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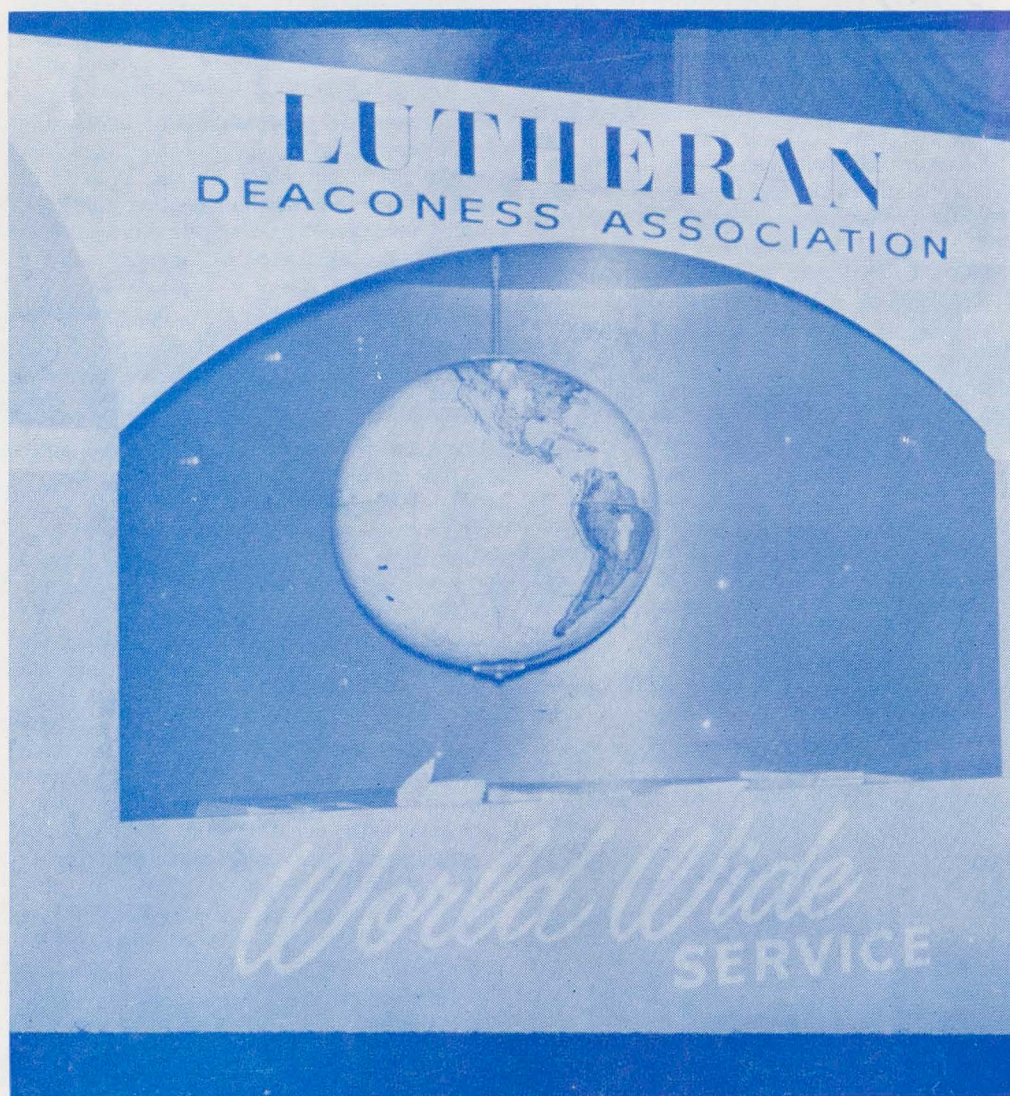
The LUTHERAN

Deaconess

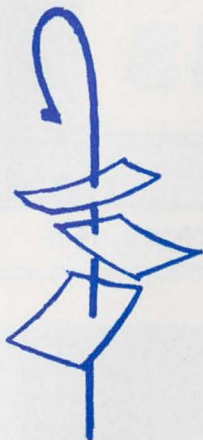


VOL. 39, NO. 4

OCTOBER, 1962



Lutheran Deaconess Association Display — 45th Convention
of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, Cleveland, Ohio



STAFF THOUGHTS

The front cover of this issue shows the central part of our display booth at the Cleveland Convention this summer and emphasizes the theme: "World Wide Service."

By now our graduates of this year are in their fields of labor from Japan to Africa. Bidding them Godspeed and calling down upon

them the Lord's blessing we turn our attention to the new school year now begun and touch on two questions of criticism with regard to deaconess training. 1. "YOU'RE TELLING ME I AM NOT FIT TO SERVE THE LORD?" 2. "ISN'T DEACONESS TRAINING A WASTE OF MONEY?"

We realize it is discouraging for an aspirant to the diaconate to receive an "Application denied" notice, or, having taken up the studies to receive an "Advice to discontinue." Scripture has much to say about requirements for the pastoral office; in varying degrees the same holds true of all auxiliary offices depending upon the type of office and field of service. For a person to receive a notice such as above mentioned does not mean that she is not fit to serve the Lord, but it merely means that after considered judgment she is regarded as not having the necessary talents, gifts, and abilities required in the diaconate at it is presently constituted in our church.

There are many other areas in which our Lord is pleased to be served well. Both Romans and I Corinthians, in the twelfth chapters, deal with the various and varying areas of service as well as similar distribution of talents. Area of service is to be determined by the talents, gifts, and abilities God has given an individual. One area of service is just as important and necessary as another—as said by St. Paul in Romans, Chapter 12. The important thing in all areas of service, as mentioned by St. Paul in I Corinthians, Chapter 4, verse 2, is faithfulness.

The criticism that deaconess training is a waste of money stems from the observa-



Deaconess Louise Noess, Henrietta Nanke, and Clara Strehlow. Miss Noess and Miss Strehlow still serve full-time.

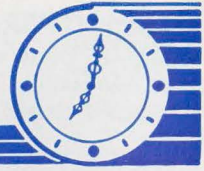
tion that some deaconesses do fall victim to the arrows of cupid after only one year of service. That, it is said, is a waste of money. In view of the fact that the LDA Board of Directors regards three years service "as repayment of financial aid" it would seem so.

We would then, however, have to falsely assume that no benefit accrues to the church through her after marriage. We would also have to ignore the many who serve much longer—there is a picture on this page of some who have served quite a bit longer, two of them this year observing the 35th Anniversary of service!

The question we should ask is this, "Since when is it a waste of money to finance Christian education?" Affected by the materialistic philosophy of the world and nudged by the devil with an assist from the old Adam, there is no question at all that collectively our good people are wasting money in this fat and lazy civilization, in this pleasure-mad, money-mad era which seems never to have heard the Lord's words: "Having food and raiment, let us be therewith content"—but it isn't the money spent on Christian education or other Christian activities.

And so many ignore the request of the Lord: "Upon the first day of the week let everyone of you lay by him in store as God has prospered him." (I Cor. 16:2) Instead of permitting the sinful withholding of support of the Lord's to guide us, we prefer to be guided by the gracious fact that God has given His people more than enough money to carry on all the Lord's work and pray the Holy Spirit to touch the hearts of of people in ever increasing numbers and measure as He has in the past! WCG

The Deaconess' Day



One of the essential parts of my life is that of study and prayer. As a deaconess, I am called to be a helper of many. This is possible only with the Lord's guidance and most of all the Lord's love and forgiveness. The resource of the deaconess, as with any Christian, is found in God's Word and the Sacraments.

My mornings are most often devoted to preparation and planning for teaching Bible classes and the seventh grade confirmation class, for preparing topics, for organizing my calls, and for programming with our pastor, The Rev. Daniel Ondov.

One of my most rewarding experiences has been leading a Bible study with some of the ladies of St. John's. As we studied the Epistle of St. Paul to the Philippians, we learned more fully the joy of being a Christian.

On many afternoons I have the opportunity to deliver God's message to people in their homes and in the hospitals. When I visit those who are sick, I am able to remind them of God's promises and comfort as I pray the Psalms with them, read from the Bible, and sing hymns. I'll never forget my visits with a man who is now with our Father in heaven. As he lived, he gave God glory. God's Word was so precious to him that in hearing it he found relief and glimpses of heaven. To die was gain for him.

I also make calls on our shut-ins, our own members and prospective members. My purpose and prayer is that I might help these people think about their relationship to God and His people here on earth. Paul reminds us that we as Christians are fitly joined together in the Body of Christ. Sometimes my message must be harsh as God's Message is sometimes harsh. It is in our need that Jesus becomes all things to us.

The youth of St. John's play an important part in my life as a deaconess. Our pastor, our three counselors, and I seek to encourage a youth program that will enrich the spiritual lives of our youth. One night a week I direct a high school youth choir. We

have teen-agers and young adults at St. John's who give the Lord with the vitality peculiar to youth. How great is the Lord to put all ages of believers in His church that they might inspire one another for active service in His kingdom.

Before I end this article, however, I should like to clarify two of the most common misconceptions about a deaconess. First, she is not a sort of secretary, because she is not trained in secretarial work. We are blessed with a devoted secretary at St. John's, who helps to make my work more efficient and joyful by her talents and her Christian faith. Second, the deaconess may marry. She takes no vows. The average deaconess serves for three to five years initially. I believe the training and work of the deaconess are good preparation for a Christian mother. As with any Christian, the prayer of the deaconess is "Thy will be done."

Deaconess Bev Reardon
St. John's Scottsbluff, Neb.



Deaconess Bev brings the Word of God to one of "her" shut-ins.

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.

DEACONESSSES IN THE NEWS

The "Summer—1962" issue of the AAL CORRESPONDENT featured Deaconess Christine Seckel of Bethesda Lutheran Home in Watertown, Wisconsin. Miss Seckel has served Bethesda for 28 years in various capacities. Her years of service have been marked by a fine, generous giving of self.

Two deaconess-interns were present in the feature article in the September 18 issue of THE LUTHERAN WITNESS. Miss Betty Beckman and Miss Elaine Albers were chosen to participate this summer in an experimental inner-city "team-ministry" sponsored by Synod's Board for missions in North and South America. They worked with a VBS and follow-up calling project with two Youth Leadership Training Students; two Ministerial students; two lay people, both teachers; a social worker, and the four pastors whose inner-city churches served as home base.

Deaconess Dolores Frederking, who is blind, has "made" the ST. LOUIS LUTHERAN several times lately and also the SCOPE, of the Lutheran Hospital in St. Louis where she assists the chaplain. They have this to say about her work at Lutheran Hospital: "As deaconess, it is Miss Frederking's job to call on patients and minister to their spiritual needs, to teach Sunday School, to plan special music for chapel services and to conduct these services occasionally. 'My most important job is calling on patients,' she said. 'Fortunately, I have a good sense of direction.' To persons who have seen her finding her way easily through the maze of corridors this is a supreme understatement.

IN MEMORIAM

One year ago this month, a faithful servant of the Lord was called Home. At the time of her death, Deaconess Katherine Laesch was living in a Lutheran Home for the Aged. It is indeed fitting that we tell here of her years of faithful service.

She was consecrated in Watertown, Wisconsin in May of 1931. She served at Bethesda until 1935; then served a Home for the Aged until 1925; served at the Deaconess Home until 1943; at the Deaconess Chapter House in Valparaiso until 1944. She completed her service at Bethesda where she worked until 1949 when illness forced her to inactivity.

Such servants in the diaconate indeed fulfill the high tradition that is our heritage. "Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord . . ."

DEACONESS ASSOCIATION MEETS

An important item of business at the Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association to be held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 7821 Decatur Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on November 4, will be the election or re-election of four members of the Plenary Board. Those members of the Board whose three-year terms expire this year are The Rev. E. H. Albers, President, of Indianapolis, Indiana; Mr. Adolph Brandtmueller, Trustee, of Fort Wayne; The Rev. Erwin Paul of Forest Park, Illinois; and Dr. Elmer E. Foelber of St. Louis, Missouri.

The business meeting will begin at 4:30 P.M. and will be conducted by The Rev. Albers. It will include reports from the Executive Director, the Director of Training, the House Director, the Field Secretary, the president of Deaconess Conference, and the presidents of various Deaconess Auxiliaries.

Immediately following the business meeting will be the Annual dinner. Students from Deaconess Hall, particularly the deaconess student choir, will provide entertainment. The speaker at the dinner will be Mrs. Arnold Schild, deaconess-nurse who served for two years in the New Guinea mission field.

The Annual Meeting will conclude with a vesper service. All those interested in deaconess work and especially the members of our Association are urged to attend.



L. to r. Doris Awe, Vice-president; The Rev. W. C. Gerken, Executive Director; Jackie Haug, Treasurer; Mrs. George Plato, Board Member at Large; Mrs. William Schewe, Secretary; Louise Noess, Board Member at Large; and Evelyn Middelstadt, President. The orchid lei which Evelyn is wearing was sent by Della Henning in Hawaii.

RECORD ATTENDANCE AT CONFERENCE

52 Deaconesses, Interns, and guests registered for the Annual Deaconess Conference held at St. John's College, Winfield, Kansas this summer. This is highest number in attendance in the 28 year history of the Conference.

Re-elected to the office of president was Deaconess Evelyn Middelstadt of Lutheran Social Services in Wichita, Kansas. Elected treasurer was Deaconess Jackie Haug of Royal Oak, Michigan and Board Member at Large was Deaconess Louise Noess of River Forest, Ill.

A Bible study titled PERSONAL EVANGELISM—THE LORD SHOWS US HOW, led by the Rev. Willard Stark began each day's sessions. Other opportunities for professional growth were afforded by a study on teaching confirmation classes led by Mr. Ben Eggers of the Kansas District Board of Parish Education; and Workshops in Choir Directing, Ladies Groups, and Visiting the Sick led by Professor Paul Foelber, Mrs. Burton Everist, and the Rev. Eugene

Jobst.

The Conference was opened with a worship service conducted by The Rev. Rueben Beisel, president of St. John's College. Awareness of the work of the church in it's world-wide mission was brought by two deaconesses acquainted with mission work. Mrs. Maynard Dorow (Shirley Groh) spoke to us about the work which she and her husband have been doing in Korea in the last five years. A new plan of education and information is being followed in the Korean mission field because of the high degree of civilization which already exists in this country.

In sharp contrast, Mrs. Arnold Schild, (Edith Casson, R.N.) told us of the work among the primitive tribes of New Guinea. Here the emphasis is on providing hospitals and other practical help as an avenue of reaching the people because such aids do not exist in the New Guinea Highlands.

The Conference closed with the customary Communion Service. Next year's Conference will be held at Waterloo Lutheran University, Ontario, Canada.

FROM THE FIELD SECRETARY'S DESK

As I begin my fourth year of service to you as Field Secretary, it hardly seems possible that three years have passed since I came, apprehensive and trusting that the Lord would give me strength, to start traveling for deaconess work.

My first thought, when I look over the last three years, is that there are so many things that remain to be done, so many people to whom deaconess work has no real meaning. This is, of course, like all Kingdom work, there is no end to it.

It has been my privilege to be "on the scene" during many long-hoped for, and well-planned changes in our program. The junior college programs, the Director of Training, the one-year-intern program are all indications of growth and will result in more capable workers for our Lord.

Deaconess Conference this summer also showed signs of growth. Not only was this the best attended Conference in the history of the organization, it was undoubtedly also one of the most inspiring. The goal of professional growth was evidenced, not only in the workshops; but also by the concerns expressed in the business meeting, by the growth of Area Conferences which meet for study and spiritual refreshment, and even by the conversations at meals and "free" times. The banquet speaker, student Shang Ih Moon from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, placed the final touch of challenge before us. Then I too, came back to my job refreshed and eager to take up the work for Him.

I have just returned from the beautiful hills of North Wisconsin after speaking at a series of three L.W.M.L. Rallies. Meeting the women of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is always inspiring. They have a very clear idea of their responsibilities as Christians in this world.

The women of the North Wisconsin District are especially to be commended for their Deaconess Scholarship Fund. This is donated through Memorial Wreaths and is available to a girl from North Wisconsin who would like to become a deaconess.

So, as I begin my work once again this fall, I ask for your prayers so that the work of training deaconesses may continue to grow.

Marilyn Brammeier



Newly elected officers of Conference, Deaconesses Noess, Haug, and Middlestadt, and Mrs. Schild and Mrs. Dorow hear Student Moon elaborate on one facet of his talk.

NEWS FROM FOREIGN FIELDS

Deaconess Louise Rathke, R.N., veteran of many years service in India, is now at home in Olpe, Kansas. She has served in India since 1934.

The first deaconess to serve in South America, Miss Laurie Gruenbeck, has taken up her duties in Caracas, Venezuela. Her address is now A/c Colegio La Concordia, Apartado Postal 4387 Este, Caracas, Venezuela. We wish her the Lord's blessings on her work in this new field.

Miss Mary Ann Mejdrieh, R.N., sailed this month for Africa where she will serve in the church of Nigeria. She will be stationed at the hospital at Eket, Nigeria.

Nobuko, our Japanese deaconess, after appearing at the Cleveland Convention of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, sailed for Japan. She arrived safely and has already written to her many friends here of her work. She writes: "However, a few days ago I visited the Lutheran English School where I will be working and was introduced to the people. Although I will be working as an Administrator under Missionary Harms, he has a new project of Youth Work that he wants to start with me. Therefore I suppose I will be busy in both fields."

NAME SCHOLARSHIPS

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. Why not "adopt" a Deaconess student?



During the summer months Valparaiso University takes its place with many other colleges in becoming a memory for the students that have left it the previous spring. But with new life the campus and especially Deaconess Hall opened her doors in early September for the enthusiastic returning students.

1962 marks a year of new big changes for all the girls that entered our Dorm. We now have the pre-deaconess program set up and have 7 freshmen and 8 sophomores enrolled in it at the University and various others at almost all the Synodical Junior Colleges. The freshmen were well oriented in campus life during freshmen week and given much advice by our three capable counselors. It is with much excitement that the freshmen, 7 junior transfers and 2 unclassified have entered the program to become part of Pi Delta Chi.

Another first we have this year is the return of the 15 seniors who have interned. It is amazing and fascinating to listen to these Pi Delts relate their experiences of working in parishes and in a variety of institutions. A wealth of knowledge will be shared by these girls in the coming months in helping other deaconess students look forward to this challenging year as an intern. We also have with us one registered nurse and one teacher this year.

We are very happy to say that living with us this year are 22 deaconess students studying in many areas. Already we have gained much from them and enjoy their smiling faces.

In Deaconess Hall this year we have a great variety of girls. In this we have found great joy, for together we have found a oneness in Christ. In our worship we grow together spiritually and in other activities we grow closer physically and mentally.

Pi delta Chi is busy and in full swing with many activities. Homecoming committees, NEXUS Staff and the Orientation committees are working hard. But the greatest resource people we can look to are Miss Strehlow and Pastor Kristo as our leaders. I cannot tell you all they do for



Deaconess-intern Audrey Vanderbles, now back in Deaconess Hall, learned much in her VBS experience at Immanuel Lutheran in Tonawanda, N. Y.

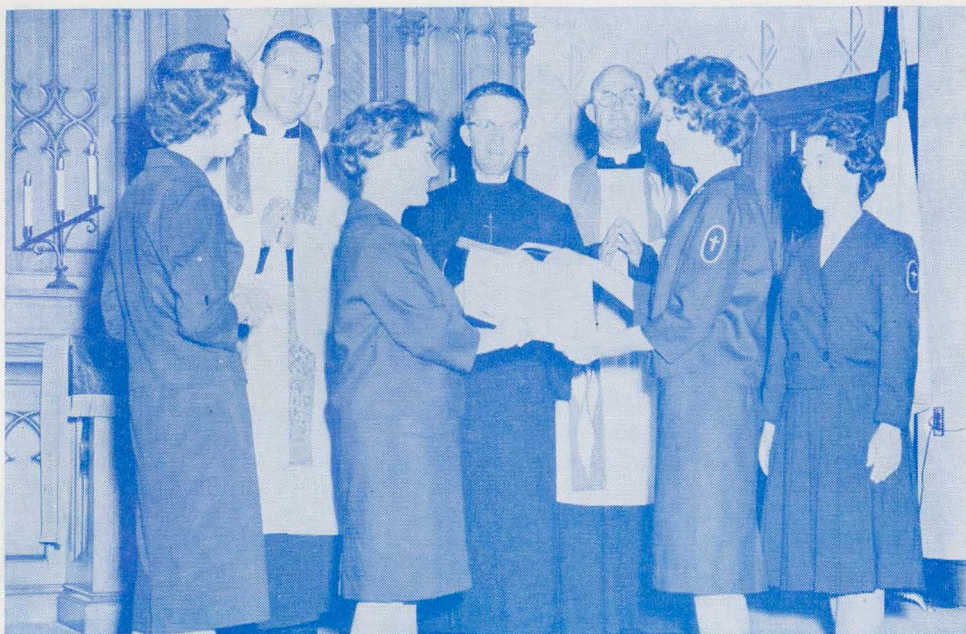
us and of the strength they give us in whatever areas we need it.

With only a few weeks of school behind us we already know and feel the blessings we have in Deaconess Hall. Indeed we know there is no better place to train girls in faith and service to Jesus Christ than here and we are proud to part of our program.

Rhoda Rasmussen, Pres.
Pi Delta Chi

S.O.S.

It will be greatly appreciated if those receiving the "Lutheran Deaconess" will notify us of address changes. It will help us save on stamps.



Deaconess Mary Ann Mejdrich, R.N., now in Africa, presents the Deaconess Diploma to Karan Kohtz at her consecration. Others are l. to r.: Deaconess Nina Kohls, Windom, Minn.; The Rev. M. W. Martin; The Rev. E. R. Deeb; The Rev. K. F. Korby; and Deaconess Helen Beckmann, Worthington, Minn.



Deaconess Lucy Wiese presents deaconess cross to Beverly Berner as part of her consecration service. Others present are l to r.: student Audrey Englert, Audrey Vandervles. The Rev. Holger Cattau, Amhurst Lutheran Church, Buffalo, N. Y.; The Rev. Otto Strothmann, Holy Lutheran Church, Middleport, N. Y.; and Miss Faye Weames, Stratford, Ontario, Canada.