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Lutheran Diaconal Association

10-1934

The Lutheran Deaconess, Vol. 11, No. 4

Lutheran Deaconess Association

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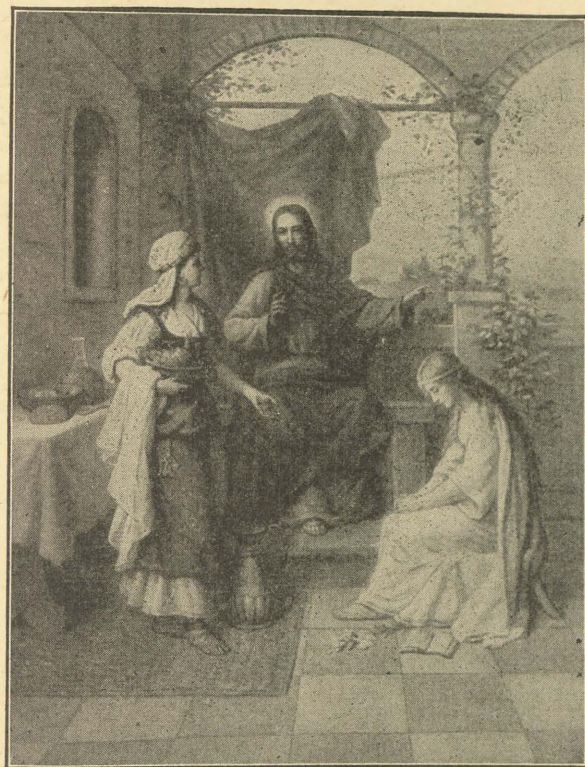
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The Lutheran Deaconess

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

Vol. 11



No. 4

OCTOBER - - - 1934

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

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION

The annual meeting of the Lutheran Deaconess Association will be held at St. Paul's Hall, Fort Wayne, Indiana, on Sunday afternoon, October 28, beginning at 3:00. Many important matters will be presented for discussion and all members who can possibly attend are urged to do so. The treasurer, Mr. E. F. Niemeyer, will make his annual report, which will show the financial condition of the Association; the superintendent will report on his work; the office secretary, Deaconess Martha Schmidt, will tell us about the activities of her office as secretary and supervising deaconess of the Home; and deaconesses present will speak on the work in their respective fields of labor. Besides these reports other matters of great importance to the Association will come up for discussion. The superintendent will submit the draft of the Deaconess Manual, which he has written at the request of the Deaconess Conference. The change in the system of Deaconess Training will be submitted for ratification. The question of the location of the School for Deaconesses will be up for discussion. These and other questions of vital importance will come before the meeting. Be sure to attend, if you can!

The term of office of the following members of the Board of Directors expires: Rev. W. Klausung, Prof. E. E. Foelber, and Teacher H. G. Nuoffer. The committee on nominations has selected the following as candidates: The present incumbents and Rev. Aug. Buuck, Rev. E. W. Weber, and Teacher L. Luepke. No additional candidates have been nominated in response to notice in the last "Lutheran Deaconess." All members of the Association have the right to vote. Those not present may vote by proxy or they may send in their votes directly. Send your vote to the secretary, the Rev. Arno Scholz, 3215 S. Anthony Blvd., Ft. Wayne, Indiana, or to the superintendent.

AN APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF OUR DEACONESS CAUSE

Thoughts in preparation for the Annual Meeting of the Association suggested this article on our Deaconess Cause and the appeal for its support. It may be found helpful to our members in their effort to interest others in the work of our Association. Most of our people still have very hazy ideas concerning deaconess work, many know nothing at all about it. Even many of the members of our Association are not as well informed as they might be. They will, undoubtedly, welcome

items of information and also suggestions as to how they may help our cause.

The Lutheran Deaconess Association within the Synodical Conference was organized in 1919. The purpose of the Association is to educate and train Lutheran deaconesses for the ministry of mercy in charitable institutions and to serve as helpers in parish work as also in the Home and Foreign Missions of our Church. We would furnish trained women church-workers to serve in our Lutheran hospitals, in our Homes for orphans and old people, and other charitable institutions, in our congregations, and in various missions at home and abroad. We do not train our deaconesses to serve in the office of the public ministry. Women are barred from this office by God (I Cor. 14, 34), and our deaconesses are taught to observe conscientiously the principle involved. But there is much work to be done in the Church, which, if being done at all, is being done by women, and much of it can be done by women only. Think of the care of the sick, of the care of orphans and homeless children and old people, of mission work among the women in heathen lands, of many phases of work in congregations, etc. To do work of this kind properly and with the object of saving souls, which is the one and great purpose in all church-work, women helpers must not only have the zeal to be of assistance, but they must have the necessary instruction and training for such work. Says Dr. Ohl in his book, "The Inner Mission": "Wichern, indeed, summoned the entire body of believers into the service of the Inner Mission; but, like Fliedner, he also saw that for its varied activities specially trained workers were needed, and those who would become such must possess certain natural and spiritual endowments. In the tasks which the Inner Mission imposes zeal without knowledge, good intentions without judgment, impulses that are only humanitarian, and, above all, mere sentimentalism, will not suffice. Among the natural gifts required are tact, discretion, patience, executive ability, a fair measure of good health, and a mind capable of grasping both principles and practice. But special training can only then make these gifts really effective when they are the possession of living believers, whose hearts burn with love to their Lord, and who regard all their efforts in behalf of His needy brethren in the world as a service unto Him." Wichern was the founder of the "Rauhe Haus" at Hamburg and Fliedner is the "Father of the Modern Female Diaconate." They both saw the need of training Inner Mission workers and made provision for such

training. Special instruction and training is just as necessary for church-workers to-day, if not more so. That is why we educate and train deaconesses as helpers in the work of the Church.

Our courses of study in Deaconess subjects include: Bible Study, History of Missions, Church History, Comparative Religion, Spiritual Ministry, Personal Mission Work, and other subjects that will help to train the deaconesses for efficient work in the Church.

Anyone who wishes to train as a deaconess must be a member of a congregation whose pastor is affiliated with the Synodical Conference. Only girls and women of good Christian character and reputation, who are sincere in their desire to serve the Savior in serving their fellowmen can be admitted to training. The pastor's recommendation is therefore required. They must also submit a certificate of health by their physician.

Until now we have had three schools for training deaconesses, one in connection with the Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, Indiana, one at the Bethesda Home for Feeble-Minded and Epileptics at Watertown, Wisconsin, and one at the Deaconess Hospital, Beaver Dam, Wisconsin. Our deaconess students received their course in Deaconess subjects at the same time while they were training as nurses or serving at Bethesda. Next fall, God willing, we shall open our regular Deaconess School. Those who wish to take up deaconess training will then come to our school after they have finished their other preparatory training. Those who wish to be deaconess nurses will finish their course in nursing first and then apply for entrance into our Deaconess Training School. Our students must be graduate nurses or must have had other special schooling or practical experience and training in institutional work or in some other occupation that gave them preparation for the work they would later do as deaconesses. It has not been definitely decided where the School is to be located. If no other opening presents itself, we shall open the same in the Deaconess Home in Fort Wayne. The course in deaconess training will last one year, during which time the students will give their entire time and attention to an intensive course of theoretical and practical training as deaconesses. At the time of installation the deaconess promises to be faithful to her calling. Otherwise she makes no special vows.

Any communicant member of a congregation within the Synodical Conference may become a member of the Deaconess Association by paying the annual dues of \$1.00. This includes the sub-

scription to the "Lutheran Deaconess." We have about 3,500 members. We should have about 10,000 so as to enable us to carry on the work without being hindered and hampered by lack of funds. We ask all our members to help us gain more members. We ask all who are not members as yet and who may read this to join our Association. We ask for your moral support. Show an interest in our work and help us to build an organization that will give the best possible service to the Church. We ask for your help in putting our trained workers into positions for which they have prepared themselves. We ask for your prayers that God may give us the proper wisdom and that He may guide us in perfecting a Lutheran Deaconess Organization that will be governed by strictly biblical principles and that will prove a real blessing to our Church.

Probably your Young People's Society or some other society of the congregation would be interested in hearing a lecture on Deaconess Work and seeing slides, showing pictures of the work being done by our deaconesses. A set of slides and the lecture may be rented for a nominal fee from the Walther League Headquarters, 6438 Eggleston Ave., Chicago, Ill. A collection could be taken when showing these slides to pay for the small expense and the surplus sent us as a contribution. This would serve the twofold purpose of acquainting our people with our deaconess work and also give us financial aid. If distance does not forbid, the superintendent will gladly come and address the congregation or a society. In some congregations the Ladies' Aid sends in an annual contribution. Probably you could persuade your Ladies' Aid to do likewise. We shall be thankful for any support given us.

Our work has been richly blessed by God. Our Association is only fifteen years old and we have at present 58 deaconesses in our organization. Other Deaconess organizations in our country marvel at this rapid growth. Yet, there is much room for expansion of our work in our Lutheran Church of the Synodical Conference. There is a great need for church-workers as we train them. Our greatest problem is to convince our own people of the necessity and advantage of employing our deaconesses as helpers in those positions where such workers are needed. We are not discouraged, though, but confidently believe that with the help of God our work will continue to grow and will prove a blessing to the Church and to many immortal souls.

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. H. B. Kohlmeier, 225 Haskell St., Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

Send all subscriptions, memorial wreath donations, and membership dues to Deaconess Martha Schmidt, 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

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VICE PRES.: Prof. E. E. Foelber, Concordia College, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

SECRETARY: Rev. Arno Scholz, 3215 So. Anthony Blvd., Fort Wayne, Ind.

TREASURER: Mr. E. F. Niemeyer, 705 Madison St., Fort Wayne, Ind.

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Predigt gehalten von Pastor W. Bekemeier in dem
Installations-Gottesdienst in Watertown, Wis.,

am 1. Juli, 1934.

Römer 16, 1. 2.

In Christo herzlich geliebte Festgenossen, insonderheit
geehrte Diakonissinnen!

Das eben verlesene Gotteswort berichtet uns von einer christlichen Diakonissin namens Phöbe, die im Dienste der Gemeinde zu Kenchrea stand. Ihre Hauptarbeit bestand in der Armen- und Krankenpflege unter den Gliedern der Gemeinde. Nötig war diese Arbeit, weil viele Glieder in der Verfolgung Hab und Gut verloren hätten. Und daß sie auch gottgefällig war, erkennen wir aus dem Umstande, daß der Heilige Geist den Apostel antreibt, die Christen zu Rom zu ermahnen, diese Phöbe aufzunehmen in dem Herrn, wie es den Gläubigen

geziemt. Das heißt, sie sollen ihr nicht bloß Gastfreundschaft erweisen, sondern sie als eine Schwester um ihres Dienstes willen werthhalten.

Was Phöbe einst tat, das habt auch Ihr zu Eurem Lebensberuf gewählt; Ihr wollt in der Kirche als Diakonissen dienen. Diese Arbeit ist auch heute nötig, und wenn sie in rechter Gesinnung getan wird, auch gottgefällig.

Mit dem heutigen Tage ist nun nicht eure Lernzeit, aber eure Vorbereitungszeit zum Abschluß gekommen. Ihr habt Euer Ziel erreicht und wollt jetzt in eure Arbeit eintreten. Darum ist es ein rechter Freudentag für Euch, für die Leiter und Lehrer dieser Anstalt, und auch für mich, da eine unter Euch mir besonders nahe steht.

Laßt mich daher jetzt nach Anleitung unseres Textes zu Euch reden

Von der Arbeit christlicher Diakonissen in der Kirche.

Wir achten kurz auf drei Punkte:

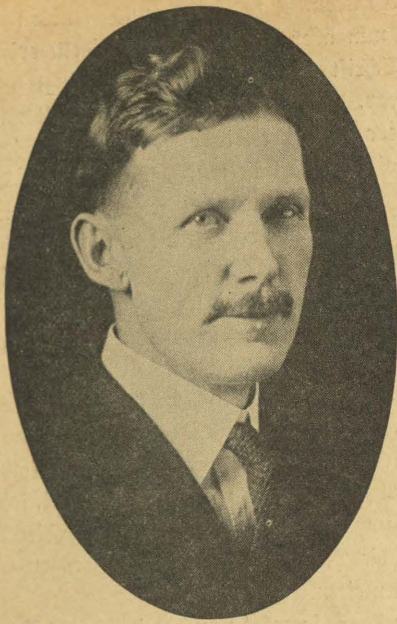
1. Was dies für Arbeit ist,
2. Was allein Euch Lust und Kraft verleiht, und
3. Was Ihr tun müßt, um diese Kraft zu erlangen.

1.

Ueber eure Arbeit in der Kirche wird von Menschen verschieden geurteilt. Wie es Leute gibt, die da meinen, daß die Arbeit eines Pastors eine leichte, ja eigentlich gar keine Arbeit sei, so urteilen auch viele über die Arbeit der Diakonissen. Aber wahr ist das nicht. Die Pflege der Armen und Kranken ist einmal eine schwere Arbeit. In der Regel sind es nicht Blutsverwandte, nicht Eltern und Geschwister, auch nicht Bekannte und gute Freunde, sondern solche Personen, die Euch meistens ganz fremd sind und ferne stehen. Viele von diesen gehören auch nicht zu den geduldigen und zufriedenen, sondern sind solche, die oft recht mürrisch und ungeduldig werden können. Nun ist es schon nicht leicht, wenn man solche für einige Tage pflegen muß, aber schwer ist es, solche für Monate und Jahre zu pflegen. Eure Arbeit ist ferner auch eine verantwortliche. Als christliche Diakonissen habt Ihr nicht bloß für die Leiblichen, sondern auch für die Seelenbedürfnisse Eurer Anbefohlenen zu sorgen. B. B., die Euch anvertrauten und verwahrlosten Kinder in den Kinderheimen sollt Ihr nicht bloß in Gotteswort unterrichten, sondern auch nach Gottes Wort erziehen. Ihr habt die Elternpflichten an den Kindern Gotte gegenüber. Sagt, Geliebte, sollte das leichte Arbeit sein? Sollten treue und gewissenhafte Diakonissen da ein faules, leichtes und gemüthliches Leben haben? Gewißlich nicht!

2.

Zu dieser Arbeit ist Lust und Kraft nötig. Wo findet Ihr die? Diese Eigenschaften sind Euch nicht angeboren; Ihr findet sie nicht in Eurem natürlichen Herzen. Sie müssen von außen kommen. Aber welches ist die Quelle, aus welcher Ihr sie schöpfen könnt? Wenn jemand unter



OUR TREASURER, MR. E. F. NIEMEYER

No one will be more surprised than Mr. Niemeyer himself at seeing his picture in the "Lutheran Deaconess." We need not say that his picture appears without his knowledge. If we had asked him for permission, he would have, undoubtedly, denied our request. It will please many of our deaconesses, though. Most of our deaconesses know Mr. Niemeyer personally, and the others will be just as glad to see the face of the man who so faithfully and regularly sends them their checks. Upon our part it is a token of appreciation to honor Mr. Niemeyer in this way for his faithful and tireless service which he renders the Association. Not only does he look most carefully after the financial interest of our Association, but he never refuses to serve in every way that he can. When meetings are to be arranged, when cars are needed for deaconesses and students at installation services, when the deaconesses at the Home need help and advice, when visitors are to be entertained, whatever it may be that must be done for the deaconesses or for the cause, Mr. Niemeyer never fails us. He has been on the Board and treasurer of the Association for nine years and his interest in the cause has never waned.—And now, Mr. Niemeyer, don't be angry with us. We won't do it again!

NEWS ITEMS

The following deaconesses were placed during the last months: Freda Martin, R. N., at the Lutheran Orphans' Home, Addison, Illinois; Clara Bekemeier at the Institute for the Deaf, Detroit,

Michigan; Dona Werling at the Orphans' Home, Indianapolis, Indiana; Louise Moehlenbrock, in the City Mission, Baltimore, Maryland.

Deaconess Katherine Laesch has returned to Bethesda after spending a month in Lincoln, Nebraska, nursing Mr. Herbolsheimer in his last illness and assisting the bereaved family after Mr. Herbolsheimer's death.

We were much pleased to have as our visitors the Rev. and Mrs. G. H. Stelter. Rev. Stelter is one of our missionaries in India and is home on a furlough. Mrs. Stelter is our former deaconess Gertrude Oberheu. They paid a visit to the hospital at Beaver Dam and called on the superintendent. Come again, good friends, and let us know in advance. We should be grateful if you would give an address on missionwork in India to our class!

We express our sympathy to Deaconess Louise Rathke in her sorrow over the death of her father and the serious illness of her brother. She is at home at present at Olpe, Kansas, nursing her brother until she will be called to return to India. May the God of all consolation comfort her and give her strength of faith in this time of tribulation! "Beloved, it is well, God's ways are always right, And perfect love is o'er them all, though far above our sight."

Among the visitors at the Deaconess Home, Fort Wayne, this summer were: Prof. F. W. J. Sylwester, of Portland, Oregon; Deaconess Rachel Reichert of the Baltimore Motherhouse; and our deaconesses Viola Haag, of the Orphanage at Des Peres, Mo., Martha Theilmann, of the Institute for the Deaf, Detroit, Mich., and Lydia Lutz, of the Orphans' Home at Indianapolis. The deaconesses at the Home are always glad to have their friends visit them. When in Ft. Wayne pay the Home a visit and get acquainted!

Deaconess Cora Leader is placed temporarily at the Orphans' Home in Indianapolis.

The slide lecture has been revised and a few new slides added, bringing it more up to date. We have a set of beautiful slides on deaconess work and anyone giving the lecture before his people will not be disappointed with the same.

When this issue of the "Deaconess" reaches our readers, the superintendent will be on a lecture tour, God willing. On October 7, he will preach at Uniontown, Perry County, Mo., and give the lecture at Perryville in the evening. On Monday evening, October 8, the lecture will be given at Frohna; on the 9th in St. Louis; on the 11th at Alma, Mo.; and on the 12th at Lotts Creek, Iowa.

This time we bring a group picture of the class of deaconesses which graduated at Beaver Dam this spring. It is the largest class ever graduated from this School. Of this class deaconess Bender is stationed at the Children's Home, Wauwatosa, Wisconsin, and deaconess Werling at the Orphans' Home at Indianapolis, Indiana. Positions are wait-

ing for deaconesses Dey and Gallmeyer, as soon as they finish their course in nursing. Deaconesses Redmer and Pohlmann are on their vacation, ready to accept a call. Deaconesses Neuendorf, Renken, and Wolsky will finish their nurse's training in the course of the next months.

On Sunday, October 14th, the superintendent will preach at the celebration of the fortieth anniversary of the congregation in which he was ordained forty years ago. On the 17th the lecture will be given at Belle Plaine, Minn., on the 18th at Wirona, Minn., on the 19th at Caledonia, Minn., and on the 21st at Eitzen, Minn. After that we will be glad to hasten home again.

On August 19th, the superintendent had the privilege to give an address on Deaconess Work at the mission festival of the congregation at the Indian Mission, Gresham, Wisconsin.

PRAYING FOR OTHERS

A minister was praying at the bedside of a dying woman. "Wait a moment," she said as he started to rise from his knees. "I want to pray for you." And very tenderly she prayed with her

hands upon his head. "For ten years, ever since you became my pastor I have offered that prayer for you every morning and night," she told him. The minister went away with tears in his eyes and a strange warmth in his heart. He had known that this woman was sweet-spirited and true, but he had never guessed that he had a place in her prayers day and night. "I wonder how many of my six hundred members pray for me," he asked himself. Not all of them, certainly, yet doubtless more of them prayed for him than he dreamed. The thought was sweet and helpful to him. There is strength for all faithful men and women in the prayers of those who love them. Many a young man has been restrained from sin by the thought that his mother was praying for him. Many a daughter has found it easier to be faithful because she remembered the voice of her father as he

constant, steady employment in useful labor. In a peculiar manner," says Dr. Pierce, "Wichern relied upon the Word of God. He made the whole Bible the familiar companion and food of the pupil. The whole Scripture was made open to their minds, in an impressive series of readings, like a mine of priceless metal—reaching a climax in the Evangel of the New Testament. The thought that, miserable, wicked, despised as they were, Christ, the Son of God loved them—loved them enough to suffer and die for them, and still loved them—melted their hearts, and gave them both hope and a strong incentive to reformation."

As the Rauhe Haus is now constituted, it is partly a refuge for morally neglected children, partly a boarding school for the moral and intellectual education of those children of the higher classes whose vicious or unmanageable character make them fit subjects for training by such competent hands as the Rauhe Haus superintendents; lastly, a training school for those who wish to become teachers or officials in houses of correction, hospitals, etc., in promotion of the objects of Inner Mission. This is an especially important enterprise. Its trained men are employed in positions of trust, such as prison directors, stewards of es-

trousers. Our sight have given material and spiritual aid to emigrants for America and Australia. Others have become city-missionaries, or prison superintendents, or managers of asylums for the insane, or of houses of correction. They all have not ceased to thank Father Wichern for having pointed their feet on the path of Christian service.

One day a young naval officer entered the gates of the institution. He looks eagerly to the right towards the old Rauhe Hause; then to the left, towards the mother-house, the "Green Pine Tree." You can tell that he is well acquainted here. His eyes rest upon the family house near by, called "The Anchor." He had made his home there for a number of years and had gained his education within its walls. He tells us, with a tear starting to his eye: "Like others, I would have become a tramp, if I had not come here. But I learned in this place that labor makes us useful, and I learned to raise my eyes to Him, from whom alone come all things and who guides our footsteps!"

More than 3000 children have passed through the institution. Many a one has revisited the place with wife and children, and has spoken words similar to these, and has blessed the memory of John Hinrich Wichern.