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The Lutheran Deaconess

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## The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 24, No. 2

Lutheran Deaconess Association

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# THE LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN  
OF THE  
LUTHERAN  
DEACONESS  
ASSOCIATION  
WITHIN THE  
SYNODICAL  
CONFERENCE

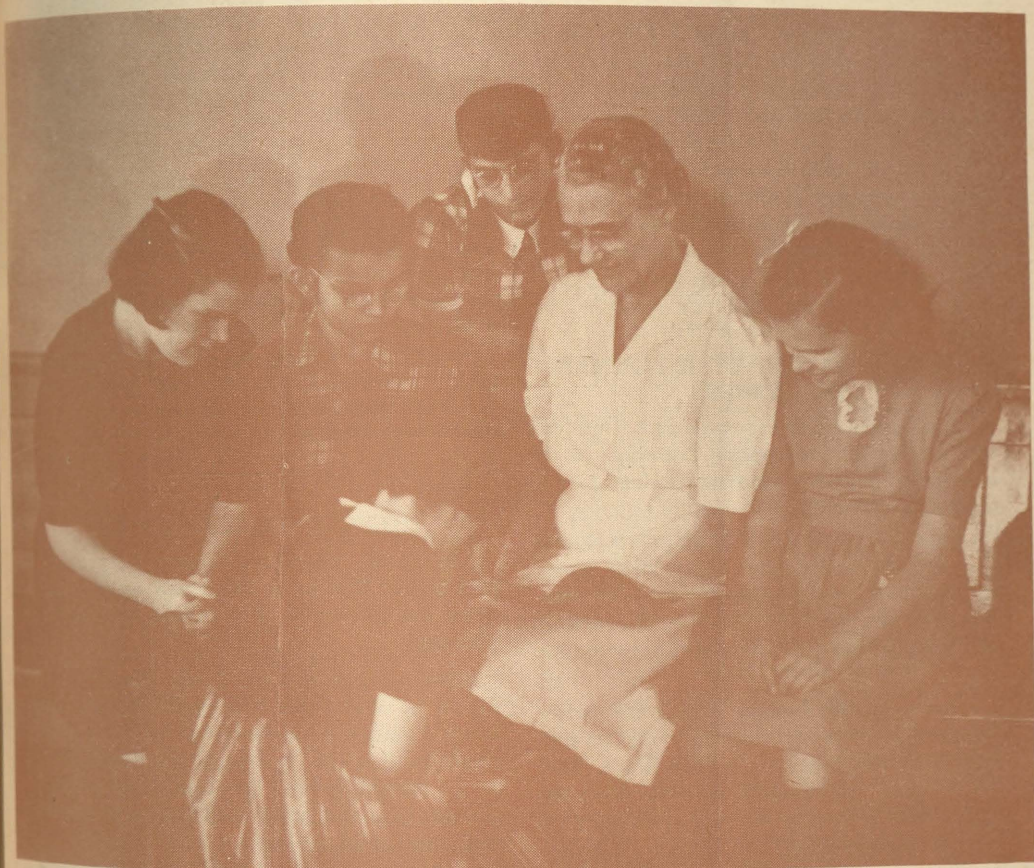
# Deaconess

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Vol. 24

No. 2

APRIL, 1947



THE DEACONESS AS AN INSTITUTIONAL WORKER. The picture shows Deaconess Martha Theilmann ministering to a group of children at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis. She is the matron at the Home. Miss Theilmann has served in our Watertown Institution since 1937.



## THE MAJESTIC CHURCH

Amid the humdrum of a world  
Steeped in a maze of waywardness,  
Majestic stands the CHURCH OF CHRIST  
To point to heaven and to bless!

Through centuries the rebel hordes  
Arose her bulwarks to assail,  
But foes have staggered in defeat  
And gates of hell could not prevail!

A haven for the weary souls,  
For hosts a home of sweet repose,  
Where grace is shed like dew at morn,  
Where strength is found for life's dark close!

Ride calmly on, thou ARK of LIFE,  
And guard thy children by thy love,  
And God our help, when storms arise,  
Shall watch thy ramparts from above!

Teach me, O Lord, to love thy CHURCH  
Where dwells thy goodness and thy peace,  
Imbue me with true faithfulness,  
Till my brief toil on earth shall cease!

A. G. Sommer

## AN EVALUATION BY A FORMER DEACONESS

I have been following with great interest the growth of Deaconess Training. It is something our Synod has needed for a long time.

I always listen to the St. Olaf Radio Station. (Norwegian Lutheran.) Their women workers, deaconesses, teachers, missionaries, etc., always have special training, and I think they are usually college graduates.

I have always thought they were better equipped for their work (especially foreign mission work) than our women were. Now we can give our women workers the same equipment, which is so very necessary in foreign mission work.

Mrs. E. N. Seltz

Deaconess Clara Rodenbeck served in our foreign mission field in China. While there she was married to Missionary E. N. Seltz. As a former Deaconess Mrs. Seltz's approval of our four-year course of training at Valparaiso University is worthy of special attention.

## MODERN CITY LIFE

We do not know people living half a block from us. The larger the city the fewer people one knows who live close at hand. We recollect two classmates at Wayne University who lived in the same building but did not learn to know each other until they met at school.

City life tends to build walls around human beings. There is little or none of the friendliness and neighborliness of the average American small town. When criminals want to get under cover they bury themselves in the obscurity of one of our cities.

More yet. Large cities attract almost all the driftwood and backwash of our civilization. Today with tremendous post-war migration thousands of people of different social strata are shifting to our cities. We speak of blighted areas of our metropolitan centers where some of these people live.

Do not such conditions call to mind what Rev. Wiclarn in Germany long ago called "inner mission"? Has not the Church the mission to work among the forgotten men and women, the lonely and lowly, the destitute and despised, the sick and the sorrowing?

Does not the Deaconess fit into this picture? Do you think that our city congregations should employ Deaconesses to do Christian social work?

## HEROIC DEACONESSSES

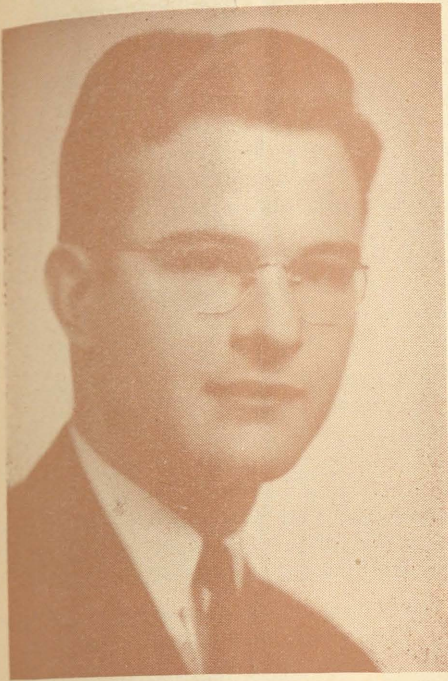
About the year 110, during the persecution under Trajan, a letter was written him from the governor of Bithynia, Plinius the Younger.

After having described the Christian religion, he states that "in order to get at the truth, I found it necessary to let two female slaves, which the Christians call deaconesses, to be tortured. But I could force nothing out of them but a confession of a boundless and corrupt superstition."

O that we had many young Christian women today with the strong faith of those deaconesses of long ago.

Give us a larger number of young women with regenerated hearts, well-disciplined minds, willing hands, and speedy feet, and glorious things will happen in our Church's second century.





Prof. Luther Koepke, M.A. is the faculty advisor of Valparaiso University for our deaconess students. He is mainly interested in the academic side of deaconess student life. He is taking a great interest in working out the best possible college curriculum for our students.

Prof. Koepke is a graduate from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. He earned his Master's degree at Texas University. He teaches in the Department of Religion at Valparaiso University.

### PLACEMENT

The question is frequently asked, How do I secure the services of a Lutheran Deaconess? Must I apply for a Deaconess through the Lutheran Deaconess Association?

Yes, we place the Deaconesses. Address your applications to our Fort Wayne Office.

In the matter of placement the particular inclinations and aptitudes of the individual Deaconess are taken into consideration.

Recently the following placements have been made: Deaconess Adeline Rink, St. Louis City Mission; Deaconess Nettie Kimberley, St. John's Lutheran Parish, Forest Park, Ill.; Deaconess Christine Seckel, Lutheran Gospel Center, Cleveland, Ohio.

### FORT WAYNE POSTMASTER PLEADS FOR SHARING

Our local postmaster, Mr. Clyde F. Dreisbach, a member of the Presbyterian Church, sent in the following letter to the editor of the **Fort Wayne News-Sentinel**, which is a distinct challenge to us Christians:

"Are you a Christian only on Sunday? Are you a praying and asking Christian or are you a giving and doing Christian? You live in that land which the good God has favored beyond any people on this earth, and where we have freedom of speech, free schools and a free press, where we have more telephones, bath tubs, automobiles, electric refrigerators, than all the rest of the world together.

"Do you know that Christian people in other lands not only do not have these luxuries named above but hardly have enough food, fuel or clothing? Where they have enough food, it is the same food over and over again, meal after meal, and clothing which has been patched and patched or is in rags. Many are without shoes.

"In the war-devastated countries many suffer these privations through no fault of their own. They have no one to look to for help but prosperous, well-fed, well-clothed America. Or to speak more correctly, to those Americans who have the true Christian spirit.

### We Must Share

"If we are to be worthy of the blessings God has bestowed upon us, then we should share them with those of his creatures who have been less favored.

"Don't excuse yourself that you do not know who the individuals are who need your help. In every war-devastated country there are churches of your own or some other denomination. Pick out a town and send a gift package to the minister of your or some other church. Send him soap, fats, canned foods (canned meat preferred), canned milk, chocolate, tea, coffee, and clothing of any kind.

"Here is your opportunity to show that Christianity is more than a name, that it is worldwide, and that we in America are worthy of the name of Christian in all that name implies. We can and should be our brother's keeper.

"This is our opportunity to win the gratitude of sufferers throughout the world."



**THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS**

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**DEACONESS CHAPTER HOUSE  
VALPARAISO, INDIANA**

Matron: Mrs. Sylvia Trautmann

**BUILDING FUND****The First Thousand Dollars**

The first gift received for our Building Fund was 10 dollars from Mr. Paul Scheimann, of Decatur, Ind.

The second gift for this Fund was a check from Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bley, Buffalo, N. Y., for 100 dollars.

To keep up this standard the third gift would need to be for 1000 dollars. The first gift, ten, contains one zero; the second gift, one hundred, contains two zeros. A thousand contains three zeros. Whose gift will it be—that \$1000 gift?

To build an adequate Chapter House, however, both small and large gifts will be needed. Your gift, in whatever amount you desire to give, will bring the dream of a new Chapter House nearer to realization.

**INDOMITABLE CHRISTIAN  
FINLAND**

One of our Deaconess students, Miss Kaileen Rubow, received a letter from a priest in Finland, Miss Hilga Niskanen. The contents of this letter reveal a mission spirit on the part of our Finnish friends which is awe-inspiring. Does poor Finland, robbed of her best land, ravaged by a cruel war, send one or two missionaries to Africa? Read with wonder this quotation from Miss Niskanen's letter:

"It's about two weeks ago that the mission festival was held by our congregation. The celebration lasted all Sunday. With me was the former missionary teacher 'Anttila.' He so well told us of his work and of the conditions in Africa where he has been among the natives for ten years. He told of many of his experiences among the heathen peoples.

"Here from Finland, this month are leaving 22 missionaries, ministers and teachers on their journey to Africa. The trip for them is long and arduous, for this missionary speaker told us they were allotted a small sailing boat in which they will make this long journey. But, surely, as God's workers they will reach their destination."

**CONFERENCE COMMITTEE STUDIES  
DEACONESS EDUCATION AND SERVICE  
WITHIN THE SYNODICAL  
CONFERENCE**

A committee of the Lutheran Deaconess Conference which comprises nine Lutheran Motherhouses and Deaconess Schools outside the Synodical Conference is studying our Deaconess Set-up, our new economic plan for Deaconesses, our academic status at Valparaiso University.

Sister Marie Rorem, of Chicago, writes that their committee is making a study of the Deaconess Problem.

There is no doubt about it: Deaconess Education in the various Lutheran bodies in America is undergoing a needed change. The problem of the Deaconess uniform or garb is being carefully studied. The financial reward for the Deaconess is receiving attention. Such study which may involve parting from the traditional will give the Deaconess Movement a new value in America.





Joy in Christian Missions. The picture shows seven Chinese children who were baptized in our mission in Enshih. Deaconess Martha Boss, R.N. stationed in Enshih sent us this picture. Heathen China presents a great challenge to our Synod.

### WM. LOEHE TRAINED DEACONESSSES

During this Centennial Year of our Beloved Synod, Pastor Wm. Loehe will be repeatedly mentioned as a man of remarkable missionary vision and zeal who educated pastors for the great American mission field. In fact, he motivated a number of outstanding men to emigrate to America who are closely interwoven with the beginning of our Synod.

A fact that merits consideration, but is less known, is that Pastor Loehe trained deaconesses for church work. He organized a Deaconess Society in Bavaria in 1854, and in that year he also dedicated the Deaconess home in Neuendettelsau. Academically, in his deaconess training, he demanded a high degree of intellectual cultivation.

The Deaconess Motto which hangs in every Deaconess Motherhouse and School comes from the pen of Loehe.

In large congregations, deaconesses are almost a necessity. The Concordia Cyclopedia.

### CHAPTER HOUSE CHIRP

We live in a lovely place, a residence converted into a Chapter House. And "home" it is, for every girl assists with house cleaning and meal preparation. The army may have discharged their "k. p's" but here they live on. Many times we have looked dolefully at the dishes of seventeen people. Kitchen duty, however, is only once in five days.

We have a second mother, too, a house-mother, who has won that place in our hearts by her gracious and encouraging influence.

Naturally, studies occupy most of our time, both working and sleeping. If misery loves company, the night before a biology test finds fourteen girls comforting each other. Our whole behavior reflects this impress of knowledge—we walk past a tree with green "moss," look at each other and say "Pro-toccoccus."

Misery, however, finds himself a rare caller at the "home." A birthday, a holiday, a college event, form an excuse for a party.

Gremlin pranksters are busy at all times. If you find someone in bed before you, it is not your shadow. It is your roommates' clothes stuffed to a life-like form. Unwary girls have slept on lumps which morning light showed to be a volume of social geography.

But it is the Christian atmosphere that makes life wonderful here. Devotions are held daily; discussions often center around Christian problems and practices. Our bond of union and affection lies in a common love for our Savior. He is the reason that we enjoy working now in preparation for future service.

Grace Pomeranke.

Note. Miss Pomeranke is a Deaconess student at Valparaiso University in her sophomore year who has a flair for writing. Her home is Madison, Minnesota.

### WOMAN

Not she with traitorous kiss her Savior  
stung,

Not she denied him with unholy tongue;  
She, while apostles shrank, could dangers  
brave,

Last at the cross and earliest at the grave.  
Eaton Stannard Barrett



## STATION LDA

● The grandmother of Pastor F. E. Schumann, Pittsburgh, Pa., was trained by Pastor Wm. Loehe, Neuendettelsau, Germany, as a Lutheran Deaconess. Small wonder that Pastor Schumann has maintained a lively interest in the Deaconess Cause. He has invited the Deaconess Conference to meet in his congregation at the end of June.

● Writes Mr. N. N. Roenning who at present is writing the history of the Lutheran Deaconess Home and Hospital, Chicago, Ill.: "A copy of your pamphlet, **Lutheran Deaconess Training, Synodical Conference, 1946-1947**, was handed to me by Sister Marie Rorem. I have studied it carefully. You have taken advanced steps in the training of Deaconesses. I shall call attention to what you are doing." Such comment on the part of one who does not belong to our branch of the Lutheran Church seems to indicate that we are on the right track in our Deaconess Program.

● Through the help of Pastor E. G. Dobelstein we received the opportunity to speak at the Zone Rally of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League, Evansville, Ind. Likewise through the suggestion of Pastor W. F. Ludwig, we addressed the Lutheran Women's Missionary League Rally in Stevens Point, Wis. on the Deaconess Movement. Both Rallies resolved to give the collection of the afternoon to the Deaconess Cause. Thank you for this needed help.

● Three congregations have placed our Cause in their congregational budget: Redeemer, Fort Wayne, Ind., Rev. E. Kurth; St. Paul's, Melrose Park, Ill., Pastors P. and M. Kluender; Hales Corner Church, Hales Corner, Wis., Pastor M. Kammrath. There may be others. Such budgetary contributions make for regularity of gifts.

● The two 40's. At the present time the Deaconesses in the Synodical Conference number 40 minus 1. About the year 400 the well-known church father, Chrysostomus, bishop of Constantinople, had 40 Deaconesses working for him. Thus one congregation in 400 had as many Deaconesses as our Church Body has in 1947. All of which means, We must be up and doing.

● Pastor Armand Ulbrich, Board Member at Large of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, arranged for speaking engagements

## IN PITTSBURGH

We spent a delightful week in Pittsburgh—the City of Bridges.

There is something intriguing about Pittsburgh—Steel. Pittsburgh stands for power.

We speak at Pastor August Bruns' Church at a noon luncheon of the ladies' aid. Much discussion. Our people want to know about the fine service our Deaconesses are rendering.

We preach a Lenten sermon for Pastor Goerss in Pitcairn, Pa. Pastor Goerss has written a volume of sermons on the Lenten theme. Many friends to our Cause, both adults and children, are found in his congregation.

We speak to the Ladies' Guild in Pastor Kringel's Church. Question after question is asked about Deaconess education, remuneration, service. A good sign of active interest.

On Palm Sunday we preach for Pastor Gerdes, another booster of our work. He has a fine Bible Class.

Thanks, Pittsburgh, for your hospitality and help. You will not be soon forgotten.

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in the Detroit area for the writer for eight days, March 6-13. Thanks, brother! A new record was made when we spoke four times in one congregation, St. Thomas and St. Peter (yes, these two congregations amalgamated), Pastors Haendschke and Riedemeier. We addressed the vestry, the ladies' aid, the Sunday Evening Bible Class, and the Junior Walther League.

● Did you read the compelling article on Deaconess Program by Pastor Klausler in the April Walther League Messenger? It's worth reading. You will not go wrong if you attract the attention of your Walther Leaguers to that editorial.

● The sign of a better day: Two district presidents, Pastor Robert Heyne, Minnesota District, and Pastor Wm. Kohn, North Wisconsin District, send in sizeable checks for our Cause. Yes, the leaders of our Church are definitely in favor of a Progressive Deaconess Program. Incidentally, President Walther Lichtsinn, an old friend of the Deaconess Cause, was the first pastor to send in his card asking for a supply of beautiful new pamphlets.



## DEACONESS CONFERENCE PITTSBURGH, PA., JUNE 26-28

Pittsburgh is an historic spot for the American Deaconess Movement. To this city four Deaconesses came from Germany accompanied by Pastor Th. Fliedner in the year 1849. Pastor Wm. Passavant had founded the first Lutheran hospital in America in Pittsburgh during that year. Thus the 98th birthday of American Deaconess work finds the Deaconess Conference meeting on historic ground.

Conference sessions will be held in Pastor F. E. Schumann's congregation. Pastors Gerdes, D. F. Goerss and Eric Malte will deliver the inspirational addresses for the devotional services.

Outstanding papers to be delivered will be: "Evaluation of the Mormon Church," by Rev. F. E. Schumann; "Philippine Mission Work," by Rev. Th. Martens; "The Extent of Women's Activity in Church Work," by Rev. W. McLaughlin; "The Women of India," by Deaconess Rose Ziemke; Panel Building Christian Personality," by Deaconesses Martha Schmidt, Nettie Kimberley, B.A., Martha Eber, R.N., Martha Theilmann. "My Present Deaconess Service" by Deaconesses Muriel James, Erna Bartsch, Martha Herzberg, Marie Twenhafel, Student-Deaconess Mary Elaine Kluge.

A special invitation is extended to our pastors, parish and Sunday School teachers, members of our ladies' aids, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, altar guilds, and ladies' auxiliaries to attend these inspiring Conference meetings.

### ONE YEAR TO LIVE

On the train running from Valparaiso to Fort Wayne the other evening by a strange chance we conversed with the wife of one of the five men mentioned in the book, *They Were Expendable*. She told me of the horrible experiences her husband had gone through in the war with Japan. She stated that doctors had now informed her husband that he has but one more year to live. Meanwhile he is feverishly expending his last energy on a new invention.

Pertinent question: How much would you do for Christ and suffering humanity if you knew you had only **one more year** to live? Everything we are or have is life-leased, and some day the lease will run out.



Deaconess Florence Storck, Field Deaconess, now on a lecture tour through Nebraska, Kansas, Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon, North Dakota and Minnesota. Miss Storck is winning many friends for the Deaconess Cause.

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### THE SECOND CENTURY OF THE MISSOURI SYNOD

During this Centennial Year of the Missouri Synod the past will rightly be reviewed. The labors of the great pioneers of our Synod, of a Walther, a Wyneken a Craemer will become focal. God did great work through these early leaders of our Church.

However, we need to become keenly aware of improvements that can be made during the second century of our Synod's life. One phase of church work that can be greatly improved is the Female Diaconate.

Looking back, we find that our church body was late in launching Deaconess Work.

Further, Deaconess Service has remained rather limited in scope. The potentialities of trained women workers has never been fully capitalized. Trained women could be used to a far greater extent in parish, mission, and charity work.



## TO THE EASTERN SEABOARD

Pastor Elmer Kettner, Wollaston, Mass., believes strongly in the Deaconess Movement.

Proof 1: Last fall he sent us a Deaconess student from his congregation.

Proof 2: He has scheduled the writer for the following speaking engagements—May 4, Wollaston, Mass.; May 6, Belmont, Mass.; May 7, Providence, R. I.; May 8, Boston, Mass.; May 11, Pawtucket, R. I.

Pastor Kettner's idea is worth emulating. Why not schedule us for a week or ten days in your particular community to preach, address ladies' aids, Lutheran Women's Missionary League, etc., on Deaconess Service? We are at your call.

Deaconess Work is one of the greatest spiritual adventures in the Church of the Living Lord. N. N. Roenning.

## DEACONESS SERVICE METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Methodist Episcopal Church has 12 deaconesses in the United States and Mexico.

These do considerable work among the Indians of the western country, among the Chinese, Japanese and Mexicans and among the white and colored people.

Their hands go out to render help to the needy, the distressed, the ignorant, the sick and all classes who can be brought under their care throughout the homeland.

They work as teachers, pastors' assistants, directors of religious education, nurses in hospitals and institutions, and as welfare and social service workers in settlements, children's homes, and other types of work.

Surely the question presents itself to us: Why cannot the Lutheran Church muster 1,000 trained deaconesses for service in the Kingdom of Jesus Christ? With the help of God we can.

## DEACONESSES ACCORDING TO THEIR STATIONS

Grace Lutheran Parish, 2933 University St., St. Louis, Mo.:  
Strehlow, Clara

Shore Haven Lutheran Parish, 254 E. 218 St., Cleveland 19, Ohio.  
James, Muriel

St. John's Lutheran Parish, 208 Marengo Ave., Forest Park, Ill.  
Kimberley, Nettye, B. A.

\* \* \*

Foreign Mission, China:

Boss, Martha, R.N., Enshih, Hupeh, China  
Simon, Gertrude, R.N., Ichang, China.

Foreign Mission, India:

Doctor, Amelia R.N. On furlough, 11450 E. Colfax Ave., Denver 8, Colo.

Rathke, Louise, Bethesda Lutheran Hospital, Ambur, N. Arcot District, South India

Indian Mission, Peridot, Arizona:  
Bartsch, Erna

Institutional Mission, N. Ill. Dist., 2535 N. Avers Ave., Chicago, Ill.:  
Bremermann, Frieda

St. Louis City Mission, 4421 Chippewa St., St. Louis, Mo.:  
Rink, Adeline

\* \* \*

Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis.:  
Theilmann, Martha, Matron

Seckel, Christine  
Schmidt, Martha  
Laesch, Katherine  
Stolte, Ida

Ev. Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, 6861 E. Nevada Ave., Detroit 12, Mich.  
Bliefnick, Marie  
Twenhafel, Marie

\* \* \*

Lutheran Business Women's League, 4007 Labadie Ave., St. Louis 7, Mo.:  
Vierck, Annchen

Lutheran Child Welfare Association, Addison, Ill.:  
Rapier, Christine, B.S., M.A.  
Matz, Esther

\* \* \*

Lutheran Altenheim, Monroe, Mich.:  
Moehlenbrock, Louise, Matron

Lutheran Altenheim, 8721 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, Mo.:  
Wehrenbrecht, Emma

Lutheran Altenheim, 7500 W. North St., Wauwatosa, Wis.:  
Schrader, Anna

Lutheran Home for the Aged, 2116 Dover Rd., Wapakoneta, Ohio:  
Lutz, Lydia, Matron  
Beach, Ruth

Lutheran Old Folks' Home, Belle Plaine, Minn.:  
Herzberg, Martha

\* \* \*

Concordia College, Ft. Wayne, Ind.:  
Klitzing, Alice, R.N.

Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis.:  
Pfund, Matilde

Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Ill.:  
Noess, Lulu, R.N.

\* \* \*

Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, Beaver Dam, Wis.:  
Poetter, Frieda  
Pohlmann, Bertha

\* \* \*

Lutheran Deaconess Association, 4209 Bates St., St. Louis, Mo.:  
Storck, Florence

\* \* \*

Sick or on Leave of Absence:

Dienst, Clara, R.N.  
Eber, Martha, R.N., 7103 Monticello St., Pittsburgh, Pa.  
Gade, Clara, R. 2, Powell Station, Tenn.  
Heck, Erna, R. 7, Box 31, Hillsdale Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.  
Nanke, Henrietta, R. 2, What Cheer, Iowa.  
Rixe, Leone, Graceville, Minnesota  
Schmidt, Johanna, Velya, N. Dak.  
Ziemke, Rose, St. Louis, Mo.