

Autobiographical Sketch

When you have completed your answers, please mail them to: *LCMS Deaconess Biographies Project, 782 15th Street, Oakmont, Pennsylvania, 15139* or send an email with your attached document to cheryl@deaconessbio.org.

Thank you for your participation in this exciting project!

1. Name
2. Address
3. Email address or telephone number
4. Date and place of birth, Baptism, confirmation
5. Your parents

The purpose of questions 6-16 is to help you create as complete as possible a personal recollection of your life and service in the Church. Your answers may be as short or as long as you wish.

6. **Ancestry.** Information could include the details of parents, references to grandparents, earlier generations, and ethnic background that may be known. Episodes from home life, customs and practices with references to marriages, baptisms, confirmations, funerals and worship life, etc., are often useful.
7. **Early Youth and Primary Education:** Information could include references to the geographical location and places of residence of the family; pastime and recreational activities; school teachers; courses of study; techniques used in the classroom; languages employed; family responsibilities; books and literature; transportation modes; friends; the influence of pastors, teachers', and deaconesses. Also recount how you came to decide to serve the Lord as a church worker.
8. **Young Adulthood:** Information could include reference to preparatory education, college, field work, internship, or graduate education. A description of the colleges attended, instructors, courses taken, the physical aspects of the schools, recreational activities, characterizations of instructors and classmates, impressions, reminiscences and incidents that impressed you. Travel engaged in during this time, influential literature, etc., may be helpful.
9. **Places of Service within the LCMS:** List all congregations, institutions, and mission endeavors you have served within The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod or the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America, along with dates of service.
10. **Other Places of Service:** If you have worked in congregations, institutions, or mission endeavors of church bodies other than the LCMS, list all places of employment, along with dates of service. Information

about secular employment before, during, or after deaconess service is also useful.

- 11. Synodical Membership:** List dates of membership in Synods or denominations, including current membership [*Example A. Always member of LCMS; Example B: Birth to 1967 No church home; 1967-1979 LCMS; 1979-1985 Lutheran Church of America; 1985 to present LCMS.*]
- 12. Professional Life:** Information could include consecration, commissioning, and installation events; practices of calls; congregational life; concerns of the people served; customs and practices prevailing in the various parishes, institutions, and missions; deaconess conferences; salaries, cost of living; names of pastors or other individuals who were in team ministry with you; descriptions of physical settings in which you worked; anniversaries observed; retirement date and celebration.
- 13. Secular and Ecclesiastical Offices:** Information could include services rendered on committees and boards, both secular and religious; length of time served; objectives and purposes of such boards and committees; reminiscences of deaconesses conferences; reminiscences of district or synodical conventions; administrative practices; books, pamphlets, tracts and periodical articles you may have produced; relationships with other deaconesses, pastors, teachers and local contacts with the community; evaluations of people in leadership positions; theological aspects, etc.
- 14. In Retrospect:** Information could include anecdotal glimpses into past decades, highlighting and pinpointing certain experiences; comments on the contemporary situation; words of wisdom for posterity, especially analyses of either past or major current events and movements within the church in the community; comments on language transitions, racial matters, the advances of technology, war and peace, etc.
- 15. Family:** Give date(s) and place(s) of marriage and to whom. Information could also include how you met, courtship; your children, their schooling and their careers; comments on family life and related matters, perhaps with respect to family worship, and with respect to balancing family needs or priorities and your deaconess; vocation the goals of the children for the future; the life and career of your spouse; housing arrangements,; and whatever else is important to you on this subject.
- 16. Any other Thoughts or Comments:** Information could include thoughts or insights on any topic related to diaconal service in the church, community, or world.

These questions have been adapted from Service Bulletin #3b, copyright © 1998 Concordia Historical Institute, 801 DeMun Ave., St. Louis, Missouri, 63105.