
THE EXPANSION PROBLEM
OF THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE
FROM 1938 TO 1951
AND ITS SUBSEQUENT SOLUTION

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The Expansion Problem
of the Evangelical Lutheran High School of Milwaukee
from 1938 to 1951
and its Subsequent Solution

Generally speaking, growth is something that we view positively. We enjoy watching children grow and mature from infancy to adulthood. We plant seeds in the hope that they will grow and flourish into a healthy, thriving plant. But along with the positive aspects of growth come problems. As a child grows, his clothing often becomes too small for him and needs to be replaced long before it wears out. As a plant grows, its pot soon becomes too small for its root system and needs to be replanted in a larger pot. In this same way, the Evangelical Lutheran High School of Milwaukee felt the pleasures and pains of growth.

In this paper I hope to piece together the expansion problems experienced by the Evangelical Lutheran High School of Milwaukee (ELHS) from the the years 1938 to 1951. I chose 1938 as a starting point because it was in this year that the high school fell to its lowest ebb in enrollment before skyrocketing. 1951 will be the climax of our discussion, for it was then that a solution to the expansion problems of the high school was finally worked out. The data found in this paper was gleaned from the minutes of the high school's Board of Directors from 1938 to 1955, from the minutes of the ELHS Delegate Conference meetings, 1938 to 1955, from interviews with persons involved during that time, and from various histories written about the ELHS of Milwaukee.

I. A Short History of the High School's Growth and Expansion prior to and during the Great Depression.

In 1902 the ELHS of Milwaukee was conceived. Pastor August Pieper, a Wisconsin Synod man, who would become a professor at the Theological Lutheran Seminary in Mequon, read a paper to the City Pastoral Conference of Milwaukee

suggesting the formation of a Lutheran high school in the Milwaukee area. Pieper felt there was a need to offer higher education in a Lutheran spirit to their high school youth, particularly the girls. The initial reaction of the pastors to this suggestion was not too encouraging. But with the support of many parochial school teachers Pastors J.F.G. Harders and O. Hagedorn took up the cause.

In establishing any school one of the first and foremost needs to be considered is its financing. It was this that made many of the pastors of the Milwaukee Pastoral Conference leary of its undertaking. Harders and Hagedorn, the innovators that they were, believed it was possible to start such a school with no money at all! And that they did. Recruiting twenty-five volunteer teachers and making use of some vacant classroom space at the Immanuel Lutheran School on 12th and W. North Ave., the ELHS of Milwaukee held its first class session in 1903. Its enrollment consisted of eighteen girls. During that very same year evening classes were begun for boys. By the next year, 1904, enrollment had already climbed to forty-eight with a faculty of several volunteers and two called, full-time teachers, the Rev. F. Meyer, serving as director, and Mr. E. Sampe.

The Immanuel School facility soon became inadequate for the enrollment needs of the high school. And so, the old Seminary building, located on 13th and N. Vine St., was rented to be the new home of the ELHS of Milwaukee. This was still the year 1904, a year that saw another major development, namely, the formation of the ELHS Association. Consisting of four members, Harders, Hagedorn, Sampe, and the Rev. J. Brunner, this association came into existence to oversee the welfare of this infant Lutheran high school, a service it would render until its dissolution in 1918.

1905 saw the high school's enrollment nearly double to ninety students. This growth continued until it became necessary to relocate again. The

Association acquired land known as the Union Park site on 13th and Reservoir. Here a building was erected with three classrooms. This building would house the ELHS of Milwaukee for the next fifty-four years.

As the years rolled past, the enrollment totals rolled upward. In 1918, due to the rapid expansion of the high school, it was felt that an association of individuals was far too limited in man-power and resources to manage the high school properly. At the suggestion of the Pastoral Conference of Milwaukee the Evangelical Lutheran High School Conference was formed. The old Association approached the congregations of both the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods in the greater Milwaukee area to seek member congregations for the new Conference. Their labors resulted in eighteen Synodical Conference churches joining the Conference. With its formation all the properties and liabilities of the high school were transferred to the Conference. Subsequently, the ELHS Association of Milwaukee dissolved. Take note of the new ELHS Conference. It would be this body that would have to deal with the expansion problems of the high school in the years to come.

Let's focus our attention on the growth rate of the ELHS following the formation of the ELHS Conference. In 1920, enrollment had reached 128. In 1921, it rose to 170. This year saw additions to the high school's physical property. A south wing and auditorium were added. 1922 saw the student body leap to 209. 210 walked the high school's halls in 1923. Feeling more growing pains, a gym was adjoined to the school in 1926. By 1928, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the high school's founding, enrollment had climbed to 327, which occasioned another building project. Two classrooms, a science lecture hall and lab, and a cafeteria were added. Even with all these facility expansions, the needs of the student body were barely met. But then, the Depression.

II. Post-Depression Growth and the High School's Subsequent Expansion Problems.

The Depression took its toll on the enrollment growth of the high school. 1938 saw it dip to a low of 265 students. The reason is obvious. Parents just couldn't afford to provide a private school education for their children. But as the Depression eased and eventually ended, enrollment escalated. In 1939, it jumped to 305. 1940 saw an increase of fifty-four to 359. And in 1941, the student body stood at 408.

1942 was a landmark year. For the first time the ELHS experienced a one-hundred plus increase in student enrollment, a trend that would continue for several years to come. Enrollment had climbed from 408 in 1941 to 509 in 1942. At this time there were 200 more bodies attending classes than the building was designed to hold. The 1942 Annual Report to the delgate conference of the high school depicted the problem like this:

With the present enrollment of over 500, we have reached a crisis. In order to accomodate, after a fashion, the present student body, we have sacrificed our library, placed classes in the cafeteria, in the lunch room, in the lower flat across the campus. We have loaded our teachers down with the maximum number of hours. Our auditorium has standing room only. The front row of seats is right up to the stage. The balcony is crowded to capacity. There are no adequate facilities for the rehearsals of our band and orchestra. Our gymnasium has long been inadequate. **SOMETHING MUST BE DONE!**

Something did have to be done because the student body continued to grow. By 1946, 858 children were jammed into a cracker box of a building. Within a span of eight years, the enrollment had realized a growth of 593 students.

What had stimulated such growth? The reasons are many. The first and foremost of which is simply God's grace. It was his hand that made conditions perfect for growth. At this time in the high school's history we see a realization and awakening among parents to the value of secondary Christian education. An earlier generation of graduates, having now established families

of their own, desired to offer their children the kind of quality education they had received. In 1939, an open house plan was instituted, giving the members of the Synodical Conference congregations the opportunity to tour the facilities at the high school. Another contributing factor is that the director of the high school made regular visits to the area Christian Day Schools in an effort to promote and expose the high school to the grade school children, visits which paid obvious dividends. Also, the University of Wisconsin gave the ELHS of Milwaukee its accreditation, removing all uncertainty among skeptics about the quality of education offered at the high school. One final reason that we ought to consider is the growing prosperity of the country. As the economy strengthened, parents were encouraged and enabled to privilege their children with a private education. Under God's gracious hand, all these things stimulated the ELHS's enrollment growth.

But as previously mentioned, growth breeds problems, expansion problems. It will be our task in the following section of this paper to present in detail the solutions offered by the High School Board of Directors and the ELHS Conference to alleviate the expansion problems of the high school and to point out any corresponding stumbling blocks that time and time again fell in the way of progress until a final solution was reached.

III. Solutions Offered and their Corresponding Problems.

Already back in 1938, the year in which the high school dipped to one of its lowest enrollment totals, an expansion problem in the years ahead was foreseen. In November of that year, a high school relocation committee was established. Consisting of three members with Rev. A.J. Beversdorf, the chairman of the Board of Directors, as its head, this committee began work in considering the possibilities and problems of relocation.

The high school relocation committee was relatively inactive until 1941. With enrollment surging, consideration was given to establishing a Lutheran Junior High School in the Milwaukee area in order to cut the high school

enrollment in the building by a fourth. Meanwhile, the high school relocation committee, whose general purpose was to study the question of expansion and relocation, outlived its purpose, since expansion was a must. Therefore, an expansion committee was formed with Rev. Beversdorf again as its head. Reporting for the expansion committee in early 1942, Beversdorf stated that there was no possibility of building at this time due to the lack of attainable materials. The Board engaged Beversdorf and his committee to come up with a feasible, detailed plan to alleviate the high school's expansion problems. In an effort to do so, the expansion committee merged with the high school's debt retirement committee, launching an extensive drive to wipe out any remaining debt and to collect funds for the expansion of the building. Also, Beversdorf appointed a committee of three to hold meetings with the south side pastors to discuss the possibility of adding a ninth grade to one of the south side schools. Their purpose was to feel out how the Conference congregations felt about a Lutheran Junior High School program.

For the sake of better organization, another committee, called the high school planning committee, was born in March of 1943. Its function was to be the general overseer of the present and future needs of the high school. The committee members numbered five: its chairman, E.H. Buerger, (the high school's director), Prof. G.R. Martin, Mr. A. Haack, Mr. A.G. Kuntz, and the Rev. J.C. Dahlke as an ex-officio member. This committee, along with the expansion committee, would become deeply involved with solving the expansion problems of the ELHS of Milwaukee.

On April 16, 1943, a giant step was taken to solve those expansion problems. The Board of Directors brought a resolution before the Delegate Conference of the high school to consider its expansion needs. The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, our forefathers, in the name of the Triune God in the interest of His Church Militant, were constrained to foster and promulgate the cause of higher education of our Lutheran youth by mutual cooperation and effort through the sponsorship of the Lutheran High School Conference; and,

WHEREAS, their devotedly spiritual and meager physical efforts in this undertaking have been supremely blessed as evidenced by ever increasing student bodies and well trained, thoroughly indoctrinated, and consecrated graduates; and,

WHEREAS, we, the members of the Lutheran High School Conference, being individually in full accord with the principles and purposes as established by our forefathers, do hereby acknowledge the soundness of the foundation thus laid and do pledge and reaffirm our mutual cooperation and agreement, both morally and financially, in this cause of our Lutheran High School; and,

WHEREAS, being fully cognizant of the necessity of adequate physical equipment and facilities required to promote and advance the standards of higher education; and

WHEREAS, such existing physical facilities have become sorely inadequate for the proper housing, teaching, and training of the student body:

THEREFORE, we the members of the Lutheran High School Conference, in meeting assembled, do hereby mutually agree to cooperate and support a project in the interest of our Lutheran High School by expanding its structure in a manner which will adequately provide proper housing for the future student bodies and by making available more acceptable facilities in accordance with the instructional requirements for the furthering of our principles and the advanced needs of academic teaching methods; and,

THAT, in considering such an Expansion Program, we discuss the possibilities of the following projects:

A) Increasing the building requirements by suitable additions to the present structure on the existing and adjacent sites.

B) The erection of an adequate structure, capable of fulfilling the present and anticipated needs on a newly acquired site.

C) The erection of a unit structure on a newly acquired site which will be capable of fullfilling the need of a part of our student body, so planned to be flexible and readily adapted to further expansion.

PROJECT "A"

THAT, in discussing the procedure noted under Project "A", we note the following considerations:

1. A two-storied structure, extending southerly from the existing structure, capable of housing eight hundred students, employing a structural system capable of expansion by means of the erection of a third story, thus increasing the student body to one thousand.

2. The acquisition of certain necessary real estate

adjoining the present in a southerly direction to provide for the structure addition.

3. The construction of a gymnasium and appurtenant facilities for a student body of one thousand.

4. The modernizing and remodeling of the existing structure in conformity with the new addition and present day requirements.

5. The estimated cost of such project, not inclusive of equipment, would be as follows:

Property purchase	\$ 25000.00
2 Story Class Room unit	210000.00
Gymnasium	70000.00
Remodeling of existing structure	<u>30000.00</u>
	335000.00
Third floor addition	<u>30000.00</u>
	\$365000.00

PROJECT "B"

THAT, in discussing the procedure noted under Project "B", we note the following considerations:

1. A three storied structure, completely erected and capable of housing a student body of one thousand and including necessary facilities such as auditorium and gymnasium, plus the appurtenances necessary thereto.

2. The acquisition of certain necessary real estate at a location other than the present.

3. The estimated cost of such a project, not inclusive of equipment, and based upon conducted research of known existing structures, would be as follows:

Property Purchase	\$ 75000.00
Structure	<u>\$550000.00</u>
	\$625000.00

PROJECT "C"

THAT, in discussing the procedure noted under Project "C", we note the following considerations:

1. The erection of a structure to satisfactorily house up to five hundred students, completely erected with necessary gymnasium and auditorium in accordance with a predetermined master plan, thus permitting ready expansion of facilities without the need of remodeling.

2. The acquisition of certain necessary real estate at a location other than the present, to accommodate the pre-determined master plan.

3. The estimated cost of such project, not inclusive of equipment, would be as follows:

Property Purchase	\$ 75000.00
Class Room unit	175000.00
Gymnasium	70000.00
Auditorium	<u>150000.00</u>
	\$470000.00

THAT, upon the adoption of the expansion project a financial program be instituted by means of which we, the members of the Lutheran High School Conference, together with other bretheren in the faith, might systematically, thoroughly, orderly and conscientiously proceed, with the help of God, to fulfill our financial obligations in expanding this our Lutheran High School upon the foundation conceived and soundly laid by our forefathers and dedicated to the Lutheran youth of today as the Lutheran church of tomorrow.²

Plan "B" was adopted by the Delegate Conference.

Wheels had been set in motion to take on the long term needs of the high school, but short term problems needed to be addressed as well. Two suggestions came to the fore. One was to rent the Walnut St. School; the other was to rent the American Lutheran Association (ALA) building, located on 11th and W. State St. The latter was preferred by the Board and the delegates. Unfortunately, it was found out in December of 1943 that at the present time the ALA building would not be available. Therefore, another idea was considered, namely, to build temporary barracks to house classrooms. A letter was written to the War Production board to inquire about such an allowance.

You will recall that in April of 1943 the Delegate Conference passed a resolution to relocate the high school. This has been established. But for some reason, in February of 1944 the planning committee recommended to the Board that the former position against relocation be reaffirmed. The Board suggested this committee come with a detailed recommendation to the next Board meeting. On March 12th, the planning committee requested that the following recommendations be presented at the next Delegate Conference meeting: 1) That the Conference must come to a decision regarding the location of the high school (up to this point no new location had been determined); 2) that if the present location is decided upon, a tentative plan for the proposed building be presented; and 3) that a plan for the raising of necessary funds be proposed. To supplement their recommendation, the planning committee pointed out that to build a new school on a new location would cost between \$650,000 and \$700,000 without equipment. Far too costly a project.

Having made this recommendation, the planning committee turned its

attention once more to the present expansion problems of the high school. At the May 17, 1944 Delegate Conference meeting, Prof. G.R. Martin presented recommendations of the planning committee for the immediate needs of the school. The following recommendations were adopted: 1) that the Board of Directors be authorized to make satisfactory arrangements with the ALA for the rental of certain areas of its building for high school use; 2) that the Board of Directors be authorized to remodel the gymnasium of the high school into four classrooms and build an addition to the present gymnasium, if this becomes necessary; and 3) that the internal changes in the high school building be referred to the house committee for further study.

Concerning the rental of the ALA building, in August of 1944 an offer was made to the Board of Directors of the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod to rent the gymnasium, locker room, and shower facilities of the ALA building for the next twelve months at \$200 per month. In addition, twelve Friday evenings would be needed during the basketball season for home basketball games with outside teams. Also, according to the resolution passed by the Delegate Conference, the high school was to be the sole occupant of the areas to be rented. This proposal was accepted by the Board of the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod. Thereupon, the Rev. E. Falk was appointed as liaison to the Missouri Synod district officials concerning this new rental agreement.

Late in 1944 another organizational move was made. After two meetings of the high school planning and expansion committees, an entirely new committee was established to be known as the Lutheran High School Building Committee. This met with the Board's approval. Lest I bore you with all the in's and out's of the new restructured set-up, I refer you to the attached diagram on the following page.

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL BUILDING COMMITTEE

RECORDING SECRETARY

GENERAL CHAIRMAN

FINANCIAL SECRETARY

FUND COMMITTEE

PLANNING COMMITTEE

GROUP REPRESENTATIVES

FUND DIRECTOR

PLANNING DIRECTOR

PUBLICITY SECTION

PUBLICITY DIRECTOR

COLLECTION SECTION

FUND TREASURER

BUILDING AND GROUNDS SEC.

BUILDING DIRECTOR

FINANCE SECTION

FINANCE DIRECTOR

RESEARCH SECTION

RESEARCH DIRECTOR

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FACULTY

ALUMNI

SUB-COMMITTEES

COMMITTEE

GROUP A

GROUP B

GROUP C

GROUP D

GROUP E

COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES

SITE PLAN
STRUCTURE
MATERIALS
ETC.

COMMITTEES

METHODS OF FINANCE
PURCHASES
LOANS
ETC.

COMMITTEES

STATISTICS
STUD. MEMBER
CLASS. MEMBER
STUD. RESID.
CURRICULUM.
ETC.

SYNODS

MISSOURI
PASTOR

TEACHER

WISCONSIN
PASTOR

TEACHER

Generally, speaking, this committee was organized to conduct, control, and administer all phases of activities pertinent to the proposed building project of the institution.

Up to this point in my research, any hitches in solving the high school's expansion problems had been minimal and easy to overcome. As 1945 dawned, a deep-rooted problem began to seep into the ELHS Conference and its subsequent dealings with high school expansion. The first inkling of it is found in a letter written to the ELHS Board of Directors from the Committee for Lutheran Mass Celebrations.

Board of Directors of the Lutheran HS
% Mr. Emil Trettin, Sec'y
1859 N. 13th Street
Milwaukee, WI

December 9, 1944

Dear Fellow-Christians,

The Committee for Lutheran Mass Celebrations was greatly disappointed when we learned that the Board of Directors had decided to deny our request the the Lutheran High School Chorus sing at the Reformation Service at the Milwaukee Auditorium on Sunday, November 12. We were informed that the chorus would be ready to serve at this occasion. We have not received any communication why our request was refused. Our Committee would therefore ask the Board of Directors the reason for their position in this matter.

We are convinced that the services of the musical organizations of our Lutheran High School at such larger Lutheran gatherings would only serve to advance the cause of Lutheran High in a God-pleasing way. It would certainly give the chorus the same and possibly a better opportunity to edify our Lutheran hearers as they do when they sing at different churches throughout the year. And for these particular occasions their participation would greatly facilitate matters since they are already well organized and able to sing anthems to the glory of our Redeemer.

Sincerely yours,

E.W. Ebert, Sec'y of the
Committee

Rev. Brohm was appointed by the Board to formulate an answer with the idea being that the Lutheran High School chorus and orchestra ought not to participate at any occasion when the complete accord of both synods is lack-

ing. Pastor Brohm set to his task immediately. What follows was the high school's official response.

Dear Fellow-Christians,

In reply to your question why the Lutheran High School Chorus was not granted permission to participate in the Reformation Service held in the auditorium last November, permit us to state the following:

The Board of Directors of Lutheran High School had come to the conclusion that it might jeopardize the interest in our school of some pastors of the Wisconsin Synod to sanction the participation of a high school group in public functions, arranged by members of the Missouri Synod, of which they (the pastors of the Wisconsin Synod) do not approve. The Reformation Service in the auditorium was such a case because it featured the chaplaincy in the armed forces of our country, with which the Wisconsin Synod as such takes issue. The Lutheran Hour Rally a year or so ago was also a case in point, inasmuch as many of the Wisconsin Synod pastors found fault with some of the aspects of this event.

Now when we say that we, the members of the Board of Directors, feared that, if our chorus appeared on the program, sharp criticism from Wisconsin Synod pastors would be leveled at the board and that their interest in our school would receive a severe shock, we know what we are talking about. It is not a mere guess, but an assumption based on experience.

We wish to emphasize that our personal attitude in this matter is no factor at all, and that we were moved to take this action solely by the sense of responsibility to our school. What we consider harmful to our school, it is our duty to avert, and avoid, irrespective of our personal feeling, attitude, or judgment.

Furthermore, we rest assured that you agree with us that, if there are differences in attitudes and view points and modes of action between the two synods, it is not within the scope of the Board of Directors of the high school to endeavor to bring about synodical harmony, but that the board must rather take the situation as it is and not antagonize the one synodical group or the other. We have only this one duty, viz., to consider the welfare of our school and take personal likes and dislikes captive.

In other words, then, we withheld permission from the high school chorus to participate in the above-mentioned event because we deemed that the expedient thing for us to do, dictated by the great charge committed to our trust: the welfare of the Lutheran High School.⁴

Like a cancer, the Synodical Conference problems concerning the military chaplaincy, the boy scouts, and such began to infest the ELHS Conference. Soon this Conference would become a major battle-ground between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods over these very issues.

The ALA building had been working out well, with the exception of some administrative and disciplinary problems. All in all, it was a liveable situation. Upon that presupposition, the Board of Directors adopted a resolution, presented by Rev. Beversdorf, to be brought before the next Delegate Conference meeting. This resolution stated that, "since the enrollment of Lutheran High School has grown to such an extent that more classroom space, gymnasium, and auditorium are urgently needed, and since the former ALA property (later known as the Lutheran Center), N. 11th and W. State Streets, is not too far distant from the Lutheran High School campus and can well be utilized by the school, therefore be it resolved that the ELHS Conference purchase the entire former ALA property, N. 11th and W. State Streets, from the Board of Directors of the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod for the approximate sum of \$10,000."⁵ This resolution was agreeable to the delegates, and so an offer was made. That offer was refused.

While the Missouri Synod was unwilling to sell the ALA property, the old rental agreement was still intact. But with expansion needs constantly pressing, the committee, elected to confer with the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod, came to a verbal agreement with the District's Board of Directors to rent additional areas of the complex, namely, the auditorium, the gym, a third floor room for mechanical drawing, and a locker room for robe storage. The cost was to be \$300 a month for a twelve month period.

Prior to the September 12, 1945 Delegate Conference meeting, the high school Board of Directors had an opportunity to begin negotiations for the purchase of land so as to relocate the high school, a power given them by the Conference resolution of April, 1943. And so, at the September Delegate Conference meeting, following a presentation of the proposed sight and subsequent discussion, a resolution was passed, upon the Board's recommend-

ation, that the Board of Directors be authorized to start negotiations for the purchase of the property located on the south side of Center St. between N. 64th and N. 65th Streets and Clarke St. The land was owned at that time by the Milwaukee County Park Commission and valued at \$35,000. From the aforementioned resolution it was obvious that the delegates felt a high school relocation would be more beneficial for all concerned than remaining at the present site and remodeling there, as suggested by the planning committee. In hindsight, the delegates' decision would be a wise one.

Hopes were high as things seemingly began to progress. But then, on November 16, 1945, the Milwaukee County Park Commission, without granting a public hearing, voted unfavorably in the matter of the purchase of the property at N. 64th and W. Center Streets. Shortly thereafter, the Building Committee met and attempted to buy property at N. 35th and W. Kilbourn Ave; but that parcel of land had been recently sold without the prior knowledge of the committee members. In an effort to appeal the Park Commission's decision, then, the Administrator of the high school, Beversdorf, scheduled a meeting with the Milwaukee County Board to reopen the matter. The high school Board felt it was vital that a definite understanding be reached, either negatively or positively, prior to the January Delegate Conference meeting. In the meantime, all Conference members were encouraged to petition their county supervisors pertaining this matter. A letter was also written to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors in order that they might reconsider selling the property to the ELHS Conference. Here is the letter:

Honorable Sirs:

In a regular called meeting the delegates of the Evangelical Lutheran High School Conference decided to purchase an entire city block for the purpose of erecting a new high school. The only suitable vacant block is the one owned by the County of Milwaukee bordered by the streets: N. 64th, N. 65th, W. Center, and W. Clarke. It is this

site which the Lutheran High School Conference resolved to purchase. We are submitting the following reasons why the Board of Supervisors of Milwaukee County should seriously consider to sell the above mentioned site to the Lutheran High School Conference, said site to be used for a new, modern high school building:

1. Lutheran High School is at present located at 1859 N. 13th St. This is a so-called blight area. The people who support and send their children to Lutheran High School do not live in this area.
2. Lutheran High School has an enrollment of 803 students. More students would attend if room were available. The present facilities are too small so that additional class room space already had to be rented in the American Luther Association Building, N. 11th and W. State Sts. Expansion is necessary.
3. The desired site mentioned above is ideal for a high school.
 - a) It is large enough to erect a building which will accomodate 1200 students leaving approximately 60% of the area unoccupied.
 - b) It has good transportation facilities. This is important. The students attending Lutheran High come from all over the city.
 - c) It is the only vacant block available within the territory in which Lutheran High should be located.
4. By selling the desired site to the Lutheran High School Conference, the city and county would benefit.
 - a) Lutheran High is self-supporting whereas a playground must be maintained by the taxpayers.
 - b) By educating boys and girls in a private school, the burden on public schools is relieved. The operating costs of the present school amount to \$85,000 annually. A larger school would save the city and county still more.
5. A playground in the area mentioned above is not absolutely necessary. The citizens living in this area are supplied with an equipped playground at N. 70th and W. Locust Streets, only seven blocks away.
6. The request to purchase the mentioned site does not come from a few individuals, but from 70,205 Lutheran citizens who are members of the Lutheran High School Conference.

Very truly yours,

EV. LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL CONFERENCE⁶

The administration held several meetings with various supervisors, and a request for the Milwaukee County Park Commission to reconsider its decision was brought before the Milwaukee County Board. Seven county board members

joined with Conference officials to ask the commissioners to change their minds. At the same time, fifteen residents of the neighborhood, where the proposed school would be, voiced opposition to the school, claiming that the property was to be developed for a park and should be retained for that purpose. Two petitions were presented, one containing 175 signatures of persons favoring the school, and another representing 120 persons opposed to it. The opposition claimed that many who signed the first petition did not know that the school would replace the park. Gerald Kops, the supervisor in whose district the land laid, said he was "between two fires" because it was he who had sponsored the transaction by which the county acquired the land for park purposes, but he added that he leaned toward favoring the school there. After considerable deliberation, the Commission instructed the planning department to study other recreational facilities in the area and report back.

But in March of 1946, the Park Commission reaffirmed its previous action and refused to sell the N. 64th and W. Center Sts. tract to the ELHS Conference. The Commission felt that this land was better suited for a park. E.A. Howard, regional planning director, reported that while there were several playground areas within a mile or so of the site, none was adequate. He also pointed out that the county had already expended \$10,000 to \$15,000 in grading the land and making drainage and water installations. To sell the land now would be irresponsible.

In the next few months, several land opportunities surfaced. The city offered the Conference land on N. 52nd and W. Vliet Streets. The other sites investigated were located at N. 72nd and W. Chambers Streets, N. 52nd and W. Capitol Drive, S. 54th and W. Oklahoma Ave., S. 36th and W. Oklahoma Ave., and at W. Wisconsin Ave. and Story Parkway. The land on N. 52nd and

W. Vliet Streets was enticing due to the fact that 72% of the high school's students lived in the area. But after thorough research as to accessibility, location of the students' homes, nature of neighborhood, and cost, the W. Wisconsin and Story Parkway properties seemed most desirable. The total area covered 5.5 acres. A larger portion of it was owned by the Salvation Army, which was willing to sell for \$60,000 subject to the approval of its national headquarters; the smaller parcel was owned by the Exton Realty Co., which was also willing to sell for \$13,000. Total cost, \$73,000. The Delegate Conference authorized the Board of Directors of the high school to purchase the Salvation Army and Exton Realty Co. properties and to borrow the necessary monies to do so. With this opportunity, the desire of many to purchase the Lutheran Center (former ALA building) from the South Wisconsin District of the Missouri Synod faded away.

At this same June meeting of 1946, the delegates also approved purchase of two barracks to meet the high school's present enrollment needs. Each building was 20' by 90'; one was to be divided into three classrooms, each 20' by 30', the other into two rooms, one 20' by 30' and the other 20' by 60'. This would give the school one large room for band and chorus work, and also provide relief for the study hall. The cost of these buildings would amount to \$11,134 plus \$3,082 for heating; wiring and painting costs were not included. Upon the government's approval of the high school's need for such buildings, construction was begun in September of that same year.

In July of 1946, deals were negotiated between the ELHS Conference and the Salvation Army and Exton Realty Co. The afore-mentioned purchase prices stood as such. Closing details had yet to be taken care of but everything seemed to be running smoothly. A loan amount of \$72,000 at 3% interest was acquired from the Northern Bank of Milwaukee. Finally, on September 30th, the deals were closed and the high school had its land upon which to expand.

The administration hoped to begin construction of its new plant in three years.

With something concrete to go on, the expansion committee's next task was to propose a fund campaign for the new Lutheran High School. Already in January of 1947, a plan was presented to the congregations of the ELHS Conference, which met with general disapproval. On February 23, 1947, the Delegate Conference approved a revised plan with the stipulation that the congregations report their reactions to the Conference at its May meeting. This was the revised plan submitted:

FUND CAMPAIGN FOR A NEW LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

A. Purpose:

To collect sufficient funds to pay for the newly acquired site, 5.5 acres in size located on the east side of Story Parkway between W. Wisconsin Ave. and W. Blue Mound Rd. \$72,000.

To collect sufficient funds to erect a building on the new site. The size and nature of the structure to be determined by the enrollment, by the students in prospect, and by the prevailing condition of our present building. Construction of the new building is to begin when sufficient funds are available.

B. Goal:

Though the time of actual construction is still an unknown factor and the prevailing cost of construction indefinite, we should nevertheless work toward a goal. The membership of the LHS Conference consists of 47,000 plus communicants. Basing the campaign on 30,000 active communicant members of the Conference, we should strive to collect an average of \$5.00 per communicant per year for a period of five years. If an individual congregation bases the campaign on its entire communicant membership and is successful in collecting \$3.20 per member per year for a period of five years, the result will be about the same.

C. Time:

In order to set a date suitable for as many congregations as possible it is suggested that the actual collecting of the funds begin October 1, 1947. If some congregations wish to start sooner, others later, they may do so.

D. Method:

Personal contact. This will require well organized committees in

the individual congregations. The members of the committee are to contact the members of their congregation and collect as much cash as possible and arrange to collect the balance of the amount they intend to give at a specified time.

The Committee on Collections of our Building Committee is prepared to suggest the most effective methods to congregations, if desired.

E. Cooperation:

Since the High School is a project of the Lutheran High School Conference it is anticipated that ALL member congregations will actively take part in the campaign.

F. Duties of the Building Committee:

In order that the information so necessary in the erection of a new school building be available, we recommend that the Building Committee continue to study the needs in view of student prospects, prepare tentative plans for the new structure; and establish the approximate building costs and to present their findings and recommendations from time to time to the Delegate Conference.

Apparently, as the congregations considered this plan, rumblings were heard concerning point E, Cooperation. Many felt that it was unwise to go full-steam-ahead with such a project while the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods seemed to have disunity on the doctrinal principles upon which the high school was established. Subsequently, the Building Committee submitted the following report to the May Delegate Conference meeting:

In keeping with a resolution adopted at the meeting of the delegates, February, 23, 1947, the Building Committee considered the various suggestions submitted by congregations regarding a fund campaign for the new high school. The committee found that many of the suggestions are already incorporated in the revised plan presented at the last meeting. Some of the suggestions not incorporated in the revised plan will be considered by the committee in due time and used if at all possible.

When the Building Committee studied the suggestions coming from certain congregations it was found that several pastors and congregations stated that they favored the revised plan, but that they would not submit funds for the new building program until the two synods were united on the principles on which the school was founded. The Building Committee, of course, does not know how soon unity will be restored between the two synods.

However, the Building Committee comes to this Conference with the following recommendation: That all the congregations of the LHS Conference unite in their efforts in a fund campaign, beginning October 1st, and collect \$72,000 to pay for the new site. The committee is of the opinion that all congregations of the Conference are morally and legally obligated to help pay for the site.

With the Building Committee having rendered the opinion that "all congregations of the Conference are morally and legally obligated to help pay for the site," lines were drawn in opposition to this statement. Foreseeing the fatality of the proposed expansion program caused by any division within the ELHS Conference, the Rev. H. Brueggeman, a Missouri man, presented a resolution to the Conference in an effort to stop the differences between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods from entering the high school's arena.

Whereas the ELHS Conference, composed of congregations "belonging to or affiliated with the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America," depends for its existence under God upon the unity of spirit existing among the constituent congregations and synods; and

Whereas it is the purpose of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America to further unity in doctrine and practice, to remove whatever might threaten to disturb this unity, and to cooperate in matters of mutual interest; therefore be it

Resolved that we, the ELHS Conference, believe it to be the duty of every member of the Conference as a member of one of the constituent congregations and synods of the Evangelical Lutheran Synodical Conference of North America to work wholeheartedly for the furthering of unity in doctrine and practice and the removal of whatever might threaten to disturb this unity; and be it further

Resolved that to avoid disturbance of the wholehearted cooperation in the work of the Christian education of our children for which we have banded together the Board of Directors and the Delegate Conference take no official part in controversial issues which may arise between pastors, congregations, or synods represented in the work of our Lutheran High School, as long as these pastors, congregations, and synods are following the orderly manner prescribed by the Word of God in endeavoring to remove whatever threatens to disturb Christian unity; and be it further

Resolved that such controversial issues be kept out of the classroom discussions of the high school and that the pupils who ask questions concerning them be referred by the teachers to their pastors; and be it further

Resolved that the eligibility of board members, faculty members, and Conference delegates of the high school be the responsibility only of the synodical body with which they are affiliated and the congregation which they represent; and be it further

Resolved that these resolutions must not be construed as binding consciences in matters which have been decided by clear words of Scripture.⁹

To divorce the high school from the problems of the Synodical Conference, to take a "do nothing" stand, was unrealistic. It would place the delegates

of the Conference in a compromising situation. As we all know, the word "compromise" is not found in the vocabulary of an orthodox Lutheran. A Wisconsin Synod pastor, the Rev. L. Voss, voiced his opposition to this resolution this way:

Certain Milwaukee congregations, professing unity of faith and practice, are united in the Lutheran High School Conference to impart Christian education to their children.

Agreement of principles of Christian education is the vital concern of this Conference and the responsibility of all members of it. Eph. 4:3.

The delegates of the Conference have permitted the injection of a debated issue, Scouting, into their meeting. Now Rom. 16:17 must apply.

Admittedly, Scouting is a philosophy of training and educating youths of school age.

Admittedly, Scouting is contrary to the principles of Christian training, in general.

Can Christian training and Christian education be fitted into the Program of Scouting without a denial of the Word of God? This is disputed. The positions of congregations in this Conference are divided.

Some congregations hold that their Christian education and training can be fitted into the Program of Scouting without violating any Word of God. This is their public profession and practice.

Some congregations hold that their Christian education and training cannot be fitted into the Program of Scouting unless they violate God's Word. This is their public profession and practice.

Some congregations hold that their Christian education and practice cannot be fitted into the Program of Scouting but are seeking to keep this debated issue out of the High School Conference.

Dare the LHS Conference remain silent? Is not this disunited stand of the Conference on Lutheran principles of Christian education an obvious offense to the world, to our children, and to many members in all our congregations?

Must not every pastor and delegate of member congregations, every instructor in this school, and every parent of children in this school, insist on a removal of this impossible situation, by demanding an immediate clarification of the principles of Christian education that this Conference holds?

Will the High School Conference show us, who hold that Scout principles are condemned by God's Word and contrary to Christian principles of education, that we are making a wrong application of God's Word? Will the brethren in the Conference denounce our congregations for upholding false doctrine?

We hold that this issue must be taken up now. The harmony that existed formerly cannot be preserved by ordering silence about scouting. A stand must be taken by the High School Conference now to remove the open and ruinous division that exists among member congregations.¹⁰

A Committee of Ten was appointed in September of 1947 by the Chairman of the Delegate Conference to resolve the matter. The committee members were Rev. M. Strasen, chairman, Rev. F. Kretzschman, Teacher H.M. Zurstadt, Mr. Wm. Allwardt; Mr. H.L. Stiege, Rev. L.M. Voss, Rev. A.C. Fengling, Teacher A. Mass, Mr. O. Vogelwohl, and Mr. A. Brenner. These men met twice during the month of October to consider both the resolutions of the Board of Directors and a series of substitute resolutions submitted by its Chairman. They reached no agreement. Following the second meeting of the committee, a request was made that the pastors of the Delegate Conference meet and discuss the matter. This they did, again without reaching an agreement. The pastors referred the matter back to the Committee of Ten.

Just before the holidays, on December 19, 1947, the Committee of Ten met again and once more considered the entire situation brought about by the injection of the debated issue of Scouting into the Delegate Conference. In all its discussions the desire to do all to keep unity of spirit was held uppermost at all times. But at the same time the committee was moved by the desire to promote wholehearted cooperation in the work of Christian education, which was the purpose of the ELHS Conference. With these basic principles guiding them, the Committee of Ten submitted the following recommendations to the delegates:

Resolved that we, the Committee of Ten, recommend to the LHS Conference to urge upon the two pastoral conferences, Missouri and Wisconsin, jointly to discuss the Boy Scout question seriously and earnestly and come to a conclusion as soon as possible. Also that the pastors of the LHS Conference not belonging to the city conferences be invited to join in this discussion.

The Committee of Ten further recommends that the question of Scouting be held in abeyance in the meetings of the LHS Conference until the pastoral conferences have come to a conclusion.

After much discussion on these recommendations and their implications for the future, the delegates adopted the report of the Committee of Ten. The work of this committee calmed the Synodical Conference storm within the ELHS Conference, but only for a short while.

With every new year comes hope, hope for peace, prosperity, and few troubles. The resolution passed in January of 1948 by the delegates gave many the hope that 1948 would be such a year, a year of progress for the high school's expansion program, a year free of roadblocks and trouble. But such would not be the case.

In April, a Mr. L. Ruegel, secretary and official representative of the Milwaukee War Memorial, Inc., came before the Board with a request to consider purchasing the Story Park site. The land was being studied as a possible locale for the new War Memorial Center. The Board immediately refused to sell its property. But in all fairness to the city, it was suggested that the trustees of the ELHS Conference, in order to cooperate with the trustees of Metro-Milwaukee War Memorial, Inc. that it might be able to present all its proposed sites to the Board of Supervisors, agree to enter into consultation concerning the purchase of the Story Park site only if that site was found favorable and only if the city officials aid the high school in finding another satisfactory and adequate site. If this suggestion was to be considered, the Board would then go on record as saying that this would not be a commitment to sell, or an agreement to sell, but merely a cooperative act. Fortunately, this suggestion never came to fruition; the city decided to build its War Memorial on another site.

While in the midst of these happenings, the high school received two more deterrents to expansion progress. Two men, who had been deeply involved in all the high school's expansion plans, left the scene. In May, Rev. A.G. Beversdorf, chairman of the expansion committee, accepted a call to serve

a congregation in Grafton, WI. Less than a month later, E.H. Buerger, the high school's director, submitted his resignation, citing advanced age as his reason. While there were competent men to replace Beversdorf and Buerger, their work, their experience, and their zeal would be sorely missed.

To refresh your memory, you might recall that the Committee of Ten, in January, had urged the two synodical pastoral conferences to discuss the differences existing between the two. This they did. But in November, the ELHS Conference received a letter from the Wisconsin Synod pastoral conference that dealt a severe blow to the high school's expansion hopes.

November 15, 1948

Brethren;

The Milwaukee City Pastoral Conference, Wisconsin Synod, in session in regular monthly meeting on this 15th day of November, 1948 has passed the following resolution:

Still convinced of the Scripturalness of the Wisconsin Synod's confession against the "Scout Movement," the Milwaukee City Pastoral Conference, Wisconsin Synod, feels constrained to apprise the Lutheran High School Conference of the fact that our congregations cannot support the contemplated "Expansion Program" until the differences in doctrine and practice existing between "Conference Congregations" in this matter are removed in a God-pleasing way.

Respectfully yours,

G.W. Fischer, chairman¹²

Obviously, the stand of the Wisconsin Synod pastors brought into question what was to be done regarding the May 21, 1947 resolution to proceed with the new Lutheran High School building program. The Building Committee had not met for a year and no further meetings of the Joint Pastoral Conference on the Boy Scout issue had been scheduled. Consequently, a special Delegate Conference meeting was called to be held on November 17, 1948. At that meeting the delegates passed a recommendation to concur with the May 21, 1947 resolution of the Conference. But one-third of the delegates voted against concurrence. There were 81 "yes" votes and 46 "no". In no way was the feeling

to proceed as planned unanimous. Also, the delegates made an earnest plea to the Joint Pastoral Conference to again take up the Boy Scout question with the purpose of reaching an agreement. Letters were sent to both local pastoral conferences. A meeting of the Joint Pastoral Conference was then set for February 21, 1949.

As part of the November 17, 1948 resolution of the Delegate Conference, the expansion committee was urged to stop slacking in its work, due to its year long inactivity. At the February 16, 1949 Delegate Conference meeting, Mr. Gilbert Grunwald of the expansion committee gave this reply,

Subsequent to the adoption of the resolution at the recent Delegate Conference, the expansion committee met in order to comply with the directive of the Conference. Several years ago, this expansion committee was well-organized, staffed, and ready to proceed with the various phases of research which would be required in the formulation of a project of this kind. The vacancies which have resulted over the period of years were noted and the filling of vacancies discussed. A lengthy discussion and serious consideration was devoted to the subject of the drive for funds. This phase of the contemplated project was deemed to be of the greatest importance and should consequently take precedence over all other research and study. This committee is confronted with the greatest responsibility of this work and recognizes the seriousness of an ill-planned and superficially organized campaign. Therefore serious study must be devoted to various plans, methods, and procedures before a conclusive program is to be suggested. This committee is at this time engaged in studies and investigations of methods, lest the effort meet with failure by reason of hasty action. Because of the interest in launching a successful campaign with all assurance and confidence this committee desires additional time for study and the option to call a special meeting in the matter. In spite of our wishes to proceed quickly we prefer to make haste slowly rather than hazard failure. This committee is fully aware of the dire existing need, the necessity for prompt, decisive action, and is consequently determined to attain the goal which was fixed by the resolution of the Conference.

With this understanding, the Delegate Conference backed off and offered a vote of support to the expansion committee to proceed as they desired.

Getting back to the request of the November 1948 Delegate Conference that the local pastoral conferences earnestly try to resolve their doctrinal differences and to unify and proceed with the Conference recommendation to begin its building project, questions and concerns arose among the Wisconsin

Synod men as to the directive given them by the Conference. In a March 21, 1949 letter from the Milwaukee City Pastoral Conference, Wisconsin Synod, it was felt that the Conference resolution "to concur in the recommendation to proceed with the new high school building project" placed the Wisconsin Synod men and their congregations in an embarrassing position. A request was made of the high school's Board of Directors to interpret the aforementioned resolution and to define the legal and moral status of the objectors by answering some questions. We note two of those questions: "1) Does your Board hold that the objecting groups are legally, or morally bound by the vote of a majority and burdened with financial, or moral obligations? and 2) Is it being contemplated to approach members of objecting congregations individually for the purpose of collecting funds for the project, thus causing division between the members of these congregations?"

The reply of the Board of Directors was merely an excerpt from the resolution adopted by the Delegate Conference on May 21, 1947, namely, that "since the high school is a project of the Lutheran High School Conference, it is anticipated that ALL member congregations will actively take part in the campaign." This response did indeed clarify the questions asked by the Wisconsin Synod pastors, but it did nothing to satisfy the need of unity within the high school Conference for its expansion project. If anything, it solidified the Wisconsin Synod men and their congregations in their stand against the high school's building program.

Moving away from the synodical strife and its effect on the ELHS Conference, we note a new major concern for the Board and the high school delegates to consider. A representative of the city land commission had approached Prof. Ernst on a matter pertaining to the Story Park site. It seemed that expressways were being contemplated in that immediate vicinity which would cut into the high school's property. At the same time, Prof. Ernst had also been

contacted by a realtor, a Mr. Kenney, to offer for sale a 7.5 acre parcel of land located at N. 76th and W. North Ave., land owned by the Order of the Genacle. The Building Committee saw fit to investigate the matter.

Near the end of July 1949, the Board met, prior to a special meeting called to consider the new developments, at the N. 76th and W. North Ave. site to view the grounds. Afterward, they returned to the high school where a Mr. Pfilzer of the city land commission presented to the Board the city's proposed expressway plans. These plans indicated that the expressway system would cut heavily into the high school's property, leaving only two acres of usable land. The consensus of the Board, having considered the proposed expressway plans and the immediate availability of a new locale for the high school, deemed it inadvisable to proceed with its building project at the present site. A special Delegate Conference meeting was called to bring the matter before the delegates. At this meeting the Board would go on record as favoring the N. 76th and W. North Ave. site for the future Lutheran High School in view of the developments of the past month.

On August 11, 1949, that special Delegate Conference meeting was held. Mr. Pfilzer of the city land commission and Mr. Kenney, the realtor, made their presentations. The delegates also considered the resolutions of the Board, namely, to favor the N. 76th and W. North Ave. site and to give them the authority to begin negotiations. In the course of ensuing discussion, other possible sites were brought to the Conference's attention by various delegates. Due to the complexity of the situation and the variables involved, the Delegate Conference wisely thought it best to move carefully and slowly in the matter. Consequently, the Building Committee was instructed to investigate all the suggested sites, determine the favorability of each, and report back to the Conference.

The Building Committee began its work immediately and had a report pre-

pared for the regular meeting of the Delegate Conference in September.

(Please find the full report appended to this paper.) Here are some highlights of that report. Two main sites were brought before the Conference for serious consideration, the Underwood site at N. 76th and W. North Ave. and the Honey Creek site near N. 84th and W. Bluemound Rd. A third site, the Wellauer site on W. Wisconsin Ave., was ruled out because of a subdivision being planned in that locality. Among the important items mentioned in the report were the following:

- It was determined that the hub of student population is located at N. 27th and W. Walnut Streets.
- As to area: Story Parkway - 5.5 acres; Underwood - 7.5 acres; and Honey Creek - 15-16 acres. The latter is owned by the city. From 10-12 acres are available for purchase at this time.
- As to neighborhood: Underwood - stable, residential section; Honey Creek - on the east of a parkway, on the W. 84th St., which is slated for the 1950 road program, on the north, private property, on the south, Rapid Transit line.
- As to educational adaptability: Underwood site is along busy streets; Honey Creek site is a good location in this respect.
- As to athletic requirements: Underwood - a natural athletic field on the south part of the property. Honey Creek - very good for athletic requirements.
- As to accessibility: Both sites are easily reached by bus or automobile. As to the Honey Creek site, the assurance has been given that sufficient transportation would be provided. The #67 bus line runs on N. 84th past the site. Extra units would be furnished. To the south is the Rapid Transit line, affording fast transportation from the downtown area with stops on the main cross streets. The cost is 5¢ more each way.
- As to cost: Underwood - any reasonable offer would be accepted, although \$90,000 was being asked. Honey Creek - no price is available at this time. An appraisal has been asked for.
- As to parking: Underwood site affords a problem in this respect. Honey Creek - with the acreage available, the parking area could possibly be on the property itself.¹⁴

At the close of the report, the expansion committee presented the following resolution for adoption: "Be it resolved that the Lutheran High School planning committee recommends the Honey Creek site as a future high school site." It also recommended the adoption of the following: "Be it resolved that the Lutheran High School Board of Directors be empowered to acquire the Honey Creek Parkway site in exchange for the Story Parkway site plus any additional finan-

cial consideration determined by accurate appraisals." During discussion prior to these motions being called, other sites were proposed. Also, letters from Garden Homes and St. Peter's congregations were read urging that it would be unwise to purchase a new site before all the old properties were sold. After much deliberation, a motion was passed that the Building Committee be empowered to find out the cost of the Honey Creek site, to find out what the high school might get for the Story Parkway site and to report back to the Delegate Conference. When the information was ready, it was also to be relayed to the Conference congregations for their consideration.

The findings of the Building Committee are recorded in excerpts of Principal Eggold's letter to the local congregations, dated September 30, 1949. (Rev. Eggold had been called to succeed E.H. Buerger as the high school's director.) In that letter, it was pointed out that the Honey Creek site was desirable over all the others sites relative to the following considerations: location, availability, neighborhood, parking, improvements, educational adaptability, athletic adaptability, accessibility, cost and future expansion. Acquisition of the Honey Creek site would make it possible to "kill two birds with one stone." The city of Milwaukee owned the Honey Creek site and was eager to acquire the Story Park site for its proposed expressway plans. In other words, the Conference would have the opportunity to acquire a new site and dispose of the old one in one transaction. It was the desire of the Building Committee to offer the city an exchange of the properties with a cash stipulation, since the marketable value of the Story Park property was greater than that of the Honey Creek parcel. We should also note that at this time the high school was in a favorable bargaining position, since they owned land the city wanted.

But just as things seemed to be getting ironed out, a letter was received

from a Mr. J.E. Ryan, the city's real estate agent, indicating that since the city had acquired a large parcel of land south of the Rapid Transit right-of-way from the US Government and that a possibility had been raised to erect the proposed stadium on this land as opposed to its previous location, uncertainty arose as to the city's need for acquiring all or part of the high school's Story Parkway property. Mr. Ryan promised to keep in touch as things developed. This really threw a monkey wrench into the works. Now what was the Conference supposed to do? Retain the Story Parkway site and take its chance, or sell it in favor of the Honey Creek property? Obviously, the city was no longer in a bargaining mood. The ELHS Conference was not in the driver's seat anymore.

On top of all this, the Synodical Conference problems began to surface again within the High School Conference. In 1950, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod signed a fellowship agreement with the American Lutheran Church, known as the Common Confession. This event levied a grave blow to unity efforts within the Synodical Conference. It did nothing but widen the schism between the Wisconsin and Missouri Synods. Also, Mt. Olive Ev. Lutheran Church, a Missouri Synod congregation and a member of the ELHS Conference, decided to allow a Scout troop within their congregation, a decision opposed by their pastor, the Rev. Brueggeman. Now the Synodical Conference problems had touched the High School Conference directly.

Amidst all this turmoil, for some reason the Board of Directors considered revising the high school's constitution. Apparently, problems existed in the constitution's wording regarding the selection of delegates and calling procedures. Also, in view of the new high school building project, revamping the constitution to make it more current seemed proper. The Wisconsin Synod Pastoral Conference found it most inadvisable to tamper with the high school's established constitution during such a tumultuous time. They released this

simple statement: "Because of larger, unsettled matters, it is our considered conviction that this is not the time to discuss the adoption of the NEW Lutheran High School constitution."

But even though the Wisconsin Synod pastors opposed, the Board's reaction was to still consider a revision, a reaction that was supported by the Delegate Conference at its September 1950 meeting. Obviously, the spurning of the Wisconsin Synod's opinion on this matter caused the rift between the two synods to widen even more. Congregations began taking sides within the High School Conference. Missouri Synod verses Wisconsin Synod. The Wisconsin Synod felt stymied, for the Missouri Synod delegates, which outnumbered the Wisconsin Synod delegates, could always sway a vote their way. Within a year, the Conference would experience the truth of the old adage, "A divided house can never stand."

1951 brought with it another land opportunity. Mrs. Martha Schnellbaecher, a member of Bethesda congregation - Wisconsin Synod, offered the high school property at N. 97 th and W. Grantosa Dr. Her real estate broker, a Miss Patten, presented the details of the site to the high school Board. A meeting was set up between Principal Eggold and Mrs. Schnellbaecher to discuss the matter. Principal Eggold informed her of all the high school's plans regarding the Story Parkway and Honey Creek sites. To make such a radical change at this time would seem inappropriate. Still Mrs. Schnellbaecher insisted on some type of secondary educational plant being built on her property by a Lutheran church body. As we will see, her request would soon become a reality.

As 1951 progressed, the saturation point of the high school's ability to house its student body had been reached. Due to the many difficulties encountered by the high school's planning, expansion, and Building committees, people began to lose interest and heart in the high school's expansion

effort. It appeared to be going nowhere. The time had come for something to be done. One evening, following another turbulent Board of Directors meeting, as Principal Eggold and Mr. Karl Wedel were heading home, these two men began to discuss a solution to the high school's expansion problems. Mr. Wedel suggested that the only possible solution he could see would be to divide the Conference along synodical lines and allow each to build their own school. The seed had been planted.

At the September 19th Delegate Conference meeting, Principal Eggold took the floor and presented the future needs and subsequent problems of the high school. He proposed two solutions: 1) that the Conference unite in heart and hands in an all-out expansion program to begin at once, or 2) that the Conference dissolve and organize two new Lutheran high schools, one Missouri Synod and one Wisconsin Synod, a solution that Eggold did not favor or advocate. The delegates asked Principal Eggold to send his two suggestions to the Conference congregations and that they be discussed at a special meeting of the delegates to be held on October 24th. This he did. (A copy of the document Principal Eggold produced and sent out is found appended to this paper.)

At that October meeting, a motion was made to proceed with the expansion program as suggested by Principal Eggold. The various congregational delegates, who voiced their opinions against this motion, are listed as follows: St. James, St. Marcus, Bethel, Christ, St. John's - Milwaukee, Atonement, Zebaoth. St. Matthew, and Garden Homes. Finally, a vote was taken. Of the delegates, 107 voted in favor of expansion, 58 voted against it. Of the congregations, 32 voted "yes," 19 voted "no," and three abstained. While the motion to continue expansion carried, the sizable amount of negative votes raised some questions. Won't differences within the Conference lead to eventual harm and catastrophe in all joint efforts? Won't

the high school always serve as a synodical battleground, if the Conference differences remain? Will the children suffer in the quality and consistency of education, if the High School Conference cannot be united in its efforts and goals? In light of these concerns, Principal Eggold, in his closing remarks to the delegates, stated that as a result of the vote, it seemed clearer than ever that the only way out of these tremendous problems would be for the Conference to dissolve.

This vote necessitated a special meeting of the Board of Directors. Three vital questions had to be answered: 1) What is now the status of the 19 congregations who voted "no"?; 2) What is the status of the present Delegate Conference?; and 3) What about the high school in the interim? As representative of the Wisconsin Synod congregations, Rev. E. Pankow informed the Board that the 19 congregations did not plan to withdraw from or to seek dissolution of the Conference. He voiced the 19 congregations' continued support of the high school. At the same time, Pastor Pankow indicated that these congregations still stand behind the confessional position of the Wisconsin Synod in all matters.

Thereupon, Principal Eggold said, "We must carry on our educational work among the high school youth of our churches! A change in the Missouri Synod policy on Scouting is not possible in the next ten years. Hence, I propose dissolution of the present Conference, since, if we cannot build the kingdom together, we must do it separately. We cannot halt the progress of the Lord's work."¹⁵ It was decided by the Board to table the matter at this time and to discuss it at another special meeting to be held on November 7, 1951.

On that November evening, Principal Eggold began the discussion by reaffirming his conviction that dissolution is the only answer to the high school's problems. But Pankow still felt that dissolution could be

avoided, and ought to be if at all possible. An important factor to be considered was the fellowship between the two synods. Dissolution might give the impression that there is an open break between the two synods. It might effect inter-synodical endeavors. He felt other possible solutions needed to be investigated. Reacting to this, Eggold remarked that the synodical issues, the bone of contention at the high school injected years ago, were basic factors in the negative vote of 19 churches, a fact that could not be ignored. Therefore, two solutions were proposed, one by a Mr. Zimdahl, and the other by a Mr. Haack. After much discussion, the board recommended that Haack's plan be presented to the delegates at the next Conference meeting. Mr. Haack's plan, in a nutshell, suggested that there be two new high schools. Each synod would set up its own school with the Delegate Conference remaining intact. According to this plan, dissolution would be unnecessary. Also, in case of a synodical split, liquidation would be easy.

After Mr. Haack had formalized his plan, it was reviewed and accepted by the Board and then dispersed among the Conference congregations for their consideration, that they might be able to discuss it at the upcoming Delegate Conference meeting to be held on December 11, 1951. The proposed resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS the recent split-vote of the Conference with regard to the expansion problem, for the most part along synodical lines, has created a situation in which the Board of Directors finds it impossible to carry out successfully the resolution of the Conference to proceed at once with plans for a fund-raising campaign, and

WHEREAS all constituent congregations, those who found it necessary to vote negatively as well as those who voted positively, have pledged themselves to provide a Christ-centered education for their teen-age youth, and

WHEREAS an open break in inter-synodical relationship had not yet come to pass, and may God prevent it, and

WHEREAS a dissolution of the High School Conference at this time when inter-synodical dealings are still being carried on might conceivably be interpreted by many as anticipating an action not yet a reality, and

WHEREAS a dissolution of this Conference at this time might conceivably also cause regrettable difficulties in other joint efforts of Synodical Conference Lutherans in this area,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the present High School Conference remain intact as long as the two synods (Missouri and Wisconsin) continue in fellowship in the Synodical Conference.
2. That a divisional set-up be created in the Conference, along synodical lines, whereby each division can proceed with plans for the erection and operation of its own school.
3. That the Story Parkway site be sold and that the proceeds therefrom, together with remaining cash in the expansion fund, be divided percentage-wise as soon as possible between the two groups according to the amount contributed by each group.
4. That the proceeds from the sale of all remaining assets be divided equally between the two groups when one or both groups are in a position to operate their own schools.
5. That during the interim the present school be operated and supported jointly as heretofore.
6. That these and all other transactions which may become necessary be carried out in a spirit of true Christian brotherliness.

On December 11, 1951, the delegates considered each of the six resolutions individually. After amendments made on several of the resolutions, they were adopted as follows:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the present High School Conference be dissolved when the need for joint operation of the present school no longer exists.
2. (Remained the same.)
3. (Remained the same.)
4. That the proceeds from the sale of all remaining assets be divided equally between the two groups when either group serves notice that it is in a position to operate its own school.
5. That during the interim the present school be operated and supported jointly as heretofore, and that during the joint operation of the present high school no matters be presented or discussed

at the regularly constituted Board or delegate meetings which are not of a nature relating to the administration of said school, or are of a doctrinal nature, which is the concern of the Synodical Conference.

6. (Remained the same.)

We note the significant change made in resolution 1. The Haack proposal desired the Conference to remain intact, whereas the amended resolution felt dissolution to be the answer to the problems of the Conference.

At this time, then, the Board was instructed to engage an attorney to draw up legal instruments to implement the action taken by the Delegate Conference. Mr. H. Lichtsinn's services were acquired. Upon his recommendation, some supplementary paragraphs were added to the six resolutions passed by the December 11th Delegate Conference meeting. They dealt with legalities as to the dispersment of physical properties owned by the high school in the event that one school opens its doors before the other, and upon the dissolution of the Conference. The one point that needs to be emphasized concerning these supplementary paragraphs is that all the furniture, properties, monies, etc. would be divided equally between the two new divisional set-ups. This would be of utmost importance to assure an amicable dissolution of the ELHS Conference.

Finally, after years of dead-ends, turmoils, and disappointments, a solution was found that would benefit all parties concerned about and involved with the ELHS of Milwaukee.

IV. A Brief History of Subsequent Developments.

An obvious question now comes to the fore: How did the resolution of December 11, 1951 work out? When the Conference divided, it did so synodically. We'll consider the Missouri Synod efforts first. On January 23, 1952, the Missouri Synod congregations met to form an association. 27 congrega-

tions were present. Rev. G. Brueggeman was elected as chairman. Mr. Karl Wedel was chosen to serve as secretary. This organization came to be known as the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee (LHSA of GM).

After all the organizational structuring had been determined, property to build became the Association's foremost concern. Mrs. Martha Schnellbaecher, who had offered the old Lutheran High School an opportunity to obtain her land, made the same offer to the Association. We must note, though, that she had offered her property to the newly founded Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference (WLHSC) prior to her coming to the LHSA of GM. The WLHSC did not wish to accept her offer due to the fact that the locale of the site was not easily accessible to its students, and to the fact that so much fill needed to be found to make the land useful for building. Mrs. Schnellbaecher then turned to the LHSA of GM. At that time, the concentration of the Missouri Synod congregations was on the north side of Milwaukee, and so they found the Schnellbaecher site to meet their needs. The Association received her land of 13 acres on 97 th and W. Grantosa, and also acquired 14 more acres from the city of Wauwatosa.

On August 22, 1954, ground-breaking for the new Missouri Synod high school took place; and in September of 1955, she opened her doors. Milwaukee Lutheran High School was born. Enrolled were 806 students with a faculty of 29. On that September day in 1955, 52 years of joint classes between the Missouri and Wisconsin Synods under the old Evangelical Lutheran High School Conference of Milwaukee came to an end.

Now we turn to the Wisconsin Synod story. Following the December 11, 1951 meeting of the old Delegate Conference, a provisional board was established to concern itself with Wisconsin Synod interests prior to the forming of a new conference. On April 27, 1952, before the founding of that new conference, the provisional board purchased land on N. 76th and W. Wis-

consin Ave. This they did after turning down Mrs. Schnellbaecher's offer of land on N. 97th and W. Grantosa Ave. The board felt that this locale would be ideal for accessibility by its student body.

In May of 1952, on the 26th, the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Conference (WLHSC) was formed. Its membership consisted of 26 Wisconsin Synod congregations. Rev. E. Pankow was elected as chairman. Mr. A.C. Haack became its secretary. And Mr. F. Bartz was chosen to serve as the building committee chairman. While the Missouri Synod's plans moved relatively smoothly, the WLHSC encountered problems. Zoning difficulties arose concerning the land they owned on N. 76th and W. Wisconsin Ave. The city of Wauwatosa's zoning ordinances allowed for the erection of any public or parochial school except for a parochial high school. In addition, the city was receiving considerable opposition from neighbors in the area concerning a high school in their neighborhood.

Initially, the city attorney of Wauwatosa ruled in favor of the high school, but a circuit court upheld the city ordinance. The Conference appealed that decision and won. The question was then taken to the state level where a state court reversed the appeal and ruled in favor of the city ordinance. At this point, the WLHSC considered taking this issue to the supreme court, but decided not to. Due to the opposition and difficulties they had already experienced, it was felt that the Lord had a different site for their high school in mind.

And they were right. Shortly thereafter, a realtor, Mr. Urbanek, also a member of the Wisconsin Synod, offered a solution. He worked out a deal so that the WLHSC could obtain the Honey Creek site near N. 84th and W. Bluemound Rd. from the city of Milwaukee. This site would be exchanged for the N. 76th and W. Wisconsin Ave. property, which would be made available to Mr. Urbanek for his use in developing a sub-division. When all was said

and done, the WLHSC had a new piece of land and an open avenue to proceed with its building plans. This was the year 1956.

By this time, the Missouri Synod school had already opened. The old school building on N. 13th and W. Reservoir was being used exclusively by the Wisconsin Synod people. An arrangement was made, based on the December 11, 1951 resolution, for the WLHSC to pay rent for the building until its new plant opened. The rental amount was set at \$6,000 a year. \$3,000 of that rent went to the Missouri Synod's Association. The other \$3,000 would be returned to the WLHSC in payments.

After a major planning and fund-raising effort, ground-breaking for the new Wisconsin Synod high school took place on December 1, 1957; and in September of 1959, the doors of Wisconsin Lutheran High School were opened with 615 students in attendance.

V. The Dissolution of the Evangelical High School Conference of Milwaukee.

We now come to the final chapter of our story. What ever became of the old High School Conference? To answer this question is difficult. In my research, I was unable to find any Conference minutes pertaining to the actual dissolution of the Conference. I must rely on the memories of the men involved, whom I interviewed, in piecing together the actual happenings. I beg the pardon of my reader, if he or she finds anything historically incorrect.

It appears that the Conference still met while the two new conferences were making use of the same building on N. 13th and W. Reservoir Streets. But when Milwaukee Lutheran High School began operations, the joint Conference had no real purpose in meeting. 1955 seems to mark the end of any joint Conference meetings. In the meantime, the Board of the Conference remained in existence just to oversee the care of the old high school build-

ing and the proper dividing of monies and assets. They met infrequently.

In either 1960 or 1961, the ELHS Conference formally was dissolved according to the 1951 resolution. Wisconsin Lutheran High School had been operating since 1959. It was not until after the property on N. 13th and W. Reservoir had been sold to the city of Milwaukee for civil defense purposes did the Board dissolve the Conference. Incidentally, \$75,000 was received for the property with the money being divided equally between the LHSA of GM and the WLHSC. Again, I was unable to discover the official date of the ELHS Conference's dissolution. What is important to note is that the requirements of the 1951 resolution were fulfilled faithfully.

VI. Some Personal Observations.

While researching this paper, several observations came to mind as situations within the ELHS Conference developed. One such observation concerns the effect of the Synodical Conference differences upon the High School Conference. With the synodical offices and seminaries of the Wisconsin and Missouri Synod's being hundred of miles away, the debating of doctrinal issues can be done so impersonally. The real impact of the doctrinal debate is felt in the trenches, on a grass-roots level, where the devoted Christians of one synodical body must live and work with the devoted Christians of another. The ELHS Conference had one goal - to offer their youth a Christian education on a secondary level. Sad to say, this body could not achieve that goal because the Conference had become the battleground of the Synodical Conference. The ELHS Conference was the greatest victim of that battle.

I also see the break-up of the Conference as a stepping out for the Wisconsin Synod. For decades, the Missouri Synod had been strong. But

to embark on such a major building project was new to the Wisconsin Synod. During the past eighty years, the Wisconsin Synod had clung to the coat-tails of the Missouri Synod, afraid to step out from under her wings. But in making the building of Wisconsin Lutheran High School and its subsequent growth so successful God gave the Wisconsin Synod, or at least those in the Milwaukee area, the confidence to begin new undertakings, not only in the area of education, but in all synodical activities. This is not my opinion alone, but the observation of those who were involved in the high school's building program, and who have watched the activity of our Synod grow and flourish.

And last, but not least, throughout my research I observed the gracious hand of God at work. Differences had developed between the members of the Synodical Conference; a synodical division was inevitable. To have joined in a major expansion project with such a break-up unavoidable would have been disastrous, demanding bitter battles to be fought as to who gets what part of the ELHS Conference properties, liabilities, and assets. The Lord's hand evidenced itself by placing obstacles in the way of progress. I point to the problems involving the N. 65th and W. Center St. and Story Parkway sites as examples. In his grace and mercy, our Lord gave the leaders within the High School Conference the wisdom to foresee an amicable separation as the only solution. The fruits of God's labor stand before us today. The Missouri Synod operates two thriving schools, Milwaukee Lutheran High School on Milwaukee's north side and Martin Luther High School on the south side. The Wisconsin Synod has a beautiful high school facility that has needed expansion several times due to its God-given growth. In these institutions we can see the goal and the spirit of the Evangelical Lutheran High School Conference being realized and fulfilled - the offering of Christian education to our youth on a high school level. To God alone be the praise!

September 21, 1949

REPORT OF THE EXPANSION COMMITTEE

In a special meeting on August 11, 1949 the delegates of the Lutheran High School Conference were apprised of certain contemplated expressway developments which will tend to nullify the usability of the recently acquired building site located at Story Parkway and W. Wisconsin Avenue. The impracticability of adapting to school purposes the remaining area of the existing parcel after deducting the necessary expressway acquisition as presented by the City authorities is readily conceded. As a result of this development the meeting, by resolution, instructed this Expansion Committee to

1. "Make an exhaustive investigation of all existing site possibilities relative to the following considerations: Availability, cost, zoning regulations, location, transportation facilities, distribution of school population, educational adaptability, and city population trends."
2. "Suggest possible plans for disposal of the Story Parkway Site."
3. "Suggest solutions to the problem of financing the purchase of the new site."

Subsequent to this directive the Expansion Committee proceeded in the study of the assignment. Investigations to locate larger units of real estate were made by examining city plat books, by a conference with the City Real Estate Agent and by invited suggestions from other sources. In the interest of economy the committee con-

sidered it advisable that the parcel be composed of a minimum number of individual units and that, if possible, the site should be free from improvements which could not be adopted into the anticipated usage of a school site. Sites such as the suggested "Wellauer Site on W. Wisconsin Avenue," were found not available, another site suggested is located at N. 60th Street and W. Keefe Avenue, was not considered by reason of its extreme northwest location, a location along the east-west axis of the county being considered preferable.

Since no further definite site locations were called to the attention or consideration by the committee, detailed studies concentrated on two known sites which indicated satisfactory possibilities.

The first of these two sites considered was presented to the Conference at the special meeting, namely the Underwood Site; the second site designated as the Honey Creek Parkway Site also was examined and studied.

The findings and conclusions reached by the Expansion Committee in order to establish the suitability and advantages of either location are herewith presented as a comparative analysis.

This analysis comprises the following phases:

- A. General Location
- B. Availability
- C. Site Description
- D. Neighborhood
- E. Improvements
- F. Parking

G. Educational Adaptability

H. Athletic Adaptability

I. Accessibility

J. Cost

K. Future Expansion

A. General Location

Underwood

The Underwood Site is located in the City of Wauwatosa. It is bounded as follows: to the east by Wauwatosa Avenue; to the north by W. North Avenue; the west boundary abuts upon adjacent privately owned properties; the south line adjoins private properties which abut Stickney Avenue. The greatest frontage, 594 feet, is along W. North Avenue, approximately 407 feet of the width of the property has frontage along Wauwatosa Avenue, the balance, 221 feet, abutting the rear lines of privately owned property fronting Wauwatosa Avenue. This site is irregular in shape.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is bounded to the east and has frontage along the Honey Creek Parkway; the north boundary abuts private property which fronts Blue Mound Road; the west property which abuts N. Glenview Avenue, a continuation of S. 84th Street; the south property line presently adjoins the Rapid Transit right-of-way. (This interurban is the Milwaukee-West Junction-Hales Corners Line). This site is rectangular in shape.

B. Availability

Underwood

The Underwood Site has been offered for purchase. Occupancy may be had in a very short time after executing the necessary

purchase agreements. This property is now in the possession of a Catholic Sisters Order, which Order is ready to dispose of the property by reason of relocation.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is owned by the City of Milwaukee. Possession, no doubt, is possible without undue delay upon the execution of a purchase agreement and the approval of the same by the City of Milwaukee authorities such as the Real Estate Division, the Land Commission and the Common Council. The Milwaukee County Park Commission has had prior interest in this site as a future park site, however, the release of this priority has been established by Park Commission action.

C. Site Description

Underwood

The Underwood Site comprises approximately $7\frac{1}{2}$ acres of land. The topography generally is level with a terraced and graded drop in topography of possibly 8 feet to the northwest corner of the site. All of the site is landscaped and is neatly trimmed and park-like in appearance. Portions of the area, we are told, are drained with sub-soil agricultural tile to properly drain the site. Roads and walks exist in the area. This site also includes three residential structures of varying sizes and ages, all however, apparently in good condition since all are now occupied. The entire site is enclosed with either a high reinforced concrete wall or cyclone wire fencing.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site comprises approximately 16 acres although the eventual available area offered will amount to no less than 12 acres, certain reservations being contemplated by

the City for their usage. Generally the site is level with a knoll or high spot toward the north end which drops off gradually toward the west and southwest. A creek originally traversed this land which has, however, been relocated to parallel the parkway to the east. The south one-half is wooded and heavily shrubbed, the north half being cleared. No structures exist on this site, no access by roads exists nor is the area under landscape care.

D. Neighborhood

Underwood

The Underwood Site is located in a developed neighborhood the pattern of which is well established and stable. Wauwatosa Avenue is now residential in character. The Lutheran Home for the Aged is diagonally across from this site. To the south of the site moderate priced residences exist. To the north along W. North Avenue, opposite this site, the City of Wauwatosa has purchased land as a site for the erection of a future Junior High School structure which is contemplated shortly.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is fairly well established. The parkway to the east is property owned and maintained by the Milwaukee County Park Commission. This parkway is a link in the proposed parkways in the County. To the west a residential sub-division known as Ravenswood is quite stable and not subject to change in the near future, if at all. The north abutting land is subject to further development and may consist of residential or business structures. To the south the Rapid Transit may or may not remain, however, a reservation for road and park purposes will eliminate private enterprise abutting

at this point.

E. Improvements

Underwood At the Underwood Site no immediate changes of a municipal nature are known although it may be assumed that at some future time a widening of Wauwatosa Avenue could be possible by reason of its present narrow width and its heavy traffic as a major traffic artery. North Avenue is now of considerable width and a widening of this street is no doubt quite remote.

Honey Creek Parkway The Honey Creek Parkway Site street improvements will and are now scheduled for the year 1950. Eighty-Fourth Street, according to the present road improvement plan, will be widened to a divided boulevarded highway. The east road along the parkway will not change. The possibility of the addition of street lighting at some future time might be anticipated.

F. Parking

Underwood The Underwood Site presents a parking problem at present and this problem would become more acute by reason of social functions in connection with school establishments. Providing parking areas on this site will be difficult by reason of the limited site area.

Honey Creek Parkway The Honey Creek Parkway Site by reason of its size will permit on-site parking with ample opportunity of entry and access from the Glenview Avenue or west side of the site.

G. Adaptability to Educational Requirements

Underwood The Underwood Site while affording reasonable privacy is nevertheless closely adjacent to two busy traffic arteries with its noise, etc. Adjacent residential property holders

may also not assume too kindly an attitude toward a concentration of 800 or more students. The presence of a public junior high school directly across the street may also result in student difficulties.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is ideally isolated for educational usages. To the west 84th Street and Glenview Avenues and to the east the Parkway serve as barriers. With the space available the educational units can be located to permit isolation from the abutting north property. Since no residential property directly abuts this site, owner-objection will not develop. The surrounding parkway will also be ideally advantageous to students during recess or free periods.

H. Adaptability to Athletic Requirements

Underwood

The Underwood Site being limited in area, will curtail the planning and orientation of proper athletic field requirements. An athletic field in the desirable north-south axis is not possible at this location. The athletic field would, of necessity, be east-west and will abut the residential properties adjoining. This feature may be anticipated as undesirable and serious objections may be encountered.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is sufficiently large in area to accommodate the required spaces for athletic playfield development. The orientation would be also most desirable, namely north-south. Ample provisions can be made for the erection of bleachers, etc. Since no residential property would be directly adjacent to this athletic field no owner-objection need be anticipated.

I. Accessibility

Underwood

The Underwood Site location is easily reached by automobile and public conveyances. Automobile routes may follow the main arteries of the county. Public conveyances connect with major transport lines. Travel time from various points has been tabulated and will be separately presented.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site is adjacent to the #67 Orange Bus Line which extends from North 60th and W. Center south to S. 84th Street and W. Morgan Avenue. The Rapid Transit line parallels the south property line and extends from downtown Milwaukee to Hales Corners. Automobile routes which may be followed are the main arteries and the Honey Creek Parkway which permits of quick travel time with a minimum of traffic congestion. Travel time from various points have been tabulated and will be separately presented.

J. Cost

Underwood

The Underwood Site is offered for sale through a local realtor who has indicated the asking-price to be approximately \$90,000 however, further stated that any reasonable offer would be given consideration. The basis of payments has not been discussed in detail. The purchase of this site will require the separate disposal of the present site since neither the owner of the offered site nor the realtor have an interest in the acquisition of the Story Site.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site should, by comparison with the Underwood and the Story Site, be available at much lower cost since it is undeveloped. The purchase of this site may

be accomplished by the submission of a purchase price to the City of Milwaukee Real Estate Division for consideration. The disposal of the Story Parkway Site will become part of this proposal since the city is interested in its acquisition by reason of the development planned. This unusual, but fortunate circumstance constitutes a good basis for negotiations which could result in the disposal of an unsuitable site and the acquiring of a site suitable resulting also in a financial saving.

K. Future Expansion

Underwood

The Underwood Site will not allow for any extensive future planning because of its area limitation. Future site expansion could therefore be accomplished only by the purchase of adjoining developed and improvement properties which might be anticipated as difficult and costly.

Honey
Creek
Parkway

The Honey Creek Parkway Site being in area close to the recommended size for high school purposes will not present future expansion problems. The availability of a parcel of adequate size for future planning and the cost of acquiring such a site reasonably would be advantageous.

Conclusion

The Expansion Committee in its deliberation chose to consider the school location from a broader geographic limitation than city boundaries and believes therefore that geographically its location must be considered as serving county limitations. It further recognizes the extreme difficulty in finding suitable, sizable, undeveloped land areas located to serve equally well all of the student population; careful consideration being given not to deviate

too far from an axis midway between the north and south side of the area. Unfortunately only two new sites of a suitable nature were uncovered by or called to the committee's attention, however, in the opinion of the Expansion Committee no previously considered sites are the equal of the sites now under advisement.

Upon carefully considering each of the aforementioned items separately and further upon considering all of the items collectively the Expansion Committee concluded that the advantages and suitability for the desired purpose indicates the superiority of the Honey Creek Parkway site.

Based upon the comparative analysis and its conclusion the Expansion Committee therefore presents for adoption the following resolution:

"Be it resolved that Lutheran High School Planning ^{Comm.} recommends the Honey Creek Parkway Site as a future high school site."

Secondly, the Expansion Committee recommends the adoption of the following:

"Be it resolved that the Lutheran High School Board of Directors be empowered to acquire the Honey Creek Parkway Site ~~at a cost~~

in exchange for the Stouy Parkway Site
plus any additional financial consideration
determined by accurate appraisals.

Respectfully submitted,

EXPANSION COMMITTEE

G. GRUNWALD

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

1859 NORTH THIRTEENTH STREET

MILWAUKEE 5, WISCONSIN

September

26

1951

The Rev. O. W. Schaefer
2361 North 26
Milwaukee 6, Wisconsin

Dear Friend Schaefer:

The enclosure is self-explanatory. However, I believe we must all realize that the days of debate and delay are past. We have a problem that must be solved now. The command of our Lord to "rise up and build" should become the call and challenge of this hour.

The meeting called for Wednesday, October 24, 8:00 P.M. at the high school should be attended by every pastor and every delegate. We shall be assembled that evening to reach a decision.

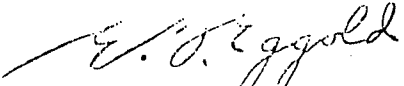
We hope that you and your delegates will come to the meeting prepared and authorized to vote on the expansion problem issue.

For your information: The pastors, delegates and church councils of the Wisconsin Synod Conference congregations have already met and discussed the expansion problem issues. What decisions were reached I cannot report since I was not invited to attend. However, I do not believe it is necessary or advisable for the Missouri brethren to caucus prior to the October 24th meeting.

May the Lord of the Church help us solve our problem in a God-pleasing, practical manner.

In His service,

LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL


E. F. Eggold
Principal

EFE:df

Enc.

The Expansion Problem of LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

In the May, 1951 high school delegate conference meeting, I was instructed by the conference to present an analysis of the expansion problem in the September, 1951 meeting. The purpose of the presentation is to help the conference reach a decision on this matter in the special delegate conference meeting scheduled for Wednesday, October 24, 1951, 8:00 P.M. at the high school.

By way of introduction I do not believe that it is necessary to stress the important role of LHS in the total program of the Church; nor to emphasize the Scriptural foundation upon which this school rests; nor to remind you how desperately Lutheran teen-agers need a Christian education in this new age of confusion and fear..

Enrollment

The following enrollment statistics point up the necessity for solving the expansion problem--NOW. We began this school year with the largest total enrollment in the history of Lutheran High--863. The present freshman class is also the largest in the school's history--263. In order to accommodate all of these students we were forced to add an extra period to our school day.

The anticipated enrollments for the next two years will create a serious problem in the scheduling of classes. We shall solve the problem, but the arrangement which must be made should be of a very temporary nature. We are this year graduating 172 seniors. We are reasonably certain that next year's freshman class will number 250-270. On the basis of these figures, our total enrollment for next year ('52-'53) will be 925-950. Our present junior class numbers 198. Again, we have every reason to believe that our freshman class for the school year '53-'54 will number 250-270, bringing the total enrollment for '53-'54 to 950-1,000.

What about the high school enrollment trend in subsequent years? Referring to the trend in school enrollments to 1960, Bulletin No.998--1951 ed.--issued by the U.S. Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics has this to say:"The abrupt rise in enrollments in the first 8 grades, resulting from the high birth rates of the 1940 decade, may require an increase of more than 260,000 elementary teaching positions by 1957. High school enrollments will begin to rise about 1952, but will not fully reflect the unusually high birth rates until about 1956; peak enrollments will be reached in 1961 or 1962." We must be prepared to care for increasing numbers of Lutheran youth who will want to attend our high school.

We are convinced that the enrollment of this school will steadily increase. More and more parents are becoming concerned about the type and quality of education their children should receive. Our fathers and mothers are becoming increasingly more aware of their role as stewards not only of the lives but also of the immortal souls of their children. In these latter days, Lutheran parents want a school that will do more than teach their children how to earn a living. They want a school that will teach their children how to live a life; a school that will tell their children the TRUTH;

a school that will give their children Scriptural answers to the fundamental questions of human existence--from where have I come? what am I living for? and where am I going?

Present Facilities

A consideration of our present school plant facilities accentuates the urgency of solving the expansion problem--NOW. The school plant of Lutheran High is old and will become more and more of a financial liability. We shall be fortunate, indeed, if our heating system continues to function efficiently for another five years. Extensive electrical repairs will also be necessary within a few years.

The old gymnasium or annex was converted into classrooms as a temporary measure. The two barracks have been utilized far beyond the time limit set by the housing authorities. Because of the increased enrollment we have been forced to use the lower flat of the old girls' dormitory for classroom space. In addition, basement rooms in the main building had to be converted into classrooms.

I'm sure we all agree that it is not wise stewardship of money to continue to invest large sums of money in this old school plant.

Not only are our present facilities old, but they are also totally inadequate to meet the needs of our increased enrollment. The poor arrangement of classrooms is not at all conducive to easy passage of students from classroom to classroom. Furthermore, a large percentage of our students have classes scheduled in the main building and in the barracks. Since we have no enclosed or underground passageways, our students must often walk or run through rain, sleet or snow to get to a classroom in the barracks.

Again, because of inadequate space facilities we have been forced to make increasing use of the Lutheran Center. This year the Lutheran Center provides space for our band, our entire physical education program, our competitive athletic teams and several of our extracurricular activities. Regardless of the weather and without teacher supervision a large percentage of our students must regularly leave the main building, walk one and a half blocks and board a streetcar to get to the Lutheran Center.

Our athletic teams are handicapped because we have no facilities of our own. Time which should be used for practice is wasted on needless traveling to and from the playing field. Since we have no gymnasium of our own we must rent a gymnasium at a cost of \$100 per game.

We cannot make any but minor changes in our curriculum because of inadequate space facilities. We should include in our curriculum courses that would attract more boys to Lutheran High. We should have a complete home economics course for our girls since we know that 98% or more of them will eventually be homemakers.

We might mention just two more facts to emphasize the need for a new Lutheran High. Our present building is not exactly the safest structure in the event of a fire. We know also that the school is not at all ideally located. The gradual deterioration of this immediate neighborhood should be apparent to every delegate.

Serious Problems Ahead

The enrollments of the next few years coupled with the inadequate facilities of Lutheran High will create a problem in the scheduling of classes. We shall be forced to lengthen our school day or adopt a split schedule arrangement of classes or develop a workable combination of the two. Under a split schedule program the juniors and seniors would attend school only in the morning and the freshmen and sophomores only in the afternoon. A radical departure from the normal schedule of classes will aggravate the problem of student supervision and increase the teaching load of the faculty.

Solving the Problem

Although many more facts could have been mentioned to demonstrate the necessity for solving the expansion problem now, enough facts have been presented to indicate the need for immediate action.

I believe it is important to state that we dare not attempt to solve our problem by limiting the enrollment. Limiting the enrollment of Lutheran High cannot be defended on Scriptural grounds. Furthermore, what individual or group of individuals shall determine who is to be granted the privilege of attending Lutheran High and who is to be denied the privilege?

Again, wisdom dictates that we should not attempt to solve our problem through further expansion on the present site of Lutheran High. I have previously enumerated various factors to justify this point of view.

Solution No. I

We, the present Lutheran High School conference, can solve the expansion problem now by uniting our hearts and hands in an all-out effort in the Savior's name. And despite the intersynodical problems of today leave the future in the hands of the Lord, praying and trusting that the differences which now exist will be resolved in a God-pleasing manner to the satisfaction of both synods.

This is the plan of action I hope can be adopted. I want to state without any reservations that the cooperation of both synods has been splendid during the two years it has been my privilege to work at Lutheran High. The financial support of conference congregations in both synods has steadily increased. There has been and is now a unity of spirit and purpose behind our school-- among the laity of both synods, among the alumni, in our Board of Directors, in our faculty and in our student body.

I am convinced that if the pastors and delegates of this conference would unanimously decide to proceed at once to initiate an all-out campaign for a new school plant, they would have little difficulty in enlisting the wholehearted support of their respective congregations.

Solution No. 2

By way of introduction, I am neither advocating nor do I favor solution no. 2.

One consideration must be kept in the forefront of our study of the expansion problem and that is the spiritual welfare, the Christian education of our high school youth. We are all trustees of the immortal souls of our confirmed youth. We cannot dodge our responsibility in the God-given task of providing adequately for the spiritual training of our youth. The Wisconsin Synod cannot dodge her responsibility. The Missouri Synod cannot dodge her responsibility.

The youth of both synods have begun their march on Lutheran High School. And they will come in increasing numbers year after year.

Now, if we cannot wholeheartedly and with a clear conscience provide for these young people cooperatively with the present organizational set-up, then we have no alternative but to dissolve the present high school conference and organize two Lutheran High Schools, a Wisconsin Synod high school and a Missouri Synod high school.

Should dissolution be the course of action mutually agreed upon, we cannot for obvious reasons close our school. In the event of dissolution we should continue to operate our present school jointly until both synods have secured adequate school plant facilities. The interim will give both synods time to organize separate conferences and boards; the interim will provide time for the present Board of Directors to work out, at the direction of this conference, an equitable division of existing assets.

Conclusion

We cannot evade the problem of expansion any longer--it is upon us. We cannot wait until the inter-synodical issues are settled because we are dealing with the practical problem of too many students and too little space.

Brethren, we have a problem! May we consider it deliberately, but above all, prayerfully and come back in October with a solution.

As Christians, as gentlemen, calling upon our heavenly Father for wisdom and guidance let us solve this problem--NOW.

ENDNOTES

- ¹Annual Report to the High School Delegate Conference, September 16, 1942.
- ²Resolution adopted by the High School Delegate Conference, April 16, 1943.
- ³Letter to the High School Board of Directors from the Committee for Lutheran Mass Celebrations, December 9, 1944.
- ⁴Minutes of a Special Meeting of the High School Board of Directors, January 17, 1945.
- ⁵Minutes of a Meeting of the High School Board of Directors, May 9, 1945.
- ⁶Letter to the Milwaukee County Board of Supervisors from the High School Conference, December 19, 1945.
- ⁷Fund Campaign for a New Lutheran High School, February 23, 1947.
- ⁸Report of the Building Committee to the High School Delegate Conference, May, 21, 1947.
- ⁹Brueggeman, Rev. H. Resolution to the High School Delegate Conference, June 11, 1947.
- ¹⁰Voss, Rev. L. Reaction to the June 11, 1947 Resolution, October 29, 1947.
- ¹¹Committee of Ten Resolution, adopted by the High School Delegate Conference, January 28, 1948.
- ¹²Letter to the High School Conference from the Milwaukee City Pastoral Conference, Wisconsin Synod, November 15, 1948.
- ¹³Expansion Committee Report to the High School Delegate Conference, February 16, 1949.
- ¹⁴Minutes of a Meeting of the High School Board of Directors, September 14, 1949.
- ¹⁵Minutes of a Special Meeting of the High School Board of Directors, October 31, 1951.

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Rev. J.C. Jeske, professor at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, former member of the Wisconsin Lutheran High School Building Committee.

Rev. R.P. Krause, principal of Wisconsin Lutheran High School, member of the High School faculty from 1943 to present.

Mr. Karl Wedel, former secretary of the Lutheran High School Association of Greater Milwaukee, former member of the Lutheran High School Board of Directors.