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THE LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
LUTHERAN
DEACONESS
ASSOCIATION
WITHIN THE
SYNODICAL
CONFERENCE

Deaconess

Vol. 23

No. 4



OCTOBER, 1946



THE DEACONESS IN THE EDUCATIONAL FIELD. The picture shows Deaconess Nettie Kimberley teaching a group of children in the Vacation Bible School, Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

THE DEACONESS

No regal robe of state she wears
In service of her Lord the King;
Clad in the simplest dress, she bears
His grace unto the suffering.

'Tis hers the troubled mind to calm,
The fever parched lip to cool,
Apply the mild assuasive balm
To wounded flesh or sin-sick soul.

Self finds no room within her breast,
Her every thought, another's needs;
With tender touch she soothes to rest,
Whilst, softly, unto Heaven she pleads.

Mercy and peace upon her smile.
The pitying Lord her prayer attends;
Hers is a holy joy, the while
His blessing on her path descends.

Though poor on earth, a countless store
Of wealth is hers, through Christ's own
blood;

His messenger, she asks no more,
Than faithfully to serve her Lord.

Mary Welden.

DEACONESES

We were most interested last week, at the English District Convention, to learn of the revised and improved program of deaconess work. Heretofore the training which our deaconesses have received has been rather brief and narrow, and their remuneration has been quite meager. These two things are to be changed, beginning this fall. It was reported at the Convention that from now on deaconesses are to receive four years of education at Valparaiso University, after which they will receive a regular salary from the organization by which they are employed, rather than from deaconess headquarters. This modernization of the program, it is expected, will make the deaconesses of far greater value to the Church than they ever have been before.

A plea was made at the Convention for the enlisting of qualified girls for this important work. We are glad to pass this on to our readers in the hope that some of our girls will become interested enough to take the course at Valpo and train themselves for service to the Church. The place of a parish

OUR STUDENTS SERVE

Student deaconess Zelma Altemus will serve in the Negro Mission in Washington, D. C., the Rev. Wm. Schiebel, pastor. Incidentally, deaconesses serve in Negro, Chinese, Indian, Hindu, Inner and Institutional Missions. The record is good.

Another student, Miss Mary Elaine Kluge, will serve in the Metropolitan City Mission, New York City, under the guidance of Pastor Paul Amt. City Mission Work is one of the fields that is in need of well equipped women workers.

Another student, Miss Aileen Resner, will get her practical training in the Lutheran Child Welfare Association, Addison, Ill., the Rev. T. Thormahlen, Executive Secretary. Our charitable institutions are in crying need for help, both trained and untrained. Many a young woman who is not college-trained could be a benediction to many by serving at Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis., the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, and our other many institutions of mercy.

A fourth deaconess student, Miss Phyllis Menzel, will teach school in Redeemer Parish, Flint, Mich., the Rev. Remus Rein, pastor. Since our church schools are suffering because of lack of teaching personnel it is felt that deaconesses, too, if possible, should make their contribution during this school emergency.

worker in the life of a congregation is apparent to members of Redeemer. Miss Wolf-angle is not a deaconess, but she is doing the sort of work which deaconesses will be trained to do.

For our part, we were very glad to hear of the expansion of the deaconess program. Some real effort is at last being made to make use of the wealth of unused talent latent in our midst. We believe that there are hundreds of consecrated young women in the Church who may be enlisted for service if they can be persuaded that training and work will be worth while. It should now be somewhat easier so to persuade them. The new deaconess program sounds good, and, knowing the people at Valpo as we do, we feel sure that it will be carried out efficiently and effectively.

The Redeemer Record, St. Paul, Minn.

The Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association will be held on Friday evening, Nov. 8, in St. Paul's Lutheran School, Fort Wayne, Ind., beginning at 7:30.

The meeting proper will be preceded by a luncheon served by the ladies of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, the Rev. Paul Miller, LL. D. and the Rev. Edwin Nenger, pastors.

The terms of the following directors of our Association expire at this time: The Rev. Walter Klausing, Prof. E. E. Foelber, M. A., and Mr. Lewis Klitzke, B. A. The nominating committee will present its slate of candidates at the meeting.

A special feature of the meeting will be the inspirational address by the Rev. E. Malchow, Cleveland, Ohio, member of the Board at large.

Our treasurer, Mr. Oscar Salzbrenner will, as usual, make his figures talk. He will re-

port on the deaconesses under the Pension Plan of Synod.

The superintendent, Rev. A. Krentz, will report on the academic progress made during the past year. Deaconess students are now taking a four-year course at Valparaiso University with a major leading to the A. B. degree. Also, an increased enrollment of students will be reported.

The meeting will be in charge of the Rev. Walter Klausing, the President of the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

Mark that date—Nov. 8 and the place, St. Paul's Lutheran School, Ft. Wayne—in red on you calendar.

Your attendance at this Annual Meeting will testify of your lively interest in the Deaconess Movement, which presents such tremendous potentialities and is fast forging to the front.

WOMEN'S WORK IN INDIA

A Pithy Analysis—A Telling Resolution

It is more and more recognized that work with the women in the villages is very important and absolutely essential if we wish to do effective evangelistic work. The interest that is being shown in girls' education and the growth that is taking place in this field is nothing short of phenomenal. If we wish to do any effective work at all in either of these fields we must have capable women workers to take the lead and to guide and direct our work. Yet our repeated requests for women workers from America have met with *little or no response* during the past ten years. It was therefore resolved:

1. That General Conference urge the Home Board to make strenuous effort to send capable women for this work immediately, if at all possible;

3. That in the firm hope that our plea for qualified women workers will meet with favorable response from America we request each conference to make constructive plans for the expansion of women's work within the next three years, so that the women workers who come from America may take up a definite program as soon as they have completed one year of language study;

3. That the General Conference Com-

mittee on Education be charged to draw up a detailed syllabus for the training of Indian deaconesses.

Must these brethren in India plead in vain? Will we not heed their call? Will we in America not send help? Dear reader, young woman, read this message from India again. Let it touch your heart. Jesus is calling for women workers in our mission field in India. Will you answer: "Send me; send me"?

ONWARD AND UPWARD

The famous Danish sculptor, Thorwaldsen, was once asked by an admiring friend: "Which statue do you consider your masterpiece?" His brief, but quick, reply was: "The next one." He was evidently never satisfied with past performances but always sought to improve upon the past.

The tomorrows of the future also lie before us. Will we look to the past? No, we of the Deaconess Association look to the future for our goals. Onward, upward with Christ in the future. We want to accomplish ever more as the years go by to further the training of the Deaconesses, to extend the fields of service, to make each year more successful than the last.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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Dr. Fry Commends European Diaconate

The profuse number and professional skills of the Lutheran deaconesses in Europe were a source of gratifying surprise to the President of the United Lutheran Church, Dr. Franklin Clark Fry. Upon his return from his European survey he has repeatedly indicated the tremendously stabilizing factor which these tens of thousands of deaconesses have been to a shaken continental Protestantism.

Dr. Fry's praise of the European diaconate provokes visions of a similarly magnificent diaconate in America. Our native church seems scarce to have begun to tap the latent resources of its consecrated womanhood. It is almost awesome to view this tremendous potential yet untouched.

The Deaconess Messenger.

REMUNERATION OF THE DEACONESS

The economic system under which the deaconess, who enters service after January 1, 1946, lives, is similar to that of our female Christian Day School teachers. She is paid by the mission, institution, or congregation which she serves. Deaconesses who were consecrated prior to January 1, 1946, have the right to come under this system also.

Upon entering service the deaconesses who are consecrated from now on come automatically under the Synod's Pension Plan. The mission, institution, or congregation pays 4% of the salary paid the deaconess into the Pension Fund; this 4% is over and above the salary paid the deaconess. In addition, the deaconess pays 4% of her salary into the Pension Fund. Upon retirement from service at the age of 65, if she so desires, the deaconess will receive \$50.00 monthly.

This new system of remunerating deaconesses being introduced at the present time within the Synodical Conference is unique among the Lutheran Church bodies in America. For the first time a deaconess will draw her full salary herself and yet have security for her old age. This would appear to be a highly significant step in Deaconess Work within the Lutheran Church.

5,900 Copies of the LUTHERAN DEACONESS

To inform our pastors better on the program of deaconess service we have increased our mailing list so that all our pastors now receive the official bulletin of our organization, the *Lutheran Deaconess*.

We believe this to be a distinctly progressive step. When people are uninformed, they cannot be enthusiastic for a phase of church work. But when our pastors and our laymen hear of our victories, our problems, our needs, our growth they will rejoice with us, support our work more liberally, and publicize our work more.

Pastors from different states have been kind enough to remark that they are happy because the mail brings them the *Lutheran Deaconess*.

For example, we believe our brethren should know the needs of our mission in India which you will find in this issue of our bulletin.



This picture ought to cool you during these warm fall days. Pictured is Deaconess Marie Twenhafel mothering a group of deaf boys during play at the Lutheran Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich. Miss Twenhafel's only field of service since her graduation in 1939 has been at this Institution of Mercy. A most interesting book could be written on the glorious service given by Deaconess Housemothers in our charitable institutions.

MISS GERTRUDE SIMON RETURNS TO CHINA

Miss Gertrude Simon, R. N., missionary deaconess, who has served in China for about eighteen years, returned to China for further service in June.

Miss Simon's letters breathe an ardent mission spirit. She has a burning zeal for Kingdom Work. We quote from one of her letters:

"This 'poor missionary' idea really is altogether false. May God make us ever more valuable, useful tools in His mission work. May he send us many more, or prepare here many laborers in the fields white unto harvest!"

50,000 NEW PAMPHLETS

A new pamphlet on Deaconess Service is in the making and will soon be ready for distribution. The pamphlet is a beautiful lithographic job, containing pictures of deaconesses on the field. The pictures and the information contained in this pamphlet is bound to have a fine appeal to the young Christian women in our congregations.

Here is just the pamphlet you have been looking for on Deaconess Service to place into your Sunday's bulletin, to deal out to your Walther Leaguers, to distribute to your Ladies aid or the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

There is no longer need for any one in the Synodical Conference to say: "I have never read of the Deaconess Movement; it is an unknown quantity so far as I am concerned."

With these pamphlets in hand, which our congregations may receive gratis, our people will become better acquainted with the third class of professionally trained church workers, the deaconesses.

Drop us a card and state how many pamphlets we should send you. We are at your service.

507 Court Street
Ida Grove, Iowa
July 1, 1946

Dear Rev. Krentz,

We have been studying the work of a deaconess at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in our Vacation Bible School.

In the book, for an activity, it suggests that we write and ask you for more information about such work. A few of us girls are interested in such work. Mr. Geerdes, our Bible School teacher, told of some of the more interesting work but supplied few details. I would be happy if you could supply me with a few pamphlets or means of information. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Donna Paulsen

A fine letter, Donna. I hope the pamphlets I sent you gave the desired information. I am happy that your Vacation Bible School studied Lutheran Deaconess Service.—Ed.

STATION LDA

•At the Deaconess Conference held in St. Louis June 28-30 Dr. L. B. Buchheimer read a very informative paper entitled "A Brief History of Deaconess Work in its Earlier Periods." Our pastors will find valuable material in this essay for presenting an educational topic to their ladies aid or the Lutheran Women's Missionary League.

•Among the synodical districts that passed resolutions relative to Deaconess Service this year were the Northern Nebraska, the Colorado, and the Central. One of the districts passed the following resolution: "Whereas, There is a felt shortage of trained working personnel in our Church today; and Whereas, Lutheran deaconesses are now receiving a full college education at Valparaiso University in preparation for church work; therefore be it Resolved, That we give deaconess service wider publicity among our people, especially among our young women, and that we continue to give this work our financial support."

•Trinity congregation, Elmore, Ohio, Rev. A. C. Thober, has for two successive years sent in a number of contributions totaling \$100.00 a year. Such liberal support makes it possible for us to expand our work. Doubtless our friends will gladly support such a noble undertaking as Deaconess Education which means so much for the future of our Church.

•We spoke for seven minutes at the International Walther League Convention in Milwaukee on the Deaconess Movement in our Church. President O. P. Kretzmann, of Valparaiso University, made the prophetic remark that stressing the Deaconess Program may be one of the special features of this year's Walther League Convention. We hope he is right.

•This year seems to be a banner year for deaconesses getting married. Besides Miss Spencer, deaconesses Jessie Bowers, Malinda Stuckwisch, and Margaret Fish have married. Miss Bowers served as parish deaconess in Our Savior Church, Aurora, Ill., Miss Stuckwisch served at the Lutheran Gospel Center, Cleveland, and Miss Fish's final field of service was the Lutheran Home for the Aged, Westlake, Ohio. God's benediction to these newly-weds.

•Recently we preached for an energetic young pastor who had just earned his Doc-



The many-armed goddess of mercy, China. To dispel illusions of mercy received from such an idol and to lead Chinese heathen to the two merciful arms of Jesus is now the high objective of Deaconess Martha Boss, Enshih, Hupeh, China. There Deaconess Gertrude Simon, now on furlough in the U. S. A., has witnessed of the merciful arms of Jesus for a long period of years.

torate in the religious field. To study on to serve the Church better is highly commendable. We feel particularly happy that at long last Concordia Seminary is granting the Doctor's degree in theology. The Lutheran ministry has the deserved reputation of being a cultured group.

•On January 8 of this year the beloved Friedrich von Bodelschwingh died in Bethel, Germany. Under his leadership charity work among the epileptics, the mentally sick, the alcoholics, etc., grew to the proportion of a small city. In fact, Bethel is called the "City of Mercy." It had 400 buildings and several thousand patients before the War.

REMINISCENCES OF MISSION WORK IN INDIA

In the fall of 1935 when my husband and I and the two children returned to our field in India, we were allocated to work in one of our Indian Christian congregational districts. The work was among people of from twelve to twenty congregations with one large school of 200 children and several smaller congregational schools of just one or two grades.

Because of the caste system in India the congregations consist of different castes, also of the Earavan caste, which is one of the higher castes of the untouchables or low castes.

The missionaries and their wives who had preceded us in this field had done work among the women, trying to persuade them to come over to our faith. My husband and I continued this work, and we are very pleased to say, that by the grace of God, the Lord granted us the joy of seeing the fruit of this sowing.

Fruits—Thirty Women

One such Earavan congregation stands out in my mind. The men and boys had been very active in church attendance and church work. But there had been only a few women converts. I spent many an hour and walked many miles to visit the women, encouraging them to come to church; that accomplished, to break the old custom of not attending meetings where men attended, and to attend catechism instructions taught by the catechist. Thus by working several years we were able to see about thirty women become communicant members of that church.

In another congregation we had an elderly lady of the same caste. She had never learned to read or write. She had to be taught her catechism like a small child, by continual repetition. Her mental capacity also was limited. But she was so enthusiastic about coming to instructions, listening and learning, that the missionary in charge was able to confirm her. She was the most faithful church and communion attendant of the congregation.

Need of More Missionaries

There is so much work to be done for the Kingdom of Christ, also in the foreign field



Miss Rose Bauer, the first released WAC to take the Deaconess Course at Valparaiso University. Miss Bauer served in France.

General Eisenhower and Deaconess Hansen Honored by Gettysburg College

On May 27 General Dwight Eisenhower and Deaconess Martha Hansen (United Lutheran Church) were given honorary degrees by Gettysburg College.

Miss Hansen, Directing Sister of the Lutheran Deaconess Motherhouse, Baltimore, Maryland, was fittingly honored with the degree of Doctor of Science in the Field of Human Relations.

We hope to see the day when a deaconess within our branch of the Lutheran Church will receive an honorary degree for outstanding service rendered to the church and suffering humanity.

in India among the women and children. The laborers, indeed, are few. May God grant us many more workers, both men and women, in India.

Gertrude Stelter,
(formerly Deaconess Gertrude Oberheu).

MISS KLUGE JOINS STAFF

The Metropolitan Lutheran Inner Mission Society bids a hearty welcome to Miss Mary Elaine Kluge, Student Deaconess, who on August 1st joined its staff of workers for a year of field work experience. Miss Kluge has finished all but a year of her training at Valpariso, Indiana, and comes to us highly recommended by the Director of Deaconess Training, the Reverend Arnold F. Krentz. Earlier in the summer she attended the Deaconess Conference at Concordia Seminary,



MISS MARY ELAINE KLUGE

St. Louis. On this visit she was able also to confer with Deaconess Florence Storck, who has been engaged for a number of years in much the same kind of work awaiting our deaconess in New York. Miss Kluge's home is Collinsville, Illinois, and she is a member of Holy Cross congregation, Theodore H. Roschke, Pastor.

The Inner Mission has long endeavored to procure the services of a woman worker. Miss Kluge's coming at this time—a full month earlier than previously planned—is doubly appreciated in view of Pastor Amt's early departure for Fort Wayne. Her assignments will probably include institutional work, especially women's and children's wards, neighborhood and follow-up calls and

LUTHERAN DEACONESS WORK 1921 An Evaluation 1946

Twenty-five years ago the Rev. C. Eissfeldt wrote an article for the August issue of the *American Lutheran* which is pertinent to Deaconess Service today. We reproduce the conclusion of this article from our files:

"But we not only need your prayers and your money in conducting this work; the main and greatest need is to get young Christian women to enter our Deaconess School and devote their love, their talents, and their time to this beautiful work.

"I say, *beautiful* work; for in spite of all hardships, connected with this work, in spite of all self-denial and sacrifices, expected from a deaconess, in spite of daily battling with selfishness and discouragement in spite of all this, the deaconess work is a beautiful work.

"No other occupation or professions of a single young woman can compare with the work of a deaconess, helping to bring lost sheep to the heavenly Shepherd and to save them from eternal woe; to bring light to those groping in darkness, joy and comfort to sad and weary souls, to be in the most intimate and direct service of your Lord and Savior, daily to have opportunity to show your thankfulness to Him for all his love and mercies—indeed, a beautiful work.

"And think of the glorious day, when such a faithful deaconess stands before the throne of Jesus and then here comes one and there comes another, saying to the Lord, 'Lord, this sister has saved my soul; it was her loving service that has brought me here, to stand at your right hand today.'

"Ah, now all sacrifices and dark hours, all hardships, disappointments, toils and tribulations then will vanish from memory and a supreme joy will fill the heart, such as only those taste and experience whose life has been a service to the heavenly Master.

"O that, these words might touch the heart of such young women here among us as are able and at liberty to enter this blessed service of the Lord, that the love for Him who has given all for them and the love to their perishing fellowmen may urge them to come forth and say, 'Lord, here am I, take me, send me.' "

assistance in some phase of our children's projects.

Atlantic Bulletin.