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Lutheran Diaconal Association

Summer 1971

The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 49, No. 2

Lutheran Deaconess Association

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THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

SUMMER, 1971

Vol. 49, No. 2



LUCILLE WASSMAN, PH.D.

Executive Director

PEOPLE . . . PEOPLE

As this issue of *The Lutheran Deaconess* began to take shape, it became apparent that the emphasis would be on people. We like to think that this is always the case, but there was a special thrust to it this time. The special slant this time is on people in motion.

First, there are the new graduates going out either into their first positions in the professional ministry of the church or into some still unknown activity.

Then, there are the interns who are about to begin their year of experience as student deaconesses.

Thirdly, there is the departure from our Staff of the Staff Deaconess who has been with us for two years, the Executive Director who has been with us for ten years, and the mistress of our Deaconess Hall kitchen, who has been with us for thirteen years.

Finally, there is the impending arrival on July 1 of our new Executive Director, Dr. Lucille Wassman.

People in motion! Change!

In another day, this would have brought alarm. But today we are used to change; we expect it.

As a matter of fact, our Scriptures have much to say about change. God called Abraham out of his homeland . . . He led Israel out of captivity . . . He called Paul over to Macedonia.

Through it all, we wonder what God is doing to us. We know He is doing something toward our ultimate good; for He always does. But we must wait to see what precise shape that goodness will take.

As we have said before, one way in which God deals with us is through our brethren in the church. We hope God uses you to open new positions of service for deaconesses and to provide the financial resources for carrying on the program of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

Taking an editor's privilege, I wish you all farewell.

Arne Kristo

Cover Photo: Our New Executive Director

Several issues ago we introduced Dr. Lucille Wassman, Ph.D., to you as a new member of our Board.

Now we have the pleasure and privilege of introducing her to you again—but this time as our new Executive Director.

In choosing her, the LDA has made a deliberate break with a practice going back over the more than fifty years of its existence: choosing a male and a pastor as the executive officer. The Board felt that this decision was consistent with the concern of the deaconess program for the ministry of women.

Dr. Wassman comes to us from an Assistant Professorship at the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee. Her doctorate was secured in education from Teachers' College, Columbia University.

Dr. Wassman is a member of numerous professional societies and has been active in her local congregation, Capitol Drive Lutheran, Milwaukee.

She will assume her new responsibilities on July 1.

Plenary Board Considers Issues

During the past six months, the Plenary Board of the Lutheran Deaconess Association has considered the future of the deaconess program in depth. Perhaps in this day and age it is unusual — if not even unhealthy — for an organization or program to continue on an unruffled course. In any event, the impending staff changes, coupled with inadequate financial support, insufficient requests for graduates, and declining freshmen enrollments forced the Board to self-analysis.

It was apparent that God was saying something . . . but what?

Was He saying that the Association should trim its budget by selling its real estate and moving ahead in a new manner?

Was He saying that there should be some even more radical changes such as having the Synod take over the program?

Was He saying that there should be more trust and that in His good time, when the economic picture improved, the Association would be able to move forward again in confidence?

At its April meeting, the Board debated these matters.

As a result of these discussions, the Board was not convinced that it should dispose of Deaconess Hall at this time. The new Executive Director and the

Executive Committee are charged with the task of continuing to analyze the situation and to come with recommendations to the September meeting.

In the midst of these issues, several factors are certain:

1. THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION has a ministry to perform and seeks your continued moral and financial support. Pray for us! Send contributions to: Lutheran Deaconess Association, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.

2. The ministry of women will continue to be promoted within the church. If you are a layman, speak to your pastor about the possibility of securing a deaconess to share in the ministry of your congregation. If you are a pastor, start making plans now to secure the help of a deaconess. And, for information and assistance, contact The Executive Director, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383 (Phone: 219-462-4197).

3. If you are a woman considering a career, or if you know a young woman making plans for her future, remember the deaconess program! It has challenge and excitement enough for today's alert woman. Again — like a recording — we say, for information, contact The Executive Director, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.



MRS. BLANCHE SPRATLEY

COOK RETIRES

After serving for 27 semesters as our first and only cook at Deaconess Hall, "Sprat", as she is called, is retiring in June, 1971.

Sprat has served faithfully and well. Perhaps the best proof of this is that through the years deaconess students have firmly insisted that the "best eating" on the campus of Valparaiso University is to be found at Deaconess Hall!

Why Should I Give More When Some Give Almost Nothing?

Each person should do his share.

But we can't let what others do determine our own response to the Church's needs. After all, we don't give "to keep up with the Joneses." The measure of our contribution is not what others give, but what God gives us.

There is only one pertinent question with respect to our giving: What is God trying to do with and through me and mine? Even people with the same income may not be capable of giving the same amount. What counts is that we give according to our potential for giving. That is the question God will put to us when we account for our stewardship — not what we gave in relation to others, but what we gave in relation to our own ability.

Jesus gave everything so that from His poverty we might become rich.

We should not dare to class ourselves or compare ourselves with any of those who put forward their own claims. What fools they are to measure themselves by themselves, to find in themselves their own standard of comparison!

(NEB, II Cor. 10:12)

Remember the Lutheran Deaconess Endowment Fund in your will. For information about wills, trusts and outright gifts write to: Development Officer, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.

MEMORIAL WREATHS

Perhaps you or your congregation are looking for ideas for memorials at the death of loved ones. Consider the Lutheran Deaconess Association! Write to us for a supply of memorial cards to put into the tract rack at your church.



Jacqueline Haug, M.A.

Deaconess Jacqueline Haug, M.A., concludes her two years of service with the LDA on 30 June, 1971. During her tenure with the Association, Miss Haug has served as counselor to students, Residence Director in Deaconess Hall, and has shared responsibilities in visiting the various Synodical Colleges to consult with students about the deaconess program, visiting interns and deaconesses in the field, and public relations activities.

FEEL THE NEED FOR A SPEECH (OR A PROGRAM)?

If you have responsibilities for planning programs for your group, we'd like to help. Of course, it is natural for us to talk about the deaconess program itself but, in addition, there are special areas of competence among our deaconesses.

For further information, write: Director of Development, Lutheran Deaconess Association, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383.



CIBORIUM . . .

We are the happy recipients of a new ciborium! It is part of a new set of communionware given to us and designed by the Otto Dingeldein Studios in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

The ciborium was given by Dr. and Mrs. Walter Wangerin of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, in memory of Deaconess Florence Storck, Mrs. Wangerin's sister.

Pastor Kristo Leaves Deaconess Program



PASTOR KRISTO

Pastor Arne Kristo, Executive Director of the Association, leaves the service of the deaconess program on 30 June, 1971. Pastor Kristo joined the staff of the LDA as Director of Education in June, 1961. He was appointed Executive Director in September, 1968.

Concurrently with his responsibilities with the Deaconess Association, Pastor Kristo has been a part-time member of the faculty of Valparaiso University with the rank of Assistant Professor in the Dept. of Theology.

On July 1, Pastor Kristo begins a one-year residency in clinical pastoral education at Lutheran General Hospital, Park Ridge, Illinois.

THE GRADUATES



DIANE ANDERSON



SARA DOOLEN



LORA GROSS



KAREN HENTSCH



DOROTHY KRUSE



KAREN MEIER



VANETTE PETER

SPRING PL

Diane AndersonImmanuel
Sara DoolenTrinity Lut
Mary-Anne FlohrTrinity Lut
Vanette PeterTrinity Lut
Gwendolyn SaylorImmanuel
Adrienne WashburnGood Shep

OF SPRING, 1971



MARY-ANNE FLOHR



SHARON GALAMBOS



JANICE HOLTMEIER



JUDITH HOSHEK



ANITA MOHR



DEANNA OCHS

ACEMENTS

Lutheran Church, Kansas City, Missouri
Lutheran Church, Bellingham, Washington
Lutheran Church, Pekin, Illinois
Lutheran Church, Evansville, Indiana
Lutheran Church, Alliance, Nebraska
Lutheran Church, Honolulu, Hawaii



GWENDOLYN SAYLER

WOMEN AND MINISTRY

We were tempted to entitle this item, "Women's Ministry", as a kind of parallel to "women's lib." But we restrained ourselves. For one thing, we didn't want to antagonize those who are uptight about women's lib.

All of this is really tangential to the subject. But there is a connection. The connection is that whether we like it or not, the question of the role and status of women in the church is very much on the minds of people in the church, as the question of the role and status of women in society is on the minds of people in the nation and world.

For practical purposes, and with reference to the Milwaukee Convention of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod, the LDA has confined itself to questions relating to the public, professional ministry of deaconesses. We felt that for now, and in terms of our direct calling, we should say something about deaconesses.

The result was that we submitted two overtures which we hope will reach the delegates at Milwaukee through a floor committee. (We apparently no longer have the right to submit overtures directly.) Both of those overtures speak to the status of the deaconess in the church. We felt that by challenging the Synod to consider them, important issues would be faced and the role of deaconess/woman in the church would be furthered.

For your information, we duplicate those resolutions here following:

To Designate Deaconesses As Ministers of Religion

Whereas, Our Synod years ago included male parochial school teachers into the category of "minister of religion"; and

Whereas, This was done largely in response to governmental circumstances (the military draft, income tax), and not just for theological reasons; and

Whereas, Deaconesses serve over a broad spectrum of ministerial functions within the public ministry of the church; and

Whereas, In the case of the deaconess there would be, as in the case of the pastor and male teacher, the opportunity to secure the benefit of a housing allowance which is non-taxable for income tax purposes; and

Whereas, Even aside from such considerations the role of the deaconess warrants this designation and,

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To Include Deaconesses in the Synodical Constitution and By-Laws

Whereas, Deaconesses have served congregations and institutions of our church for more than 50 years; and

Whereas, This ministry has been cheerfully and faithfully rendered; and

Whereas, The development of this program has taken place through extra-synodical channels but in recent years deaconesses have received their initial placements through the Synodical Board of Placements; and

Whereas, Deaconesses are part of the public, professional ministry of the church but their position has never been officially designated by Synod; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the constitution of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod be amended by adding the following to Article V-B:

"7. Deaconesses"; and be it further

Continued on Page 11

A DECADE OF SERVICE AT L.S.S.

The Story of a Deaconess

"A 2-day Thing" "Minority Adoptions" "Adoption Line"
. . . . "Troops" "Adoptive Family Training Sessions"

This is some of the short-cut language being thrown around Lutheran Social Service in Wichita, Kansas. Each of these terms relates to a progressive service initiated or encouraged by Evelyn Middelstadt, social worker and deaconess.

A graduate of the Deaconess Program at Valparaiso University, Evelyn earned her Master of Social Work degree from the University of Minnesota and worked at Lutheran Social Service in Minneapolis before coming to Lutheran Social Service, Wichita, Kansas, in 1960. The geographical area served by this agency includes Kansas and Oklahoma, and Evelyn has done her share of traveling so as to be familiar with, and to, constituents throughout the area.

Evelyn's dedication to her work is a trademark and her motivation of showing God's love for man well known to those with whom she comes in contact. From this base, Evelyn has shown many people practical ways of coping with problems or sharing God's love with one another.

"Fish swim, birds fly, people feel—that's life."

The first three phrases come from Haim Ginott—the fourth from Evelyn. It is an "old saying" newly developed in one of her "adoptive workshops." Otherwise known as a "2-day thing", the workshop method of adoption preparation grew out of the philosophy of the staff at Lutheran Social Services of Kansas and Oklahoma that:

Adoptive applicants are people. People have feelings, all kinds of feelings, and the individuality of their feelings should be recognized and respected.

Out of this philosophical commitment, which contrasted to traditional philosophy in adoption that an agency's duty is to "protect children" and "evaluate applicants", came much new openness with clients and many new directions for Lutheran Social Service. An article entitled, "Adoptive Counseling—A New Opportunity For Growth", was published in the July, 1967, issue of Child Welfare Journal of the Child Welfare League of America, about

the initial steps in the revamping of the agency's adoption program.

Following the approach that what benefits the family, benefits the child, LSS began getting adoptive applicants together in small groups to discuss their various interests in adoption, their expectations, the realities and implications for their family. This "adoption preparation" now takes the form of a workshop for three to five couples running a period of two days. Couples are initially told the agency expects to place a child with them and stands ready to help them in any way necessary to meet their goals. Experience has shown there to be much more variety in the way people have responded to adoption than previous individual interviews indicated. People have been observed to be much less defensive than when they were concerned about being evaluated—and thus more ready to involve themselves in a "growth process."

The development of this adoptive program is evidence of what teamwork can do, as one staff member initiated, and another amended, and each adoptive group developed their own "happening." Throughout each phase of the program development there was Evelyn, keeping the activity on a firm base, supporting the innovations and adding her own new material.

Have you ever thought how close to an insult it is to tell someone, "Don't feel that way," to ask him to deny a part of himself? Evelyn did, and now many family members have had occasion to consider what messages they send one another when they are trying to be helpful to each other.

An innovative aspect of the workshop, that occurred somewhat spontaneously, was when a group of unwed mothers was meeting in the building the same day as an adoptive applicant group and it was decided to join forces for mutual discussion following lunch. In spite of initial tension, the benefits of girls seeing "real

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A DECADE OF SERVICE

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families" and families checking out their stereotypes of unwed mothers were so great that the "encounter" has become routine in the workshop schedule.

Much of the proclaiming of this exciting program has been done informally as Evelyn travelled in relation to her involvement with Casework Directors of Lutheran Social Service Agencies, the Associated Lutheran Charities, Wheat Ridge Scholarships, and the Deaconess Association.

A formal presentation of the program occurred at Valparaiso University in March, 1970, when she and a co-worker visited the social work students there. Then in October, 1970, Evelyn presented a two-day institute in Seattle, and following a weekend break, another in Yakima, to social workers of both public and private agencies.

Even while the agency's adoption approach was developing, and sometimes because of changes there, new impetus came for specialized projects; e.g., emphasis on developing adoptive homes for children with special needs—the approximately 300 children in Kansas who don't have permanent homes because of the color of their skin, other children with medical problems, older youngsters and sibling groups.

In 1970, the number of children placed for adoption by LSS jumped from a previous, all time, yearly high of 76 to 177, with the majority of the increase representing "children with special needs" and reflecting Evelyn's work in correlating adoptive home resources with children in the care of other agencies. Through cooperative efforts and referral resources developed by Evelyn, children from North and South Dakota, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Oklahoma, Missouri, Iowa and Korea via LSS of Minnesota, as well as other agencies in Kansas, have found loving adoptive families. These children included Indian, Mexican, Negro, Oriental and bi-racial descents, as well as medical difficulties; e.g., cleft palate, drug history in parents, and sibling groups of up to four children!

The increased number of adoptive families became available largely as a result of a TV effort initiated by Evelyn along with other social workers in the Wichita community. "Adoption Line" calls really

fill up the switchboard at LSS on afternoons after the program which features only minority race children or children with problems. This program has been in operation well over a year now and review indicates that people now responding have been watching and considering and are usually serious and realistic in getting ready to adopt. With "satisfied customers" word spreads rapidly from one to another so a built-in "public relations department" has developed. One program still in the planning stage is for post-placement services of the agency to be provided by adoptive parents who can readily relate to the feeling and experiences of family members newly adjusting to one another.

Again, one thing led to another, and with Model Cities financing a social worker to focus specifically on "minority children adoptions", community attention to adoption was emphasized. With the social worker housed at LSS, Evelyn is called upon as a consultant. Together, Evelyn and the Model Cities worker have recruited and are training black adoptive parents to work in developing more adoptive resources for black children and for the trainees to extend agency services to adoptive applicants.

The "Troops" developed from the concept of clients helping one another when girls pregnant out of wedlock found support and encouragement from group contact and developed self direction under Evelyn's guidance to reach out to the community and to other girls in need of unwed mother services. They've identified community resources and weaknesses in serving unwed mothers and talked to myriads of groups—high school and college classes, PTAs, church groups, etc.—with the goal of expressing their feelings and developing understanding and help of others for unwed mothers.

Odd jobs of talking to nursing students, welfare departments and other groups, have provided outlets for Evelyn to help others increase their understanding of people in trouble, or develop new approaches to agency problems. She has been active with the suicide prevention program, developed and sponsored by the social workers of the community, and acts as consultant-supervisor to social workers in the city Health Department.

INTERN ASSIGNMENTS

The following students, have recently or will shortly, begin their one-year assignments as deaconess interns:

Mary Baumann	Zion Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa	Summit, Illinois
Eileen Semelka Browne	Redeemer Lutheran Church
Northeast, Pennsylvania	Bronx, New York
Barbara Hitt	Immanuel Lutheran Church
Antigo, Wisconsin	Redondo Beach, California
Brenda Kasten	St. Michael Lutheran Church
St. Louis, Missouri	LaGrange Park, Illinois
Karen Kraetzner	Lutheran Mission Association
South St. Paul, Minnesota	St. Louis, Missouri
Deborah Kolke Nebel	Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Parma, Ohio	Maple Heights, Ohio
Carol Peterson	Winfield State Hospital
Rock Lake, North Dakota	Winfield, Kansas
Mary Raabe	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church
Wauwatosa, Wisconsin	Goleta, California
Susan Webb	Trinity Lutheran Church
N. Augusta, South Carolina	Cleveland, Ohio

MINISTERS OF RELIGION

Continued from Page 8

in terms of her function, the only reason for not designating her in this way is that she is female and not male; and

Whereas, Such gender prejudice is not justified; therefore be it
RESOLVED, That henceforth deaconesses be designated by our Synod as ministers of religion.

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

Continued from Page 8

RESOLVED, That the constitution of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod be amended by adding the

following to Article XII-B:
 "g. Deaconesses"; and be it further
RESOLVED, That the By-Laws of The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod be amended by adding the following to paragraph 1.61 (Other Advisory Representatives):

"f. The Lutheran Deaconess Association shall be represented at Synodical Conventions by one deaconess for each twenty deaconesses in active service within The Lutheran Church — Missouri Synod as advisory delegates to the Synodical Convention. Fractional groupings shall be disregarded, except that there shall be at least one advisory deaconess delegate."

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

Editor The Rev. Arne Kristo

Official Quarterly of The Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc.
 within

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Affiliated Synods
 All materials pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the
 Executive Director, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso, Indiana 46383
 Entered as second-class matter June 9, 1969 at the post office at
 Fort Wayne, Indiana under the act of March 3, 1879.

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

The program of the Lutheran Deaconess Association 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:

Benefactor	\$200.00
Cooperating	100.00
Patron	50.00
Associate	25.00
Sustaining	10.00
Gift	_____

Ten dollars or more entitles the donor to vote.

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DEACONESS HALL
VALPARAISO, INDIANA 46383

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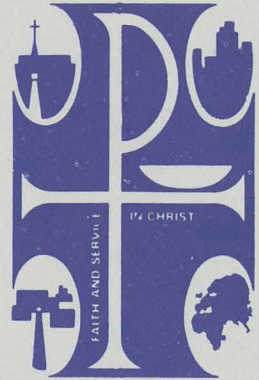
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Church

You may remind me annually on or about



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