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Lutheran Deaconess Association

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THE LUTHERAN Deaconess

Official Organ of the
LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION
within the Lutheran Church-
Missouri Synod and Affiliated Synods

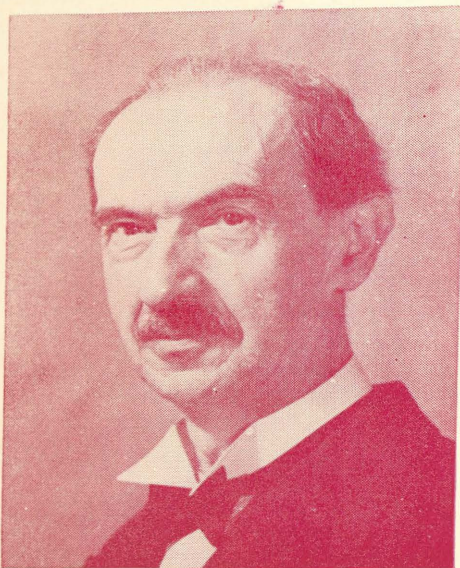
Vol. 37, No. 2

April, 1960

1960 Deaconess Graduates Valparaiso University



Left to right: Marilyn Petersen, Grace Anderson, Marie Otten, Cherryll Cook, Carolyn Gresens, Norma Jean Cook, Merrilyn Gudim, Nina Kohls.



*Pastor Bruno Poch, Superintendent,
Lutheran Deaconess Association, 1923-1932.*

THE REV. BRUNO POCH 1877 - 1960

In Memoriam

Our deceased brother, Pastor Bruno Poch, did pioneer work in the Deaconess work of our Church since he served the Deaconess Association as its first Superintendent from 1923 to 1932.

To give you a sample of one of the first trips he made in 1924 in behalf of our beloved Association:

First he addressed women's groups and individuals in Detroit. Then he did the same thing in Buffalo and traveled on to Albany, where he addressed different groups. In Albany he established a branch Deaconess auxiliary; and since 1924, Miss Anna Stauder has been the solicitor for deaconess memberships in that Deaconess auxiliary until the present time. She has literally collected hundreds of dollars for the promotion of the Deaconess program. Then Pastor Poch spoke in New Jersey, where his brother-in-law, Dr. Carl Kretzmann, had arranged his schedule of speaking dates. On that trip he also addressed the convention of the Atlantic District, preached in Immanuel congregation in New York City, traveled on to Philadelphia, where he delivered three addresses the following Sunday, and his last stop before returning to Fort Wayne was to

speak in Pastor Eckhardt's congregation in Pittsburgh.

He was also a teacher, teaching Deaconess classes in Fort Wayne, Beaver Dam and Watertown, Wis., where he had helped organize these Deaconess schools.

After serving for 8½ years as Superintendent of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, he terminated his services as Superintendent. Great changes had come about during his years of service. He had the privilege of seeing the number of Deaconesses increase from 3 to 42 during his administration as Superintendent of our Association.

There can be no doubt about it, Pastor Poch has left his mark upon the Deaconess Association which can still be seen today. The Lutheran Deaconess Association appreciates the services Pastor Poch rendered as its first Superintendent.

And now that God has called His servant home, so far as his service in the Deaconess Association is concerned, the Lord says to him,

"Well done, thou good and faithful servant. Thou has been faithful over a few things. I will make you ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord." Matt. 25:21.

SUMMER FIELD WORKERS

"Student has superior organizational ability. Not only I, but the leaders of the congregation were most pleased with her work."

"She made a hit with our people. She has good organizational abilities, worked very well with the youth (Walther League) and in the Sunday School."

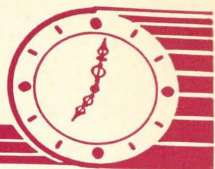
Who's talking? Different busy parish Pastors of our church. Whom are they talking about? The Deaconess student who did summer field work in their Parish.

These girls were in charge of the Vacation Bible School in the Parish; the Youth Program; some had as their responsibility the training of the Sunday School staff.

We have a number of junior students available who are interested in Parish Work and who need the experience in a Parish.

Please send all requests for students to 3714 South Hanna, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The Deaconess' Day



After a recent bout with the flu, one of my kindergarten children came to me and said, "I knew you'd be back to school today. I asked Jesus to make you well, and see, He answered my prayer!"

This is only one of the beautiful professions of faith that I hear as I spend each morning of the week with the five year olds in my kindergarten.

No matter what the care and responsibilities of the previous day, each new day is made brighter when working with children who have such a tremendous love of life and an insatiable curiosity about everything from the anatomy of a centipede to the latest in rockets and missiles. They can get enthused over the possibilities of seeing animal shapes in cloud formations and yet I have heard these same children speak matter of factly about death.

I remember well the day that I overheard one of my girls give comfort to another whose memory of her own father had been stirred by the death in the family of one of her classmates. She put her arm around her friend and said, "Don't feel bad, I'll bet your daddy is having fun in heaven."

And then there was the conversation of two small boys as they were drawing.

"Say, you're really scribbling."

"No, I'm not. It's nice."

"Well, what is it?"

"I don't know."

There are few things that can compare with the joy of knowing that as a teacher in a Christian school, I have the awesome responsibility of leading young and responsive children to know and love Jesus as their Savior. Christ is in the classroom whether we are having a social studies unit "People in the News," enjoying our weekly reader or acting out one of the Bible stories.

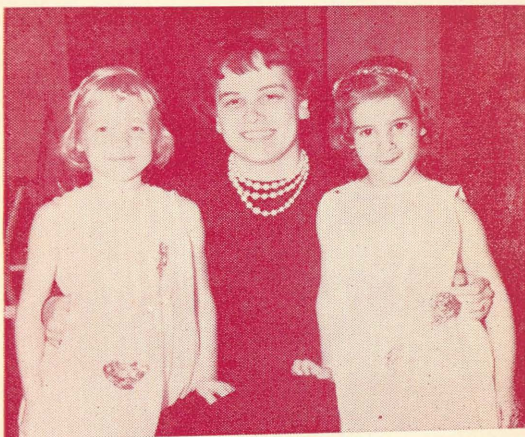
So then my day begins, but being a kindergarten teacher is only one part of my duties as a parish deaconess at Christ Church in Chicago. One of the things I

especially enjoy about my work is that I have contact with every age group in the church — from the kindergarten to confirmation class, Bible class to visiting the aged sick and shut-ins.

I find that instead of being difficult and depressing, as I had been led to believe, visiting the shut-ins has become one of the most enjoyable parts of the day. I never cease to be amazed at how much they do for me; their faith and patience is truly inspiring. I remember the lady who pushed several coins into my hand and said, "Please let me give you something, you bring the Church to me."

As I read the Easter story to the shut-ins or put it on the flannelgraph for the children, I find that it has new meaning for me as a Deaconess. I know that there is true joy in service to others and that in everything Christ must be all in all . . . "For me to live is Christ."

Deaconess Janice Orluske



Deaconess Janice with two of her kindergarten pupils. Janice is one of the few deaconesses who teach kindergarten every morning in addition to other tasks. She is a very busy and much loved deaconess. The two little girls are in their costumes for one of the dramatic productions that the school sponsors. Miss Orluske knows that children learn the Bible stories better when they can dramatize them.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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ANN SCHROEDER JANUARY GRADUATE

Miss Anna Schroeder, of Attica, Michigan, was consecrated on February 28, 1960, in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Lapeer, Michigan. Ann graduated in January form Valparaiso University after completing four years of training all at Valpo.

She has done Field Work in Children's Homes in Addison, Illinois and St. Louis, Missouri. She also did field work in her home church in Lapeer.

She is at present employed by the Lutheran Children's Services in St. Louis. She started work immediately after graduation.

Ann, may the Lord bless your work in His Kingdom.

INCREASED EXPENSES

As you have read on other pages of this publication, we now have an Assistant Executive Director for our Association. In view of the recent expansion of our Program and the continued convalescence of the Executive Director, this was a step imperative for the Deaconess Association to take.

Also because of the expansion of our Program, we now have a full-time Office Manager. She provides very valuable help in typing, mimeographing, filing and the myriad duties that accrue in an office.

At this vital stage of development, we cannot afford to be hampered by lack of qualified personnel. Hence, the absolute necessity of these additional persons.

Our last issue published our budget for 1959-60. This budget is \$5,480.00 higher than in previous years. Last year the amount of the contributions received was substantially smaller than the amount needed. We cannot risk having this happen again.

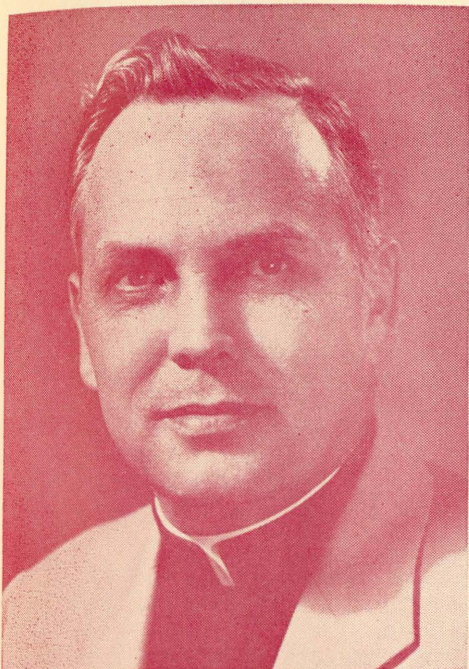
We beg of you to remember however, that were it not for the steady and dependable giving over the years, by hundreds of individuals, organizations, and congregations, the power behind the project, the Lutheran Deaconess Association, would not be able to function.

We ask you faithful givers, would you consider increasing your regular contribution? We ask you, who have not yet seen fit to help us, won't you join us in the task of training workers for the Kingdom?

OUR BEQUESTS

More and more of our Christians are planning to remember a cause such as the Lutheran Deaconess Association in their last will and testament. Below is a form which may be used for making a bequest.

"I give, devise, and bequeath to the Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc., within the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and Affiliated Synods, a non-profit corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of Indiana and located in the City of Fort Wayne, the sum of _____ dollars and the receipt of the Treasurer of said corporation shall be a sufficient discharge of my executor for same."



*Pastor Walter C. Gerken
Assistant Executive Director, LDA*

PASTOR GERKEN ACCEPTS CALL TO BECOME ASSISTANT

Pastor Walter C. Gerken of St. John's Lutheran Church in Rochester, Michigan has accepted the call to be Assistant Executive Director of the Lutheran Deaconess Association. Pastor Gerken has been a member of the Plenary Board of the Lutheran Deaconess Association since the formation of that policy-making body. Therefore he comes to us with some knowledge of the Deaconess program, its aims and objectives.

He was born October 17, 1912 in Leduc, Alberta to Rev. and Mrs. August Gerken. He is the oldest of nine children. Pastor August Gerken is now retired and he and Mrs. Gerken now live in Marysville, Ohio.

His family soon moved to rural Monroeville, Indiana, where he attended St. John Lutheran school. He then attended Concordia High School and Junior College in Fort Wayne and Concordia Seminary in St. Louis. He graduated from the Seminary in June, 1937, married October 23, was installed and ordained on October 24 of the same year at St. Peter's in Thawville, Illinois, where he served until 1941.

From October 1941 to July 1946, he served as a Chaplain in the United States Army. The major portion of his service was spent in the South Pacific. He left the Army with the rank of major and served for six months in the Lutheran Hour office answering problem mail.

In November, 1946, he accepted a call to serve in the dual parish of Holy Cross in Oxford and St. John's in Rochester, Mich. He began serving St. John's alone in July of 1947 and the congregation has prospered greatly under his stewardship.

The Gerken's eldest, the only daughter, Pauline, is a Christian Day School teacher at St. John's in Rochester. She was married on April 18, 1960 to Vicar Carl Kummer who is at present vicaring at the St. Andrew-Redeemer Parish, in Detroit. They will go to St. Louis this fall where Mr. Kummer will complete his studies for the ministry.

Pastor and Mrs. Gerken's four sons are all studying for the ministry. Richard is a student at Concordia Senior College in Fort Wayne. Herbert, David and John are students at Concordia Junior College and High School in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The Lord took to Himself one of their sons, Luther, on July 27, 1944.

In addition to his Parish Ministry in Rochester, Pastor Gerken serves in the following capacities:

Chairman of the Michigan District College of Counselors;

Counselor of the Pontiac Circuit of the Michigan District;

Member of the General Committee on Educational Television, Detroit, representing Lutheran Schools in Michigan;

Member of the Working Committee on Educational Television for the State of Michigan;

Member of the Executive Committee of the Religious Assistance Program of churches of Oakland County under the Auspices of the Youth Protection Division of Juvenile Court, Pontiac, Michigan.

Pastor Gerken expects to take up his duties in Fort Wayne in late spring or early summer.

We express heartfelt thanks to God the Holy Spirit for guiding the course of events so that Pastor Gerken will be with us to aid and direct us.



Deaconess Sylvia Miller with some members of her Bible Class, St. James Lutheran Church, Grosse Pointe, Mich.

FROM THE FIELD SECRETARY'S DESK

This year got off to a good start when it comes to speaking engagements. January held an opportunity to speak to a Ladies Aid in Dillsboro, Indiana. It was a long bus ride and the Pastor Greunke and I almost missed each other but the eagerness of the women to hear about our work made the trip definitely worthwhile.

Later in the month the train took me to Lyons, Illinois where I spoke to a P.T.A. group to which girls in the upper grades of the Day School had been invited.

One Thursday afternoon in January, I had the opportunity to speak to Emmanuel Ladies Aid in Fort Wayne.

February 2 found me on the bus to Detroit. While there I spoke to three Ladies groups and found, as usual, that people were very interested in our Program and eager to hear of the progress that has been made. I also spoke to groups of interested girls at our two Lutheran High Schools. I met the mother of one of our deaconess students and enjoyed a very thought-provoking visit with her about the duties of a Christian in this world. I also enjoyed talking with Deaconesses Rhoda Gilmer Schroeder and Cathi Blaine; and was impressed with a Woman's Bible-study group that Deaconess Sylvia Miller has initiated

at St. James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe.

Every experience on this trip; family devotions in one of the homes, meeting a lady whom Pastor Krentz confirmed, talking with High School girls who want to serve; all of these experiences convinced me over again, that this business of doing the Lord's work is eminently worthwhile.

Next on the schedule was a District Walther League Christian Growth Conference in Ohio. Once again an opportunity to tell about Deaconess work, this despite an almost late arrival with Mr. Arthur Amt of the Central District Board of Education due to a recalcitrant car and a long slow freight train. Not the least of the benefits of this Conference was the opportunity to meet leaders in our church whose concern is interesting more young people in full-time work for Christ.

One lady I met said "I wanted to be a Deaconess when I was young." Perhaps her daughter will be one. It was a profitable weekend, spent growing.

March held a trip to Valpo for a Church-Related Careers Conference. Then came a trip to Southern Illinois that included a Confirmation Class at Champaign, Gamma Delta at the University of Illinois, a class at the Springfield Seminary, and a Women's Guild Meeting in Champaign.



From Kansas to New York come the eight graduating senior Deaconess Students. Where they will be going they do not know for they are awaiting news from the Synodical placement committee next month. The one thing that they are all certain of, however, is that their Lord will be using them to serve His people in that part of the Church where they are most needed and in which they can best serve.

All hope to be placed in parishes, although with quite different responsibilities depending upon her specific talents and training. A quick run down on the girls (in the order in which they appear on the picture) shows:

Marilyn Petersen, Evanston, Illinois, 22, religion major, Greek and physical education minors; Grace Anderson, St. Paul, Minnesota, 21, religion major, sociology minor; Marie Otten, New York City, 21, religion major, sociology minor; Norma Jean Cook, Mason City, Iowa, 21, religion and education majors; Merrilyn Gudim, Field, Wisconsin, 21, religion major, education and geography minors; and Nina Kohls, Ellsworth, Kansas, 21, religion major and sociology minor.

Marilyn and Merrilyn have been in the Deaconess training program since they were freshmen at Valpo, while the five others transferred in during their junior year. Three came from Synodical junior colleges, Marie from Concordia, Bronxville, Grace from Concordia, St. Paul, and Nina from St. John's, Winfield. Cherryl came from Concordia College, Moorhead, Minnesota, and Norman Jean from Mason City, Iowa, Junior College. Carolyn attended Valparaiso University for all four years, entering the Deaconess program in her senior year.

Contrary to what one might expect, none of the girls is a pastor's daughter, three have widowed mothers. The fathers of the other five are painter, printer, accountant, janitor and farmer.

Two girls attended Lutheran high schools; three Lutheran grade schools. Three have not always been members of

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

We hope that this little information about our graduates makes you feel more familiar with them and with our Program. Right now they are busy with all the last classes, term papers, and activities that are the special right of graduating seniors. Their joy at completing their training and expectation of the future is dimmed a little at the knowledge that it will be at least a year before they see one another again. But friendship surmounts the miles, especially friendship founded in Christ.

Here they are, the 1960 graduates. Even as they come from many different parts of the country, so the Lord has blessed them with different talents. However, they all have one thing in common, a genuine desire to serve their Lord. Go with the Lord's blessing and someday someone will say of you, "She has been a helper of many, and of myself as well."

Norma Jean Cook.

DEACONESS MILLER INITIATES BIBLE CLASS

Shortly after Christmas, Deaconess Sylvia announced a Women's Bible Class that would meet each Tuesday morning at 10 a.m. in the lounge of St. James Lutheran Church in Grosse Pointe, Michigan. The first week 12 ladies attended, and soon there were nearly 20 interested in coming to study and enter the discussions.

As they studied the book of James, and other related Bible passages, they would draw out the doctrinal content, as well as give it practical application in their lives. After 12 sessions and the coming of spring, they decided to discontinue until fall. But, out of this Bible Class had grown a number of ladies deeply interested in the prayerlife of the Christian.

For these ladies, and other members who expressed interest, Pastor Kurz has started a six weeks School of Prayer which attracted nearly 30 members.

After completing six weeks of prayer study and research, the members will divide into permanent prayer groups, meeting weekly with these goals in mind—to pray more effectively, to lift others in need through intercessory prayer, to strengthen the faith of one another, and to be lead to positive and unselfish action.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

*Miss Nobuko Sasaki***HEARTWARMING RESPONSE**

We have been made very happy and thankful by the response to the appeal we published in the January **Lutheran Deaconess** for funds for Miss Sasaki. As you will remember, she is a Christian graduate of Tsuda College in Tokyo, Japan, with a sincere desire to serve her Lord as Deaconess among her own people in Japan. The following have responded with gifts:

Ebenezer Ladies Aid, Alexandria, Minn.;
Mrs. Ed Hoder, Crescent, Iowa;
Miss Hedwig Schmidt, Wilson, N.Y.;
Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Mueller, Bay City, Mich.;

Rev. and Mrs. W. D. Spencer, Baltimore, Md.;

An anonymous donor from Nebraska;
Mr. and Mrs. George Nitz, Hudson, Mich.;
Miss Linda Shier, Columbus, Ohio;
Mr. and Mrs. E. Sherwood, Hilliard, Ohio;

Mr. Hans Thomsen, Lovelake, Nevada;
Immanuel Mission Society, Milwaukee, Wis.;

Zion Bible Class, Westwood, New Jersey;

Redeemer L.W.M.L., Miami, Florida;
Rev. George Kuechle, Oakland, Calif.;
Mr. Howard C. Huber, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Mrs. Emilie Wildgrube of Porterville, Calif., are both sending a contribution every month.

The following congregations are raising money for Nobuko:

Bethany Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, Iowa;

St. James Sunday School, Howard Lake, Minn.;

St. Paul's Sunday School, Bremen, Indiana;

Messiah Lutheran Church, Sterling, Ill.;

St. John's Lutheran Church, Elmore, Minn.;

Miss Sasaki has application blanks in her possession and will be a deaconess student in September, 1960.

If anyone of you should want to join in this project, there is still a need. Our thanks, and also thank you from Nobuko. May the Lord bless you for your generosity.

DEACONESS CONFERENCE

We would like to extend a cordial invitation to all who are interested to attend Deaconess Conference which will be held this year on July 5-8 at Island Camp, Henning, Minn.

The theme for this year's conference is "On Him Alone" based on I Corinthians 3, 11: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

One of the various features of this year's Conference is a special music program under the direction of Deaconess Julia Hennig of Chicago.

There will also be Bible study every morning. Those who attended Conference last year will remember that we were led in a study of the prophet Jeremiah by Professor Carl Graesser which was truly inspiring. We are sure that this year's Bible study will prove to be just as helpful.

The special area of study that will appear this year is Youth Work. The topics as set up by the Conference Committee are "The Walther League and You," "The Group and You," "The Individual and You." Other topics include "Psychology of the Christian Personality," "Agencies that Assist the Church," "Work with the Aged," and "The Church in Action."

In addition to this studying and growing there are special activity times planned when the group will be able to take advantage of the beautiful water and woods at the Island Camp.