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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 Division for Higher Education and Schools of the ELCA. The publication has its home at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio which has generously offered leadership, physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which 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

You may have heard, maybe repeatedly, that the Lutheran church has had a strong focus on education since the days of Martin Luther. That is why there are 28 colleges and universities in the United States that are related to the ELCA, eight ELCA seminaries, and thousands of Lutheran early childhood education centers, schools, and campus ministry sites at other colleges and universities. That is also why many Lutherans care deeply about public schools and about other education opportunities and issues.

During 2004 a task force appointed by the ELCA Division for Church in Society was asked to lay the groundwork for a Social Statement on Education, a statement that establishes official ELCA policy on educational issues. The plan is that a draft of such a statement will be debated in congregations and other church and educational forums in 2006 for consideration and adoption at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2007. In order to seek input for that draft, the Task Force has now published a study document. The document sets forth the biblical and theological principles in which the Lutheran views of education should be anchored, reviews the current situation, and challenges the church to take a stand on numerous educational issues, issues which affect everyone from infancy to adulthood.

Now is the time for you to study that document and give your reactions, so that the people who will draft the statement will know what Lutheran educators, and others with ties to the Lutheran educational institutions, think is important, and what they think is right. You can get a copy of the study document from the ELCA Division for Church in Society, Director for Studies, 8765 W. Higgins Road, Chicago, IL 60631, or by sending

an e-mail to John.Stumme@elca.org. You may also find it on the ELCA DCS Web site, but since it is more than a hundred pages long, you may prefer to get a printed copy instead of downloading it and printing it yourself.

Living in God's amazing grace,

Arne Selbyg

Director, ELCA Colleges and Universities

From the Editor

This issue of *INTERSECTIONS* once again features a variety of voices: young and old, angry and encouraging, prophetic and hopeful. All embody the same assumption—that Christians engaged in thinking and educating will ask hard questions and look at things in new ways. How does a Christian raise concerns about militarism and the new “imperialism” the U.S. is manifesting around the world? What issues will a Lutheran law school raise about the training of a new generation of attorneys? What will Lutheran colleges communicate to their undergrads about vocation and what difference will this end up making to them? I like these questions and think they are part of who we are as Lutheran institutions. If we are faithful to such questions we show how the Lutheran tradition of faithful criticism is alive in our midst.

Tom Christenson

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