



Our diakonia day

Vol 4, Issue 2 June 2007

CHICAGO GRADUATION CELEBRATION!



by Patrick Briggs, Doug Dill, and Nicole Macaluso

When is the end the beginning?

2007 graduate Nicole Macaluso reflects “As I was standing in front of the congregation at the graduation my thoughts were on how it feels to be truly inspired. Two years just flew by, and truly seemed too short! What an experience! I am still amazed at both how much I learned and how much my faith has grown. What wonderful Grace that God has led me here and who knows what he has in store next!”

For the **diakonia** class of 2007, the months of study and fellowship culminated in an awesome worship experience that was, indeed, Spirit filled. On June 23, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Aurora the service was complete with all of the Church's pomp, circumstance and even rock and roll for an exceptional and beautiful worship service.

Doug Dill said “the **diakonia** graduation was an experience beyond my belief. We put on the robes and ropes and walked in the sanctuary two

by two. All the music, the streamers and the dove flying above, wow! What was really nice was that as we went along, it was an experiential time: the Holy Spirit filled the room to be there with us all. From the time walking in to when we walked out, it was something to tell others about and to cherish for years to come. I saw people dancing in the pews. They were grabbed by the Holy Spirit, and just about everyone was dancing. This just was an awesome service. May God's Face shone on us during graduation.”

We were fortunate to have MCS ELCA Bishop Paul Landahl and Bishop-Elect Wayne Miller as participants. An up-lifting and enjoyable sermon was offered by Pastor Eric Dawson. A greeting was brought from Douglas Liston, a representative of the Northern Illinois **diakonia** program, and a very special greeting card was presented to each graduate from the ELCA's presiding Bishop Mark S. Hanson. Following the Affirmation of Baptism, each student was presented with a special **diakonia** cross to mark their accomplishment and also as a sign to the world of the promise of the resurrection!

Thus surrounded by a beautiful worship space and joyful music this **diakonia** graduating class joyfully moved from being students to becoming servants. Soli Deo Gloria!

MOLINE SITE

Bishop Gary Wollersheim is hopeful that we can recruit students for the Moline site and keep it opened! Stay tuned as we pray for the Holy Spirit to do its work.



HELLO AND GOODBYE FROM THE EDITOR!

This is my last issue as editor. If you have news or information for the next newsletter, please feel free to e-mail it to the new editor: Rainey Koga at (day2raine2@aol.com).



By Mary Mouw & Rebecca Dahlstrom

DORIS SCHAAR

Doris Schaar, a 2004 diakonia graduate died this year after a five month illness.



PRAYER CONCERNS

- Barb Sanders – knee surgery
- Wayne Bormann – personal concerns
- Mike Hoskinson – personal concerns
- Karol Grandgeorge – medical issues
- Carol Nordtvedt – daughter ill
- Carole Edwards – brother ill
- Betty Ostic - mother died
- Pam Werth - sister died
- Debby Ewalt – mother died
- Kendra Thulin - hip surgery
- Mary Weis – surgery

NEED A NEW DIAKONIA CROSS?

If you are a graduate and need a new diakonia cross, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom or Doug Liston.

RONN BROWER

Ronn Brower, a 2005 diakonia graduate died this year.

LAST WORDS FROM RONN

Note: this paragraph was written by Ronn Brower before he died.

After over four years of searching and learning and trying to understand God's will for me I have been accepted as an on-call chaplain at Good Shephard Hospital. It started with my attending LOC and then diakonia and so fourth. I will have completed one unit of CPE on February 22nd. Pending completion of my physical, I will start at Good Shephard on February 19th. I realize that this is only a start but after working through many closed doors believe this is what God has called me to do.



All of you have been a very positive influence in my journey. Without your teaching and encouragement I would not have had the fortitude to continue this journey. I don't know what lies ahead but I will try to live up to the high standards you have set for me and endeavor to make you proud of the work I do in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

Yours faithfully, Ronn

NEWS ABOUT US

Six diakonia graduates were set apart in the Metropolitan Chicago synod's new Synod Deacon Program. They include: Ray Bebee, Patrick Briggs, Rebecca Dahlstrom, Karen Mason, Marlene Miloch, and William Stroud.

Nicole Macaluso – considering seminary

Debby Ewalt – changing to part-time work

Jeff and Ann Currie –traveled to Hungary to visit their son

Ray and Laura Bebee – changed churches

Kathy Snyder – moving to Minneapolis

Diane Nelson - new grandson

Kendra Thulin - working full time

Debby Ewalt - working part time

Pam Khazen - retired and started a printing business

Rachel McKesson - moved

Suzy Krueckeberg - moved

Carole Edwards – starting seminary

Tom Strain, doing visitation, recently changed churches

Judy Cook - changing churches

Chuck Conklin scheduled for shoulder surgery in July

Gene Vincent - in the TEEM process, assigned a church

Mike Bryant - considering the TEEM process

Terri Dyer - in the TEEM process, assigned a church

Pam Werth - finishing chaplain residency

Carol Grosz - Wycliffe sponsored training for prayer leaders

MARLENE MILOCH TAKES ON SCHAUMBURG

Marlene Miloch has taken on the role of location manager for the Schaumburg site.

Marlene is a 2006 graduate. Thanks Marlene for taking on this important role!



PRAYER FOR THOSE SEARCHING FOR GOD

O Lord my God,
Teach my heart this day where and how to see you,
Where and how to find you.
You have made me and remade me,
And you have bestowed on me
All the good things I possess,
And still I do not know you.
I have not yet done that
For which I was made.
Teach me to seek you,
For I cannot seek you
Unless you teach me,
Or find you
Unless you show yourself to me.
Let me seek you in my desire,
Let me desire you in my seeking.
Let me find you by loving you,
Let me love you when I find you.

- St. Anselm



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UPCOMING EVENTS

October 13, 2007 – National Board Meeting

October 20, 2007 – Metropolitan Chicago Synod steering committee meeting

January 2008 – Chicago retreat (tentative)

February 2008 – Northern Illinois retreat

March 1, 2008 – National Board Meeting.

June 14, 2008 – 1st Graduation in Greater Milwaukee Synod at Holy Trinity, West Allis.

June 28, 2008 – graduation for Metro Chicago synod at Grace, River Forest

July 12, 2008 – graduation for Northern Illinois synod

TALK IT UP!

We are looking for new students to start the diakonia program this fall. If you have a chance, please talk to someone who may be interested. If you need copies of the brochure, please contact Rebecca Dahlstrom or Ray Bebee. Info is available on the websites.

WEBSITES

Diakonia has a national website and a webpage on the two synod websites:

www.thediakoniaprogram.org

www.mtselca.org/diakonia/index.html

www.nisynod.org/ministries/diakonia.htm

Many thanks to Doug Liston, Jeff Drake, and Karin Graddy for maintaining these sites for us.