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Lutheran Diaconal Association

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Lutheran Deaconess Association

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THE LUTHERAN

OFFICIAL ORGAN
OF THE
LUTHERAN
DEACONESS
ASSOCIATION
WITHIN THE
SYNODICAL
CONFERENCE

Deaconess

Vol. 22 No. 1

JANUARY, 1945



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*Salute the beloved Persis
which labored much
in the Lord.
ROM. 16: 12*

A HAPPY NEW YEAR

May our Gracious Lord give all our readers a Happy New Year in these trying times of world anguish. May He strengthen your faith, love, and hope.

THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association was held on November 1 in the basement of Trinity Lutheran Church, Ft. Wayne, the Rev. Herbert Levihn, pastor.

The meeting this year was in the form of a dinner meeting. Much credit is due to Mrs. Wm. Mensing and the other ladies of Trinity Church for the satisfying meal which was served.

The attendance was gratifying. About one hundred fifty people were in attendance. We hope that future meetings will show more men present.

The Rev. Walter Klausung, president of our Association, was in charge of the meeting which followed the dinner.

Deaconess Martha Boss, R.N., from the Cleveland Gospel Center, in her inimitable manner spoke on "Deaconess Service in the Post-War Era."

The treasurer of the Association, Mr. Oscar Salzbrenner could report that the income had materially increased during the past fiscal year ending August 31.

The superintendent of the Association, Rev. Arnold Krentz, in his annual report gave a survey of the past year's work and pointed to the future of deaconess service.

Rev. Paul Miller, LL.D., as the representative of Valparaiso University, stressed Valparaiso's interest in Christian higher education, also its contribution in the training of Lutheran deaconesses.

The Association passed several resolutions. 1. The Association acted upon the suggestion of Pastor Miller and lowered the entrance age to "upon graduation from high school." 2. The Association voted to authorize the Board to enlarge itself from nine to fifteen members. 3. The Board was asked to rethink and restudy the objectives of the Association and to formulate plans in accordance with them and the times in which we are now living.

The following were elected to the Board of Directors to serve for three years: Rev. A. T. Koehler, Preble, Ind.; Mr. E. O. Kucher, New Haven, Ind.; Mr. Oscar Salzbrenner, Ft. Wayne, Ind.

The lively interest and discussion on the part of members of the Association in this informal meeting show that our people feel that the Deaconess Association has a highly important function in the work of the Kingdom of our Lord.

May our Lord Christ bestow His benediction upon the work of our Association in the years that lie before us.

Fort Wayne
Lutheran Deaconess Ladies' Auxiliary
Program 1944-1945

| | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| SEPTEMBER | Trailer Mission in Indiana Mrs. Fred Wambsgans | Redeemer |
| OCTOBER | Sketches from Vancouver Mrs. Harold Merklinger | St. Paul's |
| NOVEMBER | Roughing it for Christ in Alberta Mrs. A. Krentz | Trinity |
| DECEMBER | Tea Caroling Accompanist Christmas Story Christmas Message | Bethlehem Assembly Mrs. Ad. Muntzinger Betty Mensing Rev. A. Krentz |
| JANUARY | When I Lived in China Rev. A. T. Koehler | Concordia |
| FEBRUARY | Do You Know What Happened in February? Mrs. Ottomar Krueger | Emmanuel |
| MARCH | You Will Like This Story Mrs. Erwin Kurth | Emmaus |
| APRIL | When I lived in India Mrs. Herbert Levihn | Zion |
| MAY | Panel Discussion Meetings: The Last Friday of the Month. | Redeemer |

HOMESICK CHILDREN

On September 17 the writer had occasion to visit the Institute for the Deaf, Detroit. It happened to be the day prior to the opening of school.

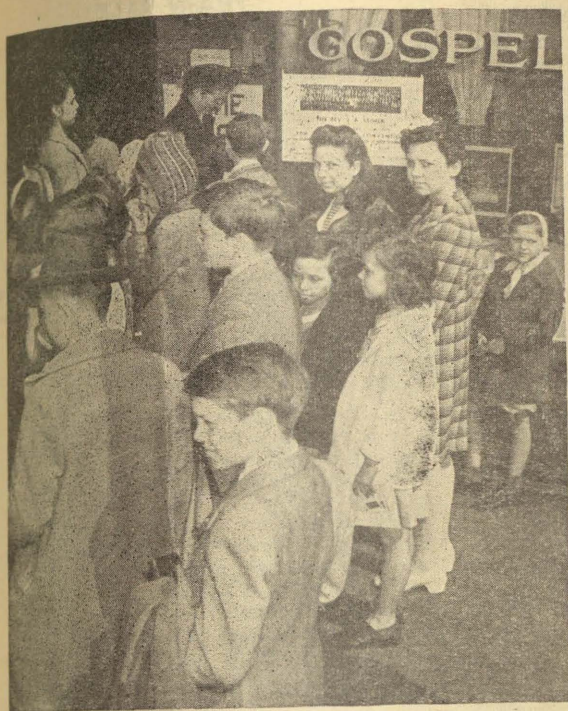
We asked Deaconess Marie Bliefnick to help us get a better insight into Deaconess Service at the Institute.

She took us into the tiny tots' bedroom. We saw little deaf children five years of age lying in their beds, crying. They were homesick, and you know how homesickness can grip a person.

Deaconess Bliefnick had given each deaf child a doll to help overcome its homesickness—a very practical idea. An unusual sight, two rows of homesick deaf children with dolls in their arms.

We walked over to the nearest bed, took the child's doll, hugged it in our arms, and then gave it back to the child. Lo and behold, the child in the far corner held up her doll with the intent that we should caress her doll, too. We did.

From this unique incident the conviction grew on us: Our deaconesses are rendering a needed and a noble service at the Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, a service, which not only the parents of these deaf children but the Church at large appreciates.



Deaconess Martha Boss, R.N., cheerfully serving eager children at the Lutheran Gospel Center, Cleveland, one of the great undertakings of our Church

STATION L D A Fifth Broadcast

Deaconess Jessie Bowers reporting from Our Saviour Lutheran Church in Aurora to Station LDA, Fort Wayne.

I am grateful to be able to talk to you folks today and give you somewhat of an idea as to the various duties and kinds of work a deaconess can do in the average congregation. The usual inquiry one hears when a parish deaconess is mentioned is: "I wonder if she'll take my job as Junior counselor." "Is there enough work to keep her busy all day?" I hope my six months experience in Detroit and the three months I have spent thus far here at Our Saviour have convinced the folks who may have had similar questions in their minds, that there is enough to do in a progressive congregation to keep a deaconess from twiddling her thumbs and growing weary with boredom.

It is obvious that the requirements and demands of all congregations are not the same, since each congregation has a routine and a weekly schedule which differs in some respects from the activities of other congregations. One of our girls who is serving in a parish where a parochial school is maintained, fills the role of parish school teacher in addition to her other duties.

My week begins at 9:15 on Sunday morn-

ing when our Sunday-school meets for an hour. It is my privilege to conduct the Junior Bible Class where we have discussions pertaining to the problems of youth, and where we attempt to guide them in the proper direction on the basis of Scripture. It is also my plan to take some journeys with the class through the various books of the Bible such as the book of Esther (which they requested), certain Psalms, Acts, and others. After Sunday-school I contribute to the morning worship by leading the congregational singing at the Organ.

On Monday I make a list of the Sunday-school absentees, and if they have been absent for two consecutive Sundays, we mail them a card. This system is quite effective because it shows the pupil that he is missed when absent, and that we really have an interest in his soul's welfare.

Other days of the week are taken up with calling on the parents of children who have been consistent in their absence from Sunday-school. In many instances a godly grandmother or mother greets me and expresses her desire that the child attend Sunday-school but their well-meaning admonitions fall on deaf ears in many cases.

Earlier this fall several of us were privileged to take a religious canvass of one section of the city. As a whole the people received us very cordially and several of them invited us into their homes where we had lengthy discussions on religion. Only one lady in my experience was hostile toward religion and her reason was that she had learned all about it in Sunday-school and felt the church had nothing more to offer her. When asked if she knew there would come a day of judgment and of the life after death she replied: "Yes, I expect to go to hell, and I know I'll meet my friends there." I don't think the lady realized there was more truth than fiction in those words if she continued to close the door of her heart against the knocking of God's Holy Spirit.

In our Junior Walther League meetings for which I am assistant counsellor, we discuss ways and means for working on the Christmas Seals campaign; projects to gladden the hearts of the children of Addison; the plans for our next social. Sometimes the young people ask: "Is it all right to go to the movies?" "Why doesn't our Church approve of dances?" "Why doesn't God answer all prayers?" Such questions indicate that the young people are mentally alert and eager to be intelligent Christians.

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS

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SUPERINTENDENT: Rev. Arnold F. Krentz, M.S. Home Office: 2808 Hoagland Ave., Ft. Wayne 6, Ind.

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After many hours of coaching, the Junior Choir will make its radio debut on a series of Sunday afternoon broadcasts conducted by our local Missouri Synod churches in the interest of Christian education. According to our plans for Christmas, the Junior choristers will have no small part in the musical portion of our Advent and Christmas services.

Laying the doctrinal foundation for citizens of the Kingdom takes place twice a week in our Confirmation Classes where we endeavor to give the pupils a deeper understanding of the Catechism and the Word of God which will help them over many a bumpy road both now in their young lives and in the years ahead of them.

Through materialistic and worldly eyes, working for the Christ is unprofitable and uninteresting but to a Child of God it is the means of carrying out the command of God to instruct others in righteousness, and of showing our gratitude to the Saviour.

Jessie Bowers.

The blackest chapter in the history of mankind is the chapter dealing with the position of woman in the pagan world.

TRAIN TALK

Some one should write a book on what he hears and sees on trains. It should make a tremendously interesting book. We shall leave that to some one else. But we shall make a few observations.

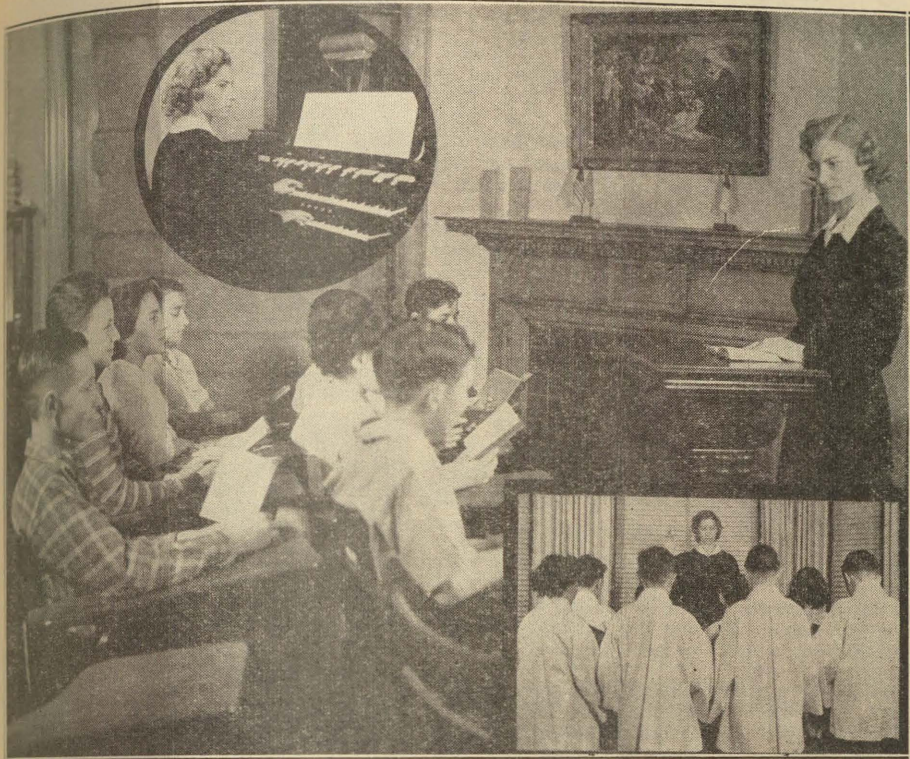
In the Cleveland railroad station we engage in conversation with a Moody Bible Institute graduate. He had been doing mission work among the Berbers in French Morocco for four years. During that time he had made but two converts. Was he discouraged? Not he. He bubbled over with enthusiasm. Moreover, on the train he studied his Arabic and his Greek New Testament. He knew his Greek, too. We had a lengthy discussion on infant baptism, going back to the original Greek for clarity.

In the Northwestern Station, Milwaukee, sits a young lady, nonchalantly smoking a cigaret, apparently with no worry whatever. We always make it a point to speak with people—we learn much from them. Her story might be given in three chapters. Chapter I: Her father was in the first World War, was gassed, and died of T. B. Chapter II: She caught T.B. from her father but recovered. Chapter III: Her young husband had been a gunner in the Pacific—a gun exploded, driving a rib through one of his lungs; now he lay in a hospital near Milwaukee with T.B. We wished her God's help and walked back and sat down. While soldiers walked back and forth, we prayed to Almighty God to end this terrible War.

Waiting for a train at the Pennsylvania station in Ft. Wayne, we speak to a soldier. By his accent we guess that he is a foreigner. He tells us he had been born in Poland. His father had been in World War I; hurt he lay paralyzed for sixteen years. Now he, the son, an American citizen, is leaving for foreign service. He smiles in a determined way—we see drama in it all. We think of "God in History," which we stressed repeatedly in our Old Testament study at Valpo. We believe God's hand is active in history today. There must be an ultimate blessing for the nations and the Church of Christ in these days of fear and suffering.

In front of us in the train on the way to Valpo sat four soldiers drinking whiskey. They were joined by a rather attractive Wave. She drank as much as the men. A rather disgusting sight! The talk was vulgar and circulated around sex. We thought of the excellent pamphlet written by Pastor Erwin Kurth, **On Drinking**; that pamphlet might well have been profitably read by these drinkers.

Opposite us on the train to Springfield, Ill., sat two little boys. We thought they might be visiting their grandmother. When we asked them where they were going, one of them answered, "We are going to see our real mamma." You should have heard how he inflected the word "real." Again a story, most likely a case of divorce. We mentioned their plight to a lady sitting near us. She



Miss Jessie Bowers, parish deaconess at Our Saviour Church, Aurora, Ill., the Rev. Paul Krentz, pastor. This composite picture shows Miss Bowers as the church organist, the leader of the Junior Bible Class, and the director of the Junior Choir.

stated that her mother and father had been divorced when she was three years of age. All of which causes us to exclaim, Let us emphasize the sanctity of the Christian home, a most valuable institution in human society.

She was a Catholic, this young lady traveling to Chicago, a cynic towards her church. Little by little this emotionally unstable young woman unraveled her grotesque story. She had broken up with a Catholic young man in Detroit. She had made a trip to Arizona to visit two soldiers. While there she fell in love with a third soldier. As we neared Chicago, she felt the urge to see a young man at the Great Lakes Naval Station. It doesn't take much of a prophet to forecast her future married life. Will she be happy in her marriage? Will the marriage last? Will it be stable?

She was a friendly young woman, going to visit her soldier husband in Ohio. She said she had won her husband for the church. We inquired about her religion. Out came her Mormon Bible from her suitcase followed by a history of Mormonism. How do these people do make propaganda for their religion! The techniques of personal evangelism might be stressed more in our Lutheran circles. We still think that the UYE was one of the great movements of our

Church during the last decade.

We intentionally took a seat next to that Catholic priest. He proved an interesting conversationalist. He was a Jesuit, the librarian at a Jesuit college. Fourteen years the students spend at the college. Included are three years of internship. Usually the students have completed their course at the age of 31 to 32. There must be a thoroughness in their training. The thought came to me that the Lutheran Church might well select outstanding students at our seminaries for intensified education. Synod might encourage the professors at our Concordia to strive for their Ph. D.'s.

She was not in uniform but she informed us that she was a Salvation Army preacher. It is natural for us to be interested in women workers in the Church. She told us that the ratio of women to men workers in the Salvation Army was 5 to 3, that is there are five women to three men. We thought of our few hundred women workers in parish schools and our forty-nine deaconesses. Why can't we have more workers in our Church? We can!

Next time we board a train the drama will continue. People are intensely interesting. And God loves them all. Jesus died for each of them.

ADVENTURES IN FAITH Mary, the Japanese Girl

A new face was one day seen on the Hospital Division. She was not a patient but an employee as a practical nurse. All eyes seemed to be upon her. Mary, as we shall call her, was small of stature. She was distinguished from the other nurses by her slanting brown eyes and dark complexion.

At first many of the patients were dubious when they learned that she was an American of Japanese descent. They were also somewhat resentful. They were reminded of their sons, brothers, sweethearts, and husbands fighting in the Pacific. Some had been at Pearl Harbor, and another had been taken prisoner on that never-to-be-forgotten day. At times some individuals were not sure of Mary's nationality and they would ask whether she could speak a certain language. She would answer: "I am an American." Mary was conscious of the fact that she was being scrutinized.

Her eyes were always sad. Seldom if ever was she seen smiling. The patients as well as the employees began to realize that Mary was not responsible for the brutality of the nation from which she had migrated.

After Mary had worked at the hospital for some time we learned that she was not a Christian. We invited her to attend Chapel Service which had been arranged for the convenience of nurses and employees. She was not interested. It seemed as though she wished to be alone. Everyone was interested in helping Mary since it made them unhappy to see her sad. One employee who had gained her confidence spoke to her of God, of Christianity, but Mary was bitter and said that she doubted whether there was a God.

Mary's sadness began to turn into tears. She could be seen crying while on duty. In the evenings she could be heard sobbing on her bed. When not on duty she would spend her hours in the theater. After sitting through several pictures she would return to her room feeling even more depressed than before. She seemed to be going from bad to worse.

Mary had spent several years at a Relocation Center with her family. After completing her high school education she wished to be independent. She hoped for a brighter future and decided to leave Camp and to relocate in another city. Perhaps she might be given the opportunity to enter nurses' training. Her past life seemed dark, but the future seemed darker. She wanted to get away from everything and everybody. She bemoaned her condition and pitied herself. There was a time when she even spoke of suicide.

Why was her burden so heavy? She had never learned to know the Saviour upon

whom she could place her burden. She had never heard those beautiful words: "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest." She had heard of Jesus, but she did not know why He came into the world. It was necessary for Mary to realize that she could not find true happiness only by running away, but that she could find true happiness only by the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

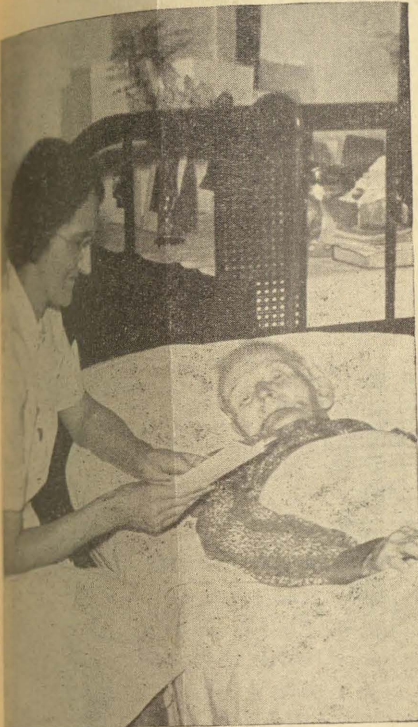
One day a patient informed us that Mary had never read the Bible. On our next visit we brought with us a beautiful new Bible, a devotional booklet, and a small mirror upon which was printed a Bible passage. She accepted the Bible with gratitude and asked very politely: "Would you suggest that I begin to read in it?" Several weeks later she attended church.

She now took a leave of absence to visit her people in camp. It was the consensus of opinion that she was homesick and that perhaps this visit home would prove beneficial. After her return to the hospital, however, she stated that she felt worse than she had before. In fact, she was certain that she was losing her mind. The doctors became greatly interested in her case and felt that if they could find out just what caused her state of depression they might be able to help her.

When Mary's sorrows and fears were most pressing, God moved us to come to her side. We asked her whether she would be interested in obtaining another position. She answered: "Yes, I'd like to, but I'm afraid I won't be able to work at this time." She informed us that her head hurt continuously and that she was losing her mind. We told her that we were sure she was mistaken and that her worries were altogether futile. After things became quite involved she put in her resignation, and we promised to find her another position.

The position we had in mind did not materialize, and so she became a member of our family. At first she felt quite strange. When some one asked her about her religion, she answered: "I am not a Christian." We began to explain the Bible to her. She had never known the Triune God. She began to attend church with us.

We explained to her that if the Almighty God could create the world out of nothing and continued to preserve this world He could and would help her. We told her of sin and salvation. We informed her that God so loved us that He sent His Son Jesus into the world to live and to die for us upon the cross. We should not doubt Him nor question His ways. He would help. We continued to quote Scripture passages to her: "All things work together for good to them that love God." If she really believed, she would not worry. She would rejoice in hope in the hope of God's deliverance.



Deaconess Minnie Hecht reading a devotion to a bedfast man, age 84, at the Lutheran Altenheim, St. Louis, Mo.—surely a needed spiritual service.

Now she was looking forward to her baptism. She realized that she would feel much better spiritually to know that she had obeyed the Saviour's command to have all her sins washed away through baptism. There were times when she had to fight the temptations of the devil. He would whisper into her ears: For nineteen years you lived without religion, you don't need it now. What will your people say about it? Your sister might laugh. In times like these we encouraged: "Mary, pray all the harder." She had learned how to pray. She knew the Savior's prescription: "All things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive. Mary continued to read Bible stories. She found many stories from the Bible of people whose prayers had been heard. Sometimes she would feel that she was slipping again. We told her that God was testing her faith.

After Mary had completed her instructions she could hardly wait until the day of her baptism. September the third was truly the happiest day in her life. She now belonged to God. He would lead her through life.

Mary had learned that if we place our life with all its problems into the Savior's care sweet peace, the legacy left us by Jesus, will

be ours. True joy and contentment will then come into our lives. Mary had learned that God answers prayer.

In a few months she will enter nurses' training, and she will be able to whisper into the ears of the sick and those in trouble spiritually and physically: "God does answer prayer."

Florence Storck.

LUTHERAN BOARDING HOME FOR THE AGED

A new venture was begun in St. Louis when the Lutheran Altenheim Society, dedicated a boarding home for the aged, 3652 South Jefferson Avenue, St. Louis. Graduates from the Old Concordia Seminary will remember this building which stood across from the Seminary at the corner of Jefferson and Winnebago Avenues. The purchase price was \$31,000.00. The Rev. Paul Koenig, the president of the Western District, was in charge of the dedication proper.

Deaconesses Minnie Hecht and Annchen Vierck serve in this boarding home.

The Lord's benediction upon this new venture!

NEW SCHOLARSHIPS

We are happy to announce two new scholarships. Both come from Sturgis, Mich., where the Rev. Wm. T. Schalm has been pastor for many years. The friends who established the scholarships are the following:

- Trinity Lutheran Church\$50.00
- Mr. Chas. Goetting\$50.00

Our sincere thanks to these kind donors. This is the first time that a congregation has established a scholarship for a deaconess student in our Association.

In this connection we should also like to express our gratitude to Miss Clara Strodel, La Grange, Ill., who has renewed her scholarship of \$100.00.

It is most encouraging that our fellow Christians are desirous of helping Lutheran young women who plan to prepare for service in the Kingdom as Lutheran deaconesses.

The well-known church father Johannes Chrysostomus, bishop in Constantinople, about the year 400, had 40 deaconesses working for him.

The attitude of Jesus toward women was one of respect, gentleness, and love.

Florence Nightingale studied for a time under Theodore Fliedner, the father of the modern Deaconess Movement, in Kaiserswerth, Germany.

OUR LIBRARY FUND Watch It Grow

What friends books, good reading materials, are also for deaconess student!

Contributors to our Library Fund during the past three months were:

| | |
|---|---------|
| Mrs. O. Cunningham, Cleveland | \$ 5.00 |
| Trinity, Elmore, O., Rev. A. C. | |
| Thober | 15.05 |
| Ladies' Guild, Trinity Lutheran Church, Pitcairn, Pa., Rev. D. Goerss | 11.39 |
| Miss Elfrieda Kuhn, Pitcairn, Pa. | 2.00 |
| | <hr/> |
| | \$33.44 |

Thank you, Ohio and Pennsylvania friends, for your help!

The greatest need in Deaconess Work within the Synodical Conference today is more young women to take up Deaconess Training.

30,000 PAMPHLETS

The Deaconess Association is about to publish 30,000 new pamphlets on Deaconess Service. These pamphlets contain revealing pictures and give a short interpretation of Deaconess Training and Deaconess Work.

They are intended for mass distribution to Waltham League societies, ladies' aids, and other groups. If your group desires a certain quantity of these beautiful new folders, drop us a line.

About the year 110, during the persecution under Trajan, a letter was written him from the governor of Bithynian, 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 the female slaves, which the Christians call deaconesses, to be tortured. But I could force nothing out of them but the confession of a boundless and very corrupt superstition."

DEACONESS ACCORDING TO THEIR STATIONS

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

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

Bethesda Lutheran Home, Watertown, Wis.:
Theilmann, Martha, Matron
Moehlenbrock, Louise
Seckel, Christine
Schmidt, Martha
Laesch, Katherine

Lutheran Child Welfare Association, Addison, Ill.:
Nanke, Henrietta

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

Lutheran Home for the Aged, 2116 Dover Rd., Westlake, Ohio.
Lutz, Lydia, Matron

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

Lutheran Altenheim, 8721 Halls Ferry Rd., St. Louis, Mo.:
Spencer, Margaret, R.N., Superintendent
Schmidt, Johanna

Lutheran Boarding Home for the Aged, 3652 S. Jefferson Ave., St. Louis 18, Mo.:
Hecht, Minnie, Matron
Vierck, Annchen

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

St. Louis City Mission, 4209 Bates St., Louis, Mo.:
Storck, Florence

Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Ind.:
Dienst, Clara, R.N.

St. Matthew's Parish, 1010 Park Ave., New York 28, New York:
Buegel, Hulda, R.N.

Foreign Mission, China:
Simon, Gertrude, R.N., Enshih, Hupeh, China

Foreign Mission, India:
Doctor, Amelia, R.N., North Arcot District, South India
Rathke, Louise, Bethesda Lutheran Hospital, Ambur, N. Arcot District, South India

Foreign Mission, Africa:
Rapier, Christine, B.S.
(On furlough,) 1803 Pine, St. Louis 3, Mo.

Lutheran Gospel Center, 1643 93rd St., Cleveland, Ohio:
Boss, Martha, R.N.

Bethlehem Home, 374 Fingerboard Rd., Staten Island, N. Y.:
Wehrenbrecht, Emma

St. John's Lutheran Parish, 6165 Morton Ave. Cleveland, Ohio:
Ziemke, Rose

Concordia College, Milwaukee, Wis.:
Pfund, Matilde

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

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

Indian Mission, Peridot, Arizona:
Bartsch, Erna

Indian Mission, Whiteriver, Arizona:
Stuckwisch, Malinda

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

Our Savior Lutheran Parish, 420 Downer Place, Aurora, Ill.:
Bowers, Jessie

Deaconess Chapter House, 605 Chicago St., Valparaiso, Ind.:
Nichols, Ruth

Sick or on Leave of Absence:
Beach, Ruth, 1622 E. Lewis St., Ft. Wayne, Ind.
Bemarkt, Thelma, 4948 Parker, St. Louis, Mo.
Behlke, Elizabeth, 3767 Georgia Ave., Apt. 1, West Palm Beach, Fla.
Eber, Martha, R.N., 7103 Monticello St., Pittsburgh, Pa.

Fish, Margaret, Fedora, S. Dak.
Gade, Irma, R. 2, Powell Station, Tenn.
Heck, Erna, R.-7, Box 31, Hillsdale Ave., Schenectady, N. Y.
Leader, Cora, Cor. 4th & Broadway, Tucson, Ariz.
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