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The Lutheran Deaconess

Lutheran Diaconal Association

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Summer 1964

## The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 41, No. 3

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*The* **LUTHERAN**

# Deaconess

Vol. 41, No. 3

Summer, 1964



THE SHIELD OF FAITH, THE BASIN  
OF SERVICE, AND THE GREEK  
"CHI RHO" REPRESENTING CHRIST  
SYMBOLIZE THE DEACONESS  
MOTTO OF "FAITH AND SERVICE  
IN CHRIST."

## STAFF THOUGHTS



One of the speakers at our recent deaconess colloquium referred to the fact that we commonly hesitate to close doors on possibilities. We hate to make firm commitments in certain areas of life because these commitments either would or might preclude other possibilities. We want to keep open as many doors as possible so that, if it should be to our advantage, we may step through those doors. His point was that even though the making of some commitments might complicate or eliminate other commitments, our faith should strengthen us to make commitments—leaving the consequences to God.

We have thought about this in connection with the education of young women for the diaconate. We have reason to believe that this kind of tension is found among some deaconess students. Yet it is not limited to them; it is, we think, a common experience of young women as they go about becoming educated.

We refer to the ambiguity involved in preparing for a profession (in this case the diaconate), and yet, on the other hand, hoping that the opportunity for marriage and homemaking will come along soon. Perhaps, according to one point of view, one should not give the impression of being very serious about this deaconess business because then eligible young men might stay away! The result is that one feels uneasy.

The answer in this situation is in seeing that one's commitment is to Christ, and that this commitment will put all others in their proper perspective. One is called to live daily and completely for Christ. To be committed to Christ—and to service in the diaconate or any other honorable activity—should not close doors. It is only our fear and weak faith that cause us to think so.

All of us, whatever our calling, are invited to lose ourselves in the situation in which we are for the sake of Christ.

APK

### THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

Official Quarterly of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, Inc., with 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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## DAUGHTER OF PRESIDENT CONSECRATED



*Consecration Service of Deaconess Elaine Albers.*

Pastor E. H. Albers, President of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, had the privilege of officiating at the consecration service of his daughter, Elaine, at Calvary Church, Indianapolis, Indiana, on June 21. Pastor Walter C. Gerken, Executive Director, delivered the sermon. Deaconess Lucille Wiese, field secretary, presented Elaine with the diploma of vocation, and Deaconess Edith Hovey, deaconess in residence at Deaconess Hall, pinned on the Deaconess cross. Also assisting in the consecration were Pastor Ronald Fletcher (at the far left in the above picture) and deaconess interne Charlotte Schulze (far right).

Deaconess Elaine will begin her work as a parish deaconess September 1 at Concordia Lutheran Church, St. Paul, Minnesota.

## "PIONEERING" DEACONESS

In May of 1963 a Deaconess graduate was placed in Iowa. This—in itself—is not unusual. However, the task she was assigned and has been fulfilling during the past year is indeed unique. For the District of Iowa East Deaconess Audrey Vanderbles was to be a "roving deaconess." She was to be a "pioneer"—working with a mission congregation for a period of ten weeks and then moving on to another parish. Her duties were to include evangelism, parish education, and various organizational details such as setting up record systems.

Deaconess Audrey has found this to be a fascinating, challenging work. She describes her work this way, "The philosophy behind the program can perhaps be stated best by using St. Paul's words to the Ephesians, chapter four, verse twelve: '... for the equipment of the saints for the work of the ministry, for the building up of the body of Christ.' It is not my job to come in and take over but rather to work with the pastor in helping the congregation do a better and more effective job of working in the kingdom."

Practically, this means Miss Vanderbles spends a great deal of time with the Sunday School—observing classes and giving con-



structive criticism where requested; teaching demonstration classes; working with the teachers in presenting and discussing lesson material.

Ladies mid-week Bible classes are set up; Audrey directs the ladies as they learn to conduct and lead these discussions on their own.

*The Deaconess demonstrates the use of Sunday School materials.*

A great deal of the work is done in the area of family devotions. Deaconess Audrey offers simple demonstrations of family worship patterns while visiting the homes of her parishioners. She states, "It has been a real thrill to see a family come to realize the blessings which are received when they worship together."

Working with Walther Leagues, canvassing, making prospective member and delinquent member calls — doing all this with young people by her side learning and experiencing the work of Christ's Kingdom—this is the "pioneering" venture of the Deaconess in Iowa District East.

Miss Vanderbles sums up her feelings so well when she states, "Being a district Deaconess has opened new vistas and has broken the ice for more new ideas to follow. The job is not always easy, but somehow the Lord gives strength even when we don't know we need it—even the strength to strike out in new territory and to be a pioneer."



*Bible study groups are formed with the help of Miss Vanderbles.*



*Deaconess Audrey Vanderbles leads a small group of Sunday School teachers.*

## THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS INTERNE PLACEMENTS

The College of Presidents of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod recently authorized the Lutheran Deaconess Association to place students for their internship year directly. (Graduates will still continue to be assigned through the Synodical placement procedure each spring.)

To become a deaconess, a woman must successfully fulfill one year of internship, ordinarily the year between her Junior and Senior years at Valparaiso University, to experience the tasks and responsibilities of a deaconess for one year in order to determine her capabilities.

The internship year offers a congregation or an institution an opportunity to become acquainted with the services of a deaconess, to enlarge its ministry, and to share in the preparation of future workers for the church.

The internship year may, for example, be the answer for congregations who have been considering the idea of adding to their permanent staff, but who do not feel ready to commit themselves.

A deaconess interne is ready, willing and able to perform important Christian work and thus to add to the effectiveness of a congregation's or institution's program.

Finally, the congregation that secures the services of a Deaconess interne has the opportunity to give of itself—in the form of the time and energy of its pastor and the willing interest of its membership—toward the growth of another worker for Christ's Church.

If you are interested in investigating the possibilities for securing a deaconess interne, write to the Director of Training, Deaconess Hall, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, 46383. Since the placement of internes has been separated from the regular spring placements, your correspondence is invited at any time, and assignments will be finalized at any time.

Now is the time to consider the possibility of adding a worker to your staff for 1965-66. Internes assigned now will be available from June, 1965. First come, first served!

## YOUR HELP NEEDED

Here are some pertinent facts and figures concerning the present financial situation of the Lutheran Deaconess Association—

AT THE END OF OUR 1963-64 FISCAL YEAR (August 31)  
WE WERE \$34,000 SHORT OF OUR BUDGET.

This means we had to borrow an additional \$18,500 this fiscal year, making our total bank loan \$27,000.

### WILL YOU HELP US?

Simply fill in the blank below and return with any contribution you wish to make to our Executive offices at 3714 South Hanna Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

#### LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION, INC.

3714 SOUTH HANNA STREET  
FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

Date.....

Dear Friends:

Kindly enroll me as one of your supporters in the division as indicated.

#### REGULAR MEMBER:

\$2.00 \$..... \$3.00 \$4.00

#### PATRON MEMBER:

\$5.00 \$..... \$10.00 \$15.00 \$20.00 \$25.00 \$50.00 \$100.00 \$.....

(Please check—or enter—applicable amount under grouping you select.)

Enclosed please find \$.....

Signed:.....

Street Address .....

City.....Zone.....State or Province.....

Church.....Pastor .....

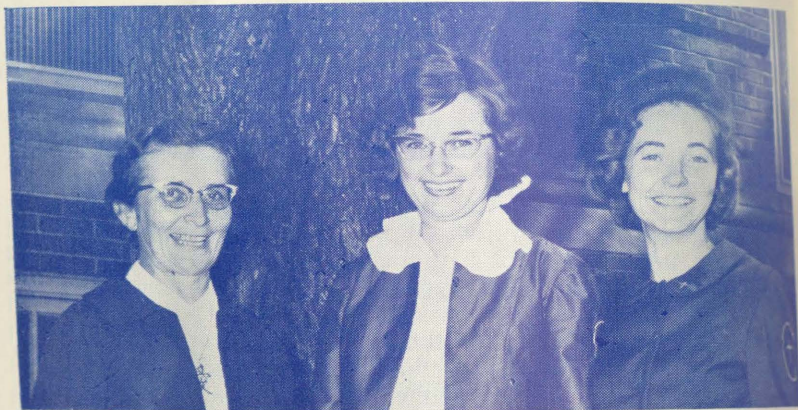
You may remind me annually on or about.....

(Month)

(Day)

## 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

The thirtieth annual Deaconess Conference was held at Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, from June 29-July 1. In attendance were fifty-six Deaconesses, Internes, and guests. The featured topic, "Christianity and Contemporary Books," was led by the Rev. Omar Stuenkel, Assistant editor of the Lutheran Witness. Tuesday evening the group heard Deaconesses Martha Boss of Hong Kong, Betty Bader of Nigeria, Della Henning of Hawaii, and Laurie Gruenbeck formerly of Venezuela, tell of their work and experiences. Wednesday afternoon the group toured the American Lutheran Church Motherhouse, learning of the various differences and similarities in the two programs.



*The three deaconesses from the foreign field who attended Conference —Deaconesses Martha Boss, Laurie Gruenbeck, and Betty Bader.*

Recognition was given to those Deaconesses celebrating anniversaries. Among those honored were Deaconess Martha Eber for her 40th anniversary and Deaconess Frieda Poetter and Lydia Lutz for their 35th anniversaries.

During the business sessions, Deaconess Jean Hoover of Toronto, Ontario, was elected the Conference Chairman, replacing

Deaconess Evelyn Middelstadt of Wichita, Kansas. Beverly Rear-  
don, Scottsbluff, Nebraska, was elected Board Member at Large.

The group resolved that \$2,500.00 be set as the goal for the anniversary gift of a station wagon for Deaconess Hall. A contribution of \$350 was also given to the Lutheran Deaconess Association for sets of slides to be used for recruitment and publicity purposes. The annual mission offering was given to Deaconess Martha Boss for her work in Hong Kong.

This year's Conference was followed by a Seminar—a "first" for the Lutheran Deaconess Conference. Prof. Paul Bretscher of Valparaiso University and Miss Dorothy Mundt of the Lutheran Social Welfare Agency of River Forest, Illinois, led the smaller seminar group in the two-day study sessions. Professor Bretscher directed the Bible study on Matthew, and Miss Mundt guided the Deaconesses in an informal discussion centered around the topic "Understanding and Accepting Ourselves."

An invitation was extended by the Chicago area Deaconesses to come to Deaconess Hall for Conference in 1965. The group voted unanimously to accept the invitation.



HOLY MASQUERADE by Olov Hartman was one of the books discussed in the time allotted to the featured topic. This panel reviewed the book for the group: Left to right, Deaconesses Jan Orluske, Margaret Heine, Lucy Wiese, and the lecturer, Pastor Omar Stuenkel.

*Seminar  
discussion  
leaders—  
Professor  
Paul Bretscher  
and  
Miss  
Dorothy Mundt.*



## DEACONESS GOING TO NEW GUINEA

Deaconess Nancy Leland will be leaving the states September 15 for the New Guinea Lutheran Mission at Wabag. Miss Leland has spent the last 15 months at the Frontier Nursing School, Hyden, Kentucky, preparing for work in the foreign field. At present she is at the Mission School in St. Louis.

Nancy is the daughter of Mrs. Harrison G. Leland, Cleveland, Ohio. Her home church is Pilgrim Lutheran Church, Lakewood, Ohio. She is a graduate of Walther Memorial School of Nursing, Chicago, Illinois, and attended Valparaiso University during the 1961-62 school year.

The Deaconess Nurse program has, in the last two years, been expanded to a five year program—three years of nurses' training plus two years and a summer at Valparaiso University. This course of study leads to a combination of the B.A. and R.N. degrees.

## ROOM RENT RAISED

The Plenary Board of the Lutheran Deaconess Association at its last meeting decided to raise room rent charges at Deaconess Hall, effective September, 1964. This decision was arrived at regretfully but it was considered necessary.

Beginning in September, the rent will be \$150.00 per semester or \$300.00 per year. The Board was compelled to take this step because the level of charges to date has not covered operating costs.

## CALLS ACCEPTED

Three Deaconesses have accepted calls this summer. Deaconess Maralyn Marske is now serving at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, St. Albans, New York. Deaconess Maureen Smith has accepted a call to Grace Lutheran Church, Huntsville, Alabama. Deaconess Lee Irsch is serving the Mission Society of Maryland in Baltimore, Maryland. Miss Irsch replaces Deaconess Margaret Heine who will begin studies at the St. Louis Seminary in September.

## DEGREES CONFERRED

Two advance degrees have been earned by Deaconesses in the past year and were conferred upon them at Spring Commencement services. Deaconess Norma Cook Everist was awarded the MAR degree from the St. Louis Seminary. Columbia University awarded Hertha Fischer a Master's Degree in Social Work. Hertha will be working at the Lutheran Child Welfare Association, New York.

## DEACONESS RECEIVES AWARD



*Pastor Gerken chats with Deaconess Martha Boss at Conference.*

Deaconess Martha Boss, missionary nurse in Hong Kong who is presently home on furlough, was honored recently by an award from the St. Louis Seminary. We quote from the June 9, 1964, issue of the "Lutheran Witness": "The **Christus Vivit** award was given for the first time by the St. Louis seminary at May 29 academic exercises to honor members of Synod who have performed a singular type of service for the benefit of the church and whose services were marked by personal consecration. The name of the award is taken from Galatians 2:20.

"Martha Boss, R.N., Hong Kong; pioneer missionary in China and Hong Kong; nurse, deaconess, teacher, administrator, Good Samaritan."

Our heartfelt congratulations to Deaconess Martha Boss!

## ANNUAL MEETING NOTICE

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association will be held October 25, 1964, at 4:00 p.m. in Fort Wayne. Peace Lutheran Church will host the meeting.