Descriptions of Diaconal Care

LCMS World Relief and Human Care

Mercy forever.

This is a list of the ways a deaconess may serve. However, the service of a deaconess is not limited to these areas. She may have additional special skills or interests beyond those listed. Please also note that some line items could be developed into entire areas of responsibility.

HUMAN CARE

Develop or coordinate programs to:

- Make spiritual care visits to people who are homebound or hospitalized
- Assist single parent families
- Organize or participate in prison ministry, for the incarcerated and their families
- Provide support for those with special needs
- Provide short-term spiritual counseling and assessment for referrals

ADMINISTRATION

Serve, assist, coordinate or supervise:

- Church or community programs
- A Recognized Service Organization (RSO) or a department within an RSO
- A Lutheran school or other Lutheran organization
- A secular institution where spiritual care can be provided (e.g., hospitals, nursing homes, developmentally disabled, etc.)

AGING AND CONTINUING CARE

- Make regular visits to provide spiritual care and companionship
- Support individuals and families who suffer the effects of lingering or chronic illness
- Support individuals and families during grief or loss
- Offer spiritual and wellness education

EDUCATION

Teach or assist:

- Women's Bible studies
- Adults with aging issues, spiritually, physically, mentally or socially
- Other educators, including Sunday school and VBS teachers
- Human care education for congregations or communities

INSTITUTIONAL REPRESENTATION AND STAFF SUPPORT

- Foster relationships between institutions and congregations to develop partnerships
- Participate in spiritual care-giving programs
- Offer spiritual care for staff members
- Develop applicable spiritual care curriculum, including Bible studies or devotions for target audiences

MUSIC

- Select music for visitation, services or office use
- Direct vocal choirs and ensembles
- Direct instrumental choirs and ensembles
- Play organ or piano for worship services

WOMEN'S PROGRAMS

Serve, assist, coordinate or supervise projects, programs, centers or resources for:

- Women's wellness issues including infertility, pregnancy
- Women's spiritual fellowships, including ladies aid, small groups and singles groups
- Training and supervising the altar guild
- Women suffering neglect, domestic violence, grief, shame or guilt

YOUTH PROGRAMS

- Be a leader, mentor and motivator of youth for Christian living and understanding
- Be a leader, mentor and motivator of youth for human care issues
- Organize and lead retreats and service projects
- Develop and facilitate Bible studies and wholesome group activities

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