



BLUES NEWS...

An official publication of Concordia Deaconess Conference (CDC). Distributed eight times a year, it serves our members by circulating devotional thoughts and articles, professional submissions, and member announcements.

For subscription inquiries, contact Linda Seward at publicrelations@concordiadeaconesslcms.org.

Submissions, themes, and suggestions should be sent to Mary Moerbe at assistanteditor.bluesnews@concordiadeaconesslcms.org or 930 S. 6th St Blackwell, OK 74631.

OUR CONFERENCE

Concordia Deaconess Conference - Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod is a free association of certified and LCMS rostered deaconesses, who subscribe to and live by the confessional position of the LCMS and who hold membership in a congregation or partner church of the same.

We work to provide opportunities for spiritual, personal, and professional growth and fellowship for deaconesses and support for diaconal service in Christ.

Donations for the work of the conference, a 501(c)(3) organization, may be mailed to Carol Schroeder at Epiphany Lutheran Church 4460 Lyons Rd Lake Worth, FL 33467-3614.



CONFERENCE AND ANNIVERSARY MEDITATION

In our 30 years as CDC, God has richly blessed us, not only with patience and assurances from His Word, but also with our fellowship as sisters in His name. This past June over half of our members were able to gather together to celebrate, worship, learn and rest, and they did so in the historic birthplace of CDC, on the campus of Concordia University, Chicago.

Although many were unable to come, our celebrations can continue! Deaconesses and mercy work are increasingly visible in our church body, as is clearly seen by Rev. Matthew Harrison's invitation for CDC members to take part in the official procession on September 11, 2010, where district presidents, pastors and laymen will worship Christ and the newly-elected officers of the LCMS will be installed.

Thanks be to God, who is our strength and refuge, that His mercy continues to flow through Christ, to us and through us, whether we are sheltered in the basement as tornado sirens sound, as members were at conference in June of 2010 and 30 years previously, or whether our prayers are spoken alone. He remains with us whether we grieve or sing.

If you were unable to reconnect through conference, please consider this an encouragement to telephone or email a deaconess friend, that you may both be refreshed through mutual love and support.

Congratulations to Rev. John Berg and Cheryl D. Naumann as recipients of the Dr. Paul A. Zimmerman Award and the Phoebe Award respectively. Also to Betty Mulholland in honor of the 55th anniversary of her consecration.

A heartfelt thank you to all of you who have given additional service by representing CDC and diaconal work at conferences or in conversations.

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Let us remember our newly-elected officers in our prayers and give thanks for all that the Lord has done, and continues to do, through His Son.

Mary J. Moerbe



Rev. John Berg and Cheryl D. Naumann pose with their awards at the 2010 CDC Conference. Picture used with permission.

BOOK REVIEW: THE SECRET OF LIVING A GOOD NEWS LIFE IN A BAD NEWS WORLD

This is the subtitle of Rev. Matthew Harrison's latest book, *A Little Book on Joy*. Everyone wants to know the secret to something: beautiful skin, fresh breath, or a good night's sleep. Commercial advertising plays to these natural desires from every direction. Evangelical Christianity in America today does the same thing by preaching: "Ten steps to a better marriage" or "Living intentionally will change your life" or "The Scriptures declare that you can be wealthy."

This is not what Pastor Harrison is talking about. He is not writing a how-to book that prescribes the steps that you can take to find joy in your life. At the urging of a friend, he searched the Scriptures and studied what theologians have written over the entire history of Christianity. He found joy all over the place, especially in the midst of suffering and persecution, and he shares it with us in this little book. His style is friendly and humorous and draws the reader in.

Rather than approach the subject with "what you can do," he brings to us the Lutheran approach: "Here is what Jesus has done for you. Here is what God is like, and this is how He relates to you." Every chapter describes a characteristic of God, a perspective of the sinful self, or the source of joy in the life of a Christian—the secret to living a good news life in a bad news world.

We also learn that joy, true joy, is not a 'what' but a 'Who.' We learn that happiness and joy are not the same thing. Happiness depends upon what happens and can come and go with the ring of the telephone. Contrary to what modern evangelicals may say, a positive attitude, a strong faith, or a certain amount of money donated to a particular 'ministry' cannot defend you against the darts of the devil, the world, and your sinful flesh. True joy sustains you, comes to you as a gift, comforts you, and keeps you from navel gazing as it lifts your eyes and your heart to the Risen Christ our Savior.

BTW: Matthew Harrison, the author of this book, is our newly elected president of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.

Linda Cosgrove



Our new CDC banner alongside a booth by LCMS World Relief and Human Care. Used by permission.

Our CDC presence at the 64th LCMS synodical convention consisted of a booth staffed with deaconess representatives, as well as visual representation through other attending uniformed members and the LCMS World Relief and Human Care booth (an example pictured above).

In the exhibit hall, our CDC booth was on a corner across from CPH, which meant it was a prime location with high traffic. The Concordia University Chicago booth and the two seminary booths were also very close so that there was easy back and forth as we took interested students or pastors to meet with program directors. Deaconess Jennie Asher, Dr. Arthur Just and Dr. Erik Herrmann, directors of the three LCMS deaconess training programs, all were there and helped to foster a great spirit of diaconal camaraderie.

Our rented booth was a carpeted area in front of a black curtain with a chair, and we were able to feature both the 2009 CDC banner and a new 2010 banner. You can view them on the right. The new banner displays the design of our new bookmarks. Both banners fit in well, looking attractive and professional.

Jane Obersat supplied chocolates and those went quickly! And our various volunteers handed out bookmarks and

brochures as they talked with the conference attendees, as well as pens and bag clips from past conventions.

Conversations varied dramatically, from reminiscing about deaconesses individuals had known to discussing the differences between CDC and LDC members with one pastor who was considering calling his deaconess intern from Valparaiso. One elderly woman who approached our booth said she was a deaconess trained in Denmark! She was appreciative to see our ongoing diaconal presence.

CDC was well represented at the convention. Four of our members were in uniform daily as official advisory delegates sent by their districts: Sandy Bowers, Ruth McDonnell, Liz Borth, and Deanna Cheadle. These ladies also kindly spent time staffing our booth as they were able. Sara Bielby, Jane Obersat, and Pam Nielsen also took turns in the booth. Dorothy Krans and Grace Rao also attended convention in uniform to manage the booth for LCMS World Relief and Human Care.

Pam Nielsen reports:

"This was the first time that I did not hear the question, 'What is a deaconess, and what can she do?'"

2010 CDC EXHIBIT AT THE SYNODICAL CONVENTION

Mary J. Moerbe

This is significant. People would spot us [in our uniforms] and you would hear them say, 'Oh, there's a deaconess' or 'There're the deaconesses!' It was wonderful."

We also give thanks to Rev. Jeff Springer of Trinity Lutheran Church, Whittier, California, who transported the banner from California, and to CPH, who was willing to load our things onto their rented truck and transport them back to St. Louis, saving CDC shipping and baggage fees. Another blessing.

Mary J. Moerbe



Our two CDC banners accompanied with the smiling faces of our executive committee. From top to bottom the faces are: Linda Cosgrove, Ruth McDonnell, Jennifer Phillips, Carol Schroeder, Cheryl D. Naumann, Deborah Rockrohr, and Sandy Bowers.

IN OTHER NEWS...



LWML CONVENTION IN MICHIGAN

In this picture we see Deborah Rockrohr who joined Linda Nobili to provide "caring hands" as a feature of the LWML District Caring Ministries booth at the Michigan District LWML convention from July 9-10 in Dearborn, Michigan, near Detroit.

They offered hand massages, with a choice of lightly scented hand creams, to convention participants. An estimated 125 women received the hand massages and interacted with the deaconess representatives at the booth over the two-day period.

FUTURE CONFERENCE SITES

2011 Concordia University, Seward, Nebraska (June 15-18)

2012 Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri

2013 Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana

2014 Orlando, Florida

NEUENDETTELSAU TRIP

Late this past May, Rev. John T. Pless of Concordia Theological Seminary led a two-week study abroad course in Germany, studying the life and work of Wilhelm Loehe titled "Wilhelm Loehe: Pastoral, Missional, and Diaconal Theologian." Thanks to Rev. Ned A. Moerbe, CDC now has access to some wonderful pictures of historical diaconal sites.

PR COMMITTEE OFF TO A BUSY START

Linda Seward was recently appointed to lead our PR committee and she has already been hard at work.

To the right we see her representing CDC at the April 2010 Catechism Convocation at Trinity Lutheran Church, Whittier, California (display shown below).



PARA LOS HISPANOHABLANTES

<http://www.paraelcamino.com>

"¿Quién lo entiende?"
Autor: [Rev. Dr. Ken Klaus](#)
Narrador: [Rev. Héctor Hoppe](#)

Las personas no siempre son lo que parecen ser, y esto incluye a Jesús. ¿Le parece que Jesús fue un hombre manso y tranquilo, y que sus palabras siempre fueron dulces y consideradas? Jesús piensa en forma diferente sobre sí mismo.

SUBSCRIBE EN ITUNES



Dr. Arthur Just and CTS deaconess student Pamela Boehle-Silva with a group of deaconess students at Atemo Kapenguria, Kenya, 2010. Used with permission.

FUNDRAISING FOR DEACONESS STUDENTS IN KENYA

In 2005, Kenyan deaconess students had their own school, Ogango, with their own principal. Now deaconess formation takes place at Matongo, the seminary in Kenya, so that deaconess students may study alongside pastoral students and take advantage of the seminary professors.

The tuition costs at Matongo are beyond most of their capacities. They have received some funding thus far, but in order for them to complete their diploma course of studies, each of the students need 25,000 shillings per student, which is about \$333.00 US dollars.

The names of the current students are:

1. Josephine Nyamoita
2. Jackline Nyangoya
3. Rodah Segira
4. Sabera Ooko
5. Asenath Sluemi
6. Phelomenna Otworu
7. Rosemary Mkoko
8. Mary Nyabaro
9. Perish Kepchumba
10. Josephine Aluoch
11. Josephine Marube

Please consider sending support for one of these Christian and merciful women. Think of the ongoing work your \$333.00 would support.

If you, your congregation, or an organization would like to support or "adopt" a deaconess student from Kenya, please send a check marked "Tuition for Kenyan Deaconess Students" to the following address:

Concordia Theological Seminary
6600 North Clinton St.
Fort Wayne IN 46825

Thank you.

Dr. Arthur A. Just

CDC OFFICERS**President:**

Cheryl D. Naumann

Vice President:

Deborah Rockrohr

Secretary:

Jennifer Phillips

Treasurer:

Carol Schroeder

Membership:

Linda Cosgrove

Conference Logistics:

Ruth McDonnell

Spiritual and**Professional Growth:**

Sandra Bowers

Spiritual Counselor:

Reverend John Berg

revberg@mac.com

Prayer requests can be emailed to the prayer coordinator at cdcprayers@comcast.net.

Digital pictures can be emailed to Mary Moerbe at photos.cdc@gmail.com.

Email Linda Seward at publicrelations@concordiadeaconesslcms.org with PR suggestions or requests for banners.

Members may purchase extra cross pins or insignias for themselves from Linda Cosgrove.

DEVOTIONAL MEDITATION: ORDINARY IS PERFECT

Rev. James Douthwaite

St. Athanasius Lutheran Church (Vienna, Virginia)

Sometimes when we think of the people we hear about in the Bible, we think they are ultra-faithful people who did extraordinary things for God. But that's not really the case. Consider Abraham. The Bible tells us that before God called him, Abraham was an idolater (Joshua 24:2). For many years, Abraham and his family served false gods and did not know the true God.

But God called Abraham and gave him the gift of faith. God called Abraham and God made him the father of many nations. God called Abraham and used him to do extraordinary things—even be the ancestor of His Son Jesus. It was all God's doing, not Abraham's! And it was all by grace. Abraham didn't deserve any of it; yet God does not cast him away, but calls him.

You too! God has also called you, in

grace, to be His child. He has given you the gift of faith. He sent His Son Jesus to die for you for the forgiveness of your sins. And He will use you to do extraordinary things. Do you deserve any of this? Not a single bit! Just like Abraham. But God is rich in grace and calls us. And by His call, works faith in us and makes us His own.

Did Abraham understand that day what God would do through him? Probably not. You probably don't either. For we're all just ordinary people.

But if you're ordinary, you're perfect for God! For our God is the extraordinary One, who does extraordinary things through ordinary folks. Like



The altar of St. Nicolaus Kirche in Neuendettelsau, Germany, May 2010. Used with permission.

Abraham. And like Mary, whom He chose to bear His Son. Like Joseph, an ordinary carpenter, who was His father-caretaker. Like the twelve apostles, who were just ordinary working Joes—fishermen and tax collectors and the like. And like you.

God did not call you to faith in Jesus because you're so great; He called you because He's so great. Great in love, great in forgiveness, great in mercy.

Just ask Abraham.

Rev. James Douthwaite