

Lutheran Deaconess Association

FUN-DRAISING: A MINI-COURSE

Have FUN raising the money for your deaconess education/formation fees!

Telling the story: Why did YOU decide to become a deaconess?

Ideas for Friend-Raising and Fund-Raising: How can you let others help in your formation process?

Thrivent Financial for Lutherans: How might Thrivent help with supplemental funding?

Counting the cost: What are the LDA's student fees? How long will it take you to finish?

LUTHERAN DEACONESS ASSOCIATION

1304 LAPORTE AVE.

VALPARAISO, IN 46383

219-464-6925

WWW.THELDA.ORG

DEACSERV@VALPO.EDU



Telling the Story

It starts with a God who calls us...

The story is really about **God's grace** to you. And it's about God's longing for everyone to know that love. God calls us into **servant leadership** in the name of Jesus, for the sake of the Church, with hope for the world God so much loves.

God also called you into the LDA's education and formation process. You will be part of a world-wide movement of deaconesses, deacons, and diaconal ministers who desire simply to be "**among you as one who serves.**"

Your particular form of servant leadership will be unique. What gifts has God given you? What training do you need from this process? **How might God use your skills** for ministry to a world in need?

Ministry often requires volunteers and donor partnerships for funding special needs. If you have ever gone on a mission trip, planned a fundraiser, or organized a servant-event, you are aware of the importance of **inviting others into your ministry.**

Raising funds to help you become a deaconess is good training for your future. At some time or other, many of us work for non-profit organizations. Building friendships with those who **share the story** of God's love is ministry.

Pray that the **God who called you** into servant ministry will lead you to resources for God's work.

Check out the LDA website for resources:
www.TheLDA.org — click on "News" on the top bar.
See *Pi Delta Chi* (deac student group) newsletters for both VU and distance learners.

Fast fact: When people hear that you want to become a deaconess, they are often eager to support you! "I'm going to be a deaconess. I'm going to serve people in need. Will you help me?"

Anticipate two responses: "YES!" And, "What's a deaconess?" (We get asked that a lot...)

Fast fact: Congregations more often give money to the LDA because they know a deaconess or a deaconess student. They want to give money to train church workers. Why not give them an opportunity?

Fast fact: You will be joining about 30 deaconess students from around the country, ranging in age from 20—60, with a variety of skills and experience. It takes most students 3 years to finish the education and formation process.

Fast fact: Raising funds will not happen overnight. You might spread your payments over a three-year process, or set mini-goals for yourself. Start now. Ask, be patient, and expect good things.

Martin Luther and Prayer

Luther wrote, in the meaning to the Lord's Prayer: "We all have needs enough, but the trouble is that we do not feel or see them. God therefore wishes you to lament and express your needs and wants, not because he is unaware of them, but in order that you may kindle your heart to stronger and greater desires and spread your cloak wide to receive many things."

Ideas for Friend-Raising and Fundraising

Have a Dream

What IS your dream, and what would it look like if your dream was reached? Describe it.

Articulate the Dream

"The LDA has been training women for servant leadership in the Church and world for over 90 years. This deaconess community serves people both inside the Church and outside in the community, through agencies or schools. I'm looking forward to being part of that history."

(Use your own words...)

(In fact, you can show the LDA's power point about deaconesses!)

Outline Your Plan

Your mission statement

I have a passion for working with children. I want to tell them about the love of Jesus. *(Describe what kind of ministry you want to do.)*

(These are suggestions; use your own words...)

Description of goals

I intend to finish my BA at Valparaiso University, and do a one-year paid internship. Or, I hope to spend a year in Haiti, working with children in poverty. Or, in addition to my career as a teacher, I will work with a prison ministry program.

Fund raising objectives

My objective is to raise \$X for my student fees. I'll need \$X before August... Or, I want to raise \$200 per month for 36 months.

Your fundraising plan

I am inviting this congregation to help raise... I am hosting a fundraiser with Thrivent supplemental funds... I am using this letter-campaign to find partners... My family is pledging \$1,000 to make my formation possible. I'm inviting you to join them.

Your financial statement and budget

You might outline the costs of this 3-year education and formation process. Ask for a specific amount to cover a specific item, or consider the total cost for three years.

Keep People Included in Your Progress

How will you keep your friends, family, and donors included in your progress? Letters? Newsletter? Webpage? Personal phone calls?

Personal invitation

- Invite people personally to support your formation process — not just with money, but also through prayer and encouragement!

Special events or fundraisers

- Raise visibility for your project. Keep in mind the energy and amount of volunteers needed. Who might help you put on an event? What? Where? When?
- Publicity, publicity, publicity!
- Will you invite Thrivent to supplement your fundraising effort?

Letters

- Invite people to make a donation by sending a letter to them.
- Refer to the reader at least twice as often as your cause. "You may have read..." "I'm sure you join me in feeling..." "If you are like me, you care deeply about..."
- Lots of white space, wide margins, clear and simple font, short paragraphs.

Webpage

- Many students have developed their own webpage to tell about their experiences. Need ideas? Contact the LDA to find other students who have experience.

Say thanks!

- Hand-written letters or notes go a long way to strengthen your relationships with supporters.
- E-mail can be great.
- Find a way to express your appreciation.

Contact the LDA Staff:

Diane Marten, Director of Education and Formation

Diane.Marten@valpo.edu

Christi Thieme, Director of Development and Public Relations

Christi.Thieme@valpo.edu



Ideas for Friend-Raising and Fund-Raising

Don't be Afraid...

Uncomfortable? Money is a taboo topic in America, and it can feel uncomfortable to ask for financial support. But don't let your fear deprive someone else of being part of something meaningful.

- *Many, many people feel great about giving to worthy causes.*

What if the person says no?

- *This will happen at least as often as someone says yes. Don't take it personally. You had a chance to tell them about your calling.*

Will asking a friend for money have a negative effect on the friendship?

- *Most people are friends because they share similar values — and many are offended if you don't ask. In fact, finding funds and volunteers starts with people you know.*

What if the person says YES, then asks you to give to their cause. Are you obligated to give whether you want to or not?

- *No. Beyond a "thank you" and gracious attitude, you are not obligated.*

Only Believe

Asking someone for money actually does them a favor. People who agree with your goals and respect the work of your group will want to be a part of it. Giving money is one way to participate.

Most "raised" money comes from people who are not rich. When asking, make it clear that you would love for them to say yes, but it is OK to say no.

Asking does not require you to be free of fear. It only requires having your fear under control. What you believe in is bigger than what you are afraid of.

Prayer helps. Trust that God is removing barriers and inviting you into servant ministry. God will help you find a way.

Where to Start

- **Start with your pastor.** Let your pastor know about your sense of "call" into ministry. Talk about how the LDA provides an accessible education and formation process. Ask the pastor to assist you in considering funding resources.
- **Congregations** often have special funds for church-worker support. That would be you!
- **LWML** (*Lutheran Women's Missionary League, LCMS*) might give you a gift or help with fundraising. LWML groups have local, zone and district levels. Ask your pastor for the LWML president's name.
- **WELCA** (*Women of the ELCA*) might give you a gift or help with fundraising. WELCA groups have local, cluster, and synodical levels. Ask your pastor for the WELCA leader's name.
- **Scholarships** may be available from WELCA or LWML, for women who are entering ministry as a second career or seeking non-ordained ministry.

Who might be in your network of support?

- Family (parents, grandparents, siblings, uncles and aunts, etc.)
- Friends (and friends of family and friends!)
- Social acquaintances
- People from your congregation
- Neighbors
- Colleagues
- Club members, team contacts (swim team, cooking group, etc.)
- Professionals and service providers (hairstylists, doctor, mechanic)
- Women's groups: LWML District or Zone; WELCA cluster or national
- Deaconesses that you know
- Other ideas?

LDA Resources:

- CD — Power point, telling about where and how deaconesses are serving
- Offering envelopes
- Bulletin inserts about deaconess ministry
- Brochures and flyers
- Bookmarks

Be aware... publicity like this is inspiring. Many students found the LDA because of presentations by other students.



Ideas for Friend-Raising

Other Students Have Done...

Learning from other students and deaconesses is one of the very best parts of being a deaconess. Check this out!

Linda's parents were able to pay for her entire student fees. Later, she raised \$22,000 through partnerships with her congregation and other mission sponsors to fund 15 months of her diaconal service in Papua New Guinea.

Catherine hosted a Thrivent event for several congregations near her hometown. She and her family held 2 soup dinners, planned and led a special Lenten worship, and told the story of deaconess ministry. She invited friends and relatives to contribute. She raised 80% of her fees.

Nancy told her congregation about her dream of being a deaconess and explained what her ministry would be. A private donor was so inspired that he pledged (and covered) all her student fees.

Shannon and Lynda were excited to tell their pastors about their sense of call. Pastors connected them with funds from the congregational budget to assist members who are going into ministry. Because they asked.

Mary and Lisa had been out of college for several years, so they applied—and were granted — ministry scholarships by the Women of the ELCA (WELCA).

Heather, Laura, Lora, Kat and Angela were the recipients of Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) funds through their congregation.

Kristin used Thrivent's "Simply Giving" option to have \$200 per month automatically withdrawn from her checking account, transferred directly to the LDA.

Robin used her MasterCard to pay the LDA periodically. See LDA website, www.TheLDA.org to use your credit card!

Friend-Raising

People are the most important part of any ministry. Inviting others to **share in your work** is a ministry in itself.

People who contribute to your mission sometimes wish they could do what you are going to do. Their financial support is one way they can share in the work that **Christ does through you**.

What Else Should People Know

- Talk to people about their own service. Affirm their work as part of God's call to *diakonia*. Celebrate the way God works through each of us.
- Tell them the story about how you were called to the LDA. How did you get hooked into deaconess ministry?
- Tell them about the love of Jesus, on bended knee — Jesus, who stoops to serve the little ones in our world today. Think how you might serve as Jesus did.
- Tell about the career you have already been doing, and your interest in using the next part of your life in more intentional service.
- Tell them what you see happening at Valparaiso University. Tell about all those students who are discerning their vocation. Tell about Wednesday Eucharist, Church Vocations, Field Work, SALT, and worship at the chapel. These are exciting days!
- Let them know that the Lutheran Deaconess Association is a freestanding inter-Lutheran agency that relies on the generous support of congregations, individuals, and deaconesses in order to provide this ministry.
- Invite them to check out the LDA website: www.TheLDA.org



God's Rich Grace to Us

God keeps giving to us — grace upon grace. Because of God's rich love, deaconesses feel **called to share** that Good News with others, and to be the hands and feet of Jesus Christ to a world in need.

Here's a mini-thanks to those who prepared this mini-course:

Dcs Linda Davis, Dcs Catherine Steffen, Dcs Diane Marten, and LDA Director of PR Christi Thieme.

Cost: Student Fees

Cost for 3 Years in Formation

LDA Scholarships

The LDA is an independent non-profit organization and does not receive funding from any church body. However, we are committed to raising funds to cover ½ of each student's fees. If you have financial need, you may apply for an LDA scholarship.

Basic Fee and Year One Fee : \$7,500.	(w/LDA Scholarship) \$3,750
Year Two Fee - \$2,500.	(w/LDA Scholarship) \$1,250
Year Three Fee —\$2,500	(w/LDA Scholarship) \$1,250
TOTAL LDA Student Fees , 3 Years in Formation: \$12,500	(w/LDA Scholarship) \$6,250
<i>(If your journey needs to last another year or two, there will be additional fees.)</i>	

Other costs connected with LDA education and formation:

Application fee	\$25
Vocational-Psychological testing. Costs have varied from \$400 - \$900. Contact the LDA for ideas on testing resources. VU students typically host events to raise \$300 per VU campus applicant to reduce testing fees to \$100.	\$100 - \$900
<u>Orientation and each Annual Seminar</u> in Valparaiso, IN. Attendance is required each year during formation. Students pay for their own transportation and housing. About \$300 covers a motel room (with roommate) and several meals. Some students stay with local friends in order to decrease cost.	\$100 to \$900 for motel or home stays, (3 seminars)
<u>Annual Conference of the Lutheran Deaconess Conference.</u> Attendance is required at least twice, as part of formation. Annual Conference moves around the country each summer. Registration is often about \$400 per event. Travel costs are extra. Some scholarship \$\$ may be available from the deaconess community.	\$400 - \$800 for 2 conferences
<u>Theology of Diaconal Ministry course.</u> Certificate only. Cost is \$285. <i>(If you are a VU student, this course is part of your VU tuition.)</i>	\$0 - \$285
<u>CPE.</u> Clinical Pastoral Education is offered in many hospitals in major cities around the country. The cost is typically around \$500 for the course. <i>(If you are a VU student, you can fulfill this requirement by taking Theology 453, Clinical Education for Ministry.)</i>	\$0 - \$500
<u>Miscellaneous:</u> Tuition for any required theology courses – costs vary, depending on where you take the classes. Travel. Books. Etc.	\$??? varies

Most non-VU students budget about \$9,000 for 3 years in formation.

Advantages of Attending Valparaiso University:

VU awards tuition scholarships of \$500 per semester to deaconess students in residence. Also, VU students often have opportunities for other scholarships while doing undergrad work, in addition to the savings listed above.

Most VU students need about \$7,200 for all 3 years in formation.

Target your fundraising goals:

Distant student (non-VU-campus) fees for 3 years (36 months) is about \$180 per month.

Raising about \$2100 per year covers student fees for 3 years in formation.

You do the math... how much \$\$ will you need to complete this process?

[www.Thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com)

Explore Thrivent's website to find the latest information on supplemental funding and other services.

Thrivent is changing the way they distribute fraternal funds in 2010. As of this writing, some of the programs are unclear. Talk to your Thrivent representative or to the LDA for the most current information.

Simply Giving

Check out the *Simply Giving* Program. The *Simply Giving* Program is a modern-day stewardship program. It's a convenient, safe and simple way for individuals to make automatic payments to non-profit organizations through [electronic funds transfer \(EFT\)](#) directly from checking or savings accounts. Many students make monthly payments in this way.

The LDA is an approved non-profit organization, and can be the recipient of *Simply Giving* transfers.

Care Abounds in Communities®

Go to this specific site to learn about "Care Abounds in Communities," a program that can assist in supplemental funding for your project:

https://www.thrivent.com/community/outreach/volunteering/careabounds/how_it_works.html

Through the Care Abounds in Communities program, Thrivent Financial members come together to help their communities and individuals in need.

Members can use Care Abounds in Communities dollars to add to the funds they raise at an activity...

1. Identify a Need (*that could be you!*)
2. Form a Community Service Team
3. Request Funding from the Chapter
4. Publicize and Conduct the Activity
5. Report Results to Chapter
6. Chapter Enters the Activity Results Online
7. Chapter Financial Director Distributes Funds

How to Apply for "Care Abounds in Communities" Funds:

1. **Contact** the Thrivent Chapter leadership for your congregation. Explain that you have a need and a fundraising idea. Get approval before you publicize your event.
(*Find a Thrivent representative by going to the website and adding your zip code. Your Thrivent representative can help you with the application, but here are some hints:*)
2. **Identify six** (6) Thrivent member households to form your Community Service Team. Members may need to represent several churches. Your Thrivent representative can help you find them.
3. Complete the Thrivent simple "**request**" form. Once your project is approved, you can plan the details of your activity, event, or service project.
EG: gather pledges for a service project; hold a dinner, bake sale or auction; make a presentation during a worship service about your ministry and ask for a free-will offering.
4. **Invite EVERYONE** you can think of. Promotional materials are available through Thrivent — or you can make your own. Put announcements in your newsletter or newspaper. Be sure to invite the deaconesses who live in your area. Write letters to your relatives. They can contribute money on your behalf, even if they can't attend the event.
 - **Flyers must include Thrivent recognition**
 - **Contact the LDA for other resources**, or to find deaconesses near you.
5. **Hold your event.** Have sign-in sheets for all who attended, with special notation for those who are Thrivent members.
 - Determine how to make out checks — to LDA on your behalf? To a sponsoring organization?
 - After the event — THANK EVERYONE!
6. Complete the **report form** for your Chapter.
 - # of Thrivent households who participated;
 - # of all volunteer's hours spent in planning and organizing the activity;
 - # of hours carrying out the event.
 - How much money you spent — keep RECEIPTS!
 - How much money did you raise?
7. Send your **funds to Thrivent.** (*Ask your Thrivent Representative about where to send your funds.*) Thrivent will send you a check that supplements the money you raised.