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From the Publisher

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Purpose Statement

| This publication is by and largely for the academic communities of the twenty-eight colleges and universities of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. It is published by the Vocation and Education unit of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Augustana College, Rock Island, Illinois, which has generously offered leadership and physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators that have addressed the church-college/university partnership. The ELCA has sponsored an annual Vocation of the Lutheran College Conference. The primary purpose of *Intersections* is to enhance and continue such dialogue. It will do so by:

- Lifting up the vocation of Lutheran colleges and universities
- Encouraging thoughtful dialogue about the partnership of colleges and universities with the church
- Offering a forum for concerns and interests of faculty at the intersection of faith, learning, and teaching
- Raising for debate issues about institutional missions, goals, objectives, and learning priorities
- Encouraging critical and productive discussion on our campuses of issues focal to the life of the church
- Serving as a bulletin board for communications among institutions and faculties
- Publishing papers presented at conferences sponsored by the ELCA and its institutions
- Raising the level of awareness among faculty about the Lutheran heritage and connectedness of their institutions, realizing a sense of being part of a larger family with common interests and concerns.

From the Publisher

| As readers of *Intersections* know well, the spring issue of this journal each year typically carries essays from the prior year's "Vocation of a Lutheran College" conference. We continue that tradition with this issue, presenting essays from the 2008 conference which was held at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, under the theme: "Educating for Responsible Citizenship."

Paul Pribbenow, President of Augsburg College in Minneapolis, delivered an unofficial keynote for the conference last summer. In his paper, "Dual Citizenship: Reflections on Educating Citizens at Augsburg College," Pribbenow argues (rightly, I think) that the vocation of a Lutheran college includes helping students take up what he calls "dual citizenship," namely, being a contributing member of one's own society and culture while understanding oneself as belonging to a wider community at the same time. Wanda Deifelt, professor of religion at Luther College, relates the experience of the 2008 vocation conference's host school as it explored and developed programs for teaching and learning about civic engagement by drawing more deeply upon the Lutheran understanding of vocation. Jose Marichal, professor of political science at California Lutheran University in Thousand Oaks, California, took the conference through an assessment of the utopian and dystopian aspects of the digital revolution and the meaning of "digital citizenship." Finally, Arne Selbyg, the retiring director of colleges and universities for the ELCA's churchwide organization, reflected on the "three opportunities (he) had to be educated for citizenship," in Norway, in America as a resident alien, and as an American citizen.

The 16th century Lutheran Reformation's emphasis on education and the development of schools in Germany grew in part from the reformers' concerns for an educated citizenry. The importance of our mission in higher education for developing citizens in the 21st century remains a core aspect of the vocation of a Lutheran college.

MARK WILHELM | Director for Colleges and Universities Vocation and Education, ELCA