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Women on the Go

Farmington resident honored by Lutherans

By MARGARET MILLER
Women's Editor

A life full of church work and some efficient service for special concert programs has made Mrs. Martha Eichinger of Farmington the metropolitan area's "Lutheran Woman of the Year."

The title and a silver pin to signify the honor were bestowed during a recent meeting of the Council of Lutheran Women for the Detroit area.

Nominated by the women's association in her own church, Gloria Dei in northwest Detroit, Mrs. Eichinger said she was most surprised to receive the award.

"I am most honored," she added.

Mrs. Eichinger, mother of three, is known around Farmington as the lady who took care of tickets for the recent Max Davey concert to raise funds for the Farmington Community Center.

Earlier this year, she had served in a similar capacity for the Christian opera, "I Am The Way," which starred Jerome Hines and was performed in the Ford Auditorium on the evening of Good Friday.

On both occasions, more was involved than selling tickets. There were the matters of seeking patrons and coordinating local talent as well as getting tickets into the proper hands and keeping track of sales.

The enjoyment of meeting the people involved was well worth the effort on both occasions, Mrs. Eichinger said later.

Martha Eichinger's life story sounds like that of many church workers rolled into one.

A native of Bay City, she worked as secretary to the president of the Michigan district of the Missouri Synod before her marriage to A.J. Eichinger and a move to the Detroit area a couple of decades ago.

At Gloria Dei, she served on numerous church committees and was president of the women's association for three terms. When the church expanded its facilities, she worked on the committee that selected and coordinated interior furnishings, including kitchen equipment.

She has been active in the church's annual Vacation Bible School program, and a couple of years ago she served weekly dinners to the church youth group.

In between times she has had a circle that made Christmas for the church tree at Christmas and eggs decorated with Christian symbols for an Easter tree, as well as lap robes for convalescent homes and bazaar items.

She also has been active in PTA, March of Dimes, United Foundation, Boy Scouts and Braille typing work.

An important part of Martha Eichinger's story is the fact for nearly 10 years she has lived with the fact of cancer.

In 1964 she underwent an operation for breast cancer, and after a fast recovery has done considerable work in counseling others who faced similar surgery.

Then last year a check-up showed cancer had struck again, this time with some involvement and tumors on the lungs and eyes.

Tests and treatments have followed, and there have been several hospital stays. Recently Mrs. Eichinger was informed that the chemical therapy she had been undergoing seemed to have the disease in check.

"I've had a lot of people praying for me, and I know it helps," she said. "So many wonderful things have happened this year, I forget about the illness."

Mrs. Eichinger's husband is employed by Michigan Bell Telephone Co. They have three children. Son, Peter, recently married and living in Southfield, is manager of Metropolitan Savings and Loan in Farmington, and daughter, Julien, is in her first year of teaching at Beloit, Wis. Both are graduates of Western Michigan University.

A younger daughter, Janice, is a junior at Harrison High School.

Continuum center sets new classes

Two unusual programs, designed to improve the relationship between a man and woman, will be offered by Oakland University's Continuum Center in February.

A three-hour workshop for couples will be held from 7:30 to 10:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 20, in Meadow Brook Clubhouse on the Oakland University campus. The single-session program, communication skills for couples, will be repeated April 24. Cost is \$10 per couple.

Marriage enrichment, a seven-session program, will be held in Meadow Brook Clubhouse Feb. 27 through April 8. It will be led by Continuum Center Director Mrs. Eleanor Driver of Mount Clemens, who designed the program for couples needing to put a new sense of direction into their life.

Marriage Enrichment begins with a free orientation at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 26, where participants can meet workshop leaders and explore the format before enrolling. It costs \$75 per couple.

Kids sport fashions for spring

Children from the Henry Ruff Elementary School will present a spring fashion show on Thursday, Feb. 21, in the school, 30300 Maplewood, Garden City, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The fashions will come from the Garden City Mart. The show will be coordinated by the school's PTA.

Delta Zeta's set meeting

Mrs. Ell Trevorrow of Consumers Power Company will be the speaker at a meeting of the Delta Zeta Alumnae of Western Wayne Thursday, Feb. 21, at 7 p.m. in the Consumers Power Co. building, 11801 Farmington Road, Livonia.

Mrs. Trevorrow will present "Instant Entertaining," a demonstration of unique, short-notice entertaining ideas. A meal will follow.

Area Delta Zetas are invited to bring a guest to the meeting, and are reminded to bring a birthday card for their patient at Carville.

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MRS. MARTHA EICHINGER of Farmington, the Lutheran Woman of the Year. (Evert photo)

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