

Valparaiso University

ValpoScholar

---

The Lutheran Deaconess

Lutheran Diaconal Association

---

4-1932

## The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 9, No. 2

Lutheran Deaconess Association

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholar.valpo.edu/lutherandeaconess>



Part of the [Christianity Commons](#), and the [Practical Theology Commons](#)

---

This Full Issue is brought to you for free and open access by the Lutheran Diaconal Association at ValpoScholar. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Lutheran Deaconess by an authorized administrator of ValpoScholar. For more information, please contact a ValpoScholar staff member at [scholar@valpo.edu](mailto:scholar@valpo.edu).

# The Lutheran Deaconess

Official Organ of the Lutheran Deaconess Association  
within the Ev. Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America

16820



Vol. 9

No. 2

APRIL - - 1932

*"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me."* MATTHEW 25:40.



Chinese Bible Woman at Wanh sien.

### ANNIVERSARY SERVICES

The feature event of the first quarter of this year were the services held at Beaver Dam on the seventh of February to observe the tenth anniversary of the dedication of our Deaconess Hospital. The services were held at St. Stephen's Church of which Rev. L. C. Kirst is the pastor. The attendance was very good. Friends and members of the Association from neighboring congregations as well as deaconesses from the Bethesda Home and the Bethesda Training School at Watertown had come to join in the celebration. Pastor Philip Wambsgans, president of the Association, since it was organized delivered a German address basing his remarks on the text: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever". Superintendent B. Poch delivered the English sermon. St. Stephen's mixed choir and a chorus of student nurses rendered appropriate selections. Pastor L. C. Kirst, president of the Hospital Board, read a historical sketch covering the ten years of Hospital activity. Following the services a social gathering was provided for in the assembly rooms of St. Stephen's church.

### ANNIVERSARY SERMON

Text: Hebrews 6:10 and 11.

"God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labor of love, which ye have showed toward His name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister. And we desire that every one of you do show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end."

There was great rejoicing when on the 29th of January, 1922, the local Deaconess Hospital was dedicated with impressive services. The need of a hospital had been felt for some time in this community. A small hospital had been opened some time previous in a dwelling acquired for this purpose, but, for various reasons, it was discontinued.

Serious cases necessitating major operations were taken either to Fond du Lac or to Milwaukee. The hospital nearest to this city was St. Mary's at Columbus, twelve miles away. Under these circumstances it was only natural that the desire for establishing a hospital in this community should develop into concerted and energetic action to achieve this purpose. It was considered advisable to invite some organization familiar with hospital work to make propositions regarding the management of a hospital in this community with the understanding that the citizens of Beaver Dam raise sufficient funds to cover the initial expense of acquiring and equipping a property suitable for hospital purposes.

Having received word of assurance from the Lutheran Deaconess Association that they would take over the management of the hospital under the terms, proposed plans were immediately formed to raise the necessary funds. In a comparatively short time the amount necessary for the hospital undertaking was oversubscribed by several thousand dollars. A local branch of the Deaconess Association was organized whose members are affiliated with Synodical Conference churches in Beaver Dam and vicinity. The report for the first year was very encouraging, not only in a financial way, but also in point of service rendered.

Almost from the very beginning the need for more private rooms was apparent and it was hoped that an adequate addition could be financed within a reasonable time. This expectation, however, has as yet not materialized. It is true that a number of major improvements have been made as far as the physical equipment of the hospital is concerned. An X-ray machine has been installed, an ice machine, and various other items that make for greater efficiency in hospital service. Apart from the features, however, we are not able to point to any outstanding phase of development and expansion as far as the physical plant of the hospital

is concerned. This being the situation, it would not surprise us to hear the remark, "Why, then, observe the tenth anniversary of the dedication with special services when there is really nothing big to show up as a result of ten years of hospital endeavor?"

Dear friends: though this may sound plausible the fact remains that we have indeed good reason to observe the tenth anniversary of the dedication of our Deaconess Hospital. Using the words of our text as a guide, we observe 1. that God is not forgetful of our work and labor of love, and 2. that this fact should encourage us to continue such labor of love.

1.

The letter from which our text is taken was addressed originally to Christians in Palestine, most of whom were of Jewish birth. They are given the assurance that God is not unrighteous to forget their work and labor of love. God is faithful. Not one of His promises shall fall to the ground. In the words following our text Abraham is mentioned as a shining example of God remaining faithful to His promises. This was the promise given unto Abraham, "I will bless thee and thou shalt be a blessing." Bible history confirms the fact of God keeping this promise. The Lord showered upon Abraham temporal and spiritual blessings. And according to His grace He will reward the labors of love which are evident in the life of every true believer. Concerning the Christians in Palestine we are informed that they had ministered to the saints and still do minister unto them. The saints to whom they ministered were their brethren in the faith. Scriptures tell us how the members of the congregation at Jerusalem gave expression to their faith by ministering to the poor and the needy in the congregation. In order that the ministry of mercy might be carried out in a most efficient manner they elected deacons as we read in the sixth chapter of the Acts. In addition many of the earthly Christian congregations employed women helpers who were called deaconesses. St. Paul has much to say in praise of Phebe, a deaconess in the service of the congregation at Cenchrea, near Corinth. It is also a fact that the early Christians did not confine their labors of love to members of the congregations. No, they would minister also to their heathen neighbors and while ministering to them they would speak to them of Jesus, the only Savior. And great was their joy when ever so often they saw the fruits of their labors, that through their endeavors, souls were won for Christ.

Dear friends, wherever men are prompted by this motive to lead souls to Christ and to comfort sick brethren, hospital work becomes blessed work indeed. Though it is generally accepted that

the primary purpose of a hospital is to restore men to health as far as it is possible, the spiritual needs of the patient must not be overlooked. On the contrary, eminent physicians have admitted without reserve that health of mind, a cheerful Christian outlook upon life is bound to react favorably upon the patient's condition. The eminent British specialist, Dr. Mackenzie, was in the habit of asking, every time a nurse was to be called for one of his patients, "Is she also a sincere Christian? I wish to see my patients in competent, Christian hands."

By maintaining our Deaconess Hospital we, too, are ministering to the saints. We are providing a place for sick members where they may feel at home in the days of their illness. In our hospital they hear our beautiful and inspiring Lutheran hymns as they are sung at the morning and evening devotions in charge of the matron. Words of comfort are spoken to them by the pastor and by those ministering to their special needs.

We are also well aware of the fact that a hospital offers wonderful opportunities for missionary endeavor. While we discourage and disapprove of proselyting we do consider it a privilege to speak to unchurched patients of the one thing that is needful. We know from experience that many souls have learned to know and to love Christ by coming in contact with Christian nurses who were not ashamed to speak of the gospel of Christ. And we also know it to be a fact that the Good Shepherd of souls has sought and found straying sheep who were brought bleeding and broken in body and spirit to a hospital where a Christian atmosphere prevails. It is only a short time ago that we had an experience of this kind at our Deaconess hospital. Dear friends, is not this good cause for rejoicing that by maintaining our hospital we have ministered to saints, to fellow Christians and also to the unchurched? And this work of love has been done not in the spirit of winning the praise of men but to the praise and glory of Christ, our Savior.

And if any one here present is still in doubt as to the propriety of our celebrating the tenth anniversary of the dedication of our Deaconess hospital, permit me to call your attention to some far reaching results of our local training school for deaconess nurses. A few weeks ago the chaplain of a hospital said to me, "Dear brother, I had always wished to inform you how much we value the services of the deaconess which you sent us to serve in our hospital. In addition to her being a very efficient nurse she surely has the missionary spirit. She has been instrumental in my having received into our church children and adults with whom she made contact in the hospital. She sees

THE LUTHERAN DEACONESS  
Published in January, April, July, and  
October at Berne, Indiana,  
by and in the interest of  
*Lutheran Deaconess Association*  
Printed by *The Lutheran Press*  
153 South Jefferson Street,  
Berne, Indiana.

Subscription Price ..... 25c per year

"Entered as second-class matter May 1, 1931, at the post office at Berne, Indiana, under the act of March 3, 1879."

All matters pertaining to the Editorial Department are taken care of by the Superintendent, the Rev. B. Poch, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Send all subscriptions, memorial wreath donations, and membership dues to the Financial Secretary, in care of the Lutheran Deaconess Association, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Indiana. Please make all checks payable to the Lutheran Deaconess Association.

**OFFICIALS OF LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION**

**PRESIDENT:** Rev. Philip Wambsgans, 2322 Broadway, Fort Wayne, Ind.  
**VICE PRES.:** Rev. H. B. Kohlmeier, New Haven, Ind.  
**SECRETARY:** Rev. W. Klausing, 1315 So. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind.  
**TREASURER:** Mr. E. F. Niemeyer, 705 Madison St., Fort Wayne, Ind.  
**SUPERINTENDENT:** Rev. B. Poch, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Fort Wayne, Ind.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**  
Rev. Ph. Wambsgans      Mr. L. Pingel  
Rev. H. B. Kohlmeier      Mr. Aug. Becker  
Rev. W. Klausing      Mr. Aug. Freese  
Rev. L. Kirst      Mr. E. F. Niemeyer  
Prof. E. E. Foelber      Mr. Louis Schmoel  
Rev. J. M. Miller, Hon.      Mr. Chas. W. Scherer.

to it that the proper kind of literature is being distributed among the patients."

Speaking of our local training school for deaconess nurses, may I state here that the first deaconess which was sent to India was a graduate from the local training school? We hope to have her with us this year since she is due for a furlough. She will be able to tell us in person how the Lord has blessed her missionary endeavors among the women and children of her particular mission field in India.

And if somebody will still insist on asking, "Is this all that has been accomplished by maintaining our Deaconess Hospital?" I could point to the blessed work of love that has been done and is being done by our deaconesses stationed in the Apache Indian Mission down in Arizona. The full measure of blessings, however, which God has placed upon the labors of love rendered directly and indirectly through our maintaining this hospital, shall be revealed on the last day. On this day it will become apparent also that God is not for-

getful of our work and labor of love but will reward us according to His grace.

2.

This assurance will serve as an encouragement to continue our work of love. The Christians in Palestine needed encouragement to continue their labors of love. We have reason to believe that they were in danger of getting discouraged and of growing indifferent to the needs of their suffering fellow Christians. They are admonished "to show the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end." And again we read, "Let brotherly love continue. Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares. Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body." Though men may forget, and at times do forget the service of love rendered unto them, God is not unrighteous to forget these labors of love. He will requite the drop of water given to a thirsty patient; He will not forget the cooling hand that we have laid upon the fevered brow, nor the word of cheer and comfort we have spoken at the bedside of the sick. Jesus has said, "I was sick and ye visited Me. What ye have done to the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me."

Come then, dear friends, and let us continue our work and labor of love. Though at times we have been very much discouraged in carrying on the work of maintaining our Deaconess Hospital and considered it a great burden, the Lord has always helped us to overcome our difficulties. He has truly blessed our efforts. Let us rejoice, therefore, and thank Him for such blessings. May He continue to prosper our work of love. It is truly blessed work to minister to the saints and to our fellow men in general, as it is expressed in the words of the poet:

"To comfort and to bless,  
To find a balm for woe,  
To tend the lone and fatherless,  
Is angels' work below.  
The captive to release  
To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace,  
It is a Christ-like thing."

The approaching season of Lent reminds us of the consuming love of Christ, the great Physician, who came into this world, not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life as a ransom for many. Following in His footsteps who made the sick every whit whole, let us prove our love to Him by ministering to our fellow men, especially to them that are of the household of faith. He will not forget our labors of love. They shall follow us into eternity according to His Word. Amen.

## HISTORICAL SKETCH

The beginnings of our Deaconess Hospital are not yet so remote that they are not unfamiliar to most of us. Ten years ago the citizens of Beaver Dam and outlying districts submitted a proposal through the Merchants and Manufacturers Association to L. D. A. to conduct a public hospital in the city of Beaver Dam according to certain stipulations. The proposal was accepted and an agreement drawn up and duly signed by representative committees. On Feb. 1, 1922, the so-called Smythe property, after having been duly remodeled and equipped for hospital purposes, was opened for business. The formal dedication being held on Sunday, Jan. 29, 1922. The venerable president of the Association, Rev. Ph. Wambsgans, preached the dedicatory sermon.

During the ten years of operation the following persons have served successively as superintendent of the hospital: Miss Hildebrandt, Miss Kempff, Miss Mohr, Miss Dienst, who was succeeded in office by Miss Thiele, the present incumbent.

The first class of deaconess graduates was installed March 1, 1925. The total number of graduates to date is fourteen. Their names are as follows: Martha Koehler, Pauline Meyer, Louise Radtke, Louise Wegener, Martha Breitenfeldt, Adeline Harms, Selma Vogel, Martha Herzberg, Frieda Poetter, Dorothea Koenig, Margaret Lauterbach, Bertha Schimke, Dorothea Langhoff, Alma Schumann. Of these graduates, one, Dorothea Koenig, who had been called to serve in the Deaconess Hospital, was called to her eternal reward March 23, 1929.

At present eleven deaconess pupils are enrolled in the school.

The pastors who have assisted in the teaching of the deaconess subjects to date are: L. Kirst, G. Pieper, E. Reim, E. Walther, M. Nommensen, W. T. Naumann, H. Geiger, and Supt. Bruno Poch.

The Hospital has always found local doctors willing to teach the nursing subjects, which are indispensable in a training school, and is greatly indebted to the medical staff for invaluable services gratuitously rendered.

From the very beginning the Hospital is also much indebted to St. Stephen's Sewing Circle which has materially assisted the Hospital in manifold ways. The tenth anniversary of the circle was observed a few days ago in an appropriate manner.

We now present a few interesting statistics covering the past ten years of service: Patients admitted 7,742 of which number 4,957 were resident patients and 2,786 non-resident. There were 1,141 births. 5,782 were surgical cases and 1,186 medical.

The number of deaths was extremely low—only 291 out of a total of 8,884 patients.

Regarding the future, it may be stated that plans have already been made some time ago for an adequate enlargement to be effected as soon as normal times return.

It may also be stated in this connection that during the ten years of operation the organization, which has taken over the management of the Hospital, has never yet made an appeal to the general public for funds to meet obligations.

In closing let me add, with thanks unto God, the Giver of all good gifts, and with appreciation for all who have so loyally cooperated with it, the Lutheran Deaconess Hospital, regardless of praise or criticism, shall in the future as in the past endeavor to serve the purpose for which it has been called into being.

REV. L. C. KIRST.

## NOTES AND NEWS

Deaconess Adeline Harms, who stayed at the Home for a while after New Year, has returned to her field of labor at the Lutheran Orphanage of the Apache Indian Mission in Arizona. This mission is conducted under the auspices of the Wisconsin Synod. Misses Louise Gieschen and Wilhelmine Boerger are the other two deaconesses serving in this mission.

Pastor Winfield Wickham of our St. Louis City Mission paid us a visit recently. Much time was given to the discussion of the question "What is to be considered an adequate preparation for a deaconess to qualify for social service, especially in the fields of family and child welfare work. The survey committee of our association is giving much time and thought to this important matter. Very helpful suggestions for a course in Christian sociology will be offered in a paper to be prepared by Professor P. E. Kretzmann, Ph. D., D. D., at the request of the program committee of the Associated Lutheran Charities and to be read during the sessions which will be held at St. Louis in October.

In the February meeting the Fort Wayne Ladies' Deaconess Auxiliary elected Mrs. J. Rehling as president; Mrs. J. Beyerlein as secretary; and Mrs. P. Liebmann as treasurer. A special party has been planned for the afternoon of April 26.

Three deaconess students have entered the freshman class in March. Three more students are expected to enter in September. We are confident that we will be able to place them when they are ready to enter the service of the Association. Several institutions who had hoped to engage deaconesses this year are obliged to wait with engaging more help until the economic situation improves. There are many charitable and semicharitable institutions in these days, some of them employing

deaconesses, who find it extremely difficult and in some instances altogether impossible to meet their financial obligations when they fall due. This fact has caused our Board of Directors and especially our treasurer a great deal of concern. To tide us over the present situation we need the prayers and the active support of all friends of our deaconess cause.

Have you read deaconess Clara Rodenbeck's contribution published in the Lutheran Witness of March 12? Although she is as yet not able to do much active mission work among the women and girls with whom she comes into close contact at Wanhsien, China, she has proved herself a blessing to scores of the natives because of her training as a registered nurse. The majority of the natives are totally ignorant of the fundamental principles of hygiene. The picture in this issue of our Quarterly was furnished us through the courtesy of pastor August Buuck, whose son Lawrence has married a sister of Miss Clara Rodenbeck. The picture is that of a Chinese Bible woman. We are told that this woman is a most faithful worker among her people. The mission to which deaconess Clara Rodenbeck has been attached is more than seven hundred miles inland. There are hardly one dozen Americans at that place. Our workers therefore appreciate it very much if their friends back home would occasionally send them a word of encouragement.

Word has been received that Miss Gertrud Oberheu, until recently in the service of our Association and stationed at Nagercoil, India, has been married to pastor Gerhard Stelter, one of our missionaries, on Easter Monday. May the Lord be their Keeper and their Guide through life.

A distinct loss has been suffered by the Association through the death of pastor Herman Steege of Milwaukee. He had identified himself with our Deaconess Cause and was instrumental in creating a real deaconess spirit among the members of Bethany's Ladies' Aid. About one hundred hold membership in our association. Mrs. Marie Jungton, a member of Bethany's Ladies' Aid, is assisting Miss Helene Koepke in soliciting members for our Milwaukee Branch.

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

A loyal friend and supporter of our deaconess cause informs us that she places copies of our deaconess quarterly on a church rack, thus advertising our work. We are glad to mail extra copies to our friends who wish to do likewise.

We still have a large number of copies left of Dr. Kretzmann's book, "The Christian Woman as a Social Worker". Post paid \$1.25. Order from Lutheran Deaconess Association, 2916 Fairfield Ave., Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

The "Gospel Voice", a neat, eight-page monthly bulletin; the official forecaster of radio station KFUE, owned by the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod, located at Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri. This attractive bulletin contains a complete schedule of the many and varied broadcasts; names of speakers and topics of addresses; pictures of speakers and musicians; General Lutheran Radio Register; interesting news from KFUE and from the radio world in general, etc.

Write in for a free copy to *Station FKUE Concordia Theological Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri.*

## INSTALLATION SERVICES

Installation services will be held for the graduates of the Fort Wayne Deaconess Training School at Bethlehem Church on Trinity Sunday, May 22. Pastor P. W. Schultz from Decatur, Indiana will preach the sermon. Services will begin at 7:30 P. M. There are two graduates this year. Miss Edith Cornelius from New Rockford, N. Dak., and Miss Ida Schillinger from Nunica, Mich. A reception to be given the graduates after services will be in charge of the Ladies' Deaconess Auxiliary.

## IN MEMORIAM

It has pleased God to call to his eternal home a dear friend of our Deaconess Cause, Mr. August Krome, of Indianapolis, Indiana. He had identified himself with our Work ever since our Association was organized. Born in Hanover, Germany, in 1842, he came to this country at an early age, his parents locating in Milwaukee.

Through the influence of the sainted pastor, Frederick Lochner, who showed much kindness to the family, the son was induced to enter the Teachers' Seminary, then at Fort Wayne, in 1860. After graduation he served the parish school of St. Paul's church at Indianapolis for thirteen years. Twenty years were spent in the school of Trinity congregation of the same city. When this congregation established a branch school in the northwestern part of the city he took charge of the same for seven years. Until his death Mr. Krome was a faithful member of St. Peter's church which is served by pastor Nordsieck. He took a great interest in the welfare of the Missouri Synod, especially in the charitable and missionary endeavors. Therefore he was deeply interested in the work of the Deaconess Association which he has remembered with a bequest of forty-five dollars.

May the Lord continue to give us friends who, like Mr. Krome, have supported our work with prayers and contributions.

## MEMORIAL WREATHS

Jan. 6, by neighbors, in memory of Mrs. Mary Rodenbeck of Fort Wayne, Ind., \$6.00.

Jan. 29, by Ladies' Deaconess Auxiliary of Ft. Wayne, in memory of Mrs. Caroline Goeglein, \$5.

Jan. 29, by St. Peter's Sunday School, Indianapolis, Ind., in memory of Mr. E. Polte, \$5.00.

Mar. 28, by Mrs. John Sieck, Kenmore, N. Y., in memory of her daughter, Mrs. Bertha Fink, \$2.

April 1, by John Jungton and family, Milwaukee, Wis., in memory of Rev. H. Steege, \$3.00.

BEQUESTS—In addition to the forty-five dollars received as a bequest from Mrs. August Krome of Indianapolis, we have been informed that Mrs. Frederick Block of Pekin, Ill., has willed our Association the sum of five hundred dollars.

LEGACY—JOHN W. KOGGE ESTATE, ORANGE, CAL.

Check received Oct. 6, 1931, in the amount of \$493.75 representing L. D. A. interest in the estate of John W. Kogge, deceased, in the amount of \$500.00 less a proportionate share of the collection costs or \$6.25.

### October to December, 1931

#### Received

October 3, from Rev. H. A. Bentrup, Elma, Iowa, \$8.00.

October 24, from Trinity Congregation, Crown Point, Ind., \$5.00.

October 24, from St. Peter's Congregation, Huntington, Ind., \$5.00.

October 24, from Hospital Ladies' Aid, Fort Wayne, Ind., \$5.00.

October 24, from St. John's Ladies' Aid, Fairbank, Iowa, \$2.50.

### Installations-Gottesdienst.

Am Trinitatissonntag, den 22. Mai, wird in der Verlehemsgemeinde zu Fort Wayne ein Installationsgottesdienst stattfinden, und zwar abends um halb acht Uhr. Herr Pastor W. Schulz von Decatur, Indiana, wird die Predigt halten. Es werden zwei Diakonissen eingeführt werden, nämlich Fräulein Edith Cornelius von Rockford, Nord-Dakota und Fräulein Ida Schillinger aus Nuniac, Michigan.

### Allerlei Mitteilungen.

Zwei warme Freunde unserer Diakonissensache sind innerhalb einer Woche vom Herrn der Ernte abgerufen worden. Am 16ten März starb Herr August Krome, der an die vierzig Jahre hindurch mit aller Treue als Gemeindefullehrer in Indianapolis gedient hat. Er hatte ein besondere Interesse an den verschiedenen Wohltätigkeitsbestrebungen in unseren Kreisen. Aus diesem Grunde hat er auch unsere Diakonissensache von Anfang an unterstützt und als Vermächtnis hat er fünf und vierzig dollars hinterlassen. Sein Andenken bleibe unter uns im Segen!

Erschütternd war die Nachricht, daß Herr Pastor Herrmann Steege, Seelsorger der Bethanien-Gemeinde in

Milwaukee, an den Folgen einer Operation gestorben ist. Er bewies seine Liebe zu unserem Diakonissenwerk mit der Tat. Es gibt wenig Gemeinden, wo so viele Glieder zu unserer Gesellschaft gehören, wie es in der Gemeinde des nun selig Vollendeten der Fall ist. Die Zahl beträgt gegenwärtig an die hundert. Auch hat der Frauenverein dieser Gemeinde extra Beiträge gesandt. Frau Maria Jungton, welche Mitglied dieser Gemeinde ist, steht Fräulein Helene Köpfe helfend zur Seite, um Glieder in Milwaukee für unsere Sache zu gewinnen. Fräulein Köpfe ist Sekretärin unseres Milwaukee Zweigvereins.

### Jubiläumsfeier in Beaver Dam.

Am 7ten Februar wurde in der St. Stephanuskirche ein besonderer Festgottesdienst abgehalten zum Andenken an das zehnjährige Bestehen unseres Diakonissenhospitals. Eine zahlreiche Beteiligung von Freunden unseres Diakonissenwerkes erhöhte die festliche Stimmung. Der Präsident der Diakonissengesellschaft, Pastor Philipp Wambögen, hielt eine Ansprache über die Worte aus dem Hebräerbriefe: „Jesus Christus gestern und heute und derselbe auch in Ewigkeit.“

Er führte aus, wie Jesus uns geholfen hat in der Vergangenheit. Manches Mal, wenn uns der Mut entfallen wollte, hat er gnädig durchgeholfen. Wo wir keinen Ausweg sahen, da hat Er Hilfe geschaffen. Er ist auch heute in unserer Mitte nach seiner Verheißung: „Wo zweien oder drei versammelt sind in meinem Namen, da bin ich mitten unter ihnen.“ Er hat herzlich Wohlgefallen an unseren Lob- und Dankliedern. Er will bei uns sein mit seinem Segen nicht nur heute, sondern in alle Ewigkeit. Darum schauen wir getrost in die Zukunft. Wir planen mancherlei, aber da kommt die Sorge, werden wir es auch bemerkstelligen. Mit unserer Macht ist nichts getan, wir sind gar bald verloren. Jesus aber will uns helfen, daß wir unsere Pläne auch hinausführen zu seiner Ehre und zum Heile vieler Seelen. Im Hinblick auf ihn können wir getrost ausrufen, wir vermögen alles durch den, der uns mächtig macht. So sei denn dieses allezeit unser Lösungswort: „Jesus Christus gestern und heute und derselbe auch in Ewigkeit.“

Pastor Koch, Superintendent der Gesellschaft, hielt eine englische Predigt über Hebräer 6, 10. 11: „Gott ist nicht ungerecht, daß er vergesse eures Werkes und Arbeit der Liebe, die ihr beweiset habt an seinem Namen, da ihr den heiligen dienetet und noch dienet. Wir begehren aber, daß euer jeglicher denselbigen Fleiß beweise, die hoffnung fest zu halten bis ans Ende.“ Hospitälarbeit ist ein Werk der Liebe, wo solche Arbeit im rechten christlichen Geiste, aus der Liebe zu Jesum, verrichtet wird. Hospitäler bieten reichlich Gelegenheit, Mission zu treiben an wirklich unversorgten Kranken. Es ist auch mancher verlorene Sohn und manche verlorene Tochter durch die seelsorgerliche Arbeit des Kaplans wieder zurecht gebracht worden. In unserer Diakonissenschule sind Missionsarbeiterinnen zugerichtet worden zum Werke des Herrn. Die erste Diakonissin, welche unsere Gesellschaft nach Indien gesandt hat, Fräulein Luise Rathke, hat diese unsere Schule besucht. Zwei andere Diakonissen, die ebenfalls ihr Examen hier bestanden haben, stehen in geeigneter Tätigkeit in der Indianermision unter den Apachen im Staate Arizona. Darum wollen wir getrost fortfahren hier in unserer Arbeit und unser Diakonissenhospital mit seiner Diakonissenschule auch fernerhin kräftig unterstützen mit Gebet und Gaben.

Herr Pastor Kirst verlas hierauf eine Geschichte unseres Hospitals, welche uns zeigt, wie der treue Gott zur rechten Zeit immer wunderbar geholfen hat.



Predigt bei einer Abschiedsfeier von Missionaren, gehalten in der St. Martini Gemeinde bei St. Wanne, von Pastor M. Trosch am 23. August, 1931.  
Tobias 5, 23.

In dem Herrn geliebte Mitchristen, insonderheit ihr lieben Missionare!

Es ist eine besondere Veranlassung, die uns heute Abend hier in diesem Gotteshause zusammengeführt hat. Das bezeugt nicht nur die zahlreiche Versammlung, welche sich eingestellt hat, sondern vor allen Dingen die Tatsache, daß zwei Söhne und eine Tochter dieser Gemeinde vor dem Altare des Herrn Ehrenplätze eingenommen haben. Herr Johann Heber, Kandidat unseres Predigerseminars zu St. Louis, Mo., der in die Mission des Staates Michigan berufen und bereits zu seinem Amte ordiniert worden ist; Herr Edgar Meyer, Kandidat unseres Lehrerseminars zu River Forest, Ill., der einen Ruf an die Missionsschule unter den Indianern Wisconsin erhalten hat und bald in sein Amt daselbst eingeführt werden wird; und Fräulein Clara Rodenbeck, graduierte Krankenpflegerin und Diakonistin unserer Bildungsanstalt in St. Wayne, Ind., die noch heute Abend zum Dienst in der Mission im fernen China abgeordnet wird. Diesen lieben Drei wollen die ganze Gemeinde und andere Mitchristen und Freunde zum Abschied Gottes Segen und Schutz anwünschen zum Amtsantritt und zur Abreise.

Für eine kleine Gemeinde wie die St. Martini ist es in der Tat auch ein seltenes Ereignis, daß sie zugleich drei Arbeiter aus ihrer Mitte in den Dienst des Herrn stellen darf,—einen Prediger, einen Lehrer und eine Diakonistin—und ist es gewißlich lobenswert, daß die Glieder dieser Gemeinde ihren lieben Kindern einen solchen Abschiedsgottesdienst veranstalten. Ist doch das Werk der Mission, es sei in der Nähe oder in der Ferne, unserm lieben Heilande ein überaus wohlgefälliges; denn er selbst hat seinen Jüngern den Befehl gegeben: „Gehet hin in alle Welt und prediget das Evangelium aller Kreatur!“ „Gehet hin und lehret alle Völker und taufet sie im Namen des Vaters und des Sohnes und des heiligen Geistes! Und lehret sie halten alles, was ich euch befohlen habe. Und siehe, ich bin bei euch alle Tage bis an der Welt Ende.“ Jeder aufrichtige Christ und jede wahrhaft christliche Gemeinde hat darum ebenfalls ein großes Wohlgefallen am Werke der Mission, d. i., an der Ausbreitung des Reiches Jesu Christi in dieser Welt und freut sich, wenn Söhne oder Töchter unter ihr berufen sind, sich für den Dienst im Reiche Gottes nicht nur auszubilden, sondern nach Vollendung des Studiums auch unter die Heiden auszusenden zu lassen. Ja, was kann es wohl für ein wichtigeres, köstlicheres und dem Herrn gefälligeres Unternehmen geben als das Werk der Mission, da eine Gemeinde oder eine Synode Missionare hinaussendet in die Welt armen Sündern, die von ihrem Seligmacher noch nichts wissen und daher in Finsternis und Schatten des Todes sitzen, weil sie den Weg zum Himmel nicht kennen, das seligmachende Evangelium von dem gekreuzigten und auferstandenen Heiland zu verkündigen!

Diese lieben Drei, die in den Dienst der Mission treten, gehen daher auf Gottes Wegen und das Werk, welches sie im Namen Gottes beginnen und führen wollen, ist Gottes Werk. So sind wir ganz getroßt und fröhlich in dem Herrn unserm Gott und entlassen sie unter Anwünschungen göttlichen Segens und Beistandes und Schutzes.

Im Namen der ganzen St. Martini Gemeinde und im Namen aller anwesenden Mitchristen und Freunde rufe ich euch, ihr lieben Missionare, und Dir, geliebte Tochter, die du sogar in's ferne Heidenland nach China

reistest, das verlesene schöne Wort des alten, frommen Tobias zum Abschied zu:

„So ziehet hin! Gott sei mit euch auf dem Wege, und sein Engel geleite euch!“  
Läßt mich euch kurz zeigen:

1. was dieser Segenswunsch in sich schließt, und
2. woran er euch stets erinnern soll!

1.

Das schöne Abschiedswort unseres Textes hat einst der fromme und gottesfürchtige Israelit Tobias zu seinem Sohne, der ebenfalls Tobias hieß, geredet. Beide saßen in der assyrischen Gefangenschaft zu Ninive und wohnten unter Heiden, aber als treue Kinder der wahren sichtbaren Kirche des Alten Testaments, als rechte Israeliten haben sie auch im Heidenlande trotz vieler Trübsale und mancherlei Anfechtungen ihren Glauben und ihre Gottesfurcht treulich bewahrt.

Der junge Tobias erhielt von seinem Vater verschiedene Anordnungen und sollte nun auch in seinem Auftrage eine Reise nach Medien machen. Dazu sollte er sich einen treuen Gefährten suchen, der mit ihm gehe. Der Sohn fand auch bald einen feinen jungen Gefellen, der jedoch, ohne daß er es wußte, kein anderer als der Engel Raphael war. Der junge Tobias und der Engel in Menschengestalt gingen nun hinein zu dem alten Vater um Abschied von ihm zu nehmen. Aber auch der alte Tobias erkannte in dem Gefährten seines Sohnes keinen Engel und sprach deshalb zu beiden: „So ziehet hin! Gott sei mit euch auf dem Wege und sein Engel geleite euch!“

Tobias wußte es wohl, daß sein Sohn zu seinem Unternehmen und zu seiner Reise Gottes Schutz und Beistand nötig habe und darum wünschte er ihm und seinem Gefährten Gottes Segen und der Engel Geleite. Sein Segenswunsch ist auch in Erfüllung gegangen; denn der Herr tut was die Gottesfürchtigen begehren, er hört ihre Schreien und hilft ihnen. Wie sich ein Vater über Kinder erbarmet so erbarmet sich der Herr über die, so ihn fürchten. Das wissen alle Christen bis auf den heutigen Tag und das wissen auch wir, und darum wünschen wir euch Gottes Segen, Beistand und Schutz auf allen euren Wegen des Amtes und Berufs und in allen Nöten und Gefahren des Leibes und der Seele, indem wir euch zurufen: „So ziehet hin! Gott sei mit euch auf dem Wege und sein Engel geleite euch!“

Ihr Lieben, die ihr heute Abend Ehrengäste seid und nun bald von uns scheidet, um euren Dienst in der Mission anzutreten, ihr habt in demselben euch höchst wichtiger und schwerer Aufträge zu entledigen, Aufträge von denen euer und euer anvertrauten Seelen Heil abhängt.

Ihnen, geliebter Herr Missionsprediger ist ganz besonders anbefohlen von eurem lieben Heilande: „Gehet hin in alle Welt und predigt das Evangelium aller Kreatur!“ Reden Sie daher und schweigen Sie nicht von Christo dem einigen Seligmacher der Welt! Rufen Sie laut allen armen Sündern zu: „Gott war in Christo und versöhnete die Welt mit ihm selber und rechnete ihnen ihre Sünde nicht zu, und hat unter uns aufgerichtet das Wort von der Versöhnung. So bitten wir nun an Christus' Statt: Lasset euch versöhnen mit Gott! Siehe, das ist Gottes Lamm, welches der Welt Sünde trägt! Das Blut Jesu Christi des Sohnes Gottes macht uns rein von allen Sünden. Glaube an den Herrn Jesum Christum, so wirst du und dein Haus selig. Bitten Sie alle auf's herzlichste doch ja die in Christo Jesu dargebotene Hand Gottes zur Versöhnung anzunehmen, ihr Herkommen aufzutun in Buße und sich von Gott reichlich in Christo Jesu beschenken zu lassen mit allerlei geistlichen Segen in himmlischen Gütern, mit Gnade, Frieden, Leben und Seligkeit.

(Fortsetzung folgt in nächster Nummer)