

Lisa participating in online class, with Concordia Theological Seminary personnel Dr. Cynthia Lumley, Associate Director of Deaconess Studies, and Dr. Arthur Just, Professor and Chairman of Exegetical Theology.



Lisa's Witness by Carolyn Blum

"You've always been a deaconess, you just didn't know it!" declared a friend when Lisa Stapp announced she was enrolling in the online Deaconess program from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Born into a Lutheran family, Lisa was diagnosed at age nine with a progressive neuromuscular disorder, Spinal Muscular Atrophy Type 2; however, that has not deterred her from being a constant witness for Jesus. "I have the distinct privilege of being a person with a disability, riding in a wheelchair," she said. "People who ordinarily would not be open to talking to professional church workers do talk to me, enabling me to share Jesus' love with them. Because I am often in a hospital environment, the Holy Spirit provides many opportunities to witness my faith, and the deaconess training is showing me how to express His truths simply and accurately." Currently serving her church, Zion Lutheran in Tomball, Texas, as Sunday School superintendent, Lisa is

expected to graduate this fall. Along with her B.A. in psychology from the University of Houston, many areas of service may be open. "I want to help people more than just to feel better," she stated. "It takes a combination of Law and Gospel, presented at just the right time, to make a real difference. Writing a book about suffering and the God who suffers with us is something I'd like to do. I'm interested in working in a nursing home, a rehab facility, or a hospice; I'd also like to teach Bible studies."

Lisa is passionate about serving the often-overlooked segments of the population, including seniors and people with disabilities. "Today's society places much emphasis on abilities and youth. However, we are all helpless recipients of our heavenly Father's grace," she said.

Regarding her deaconess studies, Lisa quips, "Who could ask for more than a lifetime of scriptural learning, history, and doctrine? It's better than being paid to eat chocolate truffles!"