



Our diakonia day

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NORTHERN ILLINOIS GRADUATION 2006

The diakonia program recently celebrated its' second graduation in the Northern Illinois synod. Seven students graduated from the program this year in a service at Alpine Lutheran Church in Rockford on July 15. Bishop Gary Wollersheim delivered the sermon for the service. The mood of the day was joyful and celebratory. The graduates received a cross and certificate to commemorate their graduation.

The graduating class of 2006 includes: Lisa Berg, Barbara Holder, Mary Howe, Valerie Rote, Gene Vincent, LM (Woody) Woods, and Sue Ellen Zagrabelny. Including last year's class, 23 people have completed the program in the synod. Next year's

graduating class will bring that number to over 40 individuals.

HELLO FROM THE EDITOR!

Congratulations to everyone who recently graduated from the various Diakonia sites. May God bless each one of you! If you have news or information for this newsletter, please feel free to e-mail it to me (mjmouw@uic.edu).

By Mary Mouw



PRAYER CONCERNS

Tom Netzband - surgery
Kendra Thulin - surgery

NEWS ABOUT US

Ron Entzminger going to Bangladesh to act as missionary for three months.
Kim Romanek - married
Gene Vincent - daughter going to Iraq.
Claire Evans - visited Israel
Carol Massat - finishing sabbatical

In Seminary
Jennifer Fisher
Mike Hoskinson
Karen Stetins
Trish Volberding
Dennis Waugh

CLASSES START

The new school year has started with the following numbers:

Aurora - 11
Cary - 8
Moline - 6
River Forest - 9
Rockford - 19
Schaumburg- 12
West Lakeview - 7

Due to the class size, the Rockford class has been split into first and second year groups.

Next year, the Northern Illinois synod hopes to have a fourth site up and running. Stay tuned for more details!

Also, the Greater Milwaukee Synod has started diakonia classes as well with 19 students.

TUITION INCREASE

The diakonia program will increase tuition to \$360 a year beginning September 2007. The increase is a change of \$10 a class or \$60 overall for the year. Tuition has not changed for the program in over 10 years. The tuition increase will help the program financially, but the national board feels that overall the tuition for the program is still affordable. In the ELCA, there are many lay education programs and diakonia is one of the least expensive programs available.

UPCOMING EVENTS

January 20, 2007 - Northern Illinois retreat
June 23, 2007 - Metro Chicago Synod Graduation, St. Mark's Aurora
July 14, 2007 - Northern Illinois Synod Graduation, St. Barnabas, Cary

WEBSITES

Diakonia has a national website and a webpage on the two synod websites:
www.thediakoniaprogram.org
www.mselca.org/diakonia/index.html
www.nisynod.org/ministries/diakonia.htm

MERCHANDISE

If you are interested in a diakonia mug, shirt, or hat, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom. The mugs are \$5, shirts are \$20, and hats are \$12. Shirts are available in limited sizes only. Tote bags are no longer available.