



LDA TODAY

Winter 2015

Fresh Footprints on a Well-Worn Path

The LDA Consecrates its First Deacons

Summer 2014 was history making for the LDA. For the first time in its 95 years, we consecrated deacons—three men who followed the same path to formation as the hundreds of women who have gone before them.

We welcomed Ben Ema, Steve Arnold and Elliott Stephenson as the first members of the Community of Lutheran Deacons (CLD), a parallel community to the women's Lutheran Deaconess Conference (LDC). They followed the same education and formation program as the deaconesses—a combination of theological coursework, practical experience and a year-long internship. Mentors helped them along the way and weekly support meetings shaped for them for what "community" means and how it works.



Graduating from the Valparaiso University (VU) College of Nursing in 2013, **Ben Ema, BSN, RN**, has been working as a nurse in Northwest Indiana. A native of St. Louis, MO, where he attended Lutheran elementary and high schools, Ben's

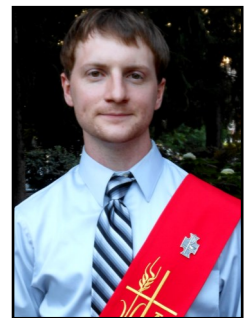
calming presence, therapeutic communication and heartfelt care for humankind will put just about anyone at ease.

Steve Arnold, PhD, joined the LDA program in his 60s, seeking a community with whom to serve others. He currently is a Spiritual Director and ministers to residents of a senior living center in Minnesota, many of whom have memory loss. He previously held numerous positions at Concordia University-St. Paul:



Director of Christian Education, Dean of the College of Vocation and Ministry, Deacon of Chapel, and Coordinator of Campus Ministry.

Following graduation VU in 2011, **Elliott Stephenson** and his wife went to rural Mitchell, SD, where he served a congregation as Youth Minister. There, he ministered to a wide range of people—teens, parents, the hungry, the homeless—which sparked an interest in counseling. Elliott is currently in the University of Missouri's graduate program in Counseling Psychology.



These three men have become trailblazers for more men in the diaconal formation process:

(Continued on Page 4)

Guest's Corner

LDA Executive Director, Deaconess Lisa Polito, is on sabbatical. We invited Deaconess Liesl Begnaud to reflect on recent changes and future plans for the LDA. We thank Jim Beversdorf for the photos.

A Time for Everything *Ecclesiastes 3*

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens:

a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,
a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

As the waves of the sea constantly change, so do roles at the LDA. We say "Thank you, Diane, for a job well done!" Deaconess Diane Marten served as the LDA's Director of Education and Formation for 13 years.



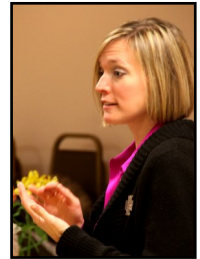
We welcome new staff members to a new season at the LDA. As Co-Directors of Education and Formation, Deaconesses Kristin Lewis and Valerie Webdell work with the students, manage the program process, coordinate internships, and work with mentors.

Kristin

Kristin is the Valparaiso University liaison for coursework. Valerie walks with prospective students from an initial phone call through their application process and to the admissions committee. They share the committee work including: Servant Ministry Support,

Recruitment, Admissions, and Education and Formation.

Valerie also works on recruitment with Deaconess Liesl Begnaud. For the LDA, "recruitment" means we intentionally inform and invite people with servant hearts to consider the LDA's program.



Valerie

Through our intentional recruitment process, we continue to define and re-define how we present what the LDA has to offer. Our recruitment efforts use a three pronged approach:

1. Invitation and information by service - we model *diakonia*;
2. Invitation and information by our presence and targeted outreach visits; and
3. Invitation and information by education and empowerment.



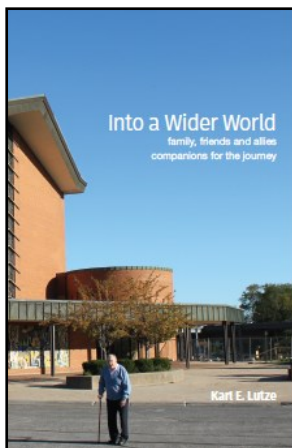
Liesl

The LDA offers education, training and formation for a professional vocation in ministry. A decision to enter the LDA diaconate is more than choosing a career; it is a lifelong process of seeking God's guidance. The LDA guides and supports candidates through a discernment process to hear God's call. The LDA's training program offers flexibility for those who are called into places of ministry outside of the Church.

Thank you for your support of the new staff and the LDA as we take our next steps in this new season of change and growth. Thanks be to God for those called to serve!

Rev. Karl E. Lutze's Latest Book

Into a Wider World: Friends, Families and Allies— Companions for the Journey



The LDA is delighted to announce the publication of Rev. Karl E. Lutze's latest book, *Into a Wider World: Friends, Families and Allies—Companions for the Journey*. This book is the "third third" of Karl's memoirs of his long and full life.

Into a Wider World covers Karl's time at Valparaiso University, which also happens to be the key years of the civil rights movement, the early years of the Native Americans rights movement, and some of the most active years of the Lutheran Human Relations Association of America. He shares stories from his work in these endeavors and of being a pastor as well as memories that illustrate the profound value of lifelong friendships.

Karl and his wife, Gail, have given the book to the LDA. Both Karl and Gail have been long-standing and enthusiastic supporters of the LDA and participants in its ministries. All proceeds of

the sale of the book will benefit the LDA's student scholarship fund.

So, if you are interested in one man's journey through these formative years, this is a great read. If you are looking for insightful stories to spark deep and meaningful conversations with your students, congregation or community group, pick up a copy. If you are interested in receiving wisdom and examples to follow from one who has lived a profoundly rich and meaningful life, please spend an afternoon on your couch with this book.

At press time, some details about the book were not yet final. Look for ordering information on our website, www.TheLDA.org. We will also be posting information about book readings on our Facebook page.

Other Karl Lutze books are also available from the LDA: two earlier memoirs *Awakening to Equality* and *Of Walls and Doors*, and two books of devotions . . . *a lot on my mind, Lord* and *We Need to Talk, Lord*. These books will be available through our website. Sale proceeds will also support the LDA's scholarship fund.

Plan Now to Support the LDA's Future

LDA relies on gifts from people like you to support our ministries. You can make a gift to the LDA that costs nothing during your lifetime! Talk with your financial advisor about including the LDA in your estate plans.

The LDA appreciates receiving recent gifts from the estates of the following **Servant Circle** members: Beata Farner and Deaconess Gail M. Musolf.

Fresh Footprints (continued)

- **Andrew Stoebig**, a VU graduate and professional vocalist who, loving liturgical music, is studying musicology;
- **Jack Walter**, a mid-life paralegal with a passion for prison ministry is focusing on his theological coursework this year; and
- **David Rojas Martinez**, a VU senior International Service and Theology major

active in the Chapel of the Resurrection.

We are celebrating having another diverse group of men with servant hearts who are forging their own paths to washing feet, sharing God's love, and serving others through the LDA's diaconate.

Caregivers Deserve Some TLC



The LDA offers mini-retreats with 90 minutes of support, respite and prayer for caregivers. The mini-retreats are facilitated by a deaconess using Skype and are available at no cost to participants. They are typically held each month. For more information, call 219-464-6925 or e-mail us at deacserv@valpo.edu.

Churches and Organizations Gift Roster

The following churches and organizations gave \$100 or more to the LDA (other than for individual student fees) between October 1, 2013—September 30, 2014. If the gift was given in tribute, please find it listed on the Tribute Roster starting on page 5. Thank you for your support!

Beautiful Savior Lutheran Church-Mary Martha Society, Callaway, MN
Bronner Family Charitable Foundation, Frankenmuth, MI
Calvary Willing Workers, Indianapolis, IN
Christ Lutheran Church, Orland Park, IL
Christ Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN
The Cleveland Foundation, Cleveland, OH
Concordia Lutheran Church, Cedar Rapids, IA
Emmaus Lutheran Church, Orange City, FL
Faith Lutheran Church-Women of Faith, Arlington Heights, IL
Faith Lutheran Church-Women's Missionary League, Vista, CA
First Evangelical Lutheran Church, Greensburg, PA
Good Shepherd-LWML, Goleta, CA

Grace Lutheran Church-Ladies Aid Society, Lynbrook, NY
Lutheran Deaconess Conference
Lutheran Oriental Church, Torrance, CA
Messiah Lutheran Church, Oklahoma City, OK
Mt. Calvary Lutheran Church, Janesville, WI
Oxon Hill Lutheran Church, Temple Hills, MD
Prince of Peace Lutheran Church-LWML, Anaheim, CA
Redeemer Lutheran Church, Fort Collins, CO
St. James-LWML, Howard Lake, MN
St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church-Ladies Aid, Plymouth, WI
St. John Lutheran Church, Alexandria, VA
St. John's Lutheran-Ladies Aid, May City, IA
St. Luke-Ladies Christian Fellowship, Harrison, MI
St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church, Dayton, OH
St. Paul's Lutheran Church-Ladies Aid, North East, PA

St. Peter Lutheran Church-LWML, Gibbon, MN
St. Peter Lutheran Church Women, Sheboygan, WI
St. Teresa of Avila, Valparaiso, IN
Thrivent Financial for Lutherans (Choice Dollars), Appleton, WI
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Thrivent Financial- North Lake County Chapter, Munster, IN
Thrivent Foundation (Gift Multiplier Program), Appleton, WI
Trinity Lutheran Church, Burlington, KS
Trinity Lutheran Church, Valparaiso, IN
Trinity Lutheran Church-Cotta Missionary Guild, Jackson, MI
Wheat Ridge Ministries, Itasca, IL

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Deaconess and Deacon Consecrations in 2014—Blessings on Your Service!

- Robin Hughes
- Valerie Webdell
- Ben Ema
- Elliott Stephenson
- Steve Arnold
- Jessica Sauer
- Beth Olejniczak

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- Twitter: [The LDA@DeacServ](https://twitter.com/TheLDA@DeacServ)
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The LDA prepares women and men for ministries of service in the church and the world, supports deaconesses and deacons in their varied ministries, affirms the whole people of God in their own diaconal service, and assists the church in its diaconal mission.

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