



## The Deacon Program Graduates 2010:

### Thomas Craig

Deacon Graduate Thomas Craig is a member of Christ Lutheran in Albany, NY. He currently serves as Director of Education and Youth and teaches Confirmation and is involved with the Jubilate Singers. Thomas currently works for Schenectady ARC as a job coach.

### Debbie Gnad

Deacon Graduate Deborah Gnad is a member of St Luke Church in Dix Hills NY. She is an usher, on the youth committee, assists with the Confirmation classes and is responsible for the "card" (for sick or grieving members) and she is also involved in the Baptism ministry at St. Luke's. Deborah is married to Jim, and they have a daughter - Kelly (& son-in-law Jason) and 8 amazing, loving grandchildren, (5 girls & 3 boys, ages 3 months to 12 yrs).

### Rosemarie Gustafson

Deacon Graduate Rosemarie Gustafson is a resident of Eastchester, N.Y. and has been a member of the Village Lutheran Church, Bronxville since 1979. She is a Registered Nurse who worked for Montefiore Medical Center for 18 years. Rosemarie retired in March of 2009 and now does per diem work. She is a widow who has two daughters Lisa (Morristown, NJ) and Laura (Alexandria, VA). Rosemarie is now grandmother to a beautiful girl Alison who was born in January 2009. She has participated in the LWML monthly bible studies and has also attended several conventions.

### Mark Hendricks

Deacon Graduate Mark Hendricks is a Member of St. Marks Lutheran Church in Hudson, New York. Mr. Hendricks has been a member of St. Marks since 1986 where he has served as Sunday School Teacher, Superintendent and youth leader. Presently Mr. Hendricks serves on the building committee and is involved in the Outreach and Hospitality ministries of St. Marks

### Carol Matern

Deacon Graduate Carol Matern has been a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Schenectady, NY since moving from Newport News, VA five years ago. She serves as organist, teaches the Baptism/First Communion Class, is on the Evangelism Board and is a caller for the Telecare Ministry at Trinity. Carol and John are blessed with four daughters and thirteen grandchildren.

### John Matern

Deacon Graduate John Matern is a member of Trinity Lutheran Church in Schenectady, NY, where he was baptized as a child. He teaches the Youth Bible Class, serves as the Chairman of Evangelism, and is involved in Trinity's Telecare Ministry. He has been married to Carol for 54 years and they have 4 daughters and 13 grandchildren.

### Marie Melfi

Deacon Graduate Marie A. Diane Melfi has been a member of St. John's Lutheran Church in Holbrook for ten years, and was the recipient of the Lamb Award. She has been the Resident Organist at St. John's for 16 yrs., taught Vacation Bible School and Sunday School, and has also been involved in scouting for thirty years. She is married to John Melfi, and they are the proud parents of a son who is an Eagle Scout. Their son is married and has two beautiful daughters - Kristi Lynn, and Jennifer Nicole.

### Jose Pinedo-Whatts

Deacon Graduate Jose A. Pinedo Whatts comes from the Dominican Republic, and has been a member of St. Peter's in Brooklyn since 2004. Jose has a passion to bring the Gospel to the Hispanic People in his community. Besides evangelism, he loves being involved anything at the church that encourages Christian fellowship and teaching God's Word so everyone knows of the Promises God has fulfilled for us.

### Nancy Rickert

Deacon Graduate Nancy Rickert is a member of St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Brooklyn, NY. She has been a member since 2007 when she converted from Judaism. Nancy is a co-founder of the Homework Help Program at St. Peter's, she also is a member of the Choir, and teaches Sunday School. Nancy is married to Larry. She has two step-children Laurel and Gregg and three grandchildren Anna, Brady and Cameron

### Kenneth Ritter

Deacon Graduate Kenneth Ritter is a member at Our Savior Lutheran Church in Fishkill, New York. He has been blessed by the Lord to be a husband, father, grandfather, brother, grandson and son. And a servant of the Word, called to share the love and forgiveness of the Lord with the world.

### Charles Turner

Deacon Graduate Charlie Turner has been a member of St. Johns Lutheran, Williston Park for the past 35 years. He has served in various council positions for 18 of those years and currently leading an adult Bible study. He lives with his wife, Christine, a Lutheran Nursery School Director, has two grown children and two grandchildren.

