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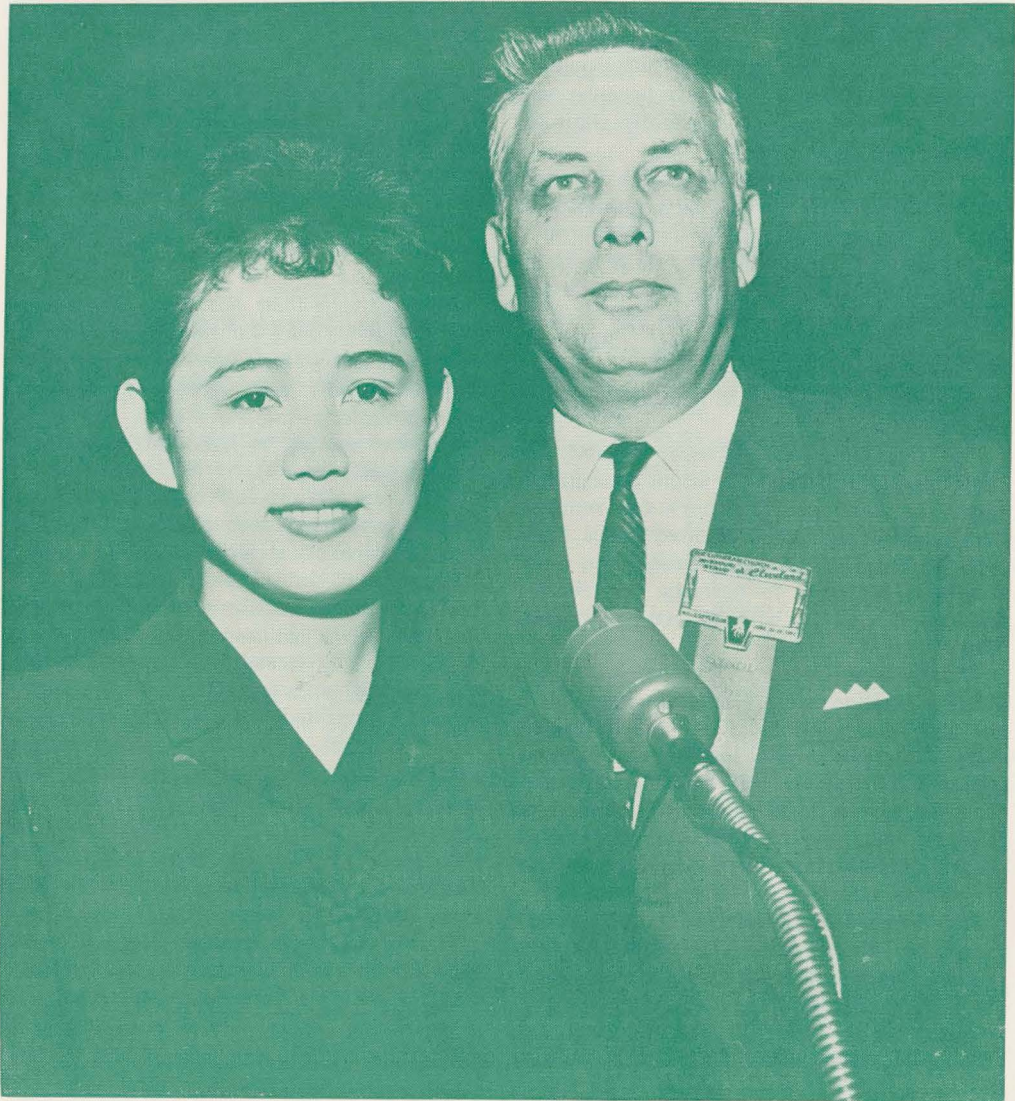
The LUTHERAN

Deaconess



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Deaconess Nobuko Sasaki and The Rev. Walter C. Gerken

(See page 6 for Nobuko's Christmas letter)

STAFF THOUGHTS

WHAT IS A LAYMAN

How important is the definition of a word? Very important, we would surely agree. Words are supposed to be tools. But they must have keen edges; they must have precise and commonly understood definitions. If this is not the case, people have trouble working with them. Witness the confusion caused by communist prostitution of such fine words as "democracy" and "freedom".

Much of the effort in Christian thought through the years has been expended on the project of sharp and clear definition of words. This is made necessary because our God is a Word. And we certainly want to worship the right God!

One of the words used in Christian life and work that has needed to be shined and buffed for modern use is the "Layman". Fortunately, it is today being subjected to a refurbishing process that may yet bring it back to its real meaning and power.

Undoubtedly the common definition used by most people today is couched in negative terms. A "layman" is, first of all, someone who is not a pastor.

We are indebted to Pastor Roland Seboldt in *Toward Adult Christian Education** (quoting Hendrick Kraemer) for reminding us that the term "layman" goes back via the Latin *laicus* to the Greek *laos*. *Laos* is the word used to describe the chosen people of God in both the Old and New Testament.

Thus instead of a negative definition, we have a positive one. To be a "layman" is to be part of the people of God. According to this, a clergyman is a layman with special responsibilities! By this radical reaffirmation, we restore to the concept "layman" its Biblical meaning of a people taken captive by God's Holy Spirit and used in the service of God.

If all members of the church know themselves to be "laymen", God's people, the power generated from this understanding will make itself felt in all areas of our church's work. Naturally, we are confident that such a deepened understanding will also direct more women to serve Christ in the diaconate.

Arne P. Kristo

*Edited by Donald Deffner, Lutheran Education Association 19th Yearbook.

(In place of the editorial planned for this column I yield the space to our efficient Field Secretary who has decided to grace the parsonage occupied by Pastor Arthur E. Bliese rather than continue to function out of this office. WCG).

Thank you, Pastor Gerken for this opportunity. Many widely divergent ideas are chasing around in my mind as I think of the end of my service as Field Secretary. The one that comes most often and most persistently is simply, THANK YOU.

First of all, thank you God, for the experience and opportunities of the past years. I have changed and grown as the result of these experiences and I feel ever more strongly Your guiding hand.

Thank you, God, for unfailing help and strength at times when I felt that I could do no more.

Surely, more than anything else, thank you God, for repeated assurances of forgiveness of my failures, weaknesses and shortcomings, in Thy Word and Holy Communion.

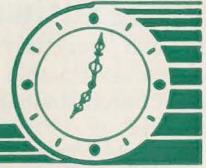
Thank you too, to the many who have opened their doors without hesitation to me. I have often referred to myself as a "poor, wandering deaconess", but I have never been poor. It is impossible to count the number of times that I have been met at a train or bus station by someone who knew only that he or she was looking for a blue suit with a gold cross. I have been warmly received without exception, have been well-fed, and provided with a place to sleep. The readiness with which a complete stranger is received in the homes of those of our church never ceased to amaze me. The door of our parsonage will always be open to all of you. So thank you, pastors, teachers, many, many, many ladies, and sister-deaconesses.

Thank you Miss Strehlow, Pastor Gerken, Pastor Kristo, the Board, Dorothy, and many others for your help and guidance.

The Board of Directors of the LDA is extending a Solemn Agreement to another deaconess for this position. Whoever she may be I am sure that she too, will find thankfulness the uppermost thought in her mind.

Marilyn Brammeier

The Deaconess' Day



At the head table of the Annual Dinner of the LDA: Dr. Schnabel, Mrs. Albers, Pastor Albers, Jackie Haug, Marilyn Brammeier, Pastor Gerken and Pastor Kristo.

DELINQUENT DEACONESS?

Deaconess Jackie Haug, in her speech to the people assembled for the 1962 Annual meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, gave the following descriptions of deaconesses. The ideas were triggered by a remark, jokingly made, by one of the parishioners at St. Paul's in Royal Oak, Michigan where Jackie serves; calling her a Delinquent Deaconess. Mrs. Schild, who was scheduled to speak at the dinner, had to undergo surgery which prevented her from being with us.

"Delicate Deaconesses — This is what many expect us to be, and are surprised when we aren't.

Different Deaconesses — We are not quaint and prissy as often expected, but "human" and vital.

Dreaming Deaconesses—We are constantly dreaming up new ideas in presenting lessons in Confirmation classes, Sunday School, Walther League, etc.

Daring Deaconesses—We dare to use the ideas we dream up.

Devious Deaconesses — We use devious ways to present the daring ideas we dream up.

Demanded Deaconesses—We are demanded (we hope) in our relations to others as we speak to them of the demands of our Savior in giving our life as Christians.

Determined Deaconesses—We are determined to serve to the best of our ability as we study and plan.

Dangerous Deaconesses — We perform dangerous tasks at times and do things which we never would consider doing without the Lord's help.

Dynamic Deaconesses—We must be dynamic in making calls as we bring the comforting message of salvation.

Decent Deaconesses—We greet people Sunday mornings decently as desired by Christ, our Lord.

Dependable Deaconesses—We can be depended upon by our pastor and congregation to assist him and do what is required of us in our service to Jesus Christ.

From the phrase, "Delinquent Deaconess" come the following descriptions of what a deaconess can be.

D edicated
E fficient
L oving
I nspiring
N atural
Q uick
U nique
E nergetic
N ice
T eacher
D ear
E xciting
A ctive
C oncerned
O nery
N eat
E ager
S earching
S miling

As human beings cannot be all of these things at all times; perhaps this is where the description Delinquent Deaconess is appropriate. But we are forgiven. Even though there is no letter for it, it is important to know and remember that we serve as ones who have been forgiven by Christ. We now bring this very message of Christian forgiveness in love to others."

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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THE EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: the Rev. Walter C. Gerken; and Deaconess Marilyn Brammeier.

All materials pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the Executive Director, 3714 S. Hanna St., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

FORT WAYNE AUXILIARY NEWS

The Annual Christmas Tea of the Fort Wayne Auxiliary was held Tuesday afternoon, the 18th of December. Pastor Gerken opened the festivities with a short devotion and led the group in the singing of carols. Mrs. Krentz presented the program, a film showing the beginnings of the popular carol, SILENT NIGHT. Mrs. Gerken and Mrs. Bradtmueller, president of the organization, poured. As is done every year, a collection was taken which is presented to Deaconess Strehlow for the purchase of some article needed at Deaconess Hall.

Dr. E. E. Foelber, St. Louis, Missouri; The Rev. Erwin L. Paul, Forest Park, Illinois; Professor D. C. Mundinger, Valparaiso, Indiana; and the Rev. E. H. Albers, Indianapolis were elected to the Plenary

NEWS WE WELCOME

The Deaconess Society of St. Louis, Missouri has decided that a Scholarship Fund for the Lutheran Deaconess Association will be its project for this year.

One of our greatest needs is for money for scholarships for girls who must have help to attend college. Many very capable girls are anxious to receive training to serve their Lord as deaconesses but lack the necessary funds.

We express our sincere appreciation to the Deaconess Society of St. Louis for their thoughtfulness.

NAME SCHOLARSHIP

An individual, organization or church makes a one time or a repeated grant in a specified amount (\$25.00 or more) to be given to a deserving student in Deaconess training as determined by the LDA Scholarship Committee. This grant bears the donor's name. For further information write or call the executive office at 3714 So. Hanna St., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Additional funds are sorely needed to permit girls, otherwise qualified, to train as Deaconesses. They look to us and we appeal to you! Why not "adopt a deaconess student"?

ELECTED

Board of Directors at the Annual Meeting. The meeting was held November 4, 1962, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Decatur Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

NEW FILMSTRIP AVAILABLE THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION PRESENTS DEACONESSSES AND DORIS

We are happy to be able to inform you that the new filmstrip is now available. It is 27 minutes long, with 72 frames. It has a 33 1-3 rpm accompanying record with narration and music.

It is ideal for showing to your ladies groups, young people, day school, Sunday School, Bible classes, family night, PTL, couples club, young adult group or Gamma Delta.

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW

Please Send copies of pamphlet "Serve Him"

Please send the filmstrip, "Deaconesses and Doris for showing on
(date)

Name
Address
City, State
Church
Type of group

LUTHERAN DEACONESSSES MERGE ELECT FIRST DIRECTING SISTER

Baltimore—(PRT) — Lutheran deaconess history was made here today when 160 sisters of two motherhouses merged.

The merger unites the deaconesses of the Baltimore Motherhouse, 6901 N. Charles St., here, and those of the Philadelphia Motherhouse, Gladwyne, Pa.

The unification brings The Lutheran Church in America's deaconesses to a common motherhouse for the first time in history. The two separate motherhouses have been in existence since the late 19th century.

Sister Anna Melville, who has been directing sister of the Baltimore Motherhouse and Deaconess Training School since 1958, was elected the first directing sister of the merged motherhouses.

Although her sisters voted for her, it was the church's Board of College Education and Church Vocations that officially elected her. She was elected to a six-year term.

The united sisterhood will continue to use the present motherhouses here and in Philadelphia. The directing sister, however, will retain her office in Baltimore.

The schools of the motherhouses already have merged. The fall term began with all students attending classes on the Baltimore campus.

Eventually it is planned to select a site for the merged motherhouse, Sister Anna Melville, said. This decision will depend on negotiations with one of the Lutheran Church in America's theological seminaries.

The new motherhouse and training school will be located near a theological seminary to enable the students to complete advanced studies. It is quite possible that neither of the present motherhouses here or in Philadelphia will be selected as the site.

The initial action to unite the sisters of the Baltimore and Philadelphia Motherhouses came from the deaconesses themselves. It was also sanctioned by the church's governing body.

The 3,200,000—member Lutheran Church in America has 230 deaconesses. In addition to the merged motherhouse here in the East, the church has two other deaconess centers—in Axtel and Omaha, Nebraska.

MERGED LUTHERAN SISTERHOOD ADOPTS UNIFORM GARB, CROSS

BALTIMORE—(PRT)—The 160 Lutheran deaconesses who merged their Baltimore and Philadelphia motherhouses at a conference here have voted to wear the same design dress, hat and cross.

In the past the sisters of each motherhouse wore different uniforms and crosses.

The new cross takes its design from the one the sisters of the Philadelphia Motherhouse wore. The pin is based on the one worn by deaconesses of the Baltimore Motherhouse.

The delegates to the constituting conference voted to inscribe Second Corinthians 5:14 on the new cross. The verse, "For the love of Christ constraineth us; because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead;" is the one used by the Lutheran deaconesses at the Omaha Motherhouse.

Directing sister of the new motherhouse, Sister Anna Melville, pointed out that the actions taken by the deaconesses here only affect the sisters attending the conference.

It is hoped, however, that eventually all 230 deaconesses of the Lutheran Church in America will wear uniforms and crosses of the same design.

The new hat adopted by the deaconess is similar to ones worn by airline stewardesses. The hat is of gray or black without a veil.

There will be no basic change in the dresses the deaconesses will wear. Sister Mildred Winter, executive secretary of the former United Lutheran Church in America's Board of Deaconess Work, described the dress as a simple, classic style. It can be black, gray or blue.

A five-member committee of deaconesses worked for several months to get designs for the uniform and cross.

Sister Mildred said the selection of uniform garb for the deaconesses was difficult. "The extremes of age among our sisters is the problem, she noted. "Obviously what is becoming to a young girl with a halo of curls may not be becoming to an older woman who wears her hair straight or in a bun."

The oldest deaconess, over 80, was consecrated in 1900. The youngest, in her early twenties, was consecrated this year.



Deaconess-intern Elaine Miller at a nursing home which she serves in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

WANTED: A STATION WAGON

The Service Council of our girls at Deaconess Hall has been expanding its work. The girls call in various nursing homes, at the mental hospital, and help in nearby congregations. Our Director of Training, Pastor Kristo, recognizing the importance of experience in the training of deaconesses, now requires a certain amount of this experience of every student.

Since all of this calling requires transportation, we find ourselves needing a means. A few girls with cars have carried this load in recent years, but with the expansion of the program, this is getting to be a burden.

The help which the girls give is immeasurable, and the help which they receive, valuable. Would anyone give a station wagon that this help may continue? Please write 3714 S. Hanna, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

NEWS FROM NOBUKO

Time flies so fast! Yes, since I have started working as deaconess at Tokyo Lutheran Center English School, already a half a year has passed. As I mentioned in my first letter, it is not a day school but it is an evening school which was started for evangelism. We use this approach to the students, most of whom are young adults, to bring them to Christ. They come here to learn English, but we offer them all kinds of opportunities of knowing the Savior. Therefore my main work is to plan and lead all Christian activities for them such as choir, Bible class, religious drama, evening devotions, etc., assisting my boss, Missionary Harms. I have also started to issue the Evangelical student's newspaper and to

teach a children's Bible class. I enjoy teaching the children most. When I am teaching, I really feel a joy of working for the Lord.

When I was at Valparaiso University, I wrote such sentences in one of my papers, "... In other jobs they can get a result according to their work; if a farmer works hard he will get a good harvest, and if a merchant works hard, he will get much income. However, in the church worker's case, we cannot expect the result of our work. However hard we may work in the mission field in teaching and spreading Christianity, none or few might accept it or our work may end just in tilling the ground and we see no crops in it.

The missionaries in heathen nations might have much more suffering for Christ's sake without any harvest and it might seem that our work has ended in failure. But in this despair and failure we find the resources of comfort and forgiveness in Baptism..." This is what I thought as a student. But now I remember these sentences as what I am really experiencing. It was not too difficult for me to get good grades as a student if I work hard. It was not too difficult to teach Mathematics and English to Japanese high school students as a student teacher. But there is nothing else more difficult than to try to get the students to let the Word of God become their Strength, Light and Life. It is only the Holy Spirit that can do this holy task. But He works through the children of God, the salt of the earth. As all you Christians know, the weapon of all missionaries and deaconesses in the heathen country is, first of all, the Christian love that we are given and taught from God, and then comes the Word. If we face non-Christians only with the talking of the Gospel, they shut themselves in with their religions or their philosophies. In most cases, it takes an awfully long time until Christian love and the Word comes into their hearts and until they see Christ as their own. Especially at the beginning of the mission work, our work ends in the tilling of the ground. But the Lord never keeps us only in sufferings. Sometimes the greatest joy is in the sharing of God's Word. We really experience that the joy of those who have found Christ is also our joy, especially after it took so long a time for us to guide them to Christ."



One of the several speakers deaconess students are privileged to hear throughout the year was the Rev. Rene Leudesdorf from Osnabruck, Germany.

On a tour of United States' education and religious centers, Pastor Leudesdorf stopped at Valparaiso to share with us information about his work in German Lutheran congregations and as director of social services in the Hannover district. Of special interest was his comparison of the program of study and work of German deaconesses with our program.

The equivalent of the American deaconess in Germany is the *gemeindelferin*, i.e. parish work whose main responsibility is to visit the sick and to aid the pastor in similar capacities. The German deaconess is the sister who takes orders and serves as a nurse or teacher. She wears the traditional habit and is closely affiliated with the deaconess motherhouse.

Following his talk, Pastor Leudesdorf earnestly responded to our questions about congregational size, music in his church, and the current political situation and its effect on German Lutherans. He reported that membership is large but attendance small in the congregations. His chanting of part of the liturgy gave us a glimpse of the church service. Dramatic examples of experiences with the East Germans were told us giving us a glimpse of the political situation in Berlin.

Pastor Leudesdorf's vitality, enthusiasm, lively good humor and above all his sincerity for the furtherance of the Gospel served as an inspiration for all who met and talked with him.

Just before leaving Pastor Leudesdorf left us a souvenir in song of his brief visit. This was the German canon, "Herr, Bliebe bei Uns" reminiscent of the words of the Emmaus' disciples, "Lord abide with us for it is toward evening". What could have been a better reminder for us than that although miles apart, the same Lord guides and abides with our German visitor,



Miss Strehlow exchanges ideas with another German visitor.

Christians everywhere, among them us at Deaconess Hall. Ruth Ann Abbott

PRE-DEACONESS STUDENTS AT JUNIOR COLLEGES

According to the latest information received, the following are enrolled in pre-deaconess courses at the various Synodical Colleges of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Concordia, Bronxville, N. Y.—Cassandra Jackson, Alice Vossler, freshmen; Epp Kotkas, Suzanne Krueger, Holly Roske, and Irene Thiel, sophomores.

St. Paul's College, Concordia, Missouri—no freshmen; Shirley Heine, Charlotte Schultz, sophomores.

Concordia, Portland, Oregon — Janice Brookens, Sandra Mabe, Kathryn Merz, and Arlene Maffit, freshmen; Alice Forte, Lorraine Rathman, and Esther Teas, sophomores.

Concordia, St. Paul, Minnesota — Carol Mae Bader, Mary Elizabeth Boeding, Diane Jawort, Carol Klemz, Lola Klotz, Marilyn Ann Likeness, Rachel Ann Mueller, Anna Lee Talaska, Linda Weick, Diane Wiedebush, Freshmen; Sandra Dye, Darlene Eggebrecht, Ruth Helmkamp, Marcella Just, Gail Leffel, Carole Mack, Velma Roth, Sandra Wick, Ann Jeannette Ziebell, Sophomore.

St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas — Virginia Malotky, freshman; Charlene Hanusch, Joyce Hoeme, and Donna Kholtermann, sophomore.



Deaconesses-intern Elaine Miller of Waterloo, Iowa, enters a nursing home in Fort Wayne, Indiana and brings the Word to the guests. She also works at the State School, a T.B. Hospital, and Children's Homes in her work for the Institutional Chaplaincy of that city.



These aged and often bedfast residents look forward to her visit all week. Miss Miller is one of 13 interns serving this year all over the United States. She will return to Valparaiso University for her final year of training this fall..