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The Lutheran Deaconess

Lutheran Diaconal Association

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Summer 1970

## The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 47, No. 2

Lutheran Deaconess Association

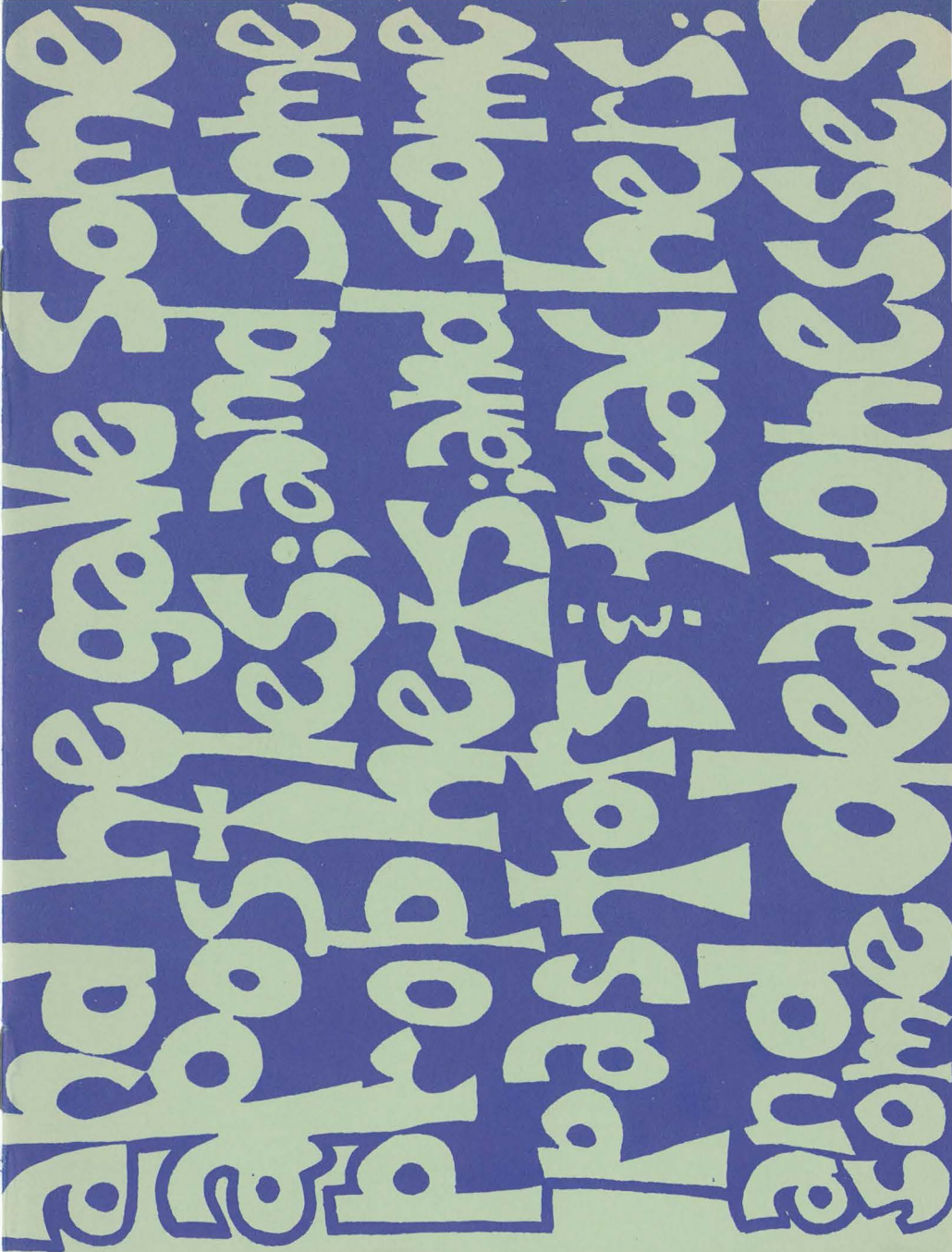
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Summer, 1970

Vol. 47, No. 2

**THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS**



## DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT APPOINTED

The Lutheran Deaconess Association announces the appointment of Mr. Ralph Masten as Director of Development. Mr. Masten, a Lutheran layman from Lorain, Ohio, will assume his duties on July 1, 1970.

The new Director of Development will have responsibilities in the areas of strengthening the base of financial support for the Association and in public relations.

Mr. Masten has a background of 22 years of experience in a supervisory capacity in industry, 6 years in sales and 10 years in fund-raising, primarily working with churches with an emphasis on the spiritual growth of the individual.

He is a Past President of the "Lutheran Men-Ohio Synod" and the PTA of the Lorain High School.

His family consists of his wife, Catherine, and three grown children, Tim, Dale and Ann.

Mr. Masten shares with us the view that our efforts should be undertaken as a ministry. Mr. Masten wants to use his talents to help people grow in their relationship to Christ. We feel that this is the proper motivation for a program of development. We welcome him to our staff.

## SHARING GOOD NEWS

We are happy to announce that by the time you receive this magazine all of our graduates waiting for assignments should have received one.

Nevertheless, we are still sending out the editorial comments contained in this issue because we see this as an ongoing concern. We are always interested in discovering new places of service for deaconesses. So, if the crisis will have stimulated many more persons to think about the possibilities for deaconess ministry, all will have gained.

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### THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

Editor .....The Rev. Arne Kristo  
Art Work .....Jane Richter

Official Quarterly of The Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc.  
within

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SEND CHANGE OF ADDRESS (Forms 3579) TO DEACONESS HALL, VALPARAISO, INDIANA 46383.



## WORKERS IDLE IN THE MARKET PLACE

A funny thing happened to us on the way to the annual placement of graduates . . . except that it wasn't funny. We had requests for the services of only about one-half of the people available. Needless to say, this has caused a certain amount of introspection!

We became apprehensive several weeks before "call night" and contacted all the places we could think of. Finally, when it became apparent that we could not change the situation before the final deadline, we broke the news to our Seniors. Naturally, there were a variety of emotions: shock, confusion, fear, and anger. But after we had an opportunity to talk together, there was a recognition that here, too, we were experiencing the hand of God in the lives of all of us.

We feel that you want to know about what has happened. We think you are concerned.

The question uppermost in the minds of most of us has been, "How could it happen?"

Our anxiety was put into some perspective when we discovered that this year all of the church's programs had a similar problem. The difference is that it hit us harder.

But why did it happen anyway? Of course, we know that God caused it to happen — but what were the discernible causes?

Was it a financial problem? That is the most consistently repeated theory we have heard expressed. If so, there is a curious parallel here between this experience in the church and what seems to be going on in the nation in the wake of President Nixon's policies fighting inflation: people are rendered unemployed.

Is it one aspect of the Lutheran Church's inability to see the potential role of women? At least one deaconess thinks so. She wrote and said, "Let's face it; the church isn't ready for us."

Is it because pastors do not understand what deaconesses can do? Alas, we have reason to believe that this is too often true. We live with a communications gap — but how do we get around the gap?

But enough of questions. On to affirmation!

We affirm, first of all, that deaconess students are a great gift of God to the church and that the church will make a mistake if it does not utilize their potential. We have worked with them for nine years. We do not say that every moment has been a happy one. But we do claim that, as a group, deaconess students are amazingly intelligent, open, creative, personable, and faithful. Whatever negative stereotypes there may exist in the minds of some (and we hear occasionally that there are such stereotypes!), they are not based on fact.

We affirm, secondly, that deaconesses are equipped to share in important ministries. They are sensitive to the issues extant in the church and world today. They are committed to the Mission Affirmations adopted by our Synod in Detroit. They want to help the church face problems posed by the demons of this age.

But our deaconesses know that ministry is not carried out in the abstract. It is carried out among people. And people need to be taught, counseled, organized. People need to be visited when they are sick and/or elderly. People need personal care when they are retarded or confused. People need group experiences. Above all, God's people need to have their lives centered in their

Baptism and in the Celebration of the Eucharist . . . and to relate people to the Word and Sacraments is the central thrust of deaconess ministry.

We affirm that we have always viewed the deaconess as a servant of the structured church. We recognize that "diaconate", or ministry, is a term broad enough to include all of us in our whole lives. But, the deaconess, we have felt, is by vocation someone committed to the public ministry of the church. If positions do not come from within the structures, can one blame the deaconess for thinking that perhaps she must go elsewhere? Is that what even God is saying? There are those who feel this way. We do not share that view. But who knows?

We affirm, finally, that the question is not whether we in the Association should continue our ministry (and we do not say this boastfully, but in faith), but under what circumstances, with what techniques, and to what goals. The Plenary Board of the Association has been studying our educational program and made important changes at its last meeting. There is no guarantee that even more radical changes might not be made. We ask you, our brethren in the church, again — as we have in the past — to help us determine our course.

Another indication of the determination of the Association, as well as its confidence in the future, is that with this issue we announce the engagement of a Director of Development for our Staff. Mr. Ralph Masten, a Lutheran layman from Lorain, Ohio, will begin his responsibilities on July 1, 1970. Mr. Masten will be primarily responsible for developing sources of financial support for our ministry and for public relations. We welcome him to the Staff and to the existing challenges that await us.

These editorial comments have been longer than usual. But, then, the circumstances were out of the ordinary!

If these comments betray a sense of impatience, we ask your forgiveness.

If they betray a sense of discouragement, we ask your help. For, remember, these are *your* deaconesses.

THE EDITOR

## CLEVELAND AUXILIARY PROVIDES FIRST FUNDS FOR FOUNDATION



*Pictured is Miss Gertrude Huge giving a check to Pastor Arthur Ziegler, President of the Association.*

The women of the Cleveland Deaconess Auxiliary recently decided, after many years of service, to disband. The group has assisted deaconess ministry in many ways.

In connection with the dissolution, the monies remaining in the treasury were disbursed. \$1,040.08 was given to the Lutheran Deaconess Association to be the first contribution to a Foundation to be established by the Lutheran Deaconess Association.



## PLENARY BOARD TAKES ACTION ON BEHALF OF GRADUATES

In response to the shortage of calls for deaconesses this year, the Plenary Board at its May meeting committed the Association to provide up to \$10,000.00 for the first twelve months to assist in setting up deaconess ministries. In addition, \$2,000.00 was set aside for special situations. This \$10,000.00 is intended to be used in four places, providing a salary subsidy of \$2,500.00 each. Pastors wishing to discuss the possibilities of this in their circumstances should immediately phone the Association at: (219) 462-4197.

## ANNUAL MAILING TO CONGREGATIONS

To: The Pastor or Stewardship Chairman

Subject: Annual Appeal for Financial Support

(This refers to our special September effort and not to the insertion of envelopes into regular congregation envelope packets.)

The Lutheran Deaconess Association plans to make its annual appeal in September for financial support from all congregations of Synod.

We intend to make available an offering envelope and bulletin insert.

You will assist us greatly if you send in the form below now.

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Executive Director  
Lutheran Deaconess Association  
Deaconess Hall  
Valparaiso, Indiana 46383

We are happy to assist in the ministry of the Deaconess Association.

When they are ready, you may send us \_\_\_\_\_ offering envelopes and \_\_\_\_\_ bulletin inserts.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Number and Street \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

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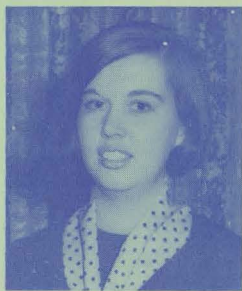
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JOANN UNDERWOOD



ADRIENNE WASHBURN



The Lutheran Deaconess Association program is made possible by the contributions of individuals, organizations, and congregations.

We invite you to share in recruiting and educating women for this ministry, and encouraging them in it.

Following are the categories of membership in the Association:

Regular .....	\$ 2.00
Sustaining .....	5.00
Associate .....	10.00*
Patron .....	25.00*
Cooperating .....	50.00*
Benefactor .....	100.00*
Life .....	200.00*

\* Ten dollars or more entitles the donor to vote.

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Enclosed please find: \$.....

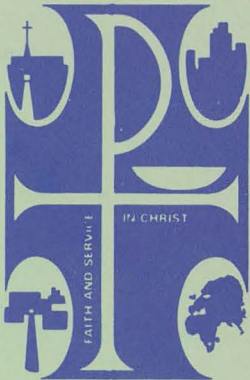
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