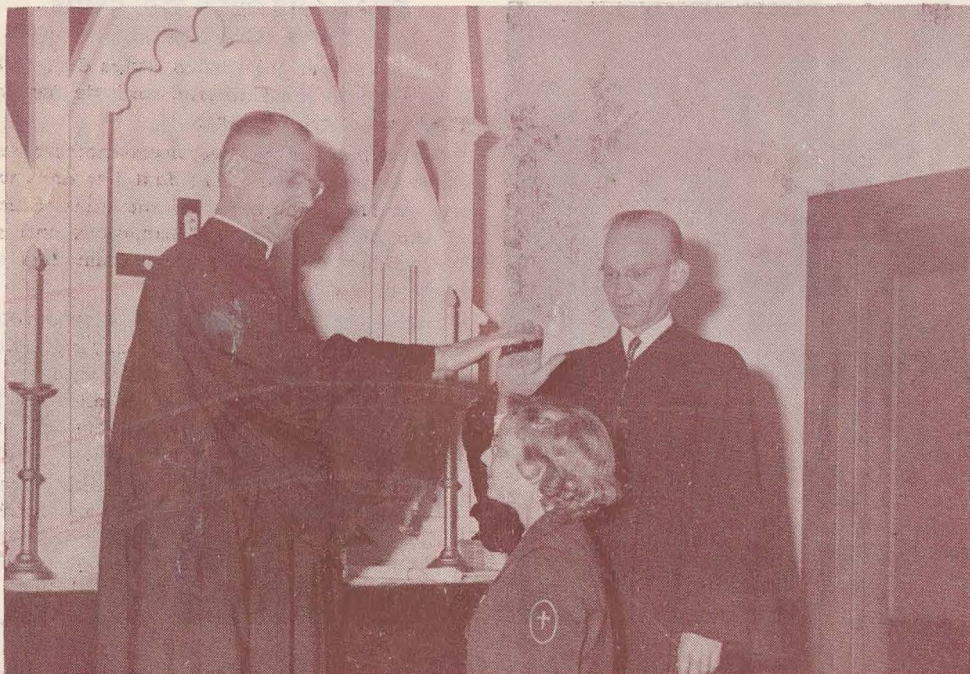
I have supervision of the boys when they are not in the classroom. While the boys are in class, I see to it that our "Home" is kept clean and the boys' clothes are in order.

After school, when the weather permits, I take the boys outdoors. During inclement weather I take them into the basement. They also enjoy the new television set.

My day ends when the last boy is tucked into bed and prayers are said. The boys' prayers are simple since their vocabulary is very limited. Together we pray, "I love Jesus. Help me to be a good boy. God, bless mother, God, bless father, God, bless me. Amen."

As I look at them asleep, I think: Can anything be sweeter than a group of little boys all clean and tucked in bed? No matter if they have been naughty during the day, all is forgotten and forgiven, for boys will be boys. And then peace reigns until morning comes and new activities begin once again.

Esther Matz.



Consecration of Deaconess Clara Hermes, LaGrange, Texas, March 25, 1951. From left to right, Rev. Arnold Krentz, Deaconess Clara Hermes, Pastor H. A. Traugott.

DO DEACONESSSES GET MARRIED?

Frequently questions have been asked us about the marriage of deaconesses. It seems a few lines on this topic may be welcome.

On the one hand, now and then we meet with the thought that deaconesses are not allowed to get married. The Deaconess Association has never placed a barrier before deaconesses who wanted to enter marriage. After all, God instituted marriage. Some of our deaconesses marry after a few years of service, some serve a decade or two, before they get married.

However, before a student prospect is accepted as a student deaconess, she agrees in writing to serve as a deaconess for a minimum of three years. It seems altogether fair that after a girl has received four years of college work at Valparaiso University under the auspices of the Deaconess Association in collaboration with Valparaiso University, she should feel in duty bound to serve the church for at least three

years. After all, getting a college education with a major in Religion, is not an end in itself, but a means to an end namely, to serve our Church and suffering humanity.

Then again the thought has been expressed that the education of young women for the diaconate is quite futile since so many of them render such short-lived service. So we checked our records.

We found that of the 150 deaconesses consecrated to date, 70 have been married. This goes to show that a large percent of these women consider Deaconess Service a career. So the record is quite good, about seven years of service on the average.

Then it should be emphasized that after marriage many of the former deaconesses have been quite active in church work. Thus a married deaconess is serving in our child welfare work, Addison, Ill. And in overseas missions, deaconesses who have married missionaries are a great help in our mission endeavors, especially among the women.