



DiaconoNews

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Beth Barkhau

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Last Call to Register for Diakonia 2009

by Registrar, Jan Cherry

When I was first approved for call in June of 2007, one of the first things I did was to visit our Diaconal Community website on ELCA.org and see what resources were there. I was delighted to find and download the "ELCA Diaconal Ministry Handbook entitled: "Community and Consecration". I read with great interest the descriptions of actions taken at the Community Gatherings as our community began to take shape and read with delight that those approved, awaiting Call are welcomed into the community and invited to participate in the gatherings. I could not wait until the first one rolled around!

I read with joy the first announcements of the gathering, and was filled with anticipation that it was timed to coincide with the World Diakonia Gathering. What foresight on the part of our leaders! As a member of the staff of Seattle University's ecumenical School of Theology and Ministry, ecumenism is in the air that I breathe daily, and I had been really disappointed when I could find no way to attend the World Council of Churches gathering in Brazil in 2006. So to read that the World DIAKONIA was on "home ground" so to speak and tethered with our ELCA Gathering sent cascades of joy through me.

I have been eager to meet the people that I have "met" electronically on the listserve face to face and to re-engage with some of the people who attend DMFE 2003 with me. So it was only natural that when a need arose that I could fill on the Gathering Planning Team, I volunteered to serve. I eagerly awaited the onslaught of registrations, getting the forms and systems set-up to be able to weather the flood of anticipated mail.

I have to confess it's rather a case of overkill on my part. I have disappointedly not been overwhelmed with registrations. Now, I know the deadline is just approaching, and I am hopeful that folks are just like me and tend to procrastinate until the last moment before committing their checks to the mail. However, I also admit to a bit of a sense of sadness. I believe that we are deeply committed to community and to gathering as we are able. I DO recognize economic concerns (my husband works – for the moment - for Washington Mutual Bank). I am hopeful that the numbers will pick up; I am hoping to meet some of the people who began this good work in our midst, and to meet some of those who have just joined our ranks. So, rest assured. The first dozen people who have registered have helped me work the kinks out of the registration system. I spent a weekend cleaning out my study so that no

check can go missing, and I anticipate a great gathering of Diaconal Ministers in Atlanta in July. Let's give the Post Office some work to do delivering registration forms to Washington state.

The registration form can be downloaded at the ELCA website: <http://www.elca.org/Growing-In-Faith/Vocation/Rostered-Leadership/Diaconal-Ministry/News-Events/Diakonia-2009.aspx> and filled in on your computer, then printed off and mailed to me (I only need the second page to be printed.) I recognize that many of you cannot come because of the timing, not entirely because of the expense. I encourage you to consider sending a donation to the scholarship fund so that those of our brothers and sisters who cannot come solely due to financial constraints might be able to participate.



Beth Barkhau

Ecumenical Representatives: Thank You and Welcome

By Kris Perry

As you know, diaconal minister Beth Barkhau has served as the ELCA Diaconal Ministry Community representative to DOTAC (Diakonia of the Americas and Caribbean), one of three regions of DIAKONIA World Federation, for the past several years. As our representative, Beth has served as a member of the DOTAC Central Committee, serving as liaison between our community and DOTAC, participated in community with the western hemisphere group of DIAKONIA World Federation, and as a community ambassador, facilitating awareness, growth and development for the purpose of fostering ecumenical ties in and with partnering ecumenical communities of Diakonia. We have been abundantly blessed by Beth's faithful service on our behalf. It is now time to say **thank you** to Beth for her extraordinary service. Beth, your enthusiasm, commitment, and leadership have been an inspiration to us all and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your work with DOTAC. You have set a high bar of excellence through your work and sacrificial giving on our behalf. We are blessed because of your fine work. Thank you!

It is with joy and thanksgiving that the Leadership Team of the Diaconal Ministry Community of the ELCA announces the appointment of our new DOTAC Representative and Alternate. Jan Cherry will serve as our DOTAC representative beginning in July, 2009 for a four-year term and Kathy Bonn will serve in the alternate position. Both will attend the DOTAC meetings with the hope that once Jan's term ends, Kathy will assume the representative position for another four-year term. This will ensure more growth and awareness of our ecumenical partnerships around the world, as well as to have a trained person able to serve on a moment's notice should the need arise. Both women bring many gifts and talents to these positions as well as great enthusiasm and commitment. Please join us in welcoming Jan and Kathy to their new positions. We are blessed to have you serving on our behalf!



Jan Cherry



Kathy Bonn



Madelyn Busse Retiring

Madelyn Busse, the ninth Diaconal Minister consecrated by the ELCA, is retiring from full-time ministry. In the diaconal community directory, her talents are listed as: Cantor, Liturgist, Preacher, Pianist, Prayer Intercessor. Many would add role model, friend, encourager, historian, teacher and guide to that list, among other titles. In letting the community know of the changes in her life, Madelyn sent the following to the CDM and DMTALK listserv:

Dear community: Just want to update you all as I look toward some major changes in my life. I will retire from full time ministry June 1, after 27 years on the roster (LCA Lay Professional, AIM, and diaconal ministry rosters) having served in parishes, churchwide staff and synodical ministry. My husband, Dennis, and I will leave Denver and return to our beloved Pacific Northwest, making our home on San Juan Island in Washington State. Our new address, as of May 15, will be 241 Warbass Way #A102, Friday Harbor, WA 98250. We'll be building a new house and enjoying the fruits of the sea. Its a return to my spiritual geography after 20+ years of being away and far away from the smell of salt water. Once we have completed our house and have guest quarters, we want folks to come for spiritual renewal and retreat in a beautiful part of God's creation.

I will continue to do some contract work for the Rocky Mountain Synod on a 1/4 time contract, keeping my first loves, candidacy and first call theological education. This will get me back 4 - 6 times a year to Denver and Region 2, which truly has also become "home." God is good.

Peace,

*Madelyn Herman Busse, diaconal minister
Assistant to the Bishop
Rocky Mountain Synod of the ELCA*

Madelyn also shared a photo of a statue presented to her on her retirement, saying " *Bishop Bjornberg did a wonderful job not only of honoring me, but of honoring what it means to be diaconal in service to the church. What a joy to have that vision lifted up.*"

Personally I would say that it's been a joy to have Madelyn as one of the people who lifts up that vision for the rest of us every day.

Lynn Bullock, Editor, *DiaconoNews*

The First Ten Diaconal Ministers Consecrated in the ELCA

- | | |
|----------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Margy Schmitt Ajer 6/1996 | 8. Kati Miller-Holland 5/1997 |
| 2. Phillip Deming 6/1996 | 9. Madelyn Busse 6/1997 |
| 3. Nancy Gable 7/1996 | 10. Judith Schroeder* 9/1997 |
| 4. Diana Sickles 8/1996, ordained 2005 | |
| 5. Audrey Forbes 10/1996 | *also a member, Lutheran |
| 6. Sharon Gall 12/1996 | Deaconess Association |
| 7. Gloria Strickert 12/1996 | |



Toiletries needed for World Diakonia Conference

It has been suggested that we offer attendees a selection of toiletries for their personal use during the assembly. Offering these toiletries may be of value to some attendees as the TSA travel restrictions may prevent them bringing all of what they need for the assembly. *(In case you are interested, there will be an opportunity to have a linen exchange mid-assembly.)*

So, as you travel between now and the when you travel to Atlanta, and as your friends travel and perhaps members of your congregation travel, would you collect unused toiletries (soap, mouth wash, toothpaste, shampoo, etc. and either arrange to ship them prior to your travel – or bring them with you to Atlanta. If you have a member in this line of business and can get some from them as a gift for the attendees – that would be great as well. (We hope to have these available at check-in and perhaps in a basket in the residence hall area during the assembly.

Job Opportunities

From Anna Goodwin: My congregation is seeking an "energetic person of faith, integrity and love for a full-time position as director of youth ministries." The job posting can be found at www.stpaulqc.org/news/154.

The DYM will "plan and implement programs for middle and high school youth, enthusiastically involving children and youth in Christ-centered fellowship, outreach, learning and fun."

St. Paul is a large congregation in Davenport, IA. We have 2 full-time pastors, Peter Marty and Ron Huber and 3 pastoral residents who are at St Paul for 2 years through a Lilly Foundation grant. This is the second residency St. Paul has been able to provide for young pastors to have large church experience under the guidance of leaders in the ELCA.

If your call is to youth ministries and FUN (and music) I invite you to take a look at the web page and consider St. Paul.

From Rev. Lois Knutson at Bartels Lutheran Home/Retirement community in Waverly, Iowa. Opening for Staff chaplain 32 hrs/week plus benefits, help with moving expenses too. She **prefers** that the position be filled by a **Diaconal Minister or Deaconess**. A minimum of 2 units CPE is required.

Bartels is a thriving and growing community that provides the full scope of ministry experience from dementia unit, through assisted and independent living. They are also about to break ground for a new retirement community housing project. If you are interested contact Lois Knutson at LKnutson@BartelsCommunity.org or phone 319-352-4540 x171.

From Kris Perry: ELCA Region 3 Coordinator (currently Rev. Craig Boehlke) will be retiring next fall and the position will soon be posted. In fact, I bumped into Craig at Luther Seminary and he believes the position will be posted by the ELCA in May. So, this is just an FYI that if anyone is interested in such a position, you may want to begin checking the ELCA website as of May 1. I do not know where those positions are typically posted; perhaps either Margy or Nancy would know.

It would be great to have another diaconal minister serving in this capacity. Feel free to pass the word if you know of a qualified person who might be interested.

DiaconoNews welcomes all articles, essays, prayer requests, information and pictures you would like to share regarding the diaconal community of the ELCA. Please send files (in Word, PDF or JPG for pictures when possible) to editor Lynn Bulock at lbulock@hotmail.com. Deadline for the next issue is July 15, with grace given until July 25 for articles about the national gathering July 18-20.

Miracles Happen

February, 2008: (In a serious auto accident) Diana sustained injuries to her left hand, head, and vertebrae and her prognosis is unclear. She hopes regain enough motion to be able to hold her children again. Her road to recovery will be long and expensive.

June, 2008: 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

March, 2008: Upcoming Consecrations

Diana Luscombe to St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Camillus, New York Director of Youth and Family Ministries.

Diana writes: This is a 12 hour a week position with the hope and prayers that as I get stronger the ministries will be able to grow. As you all know this has been a very long time coming, almost five years in fact. It has been with the love and support, the prayers and mentoring of all of you that have helped to make this happen. My newest walking record is 511 feet on land, I'm in the pool once a week working on all sorts of exercises, and last week I passed the driver evaluation that will allow me to begin driver training.



Diana Luscombe at her recent consecration as the first diaconal minister in upstate New York, praying with Bishop Marie Jerge and Rev. Janet Fechner-Pelletier.

Washing Feet and Other Community Actions

This message is really about washing feet at the ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans (Ed. Note: same time frame as our Atlanta gathering). You might remember that the LDA registered as an exhibitor, and we welcome any ELCA Diaconal Ministers to come by and wash or get washed. I think I have enough LDA helpers to make sure the booth is staffed all the time -- so no pressure on your community. Just an invitation and welcome. My suggestion is that the "Diakonia" word and concept can be centered in the LDA display, where all of us "D" people can feel at home. Let's help young people make the connection between diakonia and their servant events. If you'd like to lay out any literature or photos or stories, we'll totally have room at the display area.

Diane Marten, Director of Education and Formation
Lutheran Deaconess Association

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An invitation to any of you coming to the ELCA Assembly this summer in Minneapolis. I am inviting you to coffee or ? We have a large contingent of diaconal ministers in the Twin Cities. Some may join in. Let me know. My email is dougspiotta@hotmail.com Home phone: 952-445-6654

Cell phone: 651-235-2030.

In Christ's love & in Christ's service,
Diaconal Minister Doug Spiotta

Called to Word and Service – Region One Gathering in Cannon Beach, Oregon March 11-12, 2009

By Jan Cherry

What a wonderful gathering we had in Region One for the consultation on Word and Service Rosters. With about 25 people in attendance we were blessed by the attendance of Sr. Anne Keffer from the Deaconess Community and with all eight consecrated Diaconal Ministers in the Region! That was such a blessing. The site was beautiful, and we took advantage of the fact that the Lutheran Staff Association of the Region was meeting there just prior to our gathering, so people didn't need to travel specifically for the event, if they didn't need to.

Under the superb direction of Shelly Wickstrom, Coordinator for Vocation and Education in Region One and Sr. Anne Keffer, part of the planning committee for these events, we shared deeply about the experiences we have had as rostered, non-ordained folk in the ELCA. One of our Associates in Ministry had been commissioned as a Church Staff Worker in the predecessor ALC, so she brought the voice of historical experience to our gathering. We laughed and cried together as we processed the hurts and disappointments as well as the joys and challenges of being rostered in the ELCA. Many questions were raised; I'm not sure we found answers, but I don't think we were intended to do so. We did find our shared experience, and knowing you are not alone in your sadness and your joy, is very comforting. I found that I more deeply appreciated the intentional community of the ELCA Diaconal community. That I never questioned that a community was "out there" ready to help me in my journey of faith and service. Many of the Associates in Ministry mentioned that they felt that lack and were wondering how they could develop something similar.

Mindy Holland and Karla Neumann Smiley brought a seasoned diaconal voice also. We even had Fran Victor fly down from Alaska to join us! It was so good to be with them, and with Susan Franke, our newest member who had been consecrated only a couple of weeks before the event! It was really wonderful that *all* of the Diaconal Ministers of Region One were present and that we had a chance to be together. Thanks be to God.



*Region One Diaconal Ministers: Sitting, L-R Fran Victor, Anna Hollingbery Wagner, Jan Cherry, Troy Faith Ward
Standing: L-R Linda Smith, Susan Franke, Karla Neuman Smiley, Mindy Holland*

7 Birthdays

May

- 1 Kathy Garrison
 2 Karla Neumann
 Smiley
 3 Sue Vogel Herrera
 4 (Barry Buck)
 5 Madelyn Busse
 6 Esther Schmidt
 6 Janell Weum
 7 Terra Rowe
 8 Shirley Talbot
 9 Leslie Whited
 11 Doug Spiotta
 16 Jessica Nipp
 22 (Mike Troutman)
 22 Sandra Braasch
 29 Terry Moore
 30 Judy Knapp

June

- 3 Rosalie Fesser
 5 Ardie Senft
 5 Georgia Van Hoesen
 8 Loren Wehmeyer
 11 (Anna Marsh)
 13 Judy Rooney
 14 Erin Morris
 17 Sharon Gall
 18 Linda Daus-Deegan
 20 Lynn Bulock
 21 Nicole Houck
 22 (Pirjo Carlisle)
 22 Rowena Henry
 24 Margy Schmitt Ajer
 27 Judy Schroeder
 28 Susan Franke
 29 Glenda Blegen
 30 Karen White

July

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

Holy God, hear our prayer

Prayers for healing and hope

Sandra Reback writes: I have gone on a medical leave of absence and have applied for Social Security disability. I am told that I won't hear if my application was accepted until July. Right now, I seem to be getting worse instead of better. One of the symptoms of the atrial fibrillation and orthostatic hypotension is becoming weak and faint. After sitting for a short time, there are times I can barely make it into my house or the restaurant or wherever I am going without feeling like I will collapse. There is a specialist at the U of MI Hosp, who specializes in difficult cases like mine. He has an opening on May 26th for me! How good God is! This is such an answer to prayer

Lillian Naber, mother of Gloria Strickert, hospice care for multiple myeloma

Charlie Smith, dialysis and awaiting transplant

Alex Herrera, husband of Sue Vogel, cancer remission

DM Candidate, **Tamara Harder**, battling breast cancer

Marjorie Myers, partial renal failure

Recently Consecrated

Diana Luscombe to St. Michael's Lutheran Church in Camillus, New York Director of Youth and Family Ministries. (#168)

Kirsten Kessel to Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, Plymouth, MN. May 14th (#169)

Upcoming Consecrations

May 16 **Joel Bradke** to Immanuel Lutheran Church, Merrimac, WI where he has been serving in a pastoral capacity since 2006. (#170)

May 29 **Susan Lindberg Haley** to the New England Synod Council to do ministry with people with disabilities. (#171)

June 21 **Kevin Sumner-Eisenbraun** to the Southwest California Synod to do hospital chaplaincy. (#172)

Celebration

Patricia Gerber on her marriage to Carl Bornholt on April 19 at Lutheran Church of the Master, Carol Stream, IL.

Prayers of discernment for those approved, awaiting call

Denise Benjamin, Amy Blumenshine, Gail Britt, Ellen Doughty, Robert Fisher, Tonya Gunton, Nicole Houck, Troy Jacobson, Janet Johnson, Rachel March, Jane Mason, Kathy Massa, Janice Miller, Diane McGeoch, Richard Mohr-Kelly, Emily Myallis, Joel Nye, Sarah Parker, Janice Phoebus, Terra Rowe, Diane Runyan, Janet Schauer, Nancy Selinger, David Thoresen, Georgia Van Hoesen, Christopher Wagener, Sue Way, Loren Wehmeyer, Elayne Werges, Kelly Wilkins

Data Base Administrator

We are happy to announce that Susan Lindberg Haley has volunteered to assume responsibility for our diaconal ministry community data base upkeep and maintenance beginning in March. Please send all updates to Susan

at: dmsusanlh@verizon.net so that we can keep our records up to date and accurate.

If you know of a DM candidate who has been approved for call, or an upcoming consecration, please notify Susan of that as well.

Instructions From Forty Days

By Mary Black

Live well, my beloved, the time you are here
...sit with silences born of resting, of being, of presence
Contemplate the new creation...diligent to seek growth
Celebrate each new movement, a dance learned in tune with the universe
Be gentle and offer grace, a grace born not of this world
Yet borrowed from something much greater, ancient and loving

Find what makes your heart sing
...what fills your eyes with tears when you live without
Do the work that makes you more than you ever dreamed
These are the gifts you bring to the whole
This is the vocation you were created for
Listening to your song will bring you here to your unique purpose

Take what you need from the past
...let the rest fall away; live here in this very moment
Breathe deep, stay focused on the miracles around you
Living happens in the midst of chaos, here and now
Usher in the new cosmos gently, like a new born
Nurture today, living well, loving well...embracing each moment

Know you are perfectly made and wonderfully loved
...just as you are, seen through the eyes that made you
Know yourself, the little one from whom you grow
Your creative mind, your marvelous ideas
Know how much you are loved, set aside fear
Imagine the limitlessness that is you

Live well, my dear one, in this finite kingdom
...dance well your heart's content, here in this place
This is yet a beginning...a place to learn joy
Laugh deep, sigh deeper, giggle a bit, content with every breath
Tend each piece of light, placed carefully for you on this journey
Before each leaving...tell your dear ones how they are loved

May what brings you the most joy, the deepest feelings of connectedness
and life, be with you today.

*Mary Black is the Director of Youth and Family Ministries at
Atonement in Lakewood, Colorado*