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The LUTHERAN

Deaconess



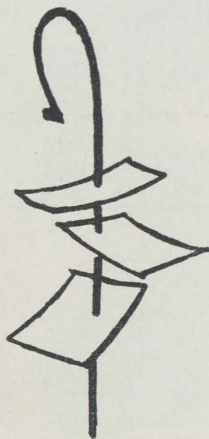
Vol. 41, No. 4

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Parish Deaconess Joins Staff at Emmanuel, Fort Wayne

STAFF THOUGHTS



Someone recently asked: "If you are so short of Deaconesses, why was not our girl accepted?" This one is similar to the one asked about two years ago by an applicant who was not accepted as a student in the Deaconess Training Program: "Do you mean to say that I cannot serve my Lord?"

A short answer, and yet a true answer, was "This is not an opinion on our part that you cannot serve the Lord, but that you do not meet the qualifications to serve Him as a Deaconess."

In Romans Chapter 12 and in 1 Corinthians Chapter 12 several points are clearly brought out concerning the gifts and talents of individuals. The members of the Church are compared to a body which is composed of various members, each having different functions and responsibilities yet all belonging to the same body and one being as important as another for the perfect functioning of the body.

It is similarly true in the Body of Christ, the Church. Members have different gifts, talents, and abilities, and for the perfect functioning of the Body, all members are necessary. Problems arise when it is not properly or correctly determined what the talents are and/or when they are not used for service in Christ's Kingdom.

Several important points brought out in the two chapters 12 mentioned above should be kept in mind. Gifts differ in individuals. All are gifts, meaning that we cannot brag about any talent we have, as it was given. All talents and abilities are given not just for our own personal use but "to profit withal", that is, for the benefit of the whole Body. The Holy Spirit determines who gets what gifts.

It is true that many of us can easily and often do incorrectly evaluate our talents and gifts, but we feel the greater mistake in the Church today is that its members do not use the talents and gifts God has given them! WCG

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

Official Quarterly of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc., within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Affiliated Synods.

The EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: The Rev. Walter Gerken; and Deaconess Lucille Wiese.

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

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EMMANUEL INSTALLS DEACONESS



Pastor Schoedel performs rite of installation.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, installed the first full-time parish deaconess in this area on Sunday, September 20. Miss Janice Orluske began her duties as assistant to Pastor Walter Schoedel after six years of service at Christ Lutheran Church, Chicago.

Emmanuel is a congregation of 1,870 baptized members. Miss Orluske's duties there will include calling, youth work, work with the ladies groups, work with the young couples in the congregation, and counseling.

The staff at Emmanuel also includes a vicar. Formerly, the congregation had engaged the services of an assistant pastor. Pastor Schoedel sums up the feeling behind the decision to call a deaconess in this way, "With a desire to meet the needs of a changing neighborhood and the opportunity to enlarge our ministry to the members of our own congregation, the Board of Elders recommended to the Voters to apply for the services of a dea-

coness. The congregation felt that a parish deaconess could help in extending the church's ministry by assisting the pastor in his work."

Deaconess Jan is a native of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Her parents are Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Orluske. While at Valparaiso, she majored in Theology and Sociology. Her first two years of training were spent at Concordia College, St. Paul, Minnesota.



"To build a feeling of oneness among the students in the organization"

PI DELTA CHI

Perhaps some of you have at some time or other wondered about the function of "Pi Delta Chi," the professional organization to which our Deaconess students belong. Quoting from the constitution of this group, its objectives are as follows:

- "1. To build a feeling of oneness among the students in the organization; to build motivation for service and consecration to Christ.
- "2. To foster closer fellowship among the deaconess and pre-deaconess students.
- "3. To provide for participating in and leading worshipful devotions at Deaconess Hall.



"To provide for participating in and leading worshipful devotions at Deaconess Hall."

- "4. To provide opportunities for gaining experience in the various areas of deaconess work through:
 - a. Sharing of the experiences of returning internes.
 - b. Actual participation in Field Work Committee activities.
- "5. To maintain the bond of fellowship between the deaconess and pre-deaconess students and those deaconesses serving in the field through the publication **Nexus**.
- "6. To provide a link between Pi Delta Chi and the Deaconess Conference for preparation for membership in the latter."

1964-65 COUNSELORS



The 1964 Deaconess Hall Counselors confer with Pastor Kristo and Deaconess Edith Hovey. They are, from left to right, Sandy Wehking, Ruth Abbott and Janet Maynard.

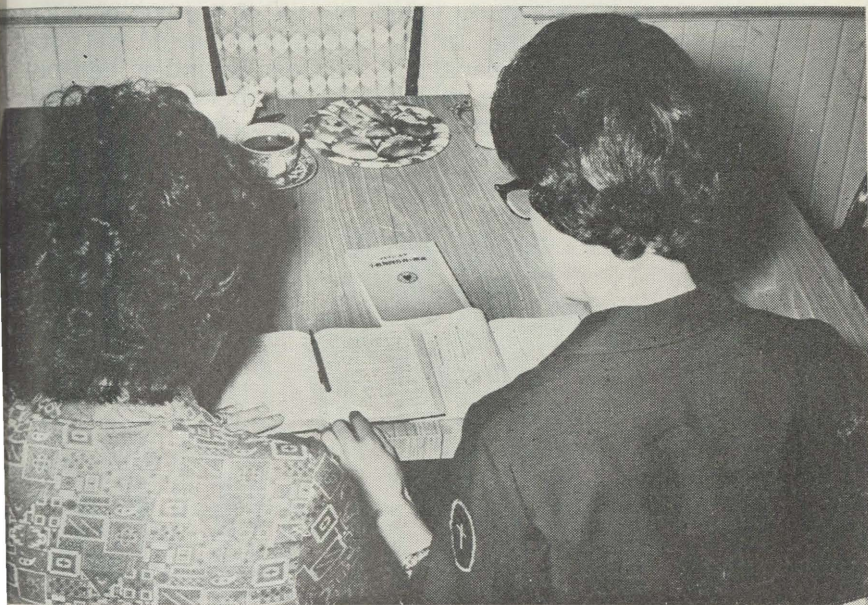
August Graduate Receives Placement

The Lutheran Deaconess Association Placement Committee in conjunction with the College of Presidents announces the placement of Deaconess Carol Schewe, an August graduate. Miss Schewe has begun work at St. John's Lutheran Church, Galveston, Texas. She will be working there with Pastor J. R. Saeger.

JAPANESE LADIES RECEIVE INSTRUCTION

(The following article was submitted to the editor of The Lutheran Deaconess by Deaconess Sue Werner, Nazareth Lutheran Church, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.)

A year ago (October 9, 1963) a venture of faith began as I started to instruct three Japanese women in the teachings of Christianity. Our class of three has been meeting weekly except during the summer, with the goal of public confession of faith (baptism and confirmation) to be made in Advent, 1964.



Bible Study—the foundation for the lessons.

I know no Japanese, and two of the women are not yet fluent in their use of English, especially in reading and writing it—hence this certainly is and has been a “venture of faith”.

All of the women married American servicemen who were stationed in Japan. The contact with Nazareth Church came for

Instruction (continued)

these women in different ways—Mrs. Robert Cuker came to us via a referral from Family Service of Milwaukee, Mrs. Elmer Stone through a visit to Milwaukee by the Japanese deaconess, Nobuko Sasaki Nakata, and the third, Mrs. Rodger Cotts, via contact with the first two. After working out some of the details, we ordered Japanese translations of Luther's Small Catechism and Exposition from our mission in Japan. The women already owned English-Japanese editions of The New Testament. Classes could begin!

We meet once a week for two hours—in the typical Milwaukee-German “kaffee klatsch” style—over coffee and cookies. We begin with prayer and Bible study. Then we spend the last hour on doctrine, using the catechism. In the Bible study period we have gone through Romans, Ephesians, and the Gospels under the Holy Spirit's guidance. After going through the Gospels, we met one morning last spring to view filmstrips of the Life of Christ and the beginning of the Christian Church. The ladies felt this was very helpful in seeing a unified picture of Jesus' life. The visual



“We meet once a week for two hours—in the typical Milwaukee—German “kaffee klatsch” style—over coffee and cookies.”

Instruction (continued)

illustrations are particularly helpful to us, especially when verbal communication breaks down. But then, Mrs. Stone serves as interpreter and usually "saves the day"!

As Pastor A. G. Hoffman says, the method of instruction in this class must be based on the students asking the questions, rather than the teacher doing so. This, of course, makes it very challenging for me, as they feel free to ask me just about anything having to do with God and Christianity. It is hard for them to understand why there are so many Christian denominations; why I don't go to Japan with the Gospel if Japan is only 1 percent Christian; why Christians don't always act as children of God; how we really are forgiven; etc. These ladies are very faithful in their church attendance. Often they ask about something that happened or was said in the worship service the Sunday before we meet, or they ask the meaning of symbols they see in church. These questions serve as a wonderful way in which to relate the messages of salvation and sanctification to their own lives.

All of the women have a Buddhist background. The Old Testament stories we take for granted as illustrations for undergirding the doctrine of salvation as told in the New Testament must be told in simple fashion. Here a "timeline" so often comes in handy, especially as related to certain events in Japanese history.

It is a real joy to actually see the faith of these women grow. For instance, last spring Mrs. Cuker told me she had had phone calls from Japanese people, now living in Chicago, who had heard of her health troubles since coming to the U.S. They told her that all this happened because she deserted Buddha. But she stands up for her God and tells them how she trusts in the true God to help in all her troubles. This is a fine Christian witness.



Deaconess Sue uses visual aids to clarify her point.

Instruction (continued)

These women's husbands have all been baptized into the Christian faith. It is our prayer that they may be encouraged, by their wives' faithfulness and Christian growth, to seek the truth presented in God's Word for their own lives.

Mrs. Stone asked me to accompany her this spring as she made her final application for U.S. citizenship. I was pleased to be able to do so—and she was granted citizenship. It will be an even happier day for me when I shall see these three women, God willing, make public confession of their heavenly citizenship because of faith in their Savior Jesus Christ.

Peace, Fort Wayne, Hosts Annual Meeting



Jean Hoover, deaconess, spoke for Annual Meeting dinner.

The Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association was held, October 25, 1964, at Peace Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana. Deaconess Jean Hoover of Toronto, Ontario, was the featured speaker at the dinner. Miss Hoover is currently serving as chairman of the Deaconess Conference. She is a parish deaconess at St. John's Lutheran Church, Toronto.

As has been the case in past years, a student group from Deaconess Hall attended the dinner and sang for the group.

IN MEMORIAM

Pastor George Plato Dies

Pastor George Plato, husband of Gerry Eubanks Plato, died September 22, 1964. At the time of his death they were serving St. John's Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri. Pastor Plato was a June, 1964, graduate of Springfield Seminary, Springfield, Illinois. He was a native of Niagara Falls, Ontario, Canada.

A Memorial Service was held in Kansas City on September 25, and the burial service was conducted at St. Paul Lutheran Church, Niagara Falls, Ontario. The widow is residing at the present time in the parsonage in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mrs. August Gerken, Mother of Executive Director, Dies

Mrs. August Gerken, 73, a native of Fort Wayne, Indiana, died October 2 at her home near Marysville, Ohio, following a lingering illness. Her husband, Pastor August Gerken, had died in 1960.

Surviving are five sons, including Pastor Walter C. Gerken, Executive Director, LDA, four daughters, two sisters, one brother, 30 grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

CHRISTMAS IN SEPTEMBER

It has been the custom of the Lutheran Deaconess Association to send out a letter to all congregations in the Missouri Synod at Christmas time. This letter served as a reminder to congregations and groups within the congregations that the Deaconess Association must have continued support in order to function.

This year the Executive Committee decided to change the timing of this annual letter. The committee felt it only logical to send out the mailing to coincide with the beginning of a new school year; the time when our students return to the classroom, our internes begin their year of on-the-job training, and our graduates begin their service. Your pastor—your congregation—has received this letter. We hope you will urge tangible support of the work of the Deaconess Association.



DID YOU KNOW THAT -

—New York State — with a total of 8 — has more Deaconesses working within its borders than any other state?

—Wisconsin and Minnesota are tied for second with 7?

—Illinois is third with 6?

—There is a Deaconess working in our 49th state
—Hawaii?

