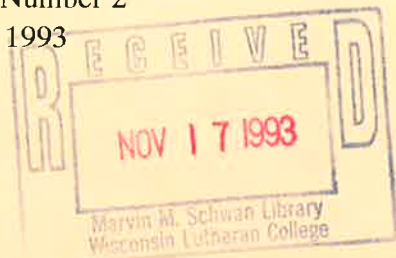


WELS Historical Institute

Journal

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On the Cover: The White Building of Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Mobridge, South Dakota

Synodical Convention, Kilbourn Road, Town of Oak Creek, Milwaukee Co. on Trinity Sunday 1857 Until Wednesday After Trinity Sunday

The synod began its convention on June 7 together with the dedication of the Evangelical Lutheran Church on Kilbourn Road. In the morning Pastor Bading gave the dedication sermon on Hebrews 9, and in the afternoon Pastor Diehlmann preached.

On the second day, namely Monday, June 8, the synodical sessions were opened with a hymn, a reading of I John 9-12, and a prayer spoken by the Hon. President Muehlhaeuser.

Present were Pastors Muehlhaeuser, Koester, Conrad, Bading, Koehler, Sauer, Streissguth, Reim, Starke, Sprengling and Candidate Hennicke. Pastor Goldammer was absent, however he sent in an excuse. Pastor Huber was also absent but considered unexcused until he would present sufficient reasons for his absence.

The lay delegates of the congregations belonging to the synod who were present were: Fred Otto of St. John Congregation in Milwaukee; Michael Zieme of Grace Church in Milwaukee; Daniel Goelzer of St. John Congregation in Oak Creek; Carl Pieper of the First Ev. Lutheran Church in Racine.

The following were admitted to the sessions as advisory delegates: Teacher Weigle, Colporteur Kandis and Colporteur Dumser.

Accepted as members of the synod were the Hon. Diehlmann, formerly a member of the Missouri Synod, and the Hon. Sprengler, having come from Germany.

Presentation of the President's Report

A peculiar personal feeling encompasses me at the opening of this convention as I look back nine years to the time when I preached here to the people for the first time. A year later the Hon. Weinmann came and took over this congregation, which unfortunately at a later time split up because of the anti-Christian activities of the humanists, etc.

Because our former treasurer, the Hon. Buehren, left our synod, the Hon. Pastor Streissguth was appointed to be treasurer in his stead.

Pastors Koehler and Starke were named to a committee to audit the treasurer's books.

Handing in of the Congregational Reports

The congregational reports revealed that the following pastoral acts were performed and the following contributions given for charitable purposes by all of the synodical affiliates except Sprengling, Reim and Huber, who submitted no reports: baptized 1,596*; confirmed 118; communicants [or Lord's Supper participants] 1,612; burials 97; for heathen missions \$112.69; synodical treasury \$18.18; for church construction \$15.00; Sunday Schools 5; day schools 5; weddings 55; widow's treasury \$7.70; support for poor students \$7.50; Tract Association \$1.00.

Correspondence

Then 21 pieces of correspondence were read, some of which were from nonaffiliates seeking to serve congregations, and some from congregations seeking preachers.

Because the secretary of the synod neglected to announce publicly our synodical convention, it was resolved that the secretary be required to inform the members of the synod six weeks before the convention where and when the synodical convention is to be held, and at the same time to announce the same in two of our country's Lutheran periodicals.

Monday 11-12 Ministerial Session

Prayer by Diehlmann.

Resolved that Candidate Hennicke be given a colloquy by Pastors Diehlmann, Starke and Reim instead of having him take an examination.

Resolved that Colporteur Dumser, who is requesting ordination into the preaching ministry, make a presentation on I Cor. 1:30 before the ministerium and then be given an examination.

Closing prayer by the Hon. Koester.

Monday Afternoon Synodical Meeting

Prayer by the Hon. Reim.

Resolved that Heinrich Doehring of the Evangelical Lutheran Congregation of Greenfield, who has just arrived, be admitted as an advisory member.

Resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran St. John Congregation of Oak Creek be accepted into synod membership.

Resolved that the Evangelical Lutheran Trinity Congregation of Caledonia Center be accepted into synod membership.

Likewise, the Evangelical Lutheran Bethel Congregation of Town Ashford, as soon as it has fulfilled the necessary conditions for acceptance which are still lacking and these are, that it adopt a resolution in a congregational meeting to join the Wisconsin Synod and then send this request to the synod's president. This subsequently took place.

Resolved to add the following paragraphs to the Constitution:

Article I. Concerning congregations to be accepted into synod membership.

- A. Each congregation which desires to join our synod must accept the confessional writings of the Lutheran Church, especially the *Unaltered Augsburg Confession* and Luther's *Small Catechism*, pledging to use the *Small Catechism* as the book for the religious instruction of its youth.
- B. Furthermore, such a congregation is bound by God's Word to exercise discipline and good order in its midst. The pastor, because of his pastoral office is the chairman of the church council and must take part together with the council in all congregational meetings.
- C. In cases of eventual conflicts in which congregation members are in disharmony with each other or with the pastor, and an amicable settlement cannot be effected, the congregation may present the matter to the synod, after which the president or an appointed committee is to investigate the matter with the congregation on location and then with good counsel and God's help bring about peace and unity, if possible.

- D. In case a congregation is without a preacher, it is bound either to call such a preacher who has been ordained according to church practices and is prepared to join our synod, or to turn to the synod for a preacher. However the congregation will have the right either to elect and call the pastor suggested by the synod or reject the suggestion.
- E. Finally, the congregation is bound on its own to send a delegate together with a freewill offering for the synod's treasury to the annual synod conventions.

Article II. Concerning the synod and its relationship with synodical member congregations.

- A. In contrast, the synod considers it to be its duty to have concern for member congregations by seeing to it that they are provided with pastors as soon as possible and that, during the time they are without a pastor, they are being duly served with the preaching of the gospel and the holy sacraments.
- B. In respect to the self-rule of each congregation, the synod stands only as an advisory body. Consequently no resolution by the synod has a binding effect upon the individual congregation, if the resolution, as a synodical resolution, places a demand upon the congregation. Such a synodical resolution can be binding only if the individual congregation by means of a congregational resolution accepts the synodical resolution of its own free will and also ratifies it. If a congregation finds the resolution to be contrary to God's Word or not applicable in its own midst, it has the right to disregard the resolution and reject it.

Prayer by Sprengling.

Ministerial Session

Prayer by Pastor Muehlhaeuser.

The Examination Committee gave its report on the colloquy held with Candidate Hennicke. Since the committee believed that there was no special reason to withhold the ordination of Candidate Hennicke, it moved the ordination, and recommended to him continued diligent self-study. The motion was adopted, and it was resolved that Candidate Hennicke be ordained in a festival service this, namely Monday, evening. Sauer preached on Eph. 2:8-9.

Tuesday Morning

Prayer by Pastor Koehler.

Resolved that a copy of the motion of the examination committee in regard to the ordination of Candidate Hennicke be given him.

The Auditing Committee reported on the receipts and disbursements and found the treasurer's books to be correct. Cash on hand in the treasury—\$60.89.

One of the synodical members suggested that a delegate be sent to the Missouri Synod convention. Resolved that we as a synod do not send a delegate to the Missouri Synod as long as they do not discontinue their "Anathemas" about us and do not retract the earlier ones.

Resolved that the following persons be named to the Revision Committee to revise the Constitution of the synod: Pastors Muehlhaeuser, Diehlmann, Reim and congregation delegates Otto, Frank and Kerler.

Resolved that if a member of this committee cannot with good reasons function with the revision, he has the right to name a substitute for himself.

On a suggestion by a member that the question of licensing may be referred to the ministerial session, it was resolved that the matter be discussed in a synodical session because this can be of great importance for the congregations.

Closing prayer by Pastor Reim.

Afternoon Session

Prayer by Pastor Streissguth.

Resolved that licensing be completely abolished within our synod and in its place an examination committee of three members be named to examine those applying for the preaching ministry. If the applicant is found qualified, the committee is to ordain him. This committee, appointed for one year, consists of Pastors Reim, Koehler and Bading.

Resolved that the synod meeting be adjourned and transferred to Caledonia Center, and that the synod publicly thank this congregation for its cordial reception.

Closing prayer by Pastor Conrad.

Ministerial Session

5:00 to 6:00 p.m.

Prayer by Pastor Stark.

The examination committee reported on the examination of Candidate Dumser, which consisted of this that the committee found him to be lacking not only in gifts but also in the necessary knowledge and the required clear understanding of important doctrines. For this reason the committee recommends to the ministerium that it recommend to the applicant that he continue in diligent self-study until the next synodical convention, that during this time he send in each month a sermon which he himself has written based on Scripture, and that he then be given a new examination.

Resolved that the recommendation of the examination committee be adopted, and [sentence left uncompleted].

Ministerial Session

on Wednesday after the church dedication in Caledonia

Prayer by [left blank]

Resolved that the applicant Dumser, so that he might properly identify himself, be given a document containing the following: We, the ministerium of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Wisconsin, hereby certify that the bearer, Mr. Dumser, is in good standing with our synod, and that each month until the next synodical convention he send to the president a sermon written by himself; that he will present himself at the convention for examination and that he is to prepare himself diligently for the preaching ministry during that period of time.

In the name of the ministerium

J. Muehlhaeuser

Resolved the ministerium accede to the resolution of the Ohio Synod, according to which they will ask the Hon. Synod of Pennsylvania to institute a fundamental revision of its Agenda [Church Service Manual] in its next edition. And finally, resolved that each pastor of our synod be urged to take up a collection for poor students of our synod on Reformation Day or on another suitable day.

Closing prayer [left blank]

Like a Tree Planted by the River of Waters

Compiled and written by: Hans Johannsen ('54)

Edited by Prof. Wayne TenBroek ('35)

The Seed Is Planted

The founding of Northwestern Lutheran Academy was the result of three distinct movements that converged at one point in time. The Lord of history guided the events, people, and circumstances to accomplish his will. The three movements were the formation of the Dakota-Montana District, the general school situation in South Dakota, and the Synod's study of its own educational system.

The year was 1920; the place was Mankato, Minnesota. The Dakota-Montana field, which had been part of the Minnesota District was granted permission to organize itself into an independent district. Here were hundreds of thousands of acres of lush prairie soil that were being settled by emigrants from South Russia, Germany, Scandinavia, as well as by farmers from Wisconsin, Minnesota, and Iowa. These were settlers of largely Lutheran stock which gave the largest and most promising mission field at that time. With these blessings came problems. Because of the large size of the farms, the population density was low. Add to this the great distances and poor roads, then it is certainly easy to see that getting the youth together for Christian education was a problem. One pastor of that time wrote, "The children of my parish attend 14 different public schools." The concern of how to instruct the youth to become well-grounded congregational members was widespread.

The new district was aware of the problems and attempted to address them immediately. Pastor Edgar Gamm, a charter member of the district and pastor of Zion Lutheran at Moberge, wrote: "We were conscious of our duties. The new district was still being nursed along because of our extensive mission fields, but we had to learn to walk on our own." In the fall of 1920, at Faith, South Dakota, the Christian day school idea was thoroughly aired. The following year a Christian day school was supported at Elgin, North Dakota, by one member of that congregation. However, for lack of funds the school was closed after two years.¹

In the very first meeting of the district Prof. A. Pieper stated in part of his essay: "But our church as a whole must not stop with the Christian elementary school. The need for higher education is growing among us from year to year. It is our public high schools that are at variance with what is intrinsically Christian and they have become dangerous to our youth."² The district also asked Prof. E. Bliefernicht, president of Dr. Martin Luther College, to prepare a paper on Christian education for the next district session. In 1924, he delivered his essay at Zeeland, North Dakota. This paper was a searching and complete study of Christian education. After showing the inadequacy of the state schools he called on all, saying: "We Christians must more and more take the thought to heart that we establish Christian high schools for our Christian youth."

The seeds of Christian education, planted so early in the district's history, now began to sprout. In formal sessions and in informal groups the matter was thoroughly discussed. Some definite plans were developed. Because of its greater distance from our synodical schools, the Western Conference of the district was even more concerned. At Tolstoy, South Dakota, in 1925, Pastor I. Albrecht started a discussion about

establishing a high school. In the following year at Faith, South Dakota, Pastor F.E. Traub did the same. In this meeting it was regretfully announced that an offer of a free building from Elgin, North Dakota, was no longer available.³ In 1927 at Grover, South Dakota, the Eastern Conference discussed the proposed high school at length. Pastor K. Sievert urged the Eastern Conference to support the Western Conference's request at the convention.⁴

The state of South Dakota, because of its strict school laws, made the problem of Christian education even more difficult. No pastor was permitted to teach school without a state teaching certificate. Although a few pastors obtained one, the red tape involved made getting one difficult. Many of these small self-supporting congregations, most barely over 100 communicants, could not afford the support of a teacher in addition to that of a pastor.

Meanwhile a movement in itself brought all these matters to a head at the 1927 Milwaukee Convention. Previously the synod had appointed a Committee on Education to study and review the synod's entire educational structure. This committee was composed of Pastors Ackermann, Plocher, and Moussa, and Messrs. Aufderheide and Wolff. Their report, often known as the Moussa Report, recommended in part: "If Christian intermediate schools, whether intended to prepare for the ministry or not, are so little available to the greater part of synod's congregations, then our well-meant efforts to establish primary schools and eventually colleges for our people will come to little good, because with the school attendance compulsory to the end of high school age much work done in our common [i.e. parochial] schools, where we are fortunate enough to have them, is later undone and the interest and concern for these common schools is sure to decline. Furthermore, if we are able to stock our congregations with members who attend our own academies, we could be sure of more understanding and zeal in behalf of all our schools." The Moussa report went on to recommend: "The synod should authorize and subsidize the establishment of preparatory schools or academies, in the many different parts of its territory, preferably according to conferences."⁵

It was to this same convention that the Dakota-Montana District presented the following memorial:

1. We recognize the need of a synodical institution in our District.
2. We pray the Joint Synod to assist us in establishing such an institution, if possible west of Aberdeen, South Dakota.
3. We have definite offers, which will reduce to a minimum the cost of building.⁶

In response to this memorial the synod adopted the following resolutions:

1. Synod authorizes the founding of an academy in the Dakota-Montana District.
2. Synod appoints the members of the district to select the place at which this academy is to be established.
3. Synod temporarily elects the following Board of Regents for two years: four laymen, Emil Mischke of Grover, South Dakota; Herman Michaels of Watertown, South Dakota; Andrew Ottenbacher of Zeeland, North Dakota and E.G. Heinrich of Burt, North Dakota; and three pastors J.H. Schaar, Samuel Baer, and Karl Sievert.
4. Synod was informed that no funds would be needed for buildings; the sum of \$5,000 was allowed for maintenance during the ensuing biennium.⁷

An academy in the Dakota-Montana District was now a reality—on paper. The newly elected Board of Control along with the advisory members, Professors E. Bliefert and H. Klatt from Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, met on November 11th of that year at Aberdeen. At that first meeting Pastor J.H. Schaar

was elected temporary chairman. The following were in attendance with the chairman: Rev. S. Baer, Rev. K. Sievert, Mr. A. Ottenbacher, Prof. E. Bliefert, Prof. Huldreich Klatt, and District President W.F. Sauer. Pastors J.P. Scherf of Roscoe, P.G. Albrecht of Bowdle, and E.R. Gamm of Mobridge were invited because they had specific offers to give as to the site of the new academy. The assembly board requested that the synod president confirm the appointment of Ernest Guenther of Watertown and Simon Thomsen of Watauga to the board because Herman Michaels and E.G. Heinrich could not serve. The board issued a request for candidates for the institution's first professor. This announcement appeared in the Nov. 27th, 1927 issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran*. The board approved the name "Northwestern Lutheran Academy" as the official school name. The name had been suggested by J.P. Scherf. If the school was to open in the fall of 1928, much needed to be done quickly. The board requested that a special district convention be called.

This special district meeting convened at Watertown, South Dakota on January 11-12, 1928. Four locations for the new school were offered: Bowdle, Mobridge, and Roscoe in South Dakota, and Elgin in North Dakota. A central location in the district was suggested so that the new high school would not interfere with the high school located at Dr. Martin Luther College. Delegates from each site made certain offers to persuade the board to locate the Academy in their town. These offers were presented: Bowdle, 30 acres of land and \$3,000; Elgin, 40 acres, free light and water for five years and \$10,000; Roscoe, free use of an old school building and \$31,500; Mobridge, no less than 28 acres and a school house moved to the selected site. When the vote was called, Mobridge received 51 votes, Roscoe 7, Bowdle 4, and Elgin 2.⁸



Pastor Edgar Gamm

There is an interesting story behind the Mobridge offer. Pastor E. Gamm of Zion in Mobridge approached William Mailand about the availability of a building. When Mr. Mailand heard about the possibility of an academy coming to town, he contacted his business partner, Albert H. Brown. Mr. Brown was well-known in the Mobridge area. He was the developer of the Brown Palace Hotel, which had been completed in 1918 and the A.H. Brown Public Library, built in 1929-30. He was a county commissioner as well as a member of the Commercial Club executive board. The Commercial Club existed to develop the growth of Mobridge. While these men had no direct connection with the Lutheran church, they were nevertheless instrumental in the starting of the Academy. Mailand and Brown persuaded the executive committee of the Commercial Club to offer four possible sites of no less than 28 acres for the new school. This offer had not been solicited by anyone from the Mobridge congregation.

At this time the city was building a new elementary school because the student population had outgrown the capacity of the old school. When the new Beadle Elementary School was completed in 1928, the "West Side School" was to be put up for sale. Zion congregation of Mobridge offered to purchase this two-story, 48 by 50 foot building. It had been built in 1910 to serve as an elementary school for about 200 students. In 1912 this building had also become the home of Mobridge's first full-fledged high school, which began with an enrollment of eight. The building served as a combination elementary and high school until 1915 at which time the city built a separate high school. The building was located at Sixth Street West between Third and Fourth Avenue.⁹ This building received much negative publicity after it became part of the Academy. It was often stated that it had been condemned. The true facts were that the city schools had vacated the building because the elementary school population of about 500 far exceeded the capacity of the building. Even the basement was used as classrooms. The building was only 18 years old at the time. It had heating coils installed inside the interior walls making it very comfortable in the winter. When other city school buildings had to be closed because of the cold, this building was never closed. This information was gleaned from a letter written to Professor Fenske in 1950 by Pastor Gamm. He was writing in response to an item that appeared in a synodical publication, *Thank Offering of a Grateful People for One Hundred Years of God's Grace*. In this publication the writer referred to the "White Building" as an old and condemned structure. It is possible that the rumor had been started by delegates of the other congregations who were vying for the Academy in order to discredit the Mobridge offer.

The Board of Control also met on January 11, 1928 to call the first director of the Academy. The names W. Baumann, F. Brenner, R.A. Fenske, I. Frey, C. Schweppe, K. Sievert, F. Traub, and M. Wagner were placed on the ballot. After two ballots were cast, K. Sievert of Grover, S.D. was elected unanimously. September 1928 now seemed like a real possibility for the opening of Northwestern Lutheran Academy.

The board engaged Charles H. Ramsdell of Minneapolis as landscape architect and site developer. He made a study of the four sites that had been offered. In June he gave his findings. They are as follows:

1. The Grand Crossing Land Company Tract northeast of town is the least desirable. It slopes away from town and is also far removed from town. It is very bleak and exposed to the winds of winter. This site should receive little consideration.

2. The acreage lots known as Thompson Outlots are located at the end of Main Park Ave. The view is high and commanding in all directions, but it has no direct view of the Missouri River. A school on this site would rise above the city high school and the residences. Sewer and water connections run to the south line of these lots.

3. The tract west of the city above the railroad has everything in its favor except the railroad along its southern edge and a probable airfield to the north. The view from the site is especially fine; the Missouri River is beautiful. At present the Milwaukee Railroad carries 24 to 30 trains a day past the site. The summer wind would carry smoke and cinders up the hill and over the site. The land drains well both to the south and northeast. The whole question as to this site is the desirability of a trunk railroad on the south and an airfield on the north.

4. An unplatted tract west of Thompson Outlots has neither the commanding view nor position as to city, river, or railroad transportation. It is very convenient to sewer and water. It is monotonous in its flatness, but easy to build on.

General conclusions: If Thompson Outlots can be secured, it would be my first choice as it has no apparent disadvantages. My second choice would be the tract west of the city along the railroad. The commanding position has every appeal to me but I don't like an expanding railroad division point as a permanent neighbor. My third choice would be the unplatted acreage west of Thompson Outlots.¹⁰

By midsummer the site along the railroad tracks had been selected, and by the beginning of August the landscape architect had developed plans for that site.



Professor K.G. Sievert

The Seedling Emerges

The first catalog advertising the newly established Academy was printed by Northwestern Publishing House of Milwaukee. This catalog stated the aim and purpose of Northwestern Lutheran Academy as follows: "to make a Christian high school

education available to a greater part of the synod's congregations. This academy shall serve primarily the congregations of the Dakota-Montana district." The institution offered three separate courses.

a) A four year high school course for young men preparing for the ministry and desiring to enter Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin.

b) A four year high school course for young men and women who desire to enter teaching and attend Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota.

c) A four year high school course for young men and women who desire a general high school education under a distinctly Christian influence. The following course of study was listed for freshmen:

"Religion-History" Six periods per week; Old Testament to the Return from Exile and ancient history.

"English" Six periods per week; literature, grammar, and composition.

"German" Six periods per week; literature and grammar.

"Latin" Six periods per week; First year Latin.

"Mathematics" Five periods per week; algebra.

"Science" Five periods per week; general science for one semester.

"Geography" Five periods per week; advanced geography for one semester.

"Music" One period per week for vocal and one lesson per week in piano.

From the course descriptions and early catalogs, it is to be assumed that classes were also held on Saturday mornings for a number of the early years. The original course of study was designed to give a graduate twice as many credits as a graduate of a public high school.

The catalog listed food and housing costs of \$120 for boys and \$180 for girls. There was a tuition fee of \$40 for those wishing just a general high school education and each student also paid general fees of \$8.00. On Sept. 2, 1928, Prof. K.G. Sievert was installed as the first director and instructor of the Academy in a special service held at Riverside Park. The service was both in German and English. The opening hymn *Lobe den Herrn, O Meine Seele* (Praise the Almighty, My Soul Adore Him) was followed by a brief liturgy. The assembly sang *Der Herr ist Mein Getreuer Hirt* (The Lord is My True Shepherd). Vice President I. Albrecht of Fairfax, Minnesota, delivered the German sermon. The English portion of the service began with "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" followed by a sermon given by Prof. A. Schaller of Dr. Martin Luther College. The assembly then sang "O God Thou Faithful God" after which the chairman of the Board of Control, Samuel Baer, performed the rite of installation. The service concluded with prayer, the benediction, and the singing of the doxology. The school year officially began on Sept. 5th in the leased West Side School, which was still at its original location.

This building would also serve as the boys' dormitory. The girls would be housed in the vacant Jacoby Hospital which was located near the railroad tracks on First Avenue West between Second and Third Streets West. This was about seven to eight blocks from the classroom building. This building also housed the dining facilities and the matron-cook's quarters.

Since only one instructor had been called, the school limited its enrollment to only freshmen. This one instructor taught 38 hours of classes a week and was the school's administrator. Each succeeding year another class would be added. The opening enrollment of 22 was greater than expected. Although these were all freshmen, some were 16 to 18 years of age. During the year six students dropped out because of homesickness, illness, or disciplinary problems.

During the first year John Klein began as inspector of the boys' dorm. He was soon followed by retired Pastor P. Hinderer. Mrs. B. Schlemmer served both as matron and cook. From the beginning, the school received various gifts and donations. Listed in the July 7th, 1929 issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran* were these: from Athboy and Drew, S.D. one hog each; Paradise, N.D. one half hog; Lemmon, S.D. 8 lb. butter and some lard; Mrs. F. Walz, 4 qts. jelly; Dick Johnson, 1 bu. beans; Ladies Aid of Timber Lake, S.D. 26 doz. eggs; Immanuel of Grover, S.D. 26 doz. eggs and \$9; Mrs. E. Kehrberg, curtains; Ladies Aid of Faith, S.D. 1 rug, 30 hand towels, 6 bath towels, 22 dish cloths; Andrew Ottenbacher, a set of boxing gloves; Ladies Aid of Raymond, S.D. a quilt; Pastors E. Hinderer, E. Birkholz, F. Meyer, and Mrs. Schei, books for the library. A hearty thank you was given to all.

The summer of 1929 was a busy one for the Academy. Zion congregation purchased the building for \$500; St. Jacobi of Glenham dug the basement. One of the workers was Frank Gosch, Jr., a member of the first ninth grade class who had dropped out because of homesickness. With his father's four horse team and a horse drawn earth mover, he and others dug the basement. At night he and other boys would stay and watch the horses while the men went home.¹¹

After the basement was dug, the concrete work was completed under the direction of Jacob Schaefer at a cost of \$1300. The building was then moved to the new site by Hand's Moving for a fee of \$1750. During the move, the building sustained extensive damage. Mr. Waage undertook the repair and replastering for \$495. The money for the building, moving, construction, and repair was borrowed by individual members of Zion who personally signed promissory notes.¹²

The 1929 synod convention authorized the Board of Control to call another instructor immediately and also authorized them to call a tutor for the 30-31 school year. Most importantly, approval was given to begin construction of a dormitory, heating plant, and professorage. The synod also funded the Academy with an annual budget of \$18,017 for the next biennium. Because of the press of time, candidates for the second professorship were presented by a special nominating committee and ratified on the floor of the convention. The candidates were Pastor Otto Eckert, Jr., Teacher Claus Gieshen, Teacher W. Hellermann, Teacher Adolf Koehler, Pastor E. Reim, and Pastor F. Traub.

From the budget one can deduce that the annual salary for a professor was slightly less than \$1800; a tutor would receive \$500 while all other wages allowed for staff totaled only \$900. The food budget called for \$2750 a year.

The second year saw 22 students enrolled in ninth and tenth grades. The White Building could not yet be used because it was being refurbished and did not yet have heat. The heating plant was to be located in the new dormitory. Meanwhile classes were being held in Zion church while two rented houses served as dormitories.

The board had engaged Ray Gauger of Minneapolis as an architect. He had agreed to do the architectural work for 3%. This was the lowest fee and he would only do this for Lutheran organizations.¹³ Upon completion of the plans, L. Baumeister and Sons began construction of the heating plant and the dormitory in October of 1929. At the same time construction of the director's house was also begun.

Prof. F.E. Traub of Morgan, Minnesota, had accepted the call to be the second instructor. He was installed on Nov. 3rd, 1929. Until his arrival, Mr. L. Sievert, the father of Professor Sievert, filled the second teaching position.

The cornerstone for the dormitory was laid on Thanksgiving Day. The services to commemorate this event were conducted in Zion Lutheran Church. Pastors H. Schaar

and E. Schaller spoke in English and German respectively. After the service the congregation drove to the grounds and Pastor E.R. Gamm read the ritual and solemnly laid the cornerstone. The cornerstone contained a Greek New Testament, the *Book of Concord*, and the *Augsburg Confession* to symbolize that the school was founded on the Word of God and the confessions of the Lutheran Church. Other items placed in the cornerstone were the *Report of the Dakota-Montana District 1928*; the *Synodical Report of 1927*; *Gemeinde Blatt* Nov. 3, 1929; *Northwestern Lutheran* Nov. 24, 1929; *Mobridge Tribune*; Academy catalogs of 1928-1929 and 1929-1930; names of architect, general contractor, professors, speakers, and board members.¹⁴

By March of 1930 both units were ready for occupancy. The dormitory which included the heating plant had been completed at a cost of \$22,949.17. The second floor of the dorm was only roughed in and was used as a general sleeping area while the first floor served as study rooms and tutors' quarters. The professorage cost \$5706. Of this amount the district contributed \$2206 and the synod \$3500. March 6th was moving day. The boys were moved into the new dormitory. The kitchen and dining hall were moved into the basement which also housed the heating plant and the janitor's quarters. The girls' dormitory was moved to the southeast corner of the second floor in the White Building. (In later years this room became the library.) At the same time Professor Sievert moved into his new home, the first private residence on campus.

The new buildings were in place, but the campus still looked bare. The native grass around the buildings was disturbed by the leftover construction debris. During the first years there was little plant life on campus because the drought made gardening and beautification with shrubs, trees, and flowers very difficult. Although the board had authorized the planting of trees and shrubs, there was little vegetation south of the dorm except Russian thistles and sandburs. The dorm also was sadly in need of furniture. The building had cost slightly more than synod had appropriated. Shades and other furniture had to wait. Curtains if any had to be supplied by the residents. Some of these needs were met by donations.

Sunday, June 15, 1930, was the day set for dedication of the new dormitory. Members from all congregations within a 100 mile radius were present in the audience. The remainder of the congregations were represented by at least one delegate and their pastor, who had come from the district convention that was in session in Roscoe. The sermons were delivered by Prof. E. Bliefernicht of Dr. Martin Luther College, Pastor John Brenner of Milwaukee, Prof. John Meyer from the Seminary at Thiensville, and by Prof. K.G. Sievert; Pastor Samuel Baer, the chairman of the board read the dedicatory rites. The entire student body was also present and sang several hymns. The school year had been extended to conclude with this special service.

The entire property, land and all the buildings on campus, was appraised at \$50,000. The synod had only invested \$28,000 in it. The remainder was donated by the city, local congregations, and the Dakota-Montana District.

The Struggling Young Tree

The economic conditions of the late 1920's that grew into the Great Depression of the 1930's made life difficult for all. The young Northwestern Lutheran Academy felt the full force of this. Here was a school that had just started and hopefully would grow by adding staff and students. Suddenly its growth was hampered by the lack of funds and the inability to attract many students due to financial conditions.

The location of the school further complicated the problem. At this time the Great Plains also experienced several years of drought causing an even greater loss of income

in an area where the economy was based on agriculture. The combination of an extended drought and the depression caused many farmers to lose their farms and leave the Dakotas for the Pacific Northwest and California. This further reduced the possible student base.

Already in the summer of 1930 the board had to struggle to obtain an additional instructor. Even in the Dakota-Montana district, voices were raised whether an additional instructor was needed for a student body numbering only in the twenties. Many failed to see the difference between elementary and high school instruction. Even with a third instructor, the class load for each was about 30 hours a week. This was nearly twice as much as the 16 hours per week class load recommended by the state for the public high schools. The third instructor was allowed and A. Dornfeld, a seminary graduate, was called as a tutor or assistant instructor. This then allowed the addition of the 11th grade. An additional course, Greek, was also added that year.

The Lord's blessings were evident in that 31 students enrolled for the 1930-31 school year, which was much greater than could be expected in light of the economic conditions.

To help understand the economy of the times, we must remember that the entire synodical budget was only \$575,000 a year. This represented an average annual per communicant contribution of \$3.65 or a penny a day. Of the total budget the Academy received \$18,016. The school collected fees of \$1300 which reduced the actual cost to \$16,716 or an annual per communicant cost of 13 cents.

During this year a vegetable cellar, needed for the storage of donated and home grown foods, was constructed in the basement of the White Building. The funds for this came from private gifts. Additional equipment needed to be purchased for the larger student body. This included 12 desks, 12 tables, 36 chairs, 12 lamps, two dining tables, a lab table, cabinets for the science room, window shades, a bell system, kitchen equipment, and a Kelvinator cooler. To beautify the property with trees holes were also dug about 25 feet apart across the property frontage.

Mrs. Lottie Traub became the piano instructor. The lessons cost 50 cents of which she received 25.

During the first month of the school year, the girls were housed in the White Building while the houses of Professors Sievert and Traub were being prepared to serve as dormitories. Mrs. Goetz served as matron for \$1 per night.

The Academy did not escape a common problem of the times, bank failure. In January the local bank closed just after the monthly subsidy had been deposited. The bank soon reopened and there was little loss to the Academy.

When the school year ended on June 4th the board could report that the new housing arrangements, mild weather, generous donations of food, and strict spending controls had allowed the school to save several thousand dollars of the budget allotment. The board requested a smaller budget appropriation for the following biennium in spite of adding a fourth instructor. The synod in convention granted the fourth instructor and \$2,500 to complete the second floor of the dormitory. Although the money had been granted the second floor was not completed until 1935. Professors at this time received \$2,160 annually and tutors \$285 for the school year plus their room and board.

In preparing for the addition of the 12th grade, 18 desks, 12 tables, 24 chairs, 10 mattresses, and four double deck bunk beds were purchased. The board also investigated the possibility of constructing a gymnasium in the basement of the White Building. To further reduce the food budget, the board agreed to permit Mr. Waage to store potatoes in the basement of the White Building in exchange for supplying the Academy with potatoes.

The fourth school year began with an increase of only one student even though the 12th grade had been added. Because of the financial conditions throughout the synod, some graduates from the Seminary and Dr. Martin Luther College did not receive calls. This apparent overproduction of workers made parents reluctant to send their sons and daughters to prepare for church work. The school year ended on June 9th with the Academy graduating its first class of seven. The graduation ceremonies were held at Zion church. Pastor S. Baer, the chairman of the board, was the guest speaker. [Editor's note: Two of these graduates enrolled at Northwestern College in the fall of 1932.]

The cost of attending the Academy changed very little during the first ten years. Room and board were \$120 for the boys and \$180 for the girls. In the 1937-38 school year the cost for girls was reduced to \$130. These rates did not change until 1946. There were some additional fees totaling about \$10. Students not entering church work were charged \$40 for tuition. This was increased to \$50 in 1933.

The 1932-33 school year showed a dramatic drop in enrollment, from 32 to 19. The board pared its budget from \$10,000 to \$8,000. The Academy was also able to remit to the synod about \$2,000 in fees thus reducing the actual cost to the to \$6,000. The year ended with 12 boys and four girls enrolled. Six seniors graduated.

The 1933 Convention studied a proposal that would have temporarily closed the school until the financial conditions and prospects for enrollment improved. The synod, however, voted to continue operations at the Academy. Budget reductions reduced the professors' salaries to \$1,200 annually.

The July 2nd, 1933 issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran* contains an eloquent plea for more students. The need to prepare church workers, even if there appeared to be a surplus at the present, and the opportunity for students to receive a Christ centered education was stressed.

On September 6th, 1933, 16 students enrolled. Prof. Sievert, writing in the *Northwestern Lutheran*, noted the great sacrifices parents were making to send their children to the Academy. He also thanked the congregation at Lemmon, South Dakota, for the donation of a truckload of vegetables and canned goods. Other congregations were encouraged to help in similar ways. Donations like these made it possible to operate the school at a minimum of cost. There was yet another indicator of saving. This was the only year in the Academy's history when no printed catalog was produced. The necessary information was printed on a few stapled, mimeographed sheets.

The faculty remained the same during the year as the school struggled to survive. About mid-year the synod's trustees requested the Academy board to further reduce expenses by releasing the two tutors, [Hilton] Oswald and [Gerald] Martin. In a letter to the trustees the board stated that this was impossible. The two professors could not carry a class load of 50 hours a week per instructor. Nor could subjects be dropped if the students were to be prepared to continue in other synodical schools. It would also be impossible to give the proper disciplinary supervision without the tutors. The annual savings of less than \$800 per year was minimal. If the tutors were withdrawn it would mean having to close the school. It appears that the trustees heeded the plea of the board. The year ended with 15 students in attendance and six graduating.

The prospects for the following year looked even poorer. Because of the severe drought of 1934, farmers produced almost no crops. In some areas it was the third or even fourth consecutive year of very poor crops or complete crop failures. In the Mobridge area there had been only one significant rain in the first nine months of the year. Farmers were forced to sell most of their livestock as there was no feed. The lack of feed over an extremely large area and the huge number of animals offered for sale reduced the market to almost nothing. If buyers could be found, \$5.00 to \$10.00 was

not an uncommon price for a cow or steer. Even home gardens, which produced much of the family's food, were almost bare. If the federal government had not intervened with relief programs, actual starvation was a real possibility.

In spite of this disaster, the Lord of the Church blessed the Academy with an enrollment of 23 students in September. The faculty remained the same. A stoker was installed on the furnace in the Boys' Dorm to increase the efficiency of the heating system. The stoker system was paid for by the savings in fuel costs. These savings were more than eaten up by a tremendous increase in food costs during the year, some as high as 400%.

The Academy was spared a potential disaster that year. The coal in the storage bin caught fire. Since the bin was located in the basement of the dormitory the entire building became smoke filled. All the coal had to be shovelled out of the bin through the loading chute in order to extinguish the fire. That this would not happen again, a coal bin was built that was completely outside of the dormitory.¹⁵

During the year four students discontinued and four graduated in June. On the evening prior to graduation, Prof. Hilton Oswald directed the Academy's first commencement concert. The concert was based largely on Bach chorales. The senior class also presented a one-act play. It was hoped that these activities would make the Academy a cultural rallying point for the people of western South Dakota.

The spring of 1935 looked very promising for the people in the Dakotas. The heavy rainfall seemed to indicate the long drought was finally over, and a bumper crop was expected. Then, just when the crops were starting to produce kernels, they were hit by several days of extremely hot weather coupled with strong south winds. Either no grain was produced or it was of extremely poor quality. Also the earlier heavy moisture had made conditions ideal for the development of black stem rust, a fungus that weakens the stalk causing the heads to break off. While some of the straw could be salvaged for cattle feed, the result was another very poor crop. Instead of conditions improving, they actually became worse. The farmers who had borrowed money to put in their crop now had an even bigger debt to pay.

It is not surprising then that on September 3, 1935, only 19 students greeted the faculty. The year proceeded in an uneventful fashion with three seniors graduating in June. This class was the first one to have its graduation exercises on campus.

During the year the faculty did a curriculum study to compare the Academy's course of study with other synodical high schools. As a result of this study Greek, which had been added three years earlier, was dropped.

The weather caused another problem at the end of February. A very heavy snowfall stopped rail traffic just when the Academy was due for a coal shipment. Because of the possibility of running out of fuel, all activities were held in the Boys' Dorm. Even the classes were held there. The White Building was shut down until the fuel supply could be replenished. When the coal shipment finally arrived only a few days' supply remained.¹⁶

The outlook for the area did not improve with the coming spring. The last significant rain in the Mobridge area had fallen around July 4th, 1935. The heavy snow in February was really of little benefit to the farmers as little of it stayed in the fields but rather piled up in huge drifts. The coming of spring did not bring the usual greening of the landscape. Crops that were planted did not even germinate or if they did they soon shriveled. Even the Russian thistle, a weed which had been a source of fodder in 1934 did not grow. An area from about one hundred miles east of Mobridge extending west well into Montana was brown. With little or no plant life to hold the soil in place, the strong winds blew the top soil into huge dust clouds.

With economic conditions this poor, many families left the Dakotas. One parish reported losing eight families in less than two months. Many other parishes suffered similar losses. The writer's uncle was one of those farmers who left South Dakota and moved to Oregon. Many other families were employed by government programs such as the Civilian Conservation Corps or the Works Project Administration. The latter was involved in construction of roads, dams, and bridges. A man doing road construction could earn \$1.00 a day, or \$1.50 if he had a team of horses.¹⁷

Even regular watering, where possible, was not a guarantee of plant survival. The trees and shrubs on campus had received regular watering as had the Academy garden. The garden was an important food source which supplemented the food budget. The Academy could do the watering at no cost because the Milwaukee Road pipeline ran across the Academy property. The school had granted the railroad an easement for the pipeline in return for the free use of railroad water for irrigation. Now the insect plague hit what little did grow. Grasshoppers, Mormon crickets, and grey beetles soon destroyed the little remaining vegetation. The grasshoppers were so thick that at times clouds of them would darken the sun.

It might be surprising then that the enrollment in September 1936 had increased to 24. That fall Prof. Traub accepted a call into the parish ministry. Tutor G. Martin became the dormitory inspector. A new tutor, Edgar Knief, became an assistant instructor in January. In February Tutor Hilton Oswald accepted the call to replace Prof. Traub.

The commencement concert and the graduation service were not well attended that year because of heavy rainfall. But this was a great blessing as more rain fell on the area in the first few weeks of June than had fallen during the entire past three years. Four boys graduated on June 4th, 1937.

During the summer the board planned a number of improvements such as painting the White Building and the rooms in the Boys' Dorm. Plans were made to replace the trees and shrubs that had been destroyed by grasshoppers and drought.

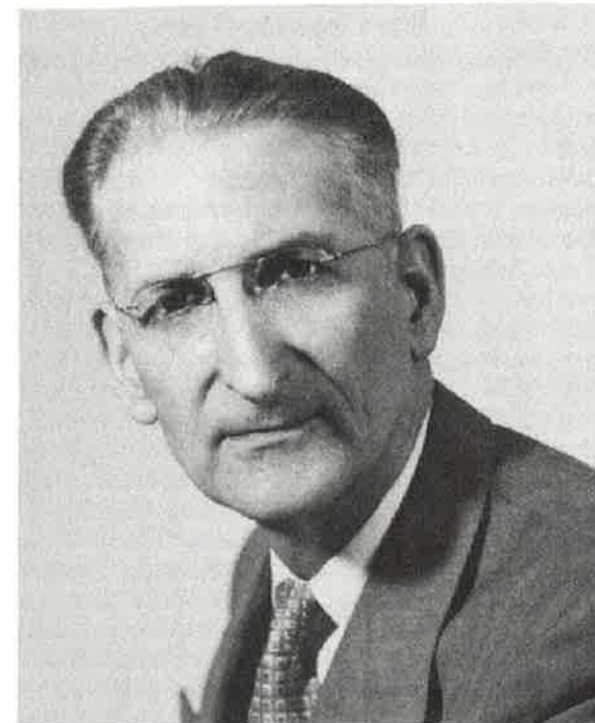
At the 1937 synod convention the Academy requested a third professor to replace one of the tutors. This was not granted, but the synod did increase the professors' salaries from \$1,200 to \$1,620 annually.

The tenth school year began with an enrollment of 20 but two soon discontinued. The faculty consisted of K.G. Sievert, H. Oswald, Tutors E. Knief and R. Bretzmann. Hilton Oswald replaced K.G. Sievert as acting director that year. When the year ended only one student graduated. That class had lost several students because their fathers were pastors and had taken calls elsewhere. There was no graduation service. Otto Frey was given his diploma at the commencement concert.

A new problem arose for the board during the summer. Tutor Knief requested permission to marry and live with his wife in the dormitory. The board asked the director and Tutor Knief to work out a plan whereby this might be done without too much interruption of dormitory routine. The board also requested guidance from synod officials about the advisability of tutors being married.

Plans were made to improve the White Building that summer. Originally it had a bell tower above the east entrance. This tower structure was now in poor condition. The board studied the question of either repairing the tower or removing it. J. Schlomer and G. Leonhard were hired to remove the tower at a rate of \$.50 an hour and \$.30 an hour for their helpers. The painting of the White Building planned for the previous year was dropped. Instead the building was to be covered with asbestos siding. This would eliminate the cost of frequent painting and also reduce the draftiness. However, these improvements were not completed until the following year.

The 20 students that enrolled in September 1938 were greeted by the same faculty. Prof. Oswald accepted a call to teach at Northwestern College in the fall of the year. However, he agreed to remain on the staff for the remainder of the school year. The board met on December 5th to call his replacement. Prof. Reinhold A. Fenske was called as professor and director. Prof. Fenske would assume his duties in July of 1939. In June a class of four graduated.



Professor Reinhold Fenske

The 1939 synod convention authorized the writing of the first Academy history. Prof. R. Fenske, Dakota-Montana District President W. Meier and Pastor E.R. Gamm were given the task. At this time the synod also instructed the General Synod Committee to study the Academy's earlier request for a third professor. If the committee found the need to be valid, it was authorized to approve calling a third professor the following year.

That summer Tutor Roland Bretzmann asked the board for permission to marry. When the board did not grant his request, he resigned. His position was filled in August by Tutor Henry G. Meyer.

The 24 students who enrolled in September were greeted by other new faces. They were E. Feuerstenau and his wife, the new janitor and the new cook. Even the White Building looked different; it had finally been resided, and the bell tower had been removed. A new tutor, Immanuel Frey of Denver, Colorado, soon arrived since Tutor Knief had accepted a call into the parish ministry. Six graduates received their diplomas in June.

The years of the thirties were indeed difficult for people throughout the United States, but particularly so for a young school like the Academy. Thanks be to Almighty God for helping it to survive. Thanks are also due the professors, tutors, staff, and board members who had to struggle with the day to day problems. The parents who sacrificed financially to give their sons and daughters a Christian education deserve our gratitude as do the young men and women who attended the Academy under those extremely trying circumstances.

The Growing Tree

The 1930's were years of struggle for the Academy to find enough students for the school. In the 1940's the struggle was to find enough school for the rapidly growing student body. During this time the enrollment nearly tripled, from 24 in 1939 to 69 students in 1948.

During the summer of 1940 the board called the third professor to the Academy. The list of candidates included Professors Martin Albrecht and Cornelius Trapp and Pastors H.C. Hinz, Klett, Henry Meyer, and E. Scharf. Henry Meyer was called to be the third professor. The board also decided to purchase a house for him as soon as possible. Oscar Siegler replaced Immanuel Frey as tutor.

The school year began with an enrollment of 28. During the year the board made several decisions that brought changes to the campus.

First, it was decided that livestock would no longer be permitted on campus. Prof. K.G. Sievert had kept a cow and some chickens to supplement his meager salary.

Second, the board requested input from both the Eastern and Western Conferences about the possibility of starting a band. By November the board had given Prof. Meyer permission to organize a band. Some money was borrowed from other funds to purchase music and instruments. Northwestern College donated two clarinets without mouth-pieces, Cornelius Trapp donated a trumpet, Mr. Schlomer of Glenham donated a bass horn, and an old valve trombone was also given. About \$92 was donated by the area congregations. For its first year the total expenditure for the band was about \$160.

Third, the board discussed building a room in the basement of the White Building where the girls could congregate during their free time.

The school was having a difficult time finding and keeping qualified janitors and cooks during these years. Much of the problem was caused by the low pay. These people could earn more in other areas especially in defense jobs during World War II. The board agreed to a \$10 per month increase in pay. The combined wages of the cook and the janitor was \$780 annually for the years 1941-1943. They did receive lodging and meals.

The board also made an effort to recruit more students. First, Academy catalogs were to be placed in the homes of every family in the Western Conference. Prior to this only pastors had received the catalogs. The board also authorized spring excursions by student groups to area congregations for recruitment purposes. At times this effort was hindered by the lack of adequate transportation.

Six students graduated in June. During the last school term all available rooms in the Boys' Dorm had been filled. During the summer Mr. Grace was hired to finish additional rooms on the second floor. The janitor was also to complete a girls' room in the basement of the White Building.

The Academy also purchased the house from former Prof. Traub for \$3,000. After a \$500 down payment the balance was to be paid at the rate of \$30 a month. This would be the school's second professorage, and would become the home of Prof. Meyer.

Prof. Sievert moved from the house on campus to one he had purchased. His new home was located at 806 Sixth Avenue West, about a block from Prof. Meyer's new home. The school paid him \$30 a month rent. This made it possible for Prof. Fenske to move from downtown into the house on campus.

The 1941-42 school year began with an enrollment of 29, three of whom graduated in June. Professors Fenske, Sievert, and Meyer along with assistant instructor Raymond Frey made up the faculty.

The board developed a scale for paying professors who boarded girls in their homes. The rate was \$80 for the first two girls, \$40 for the second two and \$10 for each additional girl.

That fall the school paper, *The Academy Advocate* was started. The idea came from three students, Jerome Albrecht, Wilbert Blumhardt, and John Lau.

The 15th year of the Academy began on September 14, 1942 about two weeks later than scheduled. This was caused by a labor shortage as a result of the war and a very large harvest. The students, especially the boys, were sorely needed on the farms.

The enrollment of 36 was an all-time high. The increase meant that additional classroom furniture was needed. Tutor Frey had accepted a call to Findlay, Ohio, and he was replaced by Frederick Tabbert. In June six seniors graduated.

The 1943-44 school year produced a dramatic increase in enrollment. The year began with 48; of this number 23 were freshmen. The enrollment had doubled since 1939. Harold Sauer replaced Fred Tabbert as tutor.

The larger enrollment required additional supplies such as mattresses, desks, chairs, and even dinnerware. Because of the wartime shortages not everything was available for purchase. Some items had to be rented or borrowed.

The enrollment increase also meant the Boys' Dorm had to be rearranged. At that time the dorm had a capacity of 20, five units designed for four boys each. The janitor and cook were given one of these units. This freed up the former janitor's quarters in the basement, an area which could now be used to house five girls. The other girls were housed in the homes of Professors Fenske and Meyer, each of whom had eight. The boys were crowded, five or six, into the remaining rooms in the dorm.

This was the beginning of a six year struggle to find enough housing and classroom space for the growing student body. During the year the board studied the idea of adding dormers into the attic and making it possible to use this area for living space.

The enrollment increase also started the practice of "kitchen girls." These were students who helped the cook a short time before and after meals. At first they were paid about 20 cents an hour.

The enrollment increase made the board consider adding a fourth professor and providing for his housing.

A class of four girls and four boys graduated on June 9th. This equaled the Class of '32 for the largest number of graduates to that date. Reporting in the *Northwestern Lutheran* about the graduation, Prof. Fenske added what would be the first of many pleas urging the synod to supply the Academy with adequate facilities.

When the next school year began on September 18, 1944, the enrollment reached 49. This represented one student for every 120 communicant members in the Dakota-Montana District. The housing problem was as bad as ever. The dormer addition was not yet completed because of government "red tape" and the shortage of building materials.

Because of the increase in enrollment the faculty was increased by one. The three professors, Fenske, Sievert, and Meyer, were to be assisted by two tutors, Norman Berg and Ralph Gehrke.

In November of 1944 the board began discussing an extensive building project. The original idea was to build a classroom and administration building about 95 by 55 feet and remodel the White Building into a kitchen-dining hall and girls' dormitory. The architectural firm of Toltz, King, and Day of Minneapolis were hired to begin the planning.

During the year the board bid on the Kady school building which was to be moved to the campus to temporarily relieve the overcrowding, but they were unsuccessful.

The board also decided to request a fourth professor at the 1945 synod convention. If the request was granted, the call would not be issued immediately but when the board deemed it necessary.

Prof. Fenske together with the faculty continued to develop the plans for the new classroom building. The plans of West St. Paul Junior High School became the starting point. After considerable study the board adopted the faculty's plan.

Six seniors were presented diplomas in the graduation exercises at Zion Lutheran Church on June 8th.

The crowded conditions of the previous year were even worse with a beginning enrollment of 56 for the 1945-46 school term. This was the absolute limit of students that could be crammed in the space available. In fact this was the first time students who were qualified had to be turned away because there simply was no room. The large student body also meant the food budget would be stretched to the limit. Requests were made in the *Northwestern Lutheran* for additional donations of food.

Tutor Berg remained for one more year, but Tutor Gehrke accepted a call. Tutor Henry Paustian replaced him.

At this time the synod was requesting offerings to Centennial Building Fund Collection. Most synodical schools were crowded and had building needs that this fund was to supply. This fund had a goal of \$1,100,000 which could be reached by an average gift of \$6.00 per communicant member.

The new architects for the building project were Mr. W. Dixon of Mitchell, South Dakota, and his assistant P. Randolph. Not only was work being done on the plans for the new classroom building. Plans for an entirely new girls' dormitory were also being considered. The cost of remodeling the White Building for dormitory use seemed to be prohibitive for much growth in the girls' enrollment.

On June 7th five seniors graduated. This would be the last of the small classes. Both the commencement concert, held in the White Building, and the graduation exercises, held at Zion, suffered because of inadequate room for the size of the audiences attending.

To try to provide more space for the growing student body, the board accepted an alternate plan developed by the faculty as a stop gap measure. Since the dining facility in the Boys' Dorm could serve no more than 56, the kitchen and dining hall were moved into the first floor classrooms of the White Building. The loss of classroom space was replaced by a temporary building, a 22 by 40 foot cement block barracks. The classrooms in the White Building were also rearranged. The library was moved to the southeast corner of the second floor. The science room was moved to the northwest of the second floor where the library had been. The basement of the Boys' Dorm could now be used to house additional girls. The synod trustees approved this plan and provided \$3,000 to implement it. Whether it would be possible to do everything by opening day was questionable. Everyone was still working under wartime shortages and government restrictions. That summer the fees for room and board were raised to \$150. This was the first increase in the school's history.

When school opened on September 16, 1946, 75 students were ready to begin. The freshman class of 31 matched the entire enrollment of the years 1931-32 and 1941-42. The two tutors were Edward Renz and Leonard Bernthal. Even though changes had been made to ease some of the overcrowding, the efforts were not always successful. Imagine a student body of 75 plus the faculty, meeting in a 23 by 28 foot assembly room for daily chapel.

The oil heaters that had been ordered for the barracks were not available and coal burning heaters had to be substituted. Other items such as tables, bunk beds, and even commercial kitchen equipment was difficult to get.

In February the board made several decisions that would have long range-effects:

First, the board encouraged the State Highway Commission to reroute US 12 along the western edge of the campus parallel to the railroad tracks. The rerouting was necessary because of the dam that was to be built at Pierre. This dam would create Lake Oahe that would fill up in the 1960's.

Second, the board requested permission to build a new professorage. This house was to be about 36 by 26 feet, built in a Cape Cod style. It would be located north of the then director's home.

Third, it was decided to finally call the fourth professor that the synod had authorized in 1945. However, instead of replacing a tutor, the fourth professor would be in addition to the two tutors.

The board hired Mr. Henry Larson to build the new professorage at a cost not to exceed \$10,000.

The school year ended on June 6th. A class of 13 graduated. Because of the large student body and the overflow crowds, the commencement concert was held for the first time at the Mobridge High School. Even that spacious auditorium was filled.

That summer the synod in convention agreed to budget \$65,000 for the construction of a girls' dormitory. This money would come from the general budget and not from the Academy's share of the Building Fund.

The 1947-48 school year began with an enrollment of 70. The position of the fourth professor had not yet been filled. The tutors for the year were Leonard Bernthal and Harry Wiedmann. Tutor Wiedmann had been a member of the NLA Class of 1940.

The board in their September meeting decided to locate the newly approved dormitory northwest of the projected site of the administration building. In that meeting they also issued a call for the vacant professorship. This time Pastor Armin Schuetze was called. He accepted the position in October, but he did not arrive until January. Since the new house that was being built was not nearly finished, he had to live in a rented house until about Easter time.

Bids for the new dormitory were let. The Henkel Construction Co. of Sioux City, Iowa, bid \$119,000. The Kuipers Construction Co. of Mitchell, South Dakota, bid \$114,000. This was considerably more than what had been budget by the synod. After much discussion and some modification of certain items that would neither decrease the size nor the structural strength of the building, Kuipers resubmitted a second bid of \$104,093. On June 4, 1948, the contract for the construction of the dormitory was signed. Construction began before the end of the month.

The cornerstone laying ceremony had been planned to coincide with the opening day services that would begin the 20th school year. Seventy students presented

themselves at the opening day services on September 13, 1948. Milton Burke and Loyal Schroeder were the tutors.

The cornerstone laying ceremony was held on October 3rd. Chairman H. Lau of the Academy board served as liturgist, while Prof. K.G. Sievert was the guest speaker. He was representing the Dakota-Montana District as its secretary. By January the exterior walls and the roof were finished and the interior work continued during the winter.

While construction on the dormitory was proceeding, the board was discussing the proposed administration building and auditorium and central heating plant with Mr. Dixon, the architect. He projected the cost at about \$280,000 for all three units.

Dedication day for the dormitory was April 24, 1949. Chairman Lau of the board was the liturgist and read the dedicatory rites; Pastor L. Koeninger of the synod's Board of Trustees was the guest speaker. The Academy Choir under the direction of Prof. Meyer sang a hymn. The assembly sang a closing hymn that had been specially composed for this occasion by Mrs. H. Lau.

The new dormitory was a two-story, 85 by 32 foot, brick building designed to house 44 girls. It also had a matron's apartment, lounge and reading room, and reception room. The basement had four piano practice rooms, shower room, laundry room, and a proposed recreation room.

Much of the furniture in the building was purchased from special donations. Mr. and Mrs. A. Geisler of Murdo, South Dakota, gave a very generous gift that made it possible to furnish the matron's apartment, lounge, and reception room. The Ladies' Aid Society of Roscoe, South Dakota provided the material and the ladies from the Mobridge and Glenham congregations sewed the curtains. The Ladies' Aids from Jamestown, North Dakota and Rapid City, South Dakota, outfitted the sick room.

The graduation service on June 10th and the commencement concert the night before were held in their customary manner and places. It is noteworthy that this class of 15 was the largest to graduate to this time.

Meanwhile the much needed administration building was put on hold. The Building Fund offerings were slow in coming. The board could do little but fine tune the plans and wait for the release of the funds. The fees for room and board were raised to \$180, only the second increase since the school's founding.

On September 16th the Academy opened its 22nd year with an enrollment of 63. Because there was room in the Boys' Dorm, R. Scharlemann, the teacher at Zion Lutheran School, was permitted to live in the Boys' Dorm as no adequate housing could be found for him.

During the year the board decided that the new heating plant would be fueled by heavy oil instead of coal. The heating systems were a problem throughout the year. The one in the Boys' Dorm, which heated the dorm and the White Building, was showing its age and was in constant need of repair. The small, temporary plant in the Girls' Dorm did not function well either. In light of these problems the board requested that funds for the construction of the central heating plant be released as soon as possible.

Meager professors' salaries had been a problem for a long time, not only at the Academy but at other synodical schools as well. The Academy board concurred with the Committee on Institutions to raise the base salary to \$192.50 plus a \$5.00 monthly increase for every five years of service. There was also a family bonus of \$10.00 per month for each child up to three and \$6.25 thereafter.

Thirteen graduates were given their diplomas at a commencement service at Zion Church on June 9th. The previous night the commencement concert had been held in the Mobridge High School Auditorium.



Boys' Dormitory

A Beautiful New Branch

The construction of the long-awaited administration-classroom building was the highlight of the 1950's. This building, along with the new Girls' Dorm, helped to bring about the largest enrollment increase of any ten year period in the Academy's history. The enrollment grew from 58 in 1950 to 117 in 1956.

The 1950-51 school year began on September 5 with 25 new students, the largest number of new students since 1947. It was a disappointment that the total enrollment did not increase. Thirteen had graduated the previous June and a large number failed to return. The students were either from the Dakotas or Montana. The enrollment of 57 represented about one student for every 100 communicants. This was a good representation since there were only four relatively young Christian Day Schools in the entire district.

Mrs. John Burkhard started the year as the temporary matron. Mrs. Lottie Traub, the widow of former Prof. F.E. Traub, arrived on October 24th. On that day she began her 12 year labor of love. She would serve longer than any other matron.

The construction of the new heating plant was the center of everyone's attention. Funds for this badly needed improvement were finally released. The old system in the basement of the Boys' Dorm needed constant repair and the temporary plant in the Girls' Dorm was not functioning as planned. To try to solve the heating problems in the Barracks, new propane heaters were installed to replace the oil burners. Hopefully these would make this building more comfortable during the winter months.

All the funds for the synod's Centennial Building program had not yet been collected. A plea for completing this collection appeared in the March 25, 1951 issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran* from E.F. Mueller, chairman of English Lutheran Church, St. Croix Falls, Wisconsin. He urged, "As a layman who has seen the conditions at Mobridge, I plead with my fellow Christians, let us do our share for this worthy cause. May the love of our Savior move us to answer with a willing heart."

In the same issue synod President John Brenner stated that a special offering would be taken throughout synod on April 8, 1951, to supplement the money that had been raised in the "Second Collection". An additional \$250,000 was needed because many congregations had not met their goal. Congregations who had met or exceeded their goal could earmark their offering exclusively for Mobridge.

During the year the work on the central heating plant continued. In June nine students, five boys and four girls, graduated.

The delegates to the 1951 synod convention authorized the board to start construction on the classroom building at once. Additional funding for the classroom building would be taken from the Church Extension Fund offerings as soon as that had reached its \$400,000 goal.

The Kyburz Construction Company of Aberdeen, South Dakota, received the contract to build the classroom building. Their bid was \$274,500. The organ contract was awarded to the Wicks Organ Company. Two faithful Christians, Charlotte Sperling of St. Martins in Watertown, South Dakota, and an unknown donor, underwrote most of the organ's cost.

In September 63 students began the 1951-52 school year. This represented a slight increase over the previous year. The most significant event happened on September 21 when a huge power shovel moved on campus. The next day Kyburz Construction Company began the excavation for the long-awaited classroom building. Even though the authorization to begin immediate construction had been given in early August, there had been a delay of over a month. Proper clearances had to be obtained because of government restrictions on building projects. The board appointed John Klein of Mobridge, one of its members, to act as construction supervisor. He was paid \$10 per day.

With the major construction finally underway, the board began to look at other campus projects related to the main one. Additional roads and sidewalks were needed. Planned renovation for the White Building included enlarging the dining hall and building a new entrance for it. The cook's apartment would be moved here from the Boys' Dorm in order to make two additional rooms available for students.

Because cold weather slowed construction, the laying of the cornerstone did not take place until April 17, 1952. Pastor E.R. Gamm, an early board chairman from Marshall, Minnesota, delivered the address based on Isaiah 2:2-5. He spoke about the founding of the Academy and the "great thing" that the Lord had done. Pastor H. Birner, the chairman of the board, laid the cornerstone.

Construction continued during the spring even though certain building materials were not always available. The Alumni Association was formed that spring. About 30 former graduates hosted the faculty and the senior class at a luncheon. Nine seniors graduated several days later.

The board hired a local contractor to repaint and reshingle the White Building during the summer. The board also reached an agreement with the Milwaukee Road Railroad for the relocation of the railroad's water main that crossed the campus. The main's location was under the new classroom building. In order to avoid possible future problems the Academy decided to relocate it for about \$500. In return the railroad

agreed to continue providing the Academy with water at no cost. The Milwaukee Road also accepted responsibility for any damage that might result from breaks in the main.

The Kyburz Company was hired to do several other small campus projects. The unfinished portion of the Girls' Dorm was converted into four piano practice rooms, and the unfinished floor in the basement of the Boys' Dorm was tiled. The shower rooms and lavatories in the Boys' Dorm were refurbished.

The 25th anniversary year of the Academy began September 16th, 1952 with 83 students. This dramatic increase of 18 over the previous year pushed the enrollment to an all time high. Boys outnumbered the girls for the first time in some years. Because construction of the new building had not gone as fast as hoped, the students still had to be crammed into the classrooms in the White Building and Barracks for the greater part of another year.

An innovation appeared in the basement of the Boys' Dorm. A canteen-candy store was operated by the tutors for the benefit of the athletic fund.

Four additional pianos were purchased to provide practice opportunities for the large number of students who were taking piano lessons. This number had grown rapidly because many more were planning to enter the teaching ministry. These students needed a good background in piano.

The construction on the classroom building continued. By early December the gymnasium was ready for use, but the classroom section took another two months to complete. It was with joy that the students and faculty gathered in the chapel on February 9th, 1953, to thank and praise God. The first day of classes in the new Administration Building had begun. Several days earlier the students had helped to move the library and other needed materials to the Administration Building. A new era had begun. Classes in crowded and uncomfortable conditions were a thing of the past.

The weather during the winter of 1953 was very mild. This was a blessing because even before the move to the Administration Building had occurred, remodeling was started in the White Building. The dining hall was enlarged, and a new entrance was built to the west. Cold temperatures would have made it miserable for all as portions of the building were opened to the weather. Under these conditions heating and ventilation were often out of control.

Shortly after the move into the Administration Building, the board added a fifth professorship. This also required the construction of an additional house. The office of Dean of Students was created to deal with the larger student body. Prof. Schuetze was asked to take on this responsibility in addition to his other duties.

The Administration Building was dedicated to the glory of God on April 26, 1953. This was the last of synod's four Centennial Building Projects to be completed. Over 900 from all parts of the district filled every available seat in the auditorium and in the adjacent chapel room. Prof. Carl Schweppe of Dr. Martin Luther College delivered the address, and Pastor H. Birner, the chairman of the board, read the dedicatory rites. A mass choir of over 200 voices sang praises to God under Prof. Henry Meyer's direction. Elsa Klein, an Academy graduate and day school teacher at Akaska, South Dakota, was the organist.

After the service the guests could tour the building. The pipe organ was dedicated in the evening service. Pastor Paul Albrecht of Bowdle, South Dakota, was the speaker. Waldemar Nolte of Mankato, Minnesota, gave a sacred concert in which he demonstrated the power and versatility of the instrument. The mass choir and a children's choir from three of the district's day schools glorified God in song. The children were directed by Mabel Goede, teacher at Zion in Mobridge.

The 1953 commencement concert and graduation service were special that June. For once both could be held at the Academy with comfortable seating for all. The seniors would long remember that they were the first class to graduate from the new Administration Building.

The former Barracks were converted to a three car garage for which the building was much better suited. A lounge and recreation room was built in the basement of the Boys' Dorm.

The delegates to the synod convention in August of 1953 granted the Academy its fifth full time professor. The Academy was also granted funds to build his house.

Although some students did not return, 38 new ones came to swell the enrollment to 99. While the Administration Building was adequate, both the capacity of the Boys' Dorm with its remodeled attic and that of the dining hall were stretched to the limit.

In early fall Prof. and Mrs. Fenske, and their daughter Marcia, were involved in a serious car accident. Their lives were spared but Prof. Fenske needed a long period of recuperation. John Sievert, a former student with a chemistry major, taught Prof. Sievert's classes while Prof. Sievert instructed Prof. Fenske's students and served as administrator until Prof. Fenske recovered.

In November the board called Prof. Waldemar Nolte to become the fifth professor. He was to teach music and English. In the same meeting Prof. Meyer informed the board that he had received a call into the parish ministry. One month later Prof. Meyer accepted his call. Prof. Schuetze also asked to be relieved of his position as Dean of Students at the end of the school year.

Preparations for the new professorage were proceeding slowly. Mr. Kyburz had developed a building plan for the new professorage. He donated these to the board to use as they saw fit. Paul Steen, a Moberge contractor, was hired to do the building.

Prof. Nolte accepted the call to the music professorship with the provision that he be allowed to complete the school year at Mankato. In actuality, Prof. Nolte took over the music responsibilities that had been Prof. Meyer's. Because he was not to arrive until the next school term, the board asked Dr. Martin Luther College for an emergency music instructor. Mr. William Birsching filled that position until the end of the term. After Prof. Meyer's departure at the end of the first semester, Pastor Karl Bast of Zion, Moberge, helped to lighten the faculty's load by teaching several religion classes.

During the year the board considered the long term housing needs for the boys. It appeared that the only long-term solution was to ask synod to permit an addition to the dormitory at a cost of about \$75,000.

Because Prof. Meyer left there were still only four full-time faculty members. Five calls were issued before Prof. Wayne Ten Broek accepted the position of Dean of Students and Latin instructor. He was also to teach a religion class.

On June 4, 15 graduates received diplomas. The traditional Commencement Concert was well-directed by William Birsching, the temporary music instructor.

The 1954-55 school term opened with a record enrollment of 106 on September 7. Again the faculty and board had to struggle to provide enough dormitory space. For the first time two girls had to be housed in the basement of the Girls' Dorm. A typing course was added that year.

In planning for the next school year the board considered the possibility of limiting enrollment by accepting no more than 40 freshmen. In addition to dormitory space, class size had to be considered. If classes became larger than 40 they would have to be divided into sections which would result in increased teacher loads.

On June 2, 1955, more than 500 gathered to hear a program of sacred and secular choral music as well as instrumental music presented by the students under the direction of Prof. W. Nolte. The next day 16 received their diplomas.

That summer Prof. Schuetze received a call to serve as Dean of Students at Northwestern College. The board urged him to remain with the Academy, which he did.

In light of the already large enrollment and an even larger anticipated one, the board memorialized the synod for an addition to the Boys' Dorm and an addition to the White Building for more dining space. The board also requested two additional professors, one to be a full time physical education director. The request included housing for both.

Synod deferred action on the dormitory request until the next convention. The dining hall addition was granted, not to exceed \$9,000. The synod also approved the purchase of a stand-by boiler for the central heating system at a cost not to exceed \$10,000. The two professorships and their housing were also approved with the stipulation of priority. The Academy could call for one position, but would have to wait until all other institutions had called one additional instructor before it could call again.

The 1950-51 students had come from only three states. On September 6, 1955, 113 students enrolled from ten states. The even balance of boys and girls helped solve some of the dormitory space problems. The question that Prof. Fenske put forth in his report in the *Northwestern Lutheran* article was, in essence, no different than the one asked ten years prior, namely, "Where can we put the students and how will we be able to instruct them with our present staff?"

Of the 58 boys, 47 were housed in the Boys' Dorm and 11 were in the remodeled upstairs of the White Building. The 46 girls were placed in the Girls' Dorm.

In October Swanson of Mitchell, South Dakota, was awarded the contract for the stand-by boiler unit. Their bid was \$10,815.

The Academy offered the use of its auditorium to Zion congregation of Moberge when its church building was lost to a fire that fall. The congregation held its Sunday service in the Academy Auditorium. The board postponed the building of the addition to the dining hall until the limited capacity of the Boys' Dorm could be increased.

At the faculty's urging the board requested an additional tutor whose main responsibility would be to give music lessons. At this time 65 students were enrolled in piano study. Having an additional instructor would lighten the load for Mrs. Traub and Prof. Nolte.

During the year the faculty had lengthy discussions with the board about the new synodical salary schedule. The old schedule provided an additional sum for each child. Several professors with large families suffered a salary decrease when the new code was adopted. The synod Board of Trustees did not modify the salary structure but allowed the board to deal with each hardship case individually.

In order to provide space for the future Lake Oahe, the board sold about six acres to the Milwaukee Road Railroad Company for the relocation of its tracks. The amount of the sale was \$3,000. The loss of this land did not adversely affect the Academy as this would, no doubt, have remained open space.

On Friday, June 8, a class of 14 boys and seven girls were awarded their diplomas. Of this class seven boys planned to enroll at Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin, and four girls and one boy at Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota. It was encouraging, indeed, to see more students preparing for the work of the Kingdom. Another positive sign was that 59 of the remaining students were registered for church work.

Already at the close of the year there were enough applications to fill the available space for the following term. When the 1956-57 school term began, 117 students were enrolled. This number would be the highest enrollment for the next 15 years. There were 52 boys and 52 girls. The remaining 13 students came from the city of Mobridge.

Prof. Schuetze had accepted a call during the summer. His duties were taken over by an emergency tutor, David Kuske. He served until Prof. Victor Weyland was installed on January 30, 1957.

The graduating class of 1957 numbered 16, nine of whom planned to continue studies for full time work in the ministry. Already in April all available spaces in the Girls' Dorm had been filled for the following year and the Boys' Dorm, which had a capacity of 32, housed 54 boys. Again the board planned to house ten boys in the upstairs of the White Building. To do so, an additional tutor was requested. The board resubmitted its request for an addition to the Boys' Dorm.

The synod reaffirmed the two professorships that had been granted in the 1955 convention. Synod also placed the dormitory addition into its next major building program.

The physical shape and size of the campus changed. The State Highway Commission purchased 10.69 acres at \$1,000 an acre to relocate Highway US 12. The city of Mobridge granted the Academy a four-acre tract of land adjacent to the north boundary of the campus to offset this loss.

The money realized from this sale was used to finish the tennis courts with asphalt, to oil the Academy road, and to slope the terrace towards the highway.

The 1957-58 term began with another excellent enrollment, 116. There were 40 new students, 20 of these indicated an interest in preparing for full time church work.

During the first semester Tutor John Habeck became seriously ill and had to take a leave of absence. John Parcher replaced him.

In January Prof. Sievert received a call to St. John's of Tappan, North Dakota. The board strongly urged him to return the call because the Academy needed his special gifts and experience. He returned the call. Prof. Weyland received a call to shepherd St. Paul's of Roscoe, South Dakota. He also returned it after being encouraged by the board to remain.

A record class of 25 graduated on June 6, 1958. The synod Board of Trustees informed the Academy that it had permission to extend a call to fill the sixth professorship, the one which had been granted in 1955.

The academy board received a request from Zion Congregation of Mobridge to use a portion of the White Building for their day school classes. It was denied because of the uncertainty about the enrollment for the following year.

The 1958-59 school year began with some uncertainty on the faculty. At the very beginning of the year Prof. W. Nolte accepted a call to become principal of St. Matthew's of Winona, Minnesota. He was succeeded by William Birsching. The enrollment was 96.

Plans for the sixth professorship were developed and submitted to the synod's Board of Trustees. They were rejected. Several times during the year the Academy board modified and resubmitted them. Each time they were deemed unsatisfactory.

Two new professors and three new tutors greeted 96 students on September 9, 1959. During the year the board continued to struggle with building plans for the new professorship. The off campus professorship was sold for \$9,500. This had been the home of Professors Traub, Meyer, and Nolte. Its age and constant need for upkeep demanded that it be replaced. Some campus improvements were needed because of the rerouting of US 12. Renovations were also made on the athletic field.

On a beautiful day in early June, 1960, 23 young men and women received their diplomas. Nine of these planned to continue their studies in the synod's worker training schools.

Another New Branch

The 1960-61 term began with an enrollment of 85. There were 31 new students. Unexpected cancellations of new students as well as a larger than normal number of former students who did not return brought the enrollment to its lowest number in eight years. Part of the problem might have been the doctrinal dispute which had been going on for several years. Also, the natural drawing area had only about 7,500 communicant members. Taking this into account, the Academy's enrollment was proportionate to other synodical schools. One bright spot, however, was that students were coming from the California Mission District for the first time.

The faculty and staff were unchanged except for the addition of Tutor Robert Sievert. Because an assistant music instructor had not been granted, the music load was shared by the existing faculty members.

The board finalized the campus plans for the location of the future buildings. A boys' dormitory to house about 100 and a refectory building for 200, which would also have living quarters for the staff, were being considered.

The Academy *Wildcat* was born in the 1960-61 school year. It was brought to life through the efforts of Tutor Robert Sievert.

A recruitment program featured an "Academy Day" when eighth grade students could visit the school. In connection with recruitment, adding a commercial course to the Academy's curriculum was studied. It was not deemed feasible at this time.

With the campus plan complete, thought was given to beautifying the campus. Emmett Foster, the district forester, suggested plantings of red cedar, Chinese elm, pine, Black Hills spruce, and poplar. An athletic track was also developed.

In June a class of 14 graduated, eight of whom intended to continue their studies for full time church work.

In regard to the space problem, the Advisory Committee on Education made two recommendations to the 1961 synod convention. The White Building should be razed and a refectory unit built in 1966 for about \$175,000. A new boys' dormitory and the remodeling of the old dorm for classroom use at a cost of \$250,000 was projected for 1968.

September of 1961 showed an increase of only eight students bringing the total enrollment to 93. Of these, 12 were in the pastors' course, 36 in the teachers' course, and 45 in the general studies course.

During the summer women from all parts of the district held a painting bee. They gave the entire Boys' Dorm a fresh new look.

A recruitment committee was formed. This committee developed a filmstrip presentation, held visitation days for seventh and eighth graders, and made plans to travel to distant parts of the district to recruit students.

On June 8th fourteen seniors graduated. Seven planned to continue their studies in preparation for full time work in the Lord's vineyard.

When school opened on September 4, 1962, the campus looked like a disaster area. Two days previous, Mobridge was hit twice by a severe hailstorm. In reality it was the same storm that had doubled back because of a wind change. Nearly all the windows on the south and east sides of the buildings were broken. Many roofs were also damaged by hailstones that were golf ball size or larger.

On the brighter side was the enrollment of 102. This was the first time since 1958 that it was over 100.

Thoughts of future building projects received the board's attention. Since a possible new dormitory seemed to be at least ten years away, remodeling plans for the old dorm were presented to the synod's Board of Trustees. At least \$150,000 would be needed for this project.

A special synod convention in New Ulm, Minnesota, gave the board authorization to secure plans and bids for the new refectory by the next convention. Marion E. Smith of Aberdeen was engaged as the architect. An initial cost of \$160,000 was projected.

The board also resolved to request a seventh professor to be Dean of Students and do some teaching. Prof. Wayne Ten Broek assumed a full teaching schedule.

Sixteen of the 25 seniors who graduated on June 6th planned to continue their studies for either the teaching or preaching ministry.

The scenery to the west of the campus changed by the time school resumed in September as Lake Oahe formed in the river low lands.

The 1963 synod convention granted the Academy its seventh professorship and set aside \$185,000 for construction of the refectory. Remodeling of the Boys' Dorm was also approved but could not begin for a full year.

The 1963-64 school term opened with 80 students. Academic weakness, disciplinary aims, and tuition cost seem to have been the major reason for such a sharp decline in enrollment.

A major change came about in the White Building. Family style meals were replaced with a cafeteria line. The change brought about lower food costs and greater satisfaction among the students.

In October the synod Board of Trustees informed the Academy board, that due to the lack of funds, the refectory and the seventh professorship would have to wait. The board should instead proceed with the remodeling of the Boys' Dorm. The synod's Board of Trustees released \$15,300 for this project.

Prof. Birsching asked for a one year sabbatical to further his studies. His teaching duties would be assumed by an assistant instructor from DMLC.

Following the graduation of 15 young people in June, the remodeling of the Boys' Dorm began. The synod's planning committee expressed great dissatisfaction with the proposed refectory design. They felt that the general appearance of the building did not fit into the overall campus plan. The board was granted permission to call for a seventh professor who would also be Dean of Students. The first call was sent to Gerhardt Birkholz of Lake Benton, Minnesota.

Enrollment for the 1964-65 term was slightly higher than the previous year. It was 85. After Gerhardt Birkholz declined the call to be Dean of Students, it was extended to Pastor Richard Buss of Hettinger, North Dakota. He was installed as Dean in January of 1965.

Early in the school year an extra burden was placed on the faculty by Tutor Shilling's illness. However, by the second academic quarter he had regained health and was able to continue his duties.

Rather than build a new professorage, the board purchased a house, which was about one and one-half blocks from the campus. This five-year-old house cost \$19,500 which was considerably cheaper than building a new one.

After 13 students graduated in June, remodeling once again began on the Boys' Dorm. This time the basement was refurbished.

The 38th school term of the Academy began with an enrollment of 85 in September 1965. Prof. Birsching had returned from a one-year sabbatical, but Prof. Pelzl was absent for the first quarter for advanced studies.

That fall Prof. Pelzl received a call to teach at Fox Valley Lutheran High School. He returned it when the board strongly urged him to remain. Prof. Ten Broek was called to be pastor of St. Michael's, Fountain City, Wisconsin. The board felt that he could better serve the Lord at the Academy.

In December the Academy received permission to build its long awaited refectory. The Kyburz Construction Company from Aberdeen was contracted to do the building. Ground breaking ceremonies were held on January 12, 1966. The two years of waiting had increased the cost from \$185,000 to \$211,680.

The athletic department added a storage shed and a trampoline. Prof. Buss's garage was moved to the athletic field and became the storage shed. A new garage was built for the professor.

Prof. Fenske announced his retirement in February. He had served the Academy as president and professor for 27 years and previous to that he had served the Church for 22 years as a pastor.

On June 3rd 18 seniors were the last graduates to receive their diplomas from Prof. Fenske. Construction on the Student Union-Refectory continued during the summer. The board named Prof. Sievert interim president.

Eighty-eight young people presented themselves on August 30, 1966. The school year began with two expectations. The refectory would be ready in a few weeks and someone would soon answer the call to become the next president. The first was realized on October 2, 1966, at the formal dedication of the Student Union-Refectory. Friends of the Academy from near and far gathered to hear Pastor Harold Wicke, Chairman of synod's Board of Trustees, give an address on the theme, "Finished Building—Unfinished Task." Pastor E. Werner of the local board was liturgist. The building could seat up to 200 should the need arise. It housed the kitchen, dining hall, a student union area, two apartments for employees, and a room for student publications. The second expectation, that of a new school president, was not to be soon realized although the board continued to issue calls.

The school year drew to a close on May 26th when 17 young men and women graduated.

The fortieth year of NLA began with an enrollment of 93. The president's position was still unfilled. The Academy facilities were in generally good condition. The project to obtain furniture and drapes for the Student Union had been completed. The Academy Ladies Auxiliary donated a water cooler for the Boys' Dorm. Another donor gave a water cooler for the Girls' Dorm. A centrally controlled clock and bell system was installed. Prof. and Mrs. Sievert donated the underground sprinkler system for the lawn area around the Student Union-Refectory.

May 31, 1968, was a special day for the Academy. Not only was this graduation day for 20 seniors, but it was also the day for celebrating the 40th anniversary of NLA. The seniors received their diplomas from Prof. Sievert. He, too, was being honored for 40 years of service to the Academy. The guest speaker was Pastor E.R. Gamm of Marshall, Minnesota. Pastor Gamm had been the pastor at Zion of Moberly when the Academy was founded. He had also served as an early board member and chairman of the Board of Control.

The board sent the sixteenth call for a president to Pastor Daniel Malchow. He had been called to this position previously, in August of 1967. This time the Lord led him to accept.

Pastor Malchow was installed as president on August 27, 1968. Forty-five new students joined the student body to bring the number enrolled to 102. The students came from 11 states.

To provide for storage of food, a fruit cellar was built. It was paid for by local funds.

The president began publishing the *Academy Bulletin*, a newsletter about NLA activities. It was distributed not only in the Dakota-Montana District, but also to interested congregations in the Nebraska, Pacific Northwest, and Arizona-California Districts.

In November the Academy family joined Prof. Ten Broek in celebrating his 25th year in the ministry.

At the beginning of the second semester, the board asked the synod for funding to call an eighth professor and build the president's house. An additional tutor was requested. He would teach classes for Professors Ten Broek and Weyland while they were taking courses for state certification. These were necessary for future state accreditation of the Academy. They would each be absent for one quarter. In the last week of May, 19 seniors graduated.

When the 1969-70 school year began 49 new students were enrolled. Of these 37 were freshmen. This brought the enrollment to 110.

The faculty began a student counseling program. Hopefully, this would help them overcome academic problems and reduce student dropout.

There were two major additions to the athletic department, two tennis courts and a football program. The Academy planned to begin interscholastic football the next year.

The board approved the new Academy seal, designed by student John Lawrenz of Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary. They asked him to write an explanation that could be included in the Academy catalog. The seal and its explanation were placed in the Administration Building.

The floor of the gymnasium had been giving the board many problems. Cracks were appearing in the cement causing the tile to break up. Numerous contractors had been contacted, but no one wanted to guarantee that their solution would cure the problem. Finally the Aberdeen Flooring Company accepted the project. During the Thanksgiving recess they repaired the sub-floor and retiled the gym for \$2080.

Prof. Buss accepted a call to teach English at Dr. Martin Luther College.

The Academy choir tour to the Pacific Northwest was a considerable success. The Academy Ladies' Auxiliary provided choir robes for the singers.

A maintenance garage was constructed behind the Student Union-Refectory. The old garage and the custodian's house near the entrance to the campus were removed. Construction began on the president's house. The Academy closed the doors on its 42nd year when 23 students graduated on May 29, 1970.

The Mature Tree

Two calls for a Dean of Students were issued during the summer of 1970. Pastor Paul Wilde accepted the position. A new position, that of business manager, was offered to Robert Wright, a retiree from California.

The Academy was also fortunate in acquiring a 1967 International bus from Wisconsin Lutheran College.

Prof. Sievert announced his retirement effective June 1971. Candidates for his position were requested. Prof. Wilde was installed as Dean of Students, Robert Bock and Daniel Luetke as assistant instructors. 115 students began another school term. Eleven states were represented by the student body.

The football team, organized the previous year, had five scheduled games. After a slow start they won the last three. Prof. Birsching organized a marching band. Used band uniforms were purchased from Mobridge High School.

Prof. R. Georg, an assistant instructor, was called as the science instructor upon Prof. Sievert's retirement. He was installed on January 31st and spent the second semester at Northern State Teachers' College to meet certification requirements. Prof. Ten Broek was appointed as Academy vice president effective upon Prof. Sievert's retirement.

The president's house was completed by April 10, and another house directly across the street from the main campus entrance was purchased for Prof. Georg.

On June 2, 1971, 18 seniors received diplomas. They were honored by having retiring Prof. Sievert give the commencement address.

On the previous evening, prior to the commencement concert, Prof. Sievert was honored in a special farewell service. He had served the Academy faithfully for 43 years and had personally taught each student who had attended there. At one time or another he had taught every subject offered. This day he was also honored for his 50 years in the public ministry. A plaque honoring him was placed in the main hall of the Administration Building.

The 44th school term began in September 1971 with a record enrollment of 121. Almost half of the student body came from outside the Dakota-Montana District. Because of the large enrollment five boys were housed on the second floor of Prof. Georg's residence.

The synod instructed the Academy board to study NLA's role in the worker training picture of the synod. A questionnaire was sent to all district pastors and to former pastors of the district about the role that NLA should play in the synod's worker training program. The response to the questionnaire was excellent.

As part of this study the board needed to know how to provide practice space for the music program since the White Building had been condemned by the state fire marshal. A request for \$1,000 was made to do a feasibility study. Dixon and Son of Mitchell did this study for the music department. Their recommendation was to raze the White Building. The cost to bring it up to fire code was too great. Their study offered two choices for practice space. One was divide the present gym into practice rooms and build a new gym; the second option was build a separate music hall.

NLA was granted an eighth professor. This would not become a reality immediately, however, because other synod schools were higher on the priority list. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Becker of Mankato, Minnesota, donated one and one half lots across the street from the homes of Professors Weyland and Pelzl to the Academy. The Academy was certified as an accredited institution by the State of South Dakota. An immediate benefit of certification was that athletic teams could be scheduled with greater ease.

At Easter time the choir visited five cities in South Dakota, one in North Dakota, three in Montana, and five in Nebraska. A class of 21 graduated on May 25, 1972.

Another record enrollment, 131, opened the 1972-73 school term.

Janine Vasold, a graduate of DMLC and the Academy's first female assistant instructor, taught piano lessons previously given by Mrs. Zeller. She also assisted in physical education. David Palmquist from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary was the dormitory tutor. Because of his football experience he was an able assistant to Prof. Georg.

The board continued working on the *Restudy of the Academy's Role* in the synod's educational program. It noted the small number of communicants, less than 9,000, in the entire district. There were only four Christian Day Schools in the district with a total

of 199 pupils and nine teachers. More than half of these were at St. Martin's of Watertown. Some in synod thought that the cost of operating the Academy was an excessive drain on the synod's budget. However, it was noted that the average per communicant contribution in the Dakota-Montana District more than in some other areas that had a Lutheran high school.

After the Academy became state certified, it was accepted into the Little Moreau Athletic Conference. The Wildcat football team won four of seven conference games. The boys' basketball team finished the season with a 16-7 record, and won the Little Moreau Conference Tournament. They, however, did poorly in the All-Lutheran Tournament at New Ulm. The girls' team finished with a 5-4 record.

On October 7th the Drum, Bugle, and Fife Corps marched in the Gypsy Day Parade in Aberdeen. A mini-choir attended the Choral Festival held at Fox Valley Lutheran High School in November. Prof. Birsching composed an "Alma Mater" song for the Academy. On March 23-25 the Academy hosted the Tri-State Lutheran Band Festival. It was a first for the school. It was also the first time that many of the participants had an opportunity to see the beauty of the Academy campus. The students presented a play entitled *The Mouse that Roared*.

The Soil Conservation Service planted trees along the northern and eastern borders of the athletic field. It was hoped that this would eliminate unwanted traffic in that area.

To help students traveling great distances, the Academy provided free transportation to and from airports at Bismarck, Aberdeen, or Pierre.

On May 24 a class of 31, the largest in the school's history, graduated.

Professors Wilde and Pelzl both received calls during the summer. Prof. Wilde's call was to Michigan Lutheran High School, St. Joseph, Michigan, as assistant principal and instructor of religion and English. Prof. Pelzl was called to teach mathematics and coach at Fox Valley Lutheran High School, Appleton, Wisconsin. Both felt their gifts could be better used at NLA.

At the 1973 synod convention the Restudy of the Academy's role was presented by the Commission on Higher Education and the Academy Board of Control.

"The delegates directed the Academy board to make projections for a maximum on-campus enrollment of 200 to consist almost exclusively of students preparing for the work of the church. A general Christian high school education would continue to be offered, but the Academy was encouraged to solicit and receive direct support from individuals and congregations associated with the school for general education students. Once the school attained an enrollment of 200 on-campus students who were preparing for full time work in the church, any operation of the school in the area of general Christian education was to be maintained solely by individual and congregational support."¹⁸

The 46th school year began in September 1973 with a record enrollment numbering 133. The enrollment might have been higher had not a number of students withdrawn shortly before school opening. The crowded conditions might have caused some of these withdrawals. James Wooster, an emergency instructor, filled the vacancy caused by Prof. Pelzl's resignation that summer. Other teaching areas were filled by internal faculty realignment.

The board reviewed the plans made by the faculty which indicated the school's needs to be able to accommodate 200 students.

The athletic teams did remarkably well. The football team had six wins and four losses. The girls' basketball season changed from winter to fall. The girls won ten games while losing two. At season's end, they won the Bison Invitational Tournament. The Wildcat tumblers provided half-time entertainment during basketball games. Because

most of the players on the boys' basketball team were young, they did not have a good season; they had a 5 and 18 record. The tumbling team under Mrs. Swain's direction won unqualified admiration. Its performance at half-time of the district basketball tournament was talked about by all. At the State Track Meet four Academy boys set a new Class D record for the mile relay.

The Drum, Bugle, and Fife Corps again participated in the Aberdeen Gypsy Day Parade and in the formation marching competition held at Northern State Teachers' College. The Girls' Glee Club, the A Capella Choir, and the Boys' Glee Club participated in the Mobridge music competition. The Girls' Glee Club and the A Capella Choir earned ratings of one or superior while the Boys' Glee Club earned a rating of two or excellent.

Pastor Harold Schewe accepted the call to become the eighth professor on the faculty. The housing problem for this professor was solved when Prof. Ten Broek purchased his own home. Prof. Schewe attended classes at Northern State Teachers' College during the last quarter to become certified. Carl Lemke was called to teach science and physical education.

An anonymous donor gave \$10,000 to resurface the Academy track. The board received the gift with thanks and approved the resurfacing plan.

The 1973 oil embargo caused a great deal of concern for the board. However, the fuel shortage never materialized.

The firm of Boettcher and Ginnow, Inc. of Neenah, Wisconsin, was hired to develop the Master Plan requested by the synod convention.

The old school bus, received from Wisconsin Lutheran College, was in dire need of repairs; therefore a newer bus was purchased, which was more suitably geared to long distance travel. Mr. Robert Travis succeeded Robert Wright as business manager. The graduation service for 29 young men and women marked the end of another school term.

An enrollment equaling last year's record of 133 presented housing problems once more when school resumed in 1974. Part of the overflow was housed with Tutor Philip Potratz. He shared a mobile home with five boys. Four boys lived in the upstairs of Prof. Georg's home.

In their September meeting the board reviewed the Master Plan for the Academy's expansion. Boettcher and Ginnow's plan projected an outlay of \$1,805,000 in three phases. Phase one cost \$1,095,000 and involved constructing a music facility, an athletic facility and remodeling the Administration-Gymnasium Building. Phase two cost \$440,000 to construct two 50 bed dormitories. Phase three called for constructing another 50 bed dormitory, remodeling the Girls' Dorm, and razing the old Boys' Dorm at a cost of \$270,000.

The Wildcat football team had a winning season with a five and four record. The girls' basketball team placed second in the conference tournament losing in the championship game by two points. Because the track did not yet have an all-weather surface, the extremely wet spring eliminated most of the track meets.

The mini choir attended a music festival at Martin Luther Academy, New Ulm, and did very well. In March the Girls' Glee Club and the Concert Band took part in the Mobridge music competition. Both groups received a superior rating. The other musical groups chose not to compete because many of the members were involved in the musical *Calamity Jane*. Selected band members also participated in the Tri-State Band Festival held at St. Paul's St. Croix Lutheran High School.

In early January Prof. Georg resigned. Some internal realignment and emergency help from DMLC in the person of Ronald Wels covered all teaching assignments. On May 22, 1975, 24 seniors were awarded diplomas.

The board was pleased to learn that the Commission on Higher Education had endorsed the Academy Master Plan and was submitting it to the synod convention. The convention delegates adopted the plan as presented.

Paving of the track began in late summer. Nearly two years had gone by since the generous donation for its construction had been received. Part of the delay was caused by the oil shortage in '73-74.

A sharp enrollment drop for the 1975-76 term reduced the student body to 115. Prof. Alan Jeffers was called to fill the vacancy in science and physical education. He was installed at the beginning of the term.

The condition of the former Fenske house was such that it was not suitable for the Jeffers family. The cost for additions and improvements seemed prohibitive. The board decided to build a new house and to sell the Fenske house.

The athletic program was very successful. The football team shared the conference championship. The girls' basketball team won both the sectional and regional titles. After the Lady Wildcats defeated a pretournament favorite early in the tournament, they received extensive media coverage and became known as a "cinderella" team. The girls placed second in the State Class B Basketball Tournament. The boys' team had a 16 and 6 record, but their tournament hopes were dashed by injuries at season's end. The new track also seemed to help the track team's performance.

The Academy music program also represented itself well. The Marching Band won a second place trophy at the Aberdeen Gypsy Day Parade. At a regional competition the A Capella Choir received the only superior plus rating. The Girls' Glee Club was rated superior and the band was excellent.

William Beyers of Lodi, California, formerly from the Roscoe area, donated \$5,000 to a scholarship trust fund. The interest from this fund was used to assist students preparing for full time church work. There were other sizable trust grants: The Henry K. Bieber Memorial Fund—\$1,000; the NLA Ladies Auxiliary Fund—\$1,000, and an anonymous gift of \$5,000 to the NLA fund.

Twenty-five seniors received diplomas on May 28, 1976.

At the August meeting of the Commission on Higher Education, the Academy received the following good news: plan an addition to the present Ad building for music purposes; plan a small gym; continue using the present one for intramural programs and as an auditorium until space is needed for classroom, library or offices. The option was left open to use the old Boys' Dorm for other future uses.

There was disappointment that the opening enrollment for the '76-77 school term was only 117. It fell short of what had been anticipated. The decline of students enrolling in the pastors' or teachers' course was also disheartening.

The football team won six and lost three. The Lady Wildcats' basketball team finished with a 16 and 3 record. They lost to Timberlake in the district semifinals even though they had previously defeated them twice. The boys' basketball team had a 9 and 10 record. The track team also did very well.

A canteen-pressbox was constructed on the athletic field. The athletic department purchased a vaulting horse and a balance beam for the gymnastics program.

In November the Academy hosted the Choral Festival. About 180 singers from WELS Lutheran High Schools representing a dozen choirs participated.

An anniversary committee was appointed to prepare for next year's 50th anniversary. Pastors E. Habermann, Robert Krueger, David Krenke, and laymen Harland

Palmquist and Earl Bassett were named to the committee. The theme selected for the celebration was "A Tree Planted by the River of Waters."

The Schewe residence was enlarged by changing the garage into a family room and building a separate garage.

The board studied ways to lower the cost of irrigating the Academy lawns because of the high price of city water. Drilling a well for irrigation was not feasible since test borings had indicated that sufficient water could not easily be found. It was decided to irrigate from Lake Oahe. The cost of such a system was to be recovered in five years.

The school year concluded with the traditional commencement concert and graduation ceremonies in which 24 received diplomas.

The delegates to the 1977 synod convention shocked the board and the Academy family by voting to withdraw the former resolutions for the school's expansion.

Classes resumed in the 50th year with an enrollment of 123. Prof. Jeffers attended Northern State Teachers' College for his certification. Ronald Wels, who had spent the second of the previous year at the Academy as an emergency instructor, taught his classes.

At the October 30th Reformation service Pres. Malchow and Dean Wilde were honored for their 25 years of service in the Lord's vineyard. Pastor Gerhardt Birkholz, former instructor and board member, was guest speaker.

The football team had a most successful season tying for the Little Moreau Conference championship. An Aberdeen sports writer rated them as the third best team in the northern part of the state. The girls' basketball team had a rebuilding year after losing all of the starters from the previous year. The boys' team ended the basketball season with a 13-6 record. They were defeated in the district finals by McLaughlin, which was ranked third in the state.

The Marching Band collected another second place Class C trophy at the Gypsy Day Parade. The full band participated in a Band Festival held in New Ulm. The choir sang at different congregations within the district.

The Lord blessed those who gathered at the Academy for the 50th anniversary on May 25, 1978 with beautiful spring weather. Parents and friends joined the students and staff thanking and praising God as 27 young men and women from nine different states received diplomas.

The commencement concert the previous evening also centered on the Academy's jubilee. The concert selections were chosen from music that had been used during the past 50 years. Musical instruments, some battered and worn from years of hard use, were on display. There was a departure from tradition; a guest speaker in the person of Prof. K.G. Sievert was added to the program.

The Alumni Association hosted an all-school reunion at the Academy in July of 1978. About 450 people, representing alumni and families, attended. A petition signed by 168 alumni urged the synod to continue operating the school.

On November 26, 1978, the Academy had a service of thanksgiving honoring Prof. Birsching for 25 years in the teaching ministry and Prof. Ten Broek for 25 years of dedicated service to the Academy.

Prof. Jeffers received his teaching certificate from the State of South Dakota. That was another first; now all instructors were state certified. That long on-going process had to be repeated every time a new instructor joined the faculty.

The Wildcat football team finished second in the Little Moreau Conference. Its only loss was to McIntosh. The girls' basketball team placed third in the conference and in the District Eight Tournament.

In the second semester Prof. Lemke accepted a call to Martin Luther Preparatory School. Dean Wilde accepted a call to shepherd Salem Lutheran, a congregation of Escanaba, Michigan, effective May 1st. At the end of the term Miss Juroff was called to Winnebago Lutheran Academy at Fond du Lac.

The class of 1979, numbering 21 students, was the last graduating class of Northwestern Lutheran Academy.

In January of 1978 the Dakota-Montana District held a special convention to address the subject of the Academy's future. It recommended that the district assume the responsibility of implementing the Master Plan, that is, the building program for the Academy.¹⁹

Every congregation in the district was to declare its intended support for the replacement of the music facility. In June, 1978, at the regular district convention it was reported that \$177,500 had been pledged for a four-year period.²⁰

The handwriting on the wall for the Academy's closing could already be seen in October of 1978. The Program Planning Committee of the Commission on Higher Education cited in its report that Northwestern Lutheran Academy did not seem to have the potential to become more productive in worker training. There also seemed to be little evidence that it could attract 200 students in the near future. The committee recommended that the Academy be offered to the Dakota-Montana District to be operated as an area Lutheran high school. If that did not materialize then the school should be closed. This report was tabled by the CHE.

In January of 1979 the Program Planning Committee presented a revised report to the Commission on Higher Education. "That NLA discontinue operation as a synodical school after the 1979-80 year."²¹

The Academy representatives on the CHE presented a minority report. Their report stated that NLA should be retained as a worker-training school, that the district would cover the cost of all major capital expenditures of the Master Plan and that the synod continue to subsidize the budgetary operation of the school.²²

Both reports were presented at the synod convention. The Coordinating Council requested that if the Academy was closed, the action should be immediate, before the next school year.

The reasons given for the closing of the school included the following: It has proved difficult to transfer NLA into a full-fledged worker training school; the per student cost is nearly double the cost at other synodical schools; and continued operation of the school would require an extensive building program. Resolution 8 read: "that the synod, with deep regret, discontinue the operation of Northwestern Lutheran Academy as a synodical institution, effective immediately." The resolution passed by a ballot vote of 225-41.²³

After the synod had resolved to close the Academy, the school was offered to the Dakota-Montana District, but the district did not have the monetary resources to operate the school and fund a building program.

The remaining faculty members were called to Martin Luther Preparatory School, which was just starting at Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. Mr. Gary Bauer, the maintenance engineer moved to Watertown, Wisconsin, where he hoped to find employment at Northwestern College. Robert Travis was hired as food service director at Martin Luther Preparatory School.

"The combination of high finances and low enrollment were the chief reasons the CHE gave for closing NLA. A small Academy meant a high per student cost ratio; expanding the school's facilities to accept a larger enrollment would have meant a large

outlay of capital funds. This was almost a Catch-22 situation. The Academy could not grow larger without new facilities, and it could not cut per student cost ratio without growing larger.

This dilemma was never publicized. The 1979 post-convention issue of the *Wisconsin Synod Herald* was inaccurate when it described the situation at NLA with these words; "'Designed for 220 students at optimum operating level, the school had an enrollment of 114 last year.'

The September 16, 1978 issue of the *Northwestern Lutheran* also inaccurately reported, 'Despite intensive efforts the school had not been able to attract an enrollment of 200, the number needed to warrant capital funding for new and remodeled facilities.'

With an enrollment of 114 the school was making full use of the facilities it had. Its record enrollments of 133 were only possible under severe conditions of crowding. It would have been impossible to approach anything close to 200 with the facilities available.

The low enrollment, which was part of the reason for closing the Academy, could be attributed to the sparse population of the northern plains states. Local problems in the state of South Dakota itself made for a small enrollment. Several larger WELS congregations in the state split when the CLC was formed in the early 1960's. For many years there were no WELS congregations at all in some of the larger cities in South Dakota. By the time congregations were started in cities such as Huron or Sioux Falls, it was too late to help the Academy. The Dakota-Montana District had mostly young pastors as its members; hence there were few "p.k.'s" (pastors' kids) of high school age.

The bottom line is that the number of students from the Dakota-Montana District could have been higher. If the district had flooded the Academy with applications in the final two years, the synod may well have voted to continue running the school, at least for a little while longer.²⁴

The final disposition of the Academy property occurred on July 28, 1981. The property was sold at auction by the Joe Maas Auctioneers of Rochester, Minnesota. Nearly 250 people attended the auction.

The property was divided into 19 parcels and each parcel was sold separately. When that was completed, the amounts received for the separate parcels were totaled. Next the property was offered as a single unit. Since the amount offered for the single unit exceeded the total amount offered for the individual parcels, it was sold as a single unit for \$375,000.

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January 7th, 1929.

Dakota-Montana District of the
Evangelical Joint Synod of
Wisconsin and other states,

c/o Rev. E. R. Gamm,

Mobridge, S. Dak.

Dear sir:-

On behalf of the Mobridge Commercial Club and the citizens of Mobridge, I have to report that we are now in a position to fulfill the pledge which we gave to you on January 6th, 1928 relating to the contribution of a sufficient sum of money to purchase a site for the proposed Academy of not less than 20 acres within the city limits of Mobridge or adjacent thereto.

We have on hand a sum sufficient to redeem this pledge and whenever you are ready to proceed with the purchase of the site which you have selected, we will turn over the fund. We shall be very glad to have your representative see us at your convenience and arrange the details of the transfer.

Wishing you every success and assuring you of our heartiest co-operation, we are,

Yours very truly,

MOBRIDGE COMMERCIAL CLUB,


President

S:L

ENDNOTES

1. Dakota-Montana District Report, 1922-1924.
2. Dakota-Montana District Report, 1922-1924.
3. Minutes, Dakota-Montana District, Western Conference, 1925.
4. Minutes, Dakota-Montana District, Eastern Conference, 1927.
5. Committee on Education Report to Synod convened in Milwaukee, Synodical Proceedings, 1927.
6. *Synodical Proceedings, 1927.*
7. *Synodical Proceedings, 1927.*
8. Minutes, Special District Convention, Dakota-Montana District, Watertown, South Dakota, January 11-12, 1928.
9. *Mobridge, Its First Fifty Years*, Skaug, Julius, North Plains Press, Aberdeen, South Dakota.
10. Letter of C.H. Ramsdell to Academy Board of Control, June 20, 1928.
11. Letter written to Professor Fenske from E.R. Gamm on March 24, 1953, commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Academy.
12. Phone conversation with Frank Gosch, Jr., February 22, 1992.
13. From a letter written by Ray Gauger to E.R. Gamm.
14. From the personal records of E.R. Gamm.
15. From the memories of Otto Frey, '38.
16. From the memories of Otto Frey, '38.
17. From the memories of Herman Johannsen as told to Hans Johannsen.
18. *Northwestern Lutheran*, September 23, 1973, p. 304.
19. *Dakota-Montana District Convention Proceedings, 1978*, p. 24.
20. *Ibid.* p. 27-29.
21. *BoRaM 1979*, p. 20-21
22. *Ibid.* p. 57-58.
23. *Synodical Proceedings 1979*, p. 77.
24. "Closing of Northwestern Lutheran Academy", Senior Church History paper by Mark Wilde, May 3, 1984.

The President's Report

The coming year is shaping up to be an exciting one for our Institute. The museum committee of the board has been pondering the issue of how the interior of the Salem Landmark Church should look (see "President's Report," October 1992). A decision seems near. But once that hurdle is out of the way, another looms: How to raise the money to make the vision a reality. And make no mistake, it will cost money. Professional restorers will have to be hired. But all of us on the board, and, we think, all members of the Institute, want to have nothing but the finest kind of restoration that we can afford. We want the Landmark Church to be sort of the "beating heart" of the synod, where large numbers of synod members may come and get back to their spiritual roots. As in all church projects, the object is not self-glorification, but glorification of the God who has been at work among us. Communicate your thoughts on the interior restoration to the museum committee chairman, Prof. Alan Siggelkow, 11805 N. Seminary Drive, Mequon, WI 53092.

Readers of these reports have noticed my desire to have in place some sort of synod-wide network which will help funnel materials to the synod archives (and be on the lookout for museum artifacts as well). I'm happy to report that our first "institute representative" is in place. Pastor William Zell has volunteered to help us out from his base in Mishicot, Wisconsin. A journey of a thousand miles, as they say, begins with a single step. We hope and pray that Bill will soon be joined by many others. What we're looking for is a pastor, teacher, or lay person (male or female) who generally attends events in his/her area (a church dedication, an installation, etc.), and wouldn't mind picking up an extra bulletin to send to the archives. Wherever you are reading this, please don't hesitate to volunteer. Drop me a note or phone me at Wisconsin Lutheran College, 8800 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee, WI 53226, phone (414) 774-8620.

Special note: About 500 copies of the April edition of the *Journal* were distributed to all delegates at the synod convention in Saginaw. The aim was to build awareness of the Institute and increase membership in it. But I always feel that Institute members are the best salespersons. Wouldn't it be great if each one of us found just one other person to get interested and join? We could do so much more with a membership twice as large. Let's work on that too.

As I said, the coming year is shaping up to be exciting.

James G. Kiecker

... from the editor

After the formation of the Evangelical Lutheran Joint Synod of Wisconsin and Other States a century ago, major projects were undertaken by the synod. Almost immediately a "foreign mission field" was opened when missionaries were sent to the Apache Indian Reservation in Arizona. Some decades later a mission field was opened in Poland and in recent years the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, as it is now known, has moved into countries throughout the world.

A second concern of the newly formed Joint Synod was its educational program. It established Northwestern College, Watertown, Wisconsin, as its pastoral preparatory school with its preparatory academy; Dr. Martin Luther College, New Ulm, Minnesota, as its teacher preparatory school with its preparatory academy; and Michigan Lutheran Seminary as a preparatory academy for both colleges. In the late 1920's another preparatory academy was opened in Mobridge, South Dakota which was later amalgamated with the Dr. Martin Luther Academy and moved to Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. In 1993 the synod in convention voted to change its present educational structure, giving instructions on how this is to be implemented, a process which will take about two years to complete.

It was thus considered fitting to record an historical account of the former Northwestern Lutheran Academy of Mobridge, South Dakota. We thank the author and editor for this historical account; Mrs. Lorraine Ingebritson (Gamm), Mrs. Chloe Boehm (Fenske) and Miss Ada Sievert for the photos; and Mr. Roger Frey for alerting us to the account and for sending published materials about the Academy. Thanks also go to Bonnie Kuerth, Esther Lehmann, and Jim Wendt for their help in the publication of this issue.

It has recently been brought to the editor's attention again, that members of our synod who have Lutheran historical materials, especially Wisconsin Synod materials, such as photos, published articles, diaries, histories and artifacts, do not know what to do with them. Some are even inclined to destroy them. Regardless of how insignificant these items may seem, the Historical Institute would like to have an opportunity to receive them for the archives, museum or the *Journal*. Materials for the archives may be sent to Prof. Westerhaus at our Seminary in Mequon; materials for the *Journal* to the editor whose address is given elsewhere in the *Journal*; and museum articles to Prof. Alan Siggelkow, also at our Seminary. However, in the case of museum articles please contact Prof. Siggelkow before shipping or delivering anything to him.

May an awareness of our past and of our WELS historical roots be on the minds of our WELS membership so that pertinent materials may be preserved for the benefit of especially future WELS generations.

Arnold O. Lehmann

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