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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 presently has its home at Capital University, Columbus, Ohio which has generously offered leadership, physical and financial support as an institutional sponsor for the inauguration of the publication.

The ELCA has frequently sponsored conferences for faculty and administrators which have addressed the church - college/university partnership. Recently 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

The Division of Higher Education and Schools in the ELCA has made it one of its priorities to help the colleges and universities related to the ELCA bring into focus what makes Lutheran colleges and universities distinctive. We think our Lutheran identity is something to celebrate and be proud of, something that can help and has helped make colleges better educational institutions.

We have used many different means to sharpen the image of the Lutheran-ness of the colleges. We see the journal that you are reading now as a venue for thoughtful dialogue about how faith, life and learning intersect at these colleges and universities, and we hope the articles may inspire some of our readers to become better teachers and thereby better servants of God.

Much of the contents come out of the annual conference on "The Vocation of a Lutheran College", and we are glad that the presentations made at the 1998 conference at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio were so well received and that we were given so much positive feedback about that conference will be held at Susquehanna University in Selinsgrove, Pennsylvania, and the conference topic will be "Identity and Fragmentation: Can the Lutheran Center hold?", a topic inspired by W. B. Yeats vision of the Second Coming.

Among the other means we have used to stimulate this discussion is sponsorship of the book "Lutheran Higher Education - An Introduction for Faculty" by professor Ernest Simmons of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, which was published in 1998 by Augsburg Fortress. The feedback that we have received on that book has also been very positive, and we are grateful to Dr. Simmons for his hard work and creative effort.

In 1999 we hope to launch a new initiative, which we expect will add new perspectives to the discussions. This will be a series of summer seminars which together will be called "The Lutheran Academy of Scholars in Higher Education". The project is modeled after the NEH and NSF Summer Seminars, and we hope to bring together faculty from different institutions and different disciplines to work on related scholarly project while learning from each other and from a prominent academician. The funding and the details have not been nailed down yet as this is being written, by the time you receive this issue of *Intersections* you can call and or send an e-mail inquiry to us, and we will give you the latest information. We certainly are full of excitement over what that project can add to the discussion of the relationship between the church and higher education, faith and life.

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