



DIACONews

A semi-annual publication for Diaconal Ministers of the ELCA

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Reconnecting with the Past Looking toward the Future

by **Beth Barkhau**

December 9, 2007 marked the 100th anniversary of St. Paul Lutheran Church in Aiken, South Carolina. Anniversary years present great opportunities for celebrations, commemorations, and much more. When asked how I would like to help contribute to the celebration year, I immediately knew the answer.

My greatest joy is teaching - leading other adults in finding their voices, helping them to utilize their gifts, and empowering them to live out their faith in new and renewed ways is central to my call as diaconal minister in this particular body of Christ. Thus, I shared with the 100th anniversary committee that it would be my desire to facilitate a study tour of Germany with a diaconal thread woven within. In addition to planning and facilitating this intergenerational trip, I would offer an optional year of study leading up to the departure.

I did not want to lead the typical Reformation tour - as wonderful and awesome as it is to visit Eisleben, Erfurt, Eisenach, Wittenberg, Augsburg - yes, all those great Luther sites! No, I wanted to do that and more...I wanted the travelers to connect with servants past and present. Thus, for a year leading up to a June 2007 departure, members and friends of St. Paul Lutheran gathered for multiple short four to six week units of study, one night fellowship meals, guest lectures, movies and much more. Together we immersed ourselves in the history and arts of Germany. Based on a shared leadership model, all who came were invited to teach, lead, and share their gifts - through Bible study, music, poetry, news clippings, storytelling, and much more! Together we studied Scripture, read both Luther and Bonhoeffer, we revisited the Confessions, wrestled with 20th Century reunification, and renewal. We sang great hymns, some studied Bach and Wagner, while others led us to revisit language basics. By the end of the year, everyone traveling, and then some, had shared their faith journeys as well as their love of history. (Continued on pages 8 and 9)



Thank You!



Since January 2006 Jennifer Krueger has faithfully edited DiacoNews. Her demanding call to China Service Ventures as their Director of Communications has clarified for Jennifer that she needs to step away from her role as editor. We are very grateful for Jennifer's efforts over these past two and a half years and we wish her all God's blessings as she discerns where God is leading her next to serve. Thank you, Jennifer, for your partnership in ministry and the wonderful contribution you made to this community as DiacoNews editor!

Volunteer Position - DiacoNews Editor

The Communications Team of the Diaconal Ministry Community is looking for an individual to serve as our volunteer DiacoNews Editor. Desirable qualities and job description for this position are as follows:

- .. Willingness and commitment to do a newsletter bi-monthly
- .. Access to desk top publishing and ability to make PDF files
- .. Access to email and a willingness to check it often
- .. Participate in quarterly conference calls of the Communications Team
- .. Commitment to subscribe to CDMTALK and a willingness to be proactive in identifying prayer requests
- .. Intentional contact with diaconal ministers and candidates to seek out new and interesting articles from the community

If you would like to learn more or to volunteer, please contact Kris Perry at: dmkrisperry@yahoo.com

ELCA Redesigned Web Site

Have you seen the new ELCA Web site launched last April? The new design focuses on four main themes: Who We Are, What We Believe, Our Faith in Action, and Growing In Faith.

The Diaconal Ministry web site can still be found at <http://www.elca.org/diaconalministry/>. Our web site is also now listed under the Vocation and Education Unit of the ELCA. Check it out!

Good-Bye and Welcome!

For the past several years it has been our privilege to have Bishop Murray Finck serve as our official diaconal ministry bishop to the Conference of Bishops of the ELCA. It is now time to say good-bye to Bishop Finck as he begins a new assignment as an advisor for the Task Force for the ELCA Studies on Sexuality.

Every four years the Conference of Bishops rotates assignments, so we now welcome **Bishop Ralph Jones** of the Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod as our new advisor to the diaconal ministry community and leadership team. Bishop Jones volunteered for this assignment because of his interest in our roster and his proximity to Gettysburg, since one of his responsibilities is also relating to the Formation Event.

We look forward to getting to know Bishop Jones and working together as we continue to grow as a roster and community, and we wish Bishop Finck all the best in his new endeavors.

DM Web Site Updated

Our web site is always a work in progress, so if you see errors on the site, please let us know so we can keep it current.

Also, the "Seek Out Those Places" power point presentation created by Kathy Massa is located under Resources and is a wonderful way for you to share diaconal ministry with your congregation.

Check out the **Consecration Handbook** under Resources for information about our Community and how to plan your consecration.

Practical Lessons

by Heather Oberdeck

Having grown up on a hobby farm in the Twin Cities, we were taught about manual labor. A minimum of two working hours daily was expected of us kids - whether in my mother's various gardens or helping my dad with chores or lawn care.

Now I live in a townhome and pay for an association to care for my lawn and flowers, leaving me with a feeling of yearning to work the soil, water and mud to get dirty! So, I joined the Dunn County Fish and Game. Traditionally, this is an organization for men; however, two other bold women and myself joined this roughneck-looking group to help the community with conservation projects and create a voice in the community for awareness of environmental stewardship. Of course, these men are all quipped with guns in their pick-up trucks, and probably one hand holding a beer, but they are good men with a vision. Many of the members from the Dunn County Fish and Game attend Peace Lutheran Church in Menomonie, where I am called, so it's a large bridge that is being established with a community focus. With their inspiration and a national initiative, our congregation is hosting a week-long Environmental Stewardship Event, filled with projects for children, youth and families. We will be creating opportunities for members to "get their hands dirty," by assisting their neighbors (whom are senior citizens) to plant gardens, or learn to use a chainsaw to clear brush from Gilbert Creek for fly fishing. There will be practical lessons on how to make minor changes within the home to conserve energy and water. It's an intergenerational partnership for community and congregation and one that lives and breathes the Christian faith and our callings as God's beloved children to live in conservation and hope for a future.

The National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) has proclaimed April 27-May 4, 2008 as Stewardship Week with the theme, *Water is Life*. During its annual Stewardship Week celebration, *Water is Life* encourages individuals to think about personal responsibility to be a good steward of the natural resources, including water.

The Earth's water is in constant motion in the process known as the hydrologic (water) cycle. There is no beginning or end to the hydrologic cycle. Water available to users can change due to the cycles of weather and changes in water quality. Throughout time, the same water has been transferred into the Earth's atmosphere and dropped on land again where it follows the water cycle through plants, soil, water bodies, animals and clouds. That means the water we use today is the same water that was here when dinosaurs roamed the land.

(Continued on page 4)

Seeing Amazing Grace

by Leslie Whited Vance

In talking with Gaitri, a young woman whose family moved from India to Holland, and who is now owner of GiGi's Corner in the new Worlds of Art Shoppe at LSS of Utah, I was asked the question, "How long have you been serving at LSS of Utah?" I had to stop and think! Suddenly, I realized that it was the 10th month (October), the 10th day and I had, indeed, served faithfully, if imperfectly, for exactly 10 years.

Suddenly, I realized that unlike some of my friends who receive gift certificates, clocks, Utah belt buckles, awards, monetary gifts and other honors for the length of their service, what I would really like most would be donations (above current giving) for the start-up expenses of the World of Arts Shoppe which have totaled nearly \$5k.

Why would I place such importance here? Worlds of Art Shoppe now has 28 local artists who are refugee, asylee, low-income and in general who are eagerly looking forward to the grand opening of the venue that promotes 'fair trade for local artists.'

More Blue Sky Center has artists/owners mixing with clients to talk about entrepreneurial adventures - promoting not only resume construction, but dreaming about what life might hold today and tomorrow.

Consider Elizabeth, from Sudan, pregnant with her third child, who began painting during the last two weeks and will show her beginning, rough and beautiful pieces at the show October 19-20. It's really about seeing amazing grace in this place!

Thank you for your support, patience and encouragement during the last 10 years. May God bless your place of service with similar, unique graces!

Faith Story

by Mary Lasits

I guess I'm one of those people who have always known God. My parents were Roman Catholic and as good Catholic parents I was baptized within a few weeks of life. From that moment on, God has journeyed with me. It may not have been obvious or significant, but God's presence was always felt. I enjoyed church, CCD, and loved my first communion and confirmation.

In high school, I was active in the youth group and bonded closely with the other young people in my group. By the time I graduated, we had all been there for each other in many ways and I had had a few wonderful conversations with my priest. Father Boland had always supported me. In fact, after beginning my first call, I was given the resources used when I was young. The kids were appreciated even in the 21st Century.

After high school, I attended the now University of St. Francis in Joliet, Illinois (then College of St. Francis). I graduated in 1993 with a business degree and went to work in the plastic industry. My father had passed away and I decided to go back to church, but I didn't like any of the priests in the area and my parents belonged to the local ELCA congregation. I liked the pastor and started going there.

After five years of a great job, horrible boss and a resurgence in my faith life, I decided God had to have more in mind for me. I was doing a lot of journaling and asked God almost daily for a month or two what God wanted for me. I had followed the natural part of moving on. I liked the industry I was working in, so I thought I would go back to school and get my degree in mechanical engineering, so I applied to the Illinois Institute of Technology. Only my humanities transferred. Go figure! Around this same time the chairperson of the Outreach Committee at church called for something and then said maybe I should go to seminary. It was one of those very surreal moments because it seemed like the man's voice changed and God was speaking directly to me.

I applied to the Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago as an M. Div. student. I wasn't totally convinced of this, but I listened to the voice I heard that day. I figured I had a few years to adjust to the idea. Within weeks we were being told about a teaching parish (ministry in context). I panicked because I was by no means ready to wear a collar. I went to the admissions office and was completely ready to quit. I was asked, "What do you want to do?" I responded by wanting to make the world a better place and then I heard about diaconal ministry. I knew right away this roster was for me and that God did want me in seminary and working in and for the church.

(Continued on page 5)

Practical Lessons Continued

What can we do? Become aware of water quality and quantity in your community. Understand how watersheds work. We all live in a watershed. Watersheds are the places we call home, where we work and where we play. Everyone relies on water and other natural resources to exist. What you and others do on the land impacts the quality and quantity of water and our other natural resources. Managing the water and other natural resources is an effective and efficient way to sustain the local economy and environmental health.

One person can make a difference. As a diaconal minister, I have been able to connect with one group whose vision is conservation and creating a healthy heritage for the future. In learning from the members of the Dunn County Fish and Game, my own awareness and call to live responsibly for God's creation has led me to inspire others, and personally I have been able to work beside them in tending an important soil, by living my faith. The voice of justice and respect comes in many forms including stewardship, for "God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day." Genesis 1:31. For more information go to: www.nacdnnet.org.

DM Pictorial Directory

We would like to send an updated pictorial directory of the consecrated DM community and those approved awaiting call via email as a PDF file. If you have a change in information over the past year and/or would like to submit a current color photo, please send current information to dmkrisperry@yahoo.com

News from the Guiding Principles Team

by Marlene Daubert, Team Chair and
Kim Winchell, DMLT Liaison

“Developing a Purpose Statement and Guiding Principles for our DM Community”

After the last gathering in Carefree, AZ in April, 2007, a team of us were charged with working on developing “guiding principles” for our community. The first questions we sought to answer were, “What is the purpose of the diaconal community” and “Why do we exist?” (Please note that the unfolding purpose of our DM “community” is perceived to be different than the purpose of our “roster,” which is set by the ELCA Constitution and governed by the Vocation and Education Unit.)

So what is the purpose of our DM community? We found this a very difficult question to answer, although essential to moving forward in the same direction. Part of the challenge lies in the wonderful blessing of how the number of consecrated diaconal ministers has grown (to nearly 160), such that there are a variety of perspectives on what it even means to have, or to be, a “community.” In many ways, it depends upon when, in our collective history, one has entered into this roster and in how “community” as a DM is experienced, or not, and even in how one interprets that “Sixth Mark” that says we are to be “grounded in community.” And with our Guiding Principles (GP) Team members spread across the country in four time zones, it took us several phone calls and many emails to arrive at the brief statement you will see below. We would also emphasize that it was a good group effort, arising out of both reflection and earnest conversation. We are pleased to submit the draft statement below to the community.

An early part of the GP Team process was to look to the early church in our Bible study (Acts 11, Acts 15:1-29 and Acts 6:1-7:60), to understand the principles used by the early church to arrive at difficult decisions. We used a participatory process to draft those principles we understood to be important to our diaconal community. Bible study, previous diaconal community documents, our experiences and our changing community were all taken into account by our team to arrive at these guiding principles.

Why have a purpose and guiding principles?

They help us and others clearly know why we exist and what values are important to our community. They help set a direction in which we can move forward together. These will give our Leadership Team (LT) grounding in which to make decisions. Note that these are also different from (and do not replace) the “Six Marks of a Diaconal Minister,” which are characteristics of individuals in this roster. The draft purpose statement and guiding principles below are for our community and a community which has been described by some as “in diaspora.” Many of us see the need for the support and encouragement that can arise out of our shared experiences of call, and process, as diaconal ministers.

(Continued on page 6)

Faith Story Continued

I baby-stepped my way through the process, but God guided me every step of the way. Just two months ago I began my second call as the Youth Coordinator for the Northern Illinois Synod and as the Director of Youth and Outreach at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in DeKalb, IL after spending 7.5 years at Peace in New Lenox. God still hasn't stopped amazing me. I was amazed at getting my first call and even more so at the second. God is using me to help make the world a better place!

What do you wish your bishop knew?

by Madelyn Herman Busse

As one who has worked in candidacy for 25 years and on a synod staff for 10, I would like to offer a guide or tips to consider before talking with your bishop or synod staff or candidacy committee. For example, rather than finding it an annoyance or burden to “explain diaconal ministry,” reframe it as an opportunity to tell the story and expand the vision of diaconal ministry potential in the life of the church. Remember that there are lots and lots of bishops (I think most) who have been elected long after the church was engaged in the Study of Ministry. Prior to that, they were parish pastors who probably didn't have much reason to pay attention. If they are in synods where they do not have living examples, or any one or two, they are unlikely to be familiar with the vision and potential of diaconal ministry. Come prepared to give examples of how other diaconal ministers are serving in other parts of the church.

Guiding Principles Continued

Our Team has used and will continue to use a participatory process for these purpose and guiding principles. Both the GP Team (who put them together) and the Leadership Team have had opportunity to give input. They are presented to you here as a draft, and your feedback and discussion is welcome, particularly on theCDMTalk list serve. The GP Team will receive and discuss the feedback. After all who wish to have had time to respond, the final form will be presented at our next gathering for approval in July 2009. In the meantime, the LT will be using this draft form to help guide their decision making, even as a “second stage” of this process begins - that of the GP Team developing recommendations towards matters of DM community “governance.” Such additional recommendations will also be shared on the list serve and brought to the next gathering for approval.

Thank you to the following team members who worked many hours on this: Margy Schmitt Ajer, Joan Braunhardt, Don Burgess, Madelyn Busse, Marlene Daubert, Melissa James, Sue Setzer, Karen White, and Kim Winchell.

(For clarification and reference), **the Purpose of the DM Roster as per the ELCA Constitution, Bylaws, and Continuing Resolutions 7.51.05:** “This church shall establish and maintain a lay roster of diaconal ministers who shall be called by this church to positions that exemplify the servant life and that seek to equip and motivate others to live it. Such diaconal ministers shall seek in a great variety of ways to empower, equip, and support all the baptized people of God in the ministry of Jesus Christ and the mission of God in the world.”

The Purpose of the Diaconal Ministry Community is:

To encourage and empower one another as servants of God and partner with others to bridge church and world.

Our Community’s Guiding Principles:

1. **We are grounded in the Word, through faith, prayer and scripture.**
2. **We listen for God’s voice – expecting the Holy Spirit to guide us through prayer, scripture, community and the cries of the world.**
3. **We work collegially – intentionally making respectful connections with each other and with our partners in ministry.**
4. **We seek to raise up effective leaders – empowering them to lead this community as we engage church and world.**
5. **We bear witness to God’s work in the world – speaking boldly and serving justly in lives of Christ-like service.**

Submitted by the GP Team (April 2008) and reviewed by the DMLT (June 2008).

Madelyn Busse Continued

When I moved from Chicago to Denver because my spouse took a new position in Denver, I requested an appointment with the bishop. Neither of us had any idea of where I might serve in this new synod. He gave me the names of several people to talk with, including the senior pastor of a very large congregation that was looking for a new associate pastor, the CEO’s of some social ministry organizations, and others. It was a wonderful opportunity to get to know some people, introduce myself, and explore possibilities. After visiting with the pastor of the congregation call process, he actually got excited about considering a diaconal minister rather than a third pastor for the staff. He quickly tried to determine if the option could still be considered by the call committee. As it turned out, the call committee was ready to extend a call, but had I been there a few months earlier, it might have gone a different direction.

My point in telling this story is to suggest that those looking for a congregational call might approach the bishop or his/her staff person responsible for call processes asking if it would be appropriate to visit with the lead pastor in places looking for new staff to explore whether the needs of the congregation might be best met by a diaconal minister. We are still pioneers, trail blazers and interpreters of this ministry. It goes with the territory.

Regional Events Being Planned

As reported in the last DiacoNews, regional events for all rostered lay leaders are being planned as a result of the Public Ministry Consultation on Lay Ministry that was held in February, 2007. It is our hope that all diaconal ministers will make an effort to attend a regional event that is convenient for you. To learn more, contact your regional coordinator. Volunteers are also needed for these events.

Diaconal Ministry Formation Event Update

by Margy Schmitt Ajer

I have two things I want to share with you all regarding the diaconal ministry formation event.

The first is to announce the staff for this summer's event. The small group leaders will be Melissa James, Rowena Henry and Pat Kane.

The second is to let you know of a change that will be happening with the DMFE. For several years we have heard a growing concern about the timing of the event. In January, there was a consultation with representatives from all of the ELCA seminaries to talk about their commitments and responsibilities in the preparation of diaconal ministers, including the DMFE. Out of that conversation the decision was made to move the DMFE to January. The event will still be held at Gettysburg, with LTSG continuing to serve as the host for the event. BUT, we are working at making this a for-credit course, and that all ELCA seminaries will provide cross registration. We will be expanding faculty in the coming years to include faculty from all of our seminaries. In addition, we are hoping to develop other January term courses, (for example: worship leadership for diaconal ministers, preaching with a diaconal lens) that again would be available for cross registration.

There is much work to be done, and I will keep you updated. But for now:

- .. It is truly good news, that all of the seminaries recognize that they have a responsibility for the preparation of diaconal ministers
- .. The seminaries are committed to going forward as partners with these new developments
- .. The July 2008 DMFE will take place
- .. There will be a DMFE in January 2009 *if* we have 20 participants by Oct. 15, 2008
- .. Beginning in January 2010, the DMFE will happen in January of each year

There are still many questions, but I believe we are headed in the right direction. Please keep the event, the staff and planners, and these seminary partners in your prayers.

Happy Retirement

Our sister in ministry, Terri McMaster, will soon retire as the Director for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Colorado with the Rocky Mountain Synod. As many of you know, Terri has served faithfully in this position for the past seven years even as she deals with the affects of multiple sclerosis. We know Terri will find new and meaningful ways to live out her call to diaconal ministry in retirement. Thank you, Terri, for your strong leadership and Godspeed in your new adventures!

Position Available

The Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA is seeking a Director for Lutheran Advocacy Ministry of Colorado. This full time position has five major areas of responsibility: 1) Advocacy with Colorado state government public policy makers in accordance with the public policy social justice commitments of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA); 2) Development of a Lutheran advocacy network among congregations, agencies and institutions for the purpose of education and a shared advocacy strategy; 3) Collegial collaboration with public policy coalitions with similar commitments; 4) Research, study, analysis and theological consideration of pending public policy concerns; and 5) Administration of the office, its budget and resources. The position includes public presentations with various ELCA entities and work with the LAM Policy Committee. A complete position description is available at www.rmselca.org. The deadline for applications is September 1, 2008. Inquiries and resumes may be sent to Madelyn Herman Busse, assistant to the bishop, 455 Sherman St., Ste 160, Denver, CO 80203 or electronically to mbusse@rmselca.org

Sr. Brigitte continued from page 1

Together, week after week, we each affirmed how our stories are woven into the larger tapestry of God's people in all lands. Of course, we laughed and cried, grew stronger in the Word, and were prepared to not simply "be" tourists. Yes, we went on this trip to reconnect with our Lutheran heritage, accompany others, and to look intentionally at the future, asking ourselves, "What is God calling us to do, to be in the days, weeks, and years to come?" What a gift it is to share life together with the people of St. Paul Lutheran!

A personal highlight for me was a visit I made to the Evangelical Lutheran Diaconal



Motherhouse in Eisenach, Germany during one of our "open days. It was at the motherhouse that I met Sister Brigitte, acting head deaconess. We spent a day together sharing the stories of our respective communities. While together, I asked Sr. Brigitte if I could record her diaconal story to share with you. These

are her words, recorded by Renate Chappell, (a fellow traveler who spoke fluent German and served as my interpreter) reprinted with permission from her travel diary.

Sister Brigitte is an Augustinian nun we met in Eisenach. She was born in what is now Poland, not far from where I was born. What fun it was to compare our childhood stories, to recall sites from before the war, and to share where the years have taken us. Sr. Brigitte stayed in what would become Eastern Germany. I immigrated to the USA. We both survived, have had full lives, and have served faithfully in our own ways.

Sister wanted to be a musician, particularly a pianist, but her family was unable to pay for lessons and with the impending war, they sold their home, her beloved piano, and began to move as the war began and progressed. With a desire to still learn and perform, Sr. Brigitte became a religious teacher to help pay for her lessons. During the communist regime, this type of teacher was not needed, so she studied to become a nurse, working in a hospital and as a traveling nurse, but never totally abandoning her desire to play in public. She talked about what life was like before and after the War and what it has been like to see a new transition, even though ever so slow after reunification of Germany.

Resource Web Site

Feautor.org is a "free, multilingual, and open space to share religious resources." This site would be a wonderful resource tool for diaconal ministers working in congregations - some specialized sites might also find some pieces helpful. Check it out at: <http://www.feautor.org>

Sharing Resources

The editorial staff of DiacoNews is always looking for fresh news to share with you. Here are some of the areas that we'd like to develop and we invite you to share: a favorite quote, a good book, creative idea for a special worship service, your call story, etc. Entries can be sent to dmkrisperry@yahoo.com or britkazmom@yahoo.com

Special ELCA Mission Investment Fund Rate

For a limited time, the Mission Investment Fund (MIF) is offering a special interest rate of 4.68% APY on its 18-month MissionTermSelect investment. Only new funds are eligible for the special rate, and the minimum investment is \$2,500. Investments can be purchased by congregations and their members, synods, and ELCA-related ministries. When you invest in the MIF, you provide vital funds to help MIF make loans to ELCA ministries for building projects and land purchases. To purchase an investment, call 773-380-2943 (877-866-3522) or visit www.missioninvestmentfund.org

Sr. Brigitte Continued from page 8

When Beth asked her how she decided to become a deaconess, she explained that when she was about to be confirmed, she was asked by her pastor if she wanted to be a nun. Her response was an emphatic, "No!" Later, she was at a well, drawing water for her family, and she was reminded of the Samaritan woman at the well.

She knew then that she had to leave the secular world behind and offer her teaching, nursing, and musical skills to God and serve others who were in need.



The deaconesses at the motherhouse in Eisenach have made paraments for many years. Sr. Brigitte was asked to create new patterns and take over the textile work of the house in addition to her nursing duties in the late 1950's. She laughed as she told us how she

had no skill in this area but said she would trust God and give it a try. Sr. Brigitte helped the motherhouse make a transition from embroidery to fine woven liturgical panels throughout the last 40 years. She has led this ministry for many years now. As she gave us a tour of the house and textile area, she explained how there are just two weavers now and that each parament takes 80 hours to create. Sr. Brigitte extended a welcome to all who would like to come back for respite and a pilgrimage. She also shared with us how we could order the paramenten.



As we walked Sister home at the end of our evening meal together, she stopped and said, "God does have a sense of humor. When I thought I would have never been a piano performer, I now know as I look back on life how I have used these skills always performing for God and leading others. Is not that funny! What a sense of humor our Lord has. I am doing what I first thought I wanted to do and I have been doing it all along!"

To learn more about the Evangelical Lutheran Diakonissen-Mutterhaus in Eisenach, Germany, visit their website at: www.diako-eisenach.de or www.diakonie.de

If you have a story to share, we would love to hear from you. The next issue is planned for September 1, so submit your story by August 1 to dmkrisperry@yahoo.com

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

**Diaconal Ministry
Community Gathering
July 18-20, 2009
GA Institute of Technology
Atlanta, Georgia**

You won't want to miss the seventh gathering of ELCA diaconal ministers located on the beautiful campus of GA Tech near Atlanta, GA. Watch your mailbox soon for registration information and pricing! Our gathering will be attached to the DOTAC gathering (see page 10 for details), also providing time to meet with ELCA Deaconesses and hopefully members of the Lutheran Deaconess Association (LDA).

We anticipate the cost of our event will not exceed \$350 per person (does not include transportation to the event and/or participation in the DOTAC gathering). Questions in the meantime can be directed to Linda Sprick Kruse, chairperson of the Gathering Planning Team, at: genesisrich@aol.com or 937-846-1979. Volunteers are also needed to serve in a variety of ways, so contact Linda if you would like to learn more.

DIAKONIA of the Americas and Caribbean (DOTAC)

cordially invites you to the
 20TH World Assembly of the DIAKONIA World Federation
Diakonia – Crossroads of Grace...Revive and Reconcile
 July 20-27, 2009
 Georgia Institute of Technology (GA Tech)
 Atlanta, GA, U.S.A.

Featuring

- .. Speaker: Sara Miles, founder of St. Gregory's Food Pantry, San Francisco, CA and noted author and speaker
- .. Bible Study Leader: Glory Dharmaraj, Executive Secretary for Justice Education for the Women's Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church
- .. Speaker: Rev. Dr. Walter Altmann, President of the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil and the Moderator of the World Council of Churches Central Committee
- .. Exciting, informative workshops
- .. Dynamic worship
- .. Off-Site visits to local ministries, Atlanta attractions (i.e. Carter Center, Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial) and more
- .. Small group discussions
- .. Regional meetings
- .. Sunday worship at local churches
- .. Cultural celebration
- .. Gifts from around the World
- .. Great food, great fellowship with brothers and sisters in Christ from around the world!
- .. Participants will travel from all three regions of the World – DAP, DIAKONIA Asia-Pacific, DOTAC, DIAKONIA of the Americas and Caribbean, and DRAE, DIAKONIA Region Africa – Europe.

Registration Fees (USD)

Delegates, Friends and Executive Committee

- .. Assembly sessions and events, lodging and meals, \$1,100
- .. Assembly sessions and events including meals, no lodging \$800
- .. Daily registration, assembly sessions and events, including meals and daily parking, no lodging \$300/day

Guests Only

- .. Lodging and meals, no assembly sessions and events, \$600

How to Register

Registration will be done online at www.RegOnline.com/Diakonia2009. Registration opens early in July, 2008 and closes February 20, 2009. Late registration will continue through April 20, 2009.

Sister Carol Burk of the ELCA Deaconess Community is the Communications Chair for this event. For further information, questions, or to learn of volunteer opportunities, contact Sr. Carol at: cburk@stphilipchurchsc.org

Birthdays

July

- 5 Janet Schauer
- 6 Joan Braunhardt
Maria Hurni
- 12 Harry prim
Becky Wiese
- 13 Amy Blumenshine
- 19 Nick Wilkens
Kim Winchell
- 22 Tammy Devine
- 23 Martha Baker
Tim Freund
- 24 Melissa James
- 25 Kris Perry
- 28 Mary Black
- 30 Beth Anderson
- 31 Jennifer Vasquez

August

- 2 Beth Barkhau
- 8 Jamie Roos
James Wise
- 10 Gloria Strickert
- 13 Marsha Roscoe
- 16 Carole Urbanski
- 17 Emily Myallis
- 28 Kathy Bonn
- 29 Marjorie Myers
- 31 Kristi Gullickson

September

- 3 Lake Lambert
Tara Ulrich
- 5 Marlene Daubert
- 6 Elaine Brant
Jennifer Krueger
Sue Setzer
- 13 Suzie Everingham
Jeff Schacht
- 14 Kati Kluckman-Ault
- 20 Kelly Howard
- 22 Amy Hartman
Bruce Romanic
- 23 David Glover

Holy God, hear our prayer

Prayers of sympathy

Sandra Reback, on the passing of her dear friend, Marj, April 9

Prayers for healing and hope

Lillian Naber, mother of Gloria Strickert, hospice care for multiple myeloma
DM Candidate, Charlie Smith, dialysis and awaiting transplant
Alex Herrera, husband of Sue Vogel, cancer remission
DM Candidate, Tamara Harder, battling breast cancer
Diana Luscombe, recovering from a severe auto accident. She continues to make remarkable progress that exceeds everyone's expectations and dreams as evidenced by her taking many steps without the aid of her therapist
Magee Rehabilitation, Room 567-2
1513 Race St
Philadelphia PA 19102-1177
Rev. Connie Kleingartner, LSTC staff, on leave for breast cancer treatment
Margaret Howell as she recovers from surgery in late May
Marjorie Myers, partial renal failure
Pat Kane and all those recently affected by the flooding in Iowa

Prayers of thanksgiving for those recently consecrated and/or anticipating consecration

156	Peggy Vuylsteke	04-27-08
157	Marsha Roscoe	06-20-08

Prayers of congratulations for those celebrating 10 years of consecrated diaconal ministry

Elaine E. Brant, May 8, 2008
Dianna S. Wentz, June 13, 2008
Jennifer A. McBride, October 11, 2008
Douglas B. Spiotta, November 1, 2008

Prayers of congratulations for achievements

Leslie White Vance, who received her Doctor of Ministry from LSTChicago May 17, 2008

Prayers of discernment to those approved, awaiting call

Denise Benjamin, Mary Black, Joel Bradtke, Ed Broestle, Lynn Bullock, Ellen Doughty, Robert Fisher, Sue Franke, Tonya Gunton, Susan Haley, Nicole Houck, Troy Jacobson, Janet Johnson, Diana Luscombe, Rachel March, Jane Mason, Kathy Massa, Rebecca Mastalerz, Janice Miller, Richard Mohr-Kelly, Emily Myallis, Sarah Parker, Janice Phoebus, Elizabeth Rietz, Terra Rowe, Diane Runyan, Janet Schauer, Nancy Selinger, Charles Smith, Shirley Talbot, Georgia Van Hoesen, Christopher Wagener, Sue Way, Loren Wehmeyer, Kelly Wilkins

Ecunet List Serve

As our Community enters into discussion about guiding principles for the community as well as governance policies and procedures, we encourage and invite all to subscribe to one of our two Ecunet List Servers. Consecrated diaconal ministers, those approved awaiting call, and candidates have an internet chat room where you are invited to make announcements, share joys and sorrows, request prayers, and discuss important topics. If you are not currently subscribing and would like an invitation to join the FREE list serve, please send your request to **dmkrisperry@yahoo.com** and an invitation will be sent to you.

Thank You!

Thank you to all who have sent in updated data base forms, new photos, and financial gifts. For those who have not already done so, receiving your updated information and financial gifts would be very much appreciated.

Why is your financial gift so important? The DMC of the ELCA relies on your support so that our ministry of service can help with gathering scholarships, administrative costs, and travel to ecumenical events. We look forward to hearing from you soon!

Help Us Update Our Files

If you received this newsletter via snail mail it is because a) We do not have a current email address for you or b) your email is not permitting mail from my address to be delivered to your inbox. In an effort to keep our costs as low as possible, it would be helpful if we could mail this bi-monthly newsletter via email. Please help us by contacting **dmkrisperry@yahoo.com** with your email address. If you are no longer pursuing rostered ministry and wish to be removed from our mailing list, please indicate that as well. Thank you for helping us keep our costs as low as possible. We really appreciate it!

DMC of the ELCA

c/o Kris Perry

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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED