

2006

From the Publisher

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Augustana Digital Commons Citation

Selbyg, Arne (2006) "From the Publisher," *Intersections*: Vol. 2006: No. 24, Article 2.

Available at: <http://digitalcommons.augustana.edu/intersections/vol2006/iss24/2>

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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

| In this issue of *Intersections* we continue our recent focus on the Lutheran view of education. The papers that form the basis for this issue were presented at the 2006 conference on “The Vocation of a Lutheran College,” where the theme was “Liberal Learning and Professional Preparation.” This continued the discussion from the 2005 conference where the theme was “The Lutheran Calling in Education.” All of these efforts were meant to contribute to the new ELCA Social Statement on Education. A second draft of that statement will be distributed in the spring of 2007, and come to the 2007 ELCA Churchwide Assembly for approval. We who work for the ELCA unit for Vocation and Education are very grateful for the many faculty members and administrators at the colleges and universities that are related to the ELCA who took this opportunity to contribute to this formal statement of what the ELCA stands for in the area of education.

The next conference will be held at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in the first days of August 2007, and the theme will be “The Vocation of a Lutheran College—Engaging the World.” When this issue of *Intersections* is distributed there should still be time for you to contact your provost or academic dean to see whether you can be part of the delegation from your institution to that conference. Although the list of speakers is not yet finalized as I write these comments, I feel confident in predicting that we will have some great discussions of how the colleges that are related to the ELCA can avoid being caught in a bubble of inward looking self-centeredness. One of the reasons for the excellence of Lutheran colleges is that Martin Luther wanted the church and its members to contribute to their extended communities and not isolate themselves from their communities and their needs. One of the measures of the quality of Lutheran colleges should be the extent to which their students get rid of the blinders that most of us develop by growing up in a limited, even homogenous, environment. That is what the students need. That is what the colleges need. That is what the church needs.

Living in God's Amazing Grace,

ARNE SELBYG | Director for ELCA Colleges and Universities