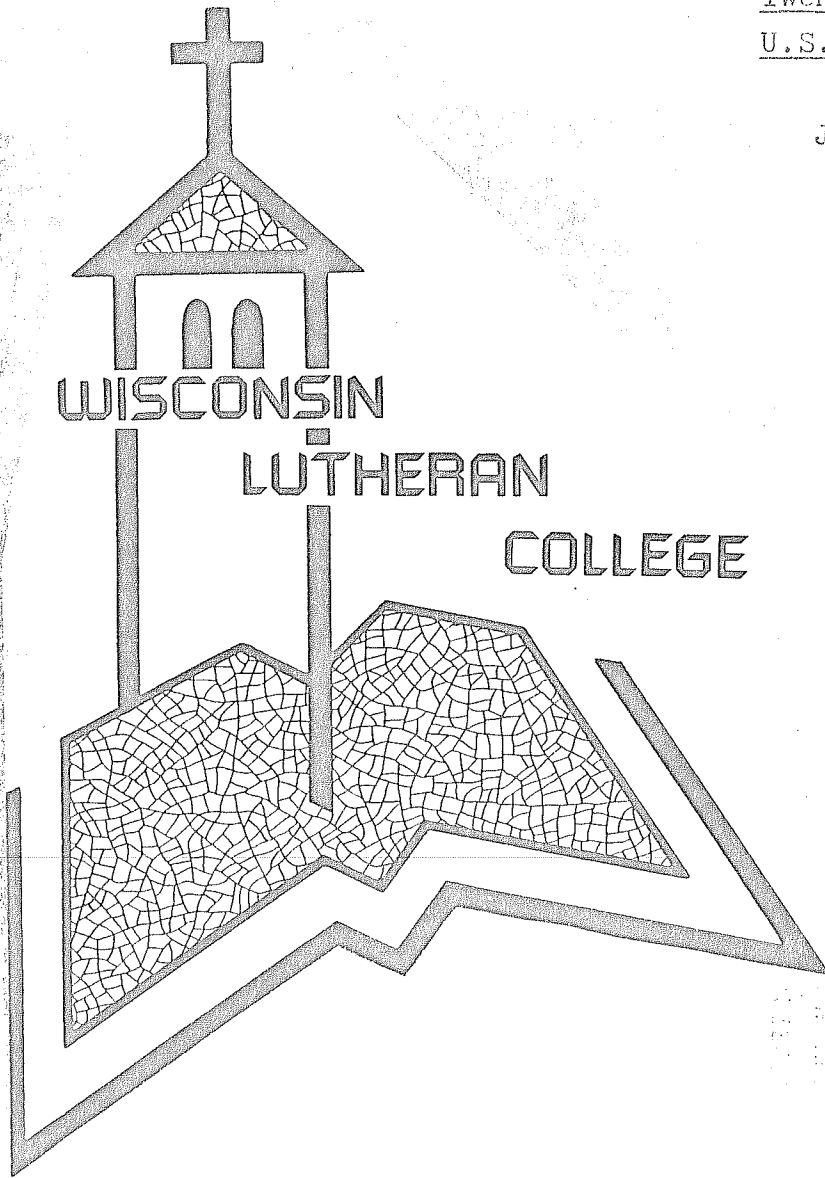


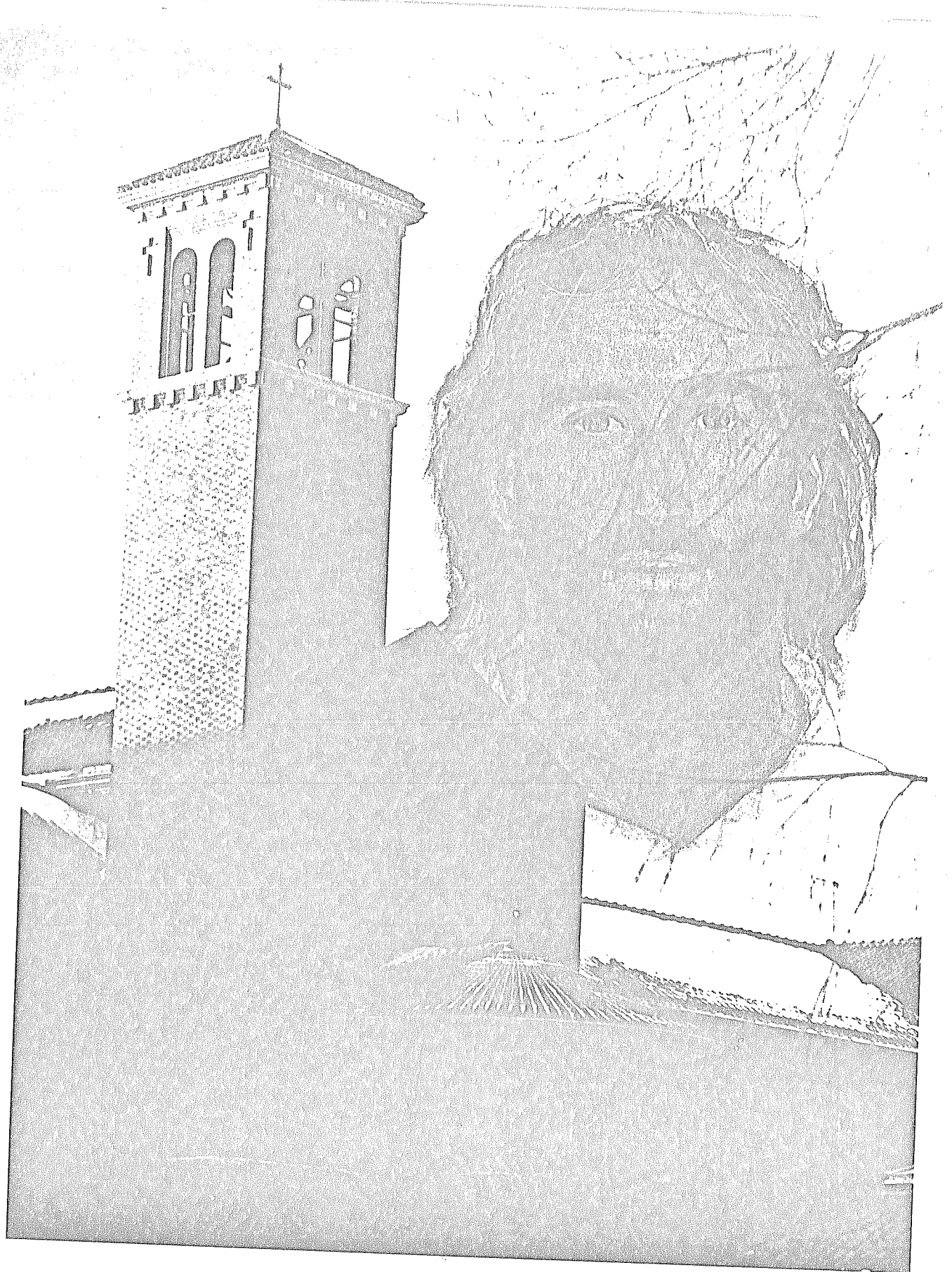
A History  
Of  
Wisconsin Lutheran College:  
A Force Shaping  
Twentieth Century  
U.S. Lutheranism

by  
John Covach



Church History  
Prof. Fredrich  
April 21, 1979

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WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE: A SCHOOL DEDICATED TO CHRIST  
AND TRAINING THE LAITY TO BETTER SERVE HIS KINGDOM.

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## A Synod Resolution And The Seed Is Sown

It seems that many of the conventions of our small Wisconsin Synod, have grave decisions to make that affect the history of the Lutheran church in this country. The convention held at New Ulm, Minnesota, in August of 1969, was not an exception to this rule. It was at this biennial convention that the fate of the old Wisconsin Lutheran College was sealed. At first it had been known as Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers College, and it was founded to help supply parochial school teachers to our churches at a time when they were critically needed. This college had served its function and now many felt that for the sake of economy, and unity of spirit in the student body of future educators, that W.L.C. and D.M.L.C. should merge into one worker training school.

As you read the memorials on this subject, you have to wonder if some of the authors of those documents weren't blessed with a prophetic spirit. It was forecasted that if the old W.L.C. were closed and moved to New Ulm, it would force the academy there off campus. When this would happen, then Synod would once again be faced with the need to acquire a new educational facility for this preparatory school. In retrospect, we know that in 10 short years this prediction came true. Not being able to fully appreciate the times and financial picture of our Synod in 1969, I hold judgement on whether we were wise by depriving W.L.C. of money to build a campus in Milwaukee, or foolish because of the millions of dollars the property at Prairie du Chien has cost us. One thing is for sure, delegates at the '69 convention felt it necessary for the old W.L.C. to close its doors and merge with our teacher training school in New Ulm.

Even though hope of having a Synod supported college, in the Milwaukee area, disappeared when the vote was cast, still a seed was sown at this convention that would eventually grow into a

new institution of higher learning for this community. Pastor Voss, in his memorial for leaving W.L.C. in Milwaukee, said this; "Another possible area of wider service for Wisconsin Lutheran Colleges (besides the teacher training program) lies in the role of a liberal arts junior college." (Proceeding, 1969, p. 88) Pastor Voss even mentioned how this program could be funded, since Synod could not afford such a project. He wrote, "Any program of this nature would be almost wholly on a self-sustaining basis, or that it would be subsidized by an association of congregations within the Synod." (Proceeding 1969, p.89)

I believe that this was the seed, which once planted, developed into our present institution; Wisconsin Lutheran College. People in our circles had started thinking about the need for a Christian college education for our laity. In the 1965 Synod proceedings, we officially urged our people toward Bethany Lutheran College for this very reason. (Proceeding, 1965, p. 176) But now that people had started thinking in terms of W.L.C. filling this education gap, it was hard for them to give up this idea simply because two worker training schools merged. It is interesting to note that three out of eight unprinted memorials concerning the merger of W.L.C. and D.M.L.C. specifically mention W.L.C. as a possible liberal arts junior college. People saw a need for this type of Christian education, and they were willing to spend both time and money for it.

Just two months after the decision had been reached for a merger, a group of very concerned Christian men gathered to write a letter to Synod asking them to reverse this decision. At a time when bitterness was tasted by many of our churches because of this decision of the delegates of the '69 convention, these men made it clear in their letter that there was no feeling of rebellion in their hearts as they asked for this reversal. This group made up of 4 Pastors, 2 teachers, and 3 laymen, simply expressed a concern for Christian education and an earnest interest in the future welfare of the Synod. They asked Synod leaders to leave the teacher training program in Milwaukee and to "seriously consider developing W.L.C. to provide general junior college courses for the thousands of the Synod's youth

who now must look to secular schools for their career training, often with devastating spiritual results."

Needless to say, this letter did nothing to convince the "powers that be" to change their minds about this merger. But there were positive benefits for the new Wisconsin Lutheran College as a result of that letter. The same <sup>men</sup> who signed this document were the very people who sparked the first interest in forming a new college in the Wisconsin Synod, though not directly funded by Synod. Six of the nine signers of that letter served on the provisional board and on the first official Board of Regents of W.L.C. With a pioneering spirit in our circles for a Christian, liberal arts college, these men were instrumental in getting the ball rolling in the right direction. Clarence Hombsch served that board as the first chairman, surrounded by men who recognized the merit of a Christ-centered education.

It is hard to find material on what happened from October of 1969 to July of 1972, when the college filed Articles of Incorporation with the State of Wisconsin. Without a doubt these were vital and important years in the infancy of W.L.C. As I mentioned earlier, there were many hard feelings on both sides of the fence after the merger of our teacher training schools. These early years of the college history were a time of "sour grapes". Some opposed the founding of this new school because they considered it a protest against the Synod for pulling a college out of Milwaukee. Still other churches actually did join the W.L.C. ranks to retaliate <sup>against</sup> the '69 decision for merger.

It was unfortunate that times were tense for W.L.C. in the beginning. This yearling institution was deprived real support for many years; support that is necessary for instantaneous growth. It was necessary that valuable leaders, like Pastor Voss, stand at a distance from this new college lest people misread their efforts as rebellion. These men could only act as behind the scene advisors, lest the future of this school be further jeopardized by misunderstandings.

But during all this turmoil, the Lord's guiding hand kept efforts running in a straight line. The first drafts of a college

constitution were written, where a statement of purpose could clear the air as to why this college existed. It would be established "to promote the cause and extend the scope of Christian education in keeping with the purpose and aim of this Conference and the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod." (W.L.C. Constitution, Art, III) This was not a rebellion against Synod. It was an education<sup>n</sup> opportunity offered in our Synod.

It was during these years that the Milwaukee Federation of W.E.L.S. Churches sponsored seed money to establish a survey to see how feasible this endeavor was. When favorable results were gathered, the green light was on. That faithful group of forefathers began working to make their dream a working reality.

Being Prayfully Cultivated, The Seed Germinates

It was on January 31, 1973, that the charter meeting of the college conference was held. By the end of that night, 30 congregations were listed as official members of the organization. It was with their support, whether financial or moral support, that preparations were begun for the opening of the college in the 1973-74 school year. It was decided that Principal Robert Krause of Wisconsin Lutheran High School would serve as the provisional president of this new institution.

For the first years, W.L.C. would hold its classes at the facilities of Wisconsin Lutheran High School. College classes would start late in the afternoon, after high schoolers went home, and would run into the evening. Considering the teaching materials and classroom space that such an arrangement offered, this was an ideal beginning for the college. If you also take into consideration that a large portion of the part-time college teaching staff were already teachers at the high school, you can appreciate the convenience of this agreement. Rented facilities and a part-time faculty are not as nice as a private campus, and staff, but to the people fighting for a W.E.L.S. liberal arts college they were the answer to a prayer.

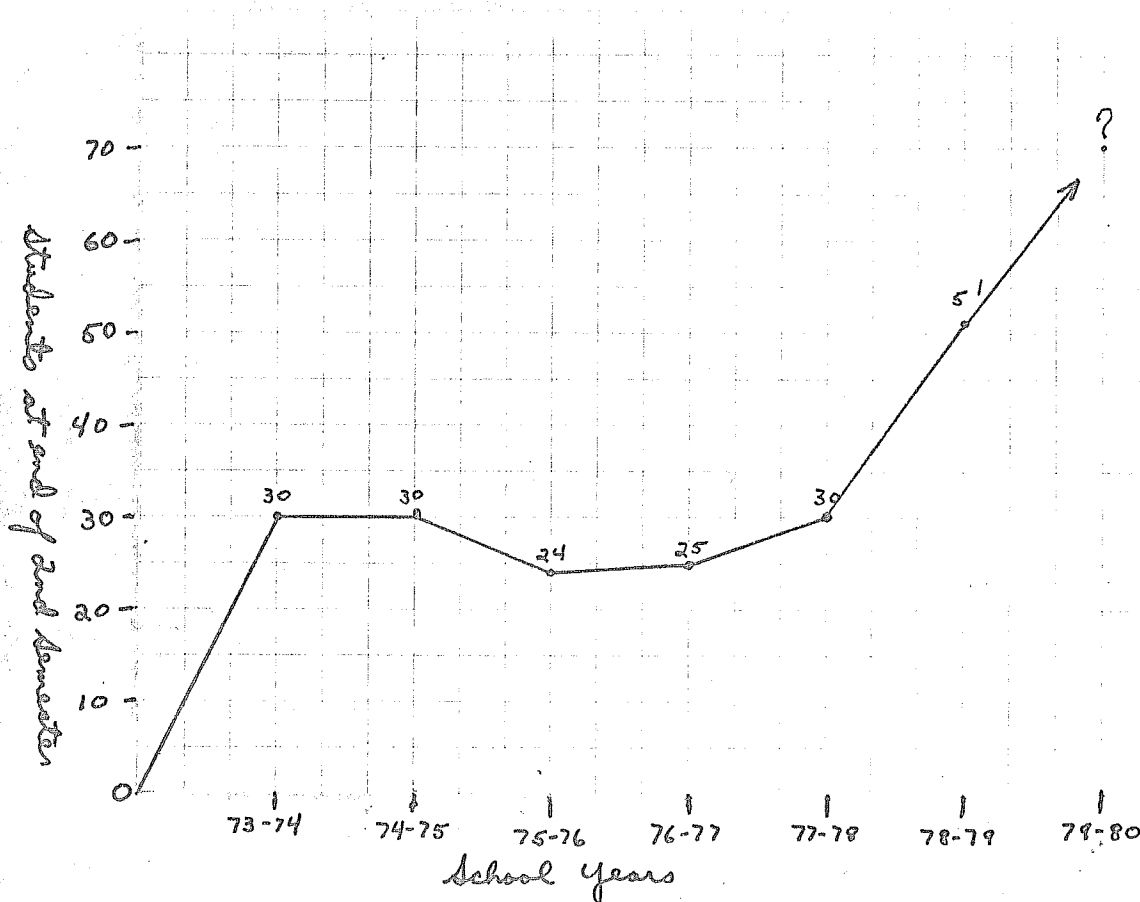


The Student Center, purchased in 1973.

But there was one problem that had to be taken care of before doors could be opened wide for eager students in September; a dormitory building had to be purchased. The property committee was looking for a building that would be within walking distance of the high school and



one that could also double as a student center. The good Lord was obviously directing that first property committee, for they found an eight bedroom home, with a chapel, living room, kitchen, office, and large recreation room, right across the street from where classes would be held. On August 16, 1973, this home was purchased for \$85,000 and rapidly prepared for the opening day service.



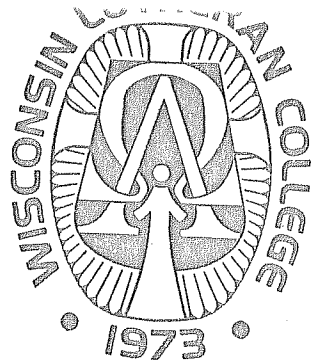
Enrollment continues to grow as we move into our 7<sup>th</sup> year of existence.

It was on September 4, 1973, that W.L.C. officially opened its doors. 23 full time students, 14 part time students, and 3 special students (auditors) were welcomed to the new college. Although the main purpose of the school, as stated at the '73 Synod Convention, was for liberal arts education, people associated with W.L.C. were still concerned about the merger of training

schools in 1969 and the possible teacher shortage that might result from it. The first college that was sought after to accept W.L.C.'s credits was D.M.L.C. An agreement was also worked out at that time for Synod accreditation courses to be offered at W.L.C., to teachers not having the required amount of religion credits necessary to be synod certified.

The administration of the school that first year wasn't as strong as it could have been, but I have to give credit to the men involved that they would tackle such a big job on strictly a part-time basis. Considering that the first obligation of these men was to W.L.H.S., one has to wonder were they found time to start as many programs as they did. It was a part-time staff that started making recruitment visits to our Synod and area high schools and that continued to teach college courses to as late as 9:00 P.M., even though they had put in full days with their regular duties. One also marvels at the dedication of the Board of Regents for the extra time they donated to get this school off the ground. Some of those board members started to publish the "Wisconsin Lutheran College Newsletter" (now called "Newsbreak") to keep faculty, parents, and conference members informed about what was happening on campus. It was at this time that the "Keyman" program was started in congregations affiliated with W.L.C. In this program, the board would seek out men interested in the future of the college, and make them "contact" men in their congregations. With this system, interested students could easily learn about the school from someone in their own parish, and college materials could also be presented at various meetings or gatherings of the church.

There was much positive good done by concerned people in that first school year. But like the beginning of any institution there were also some unfortunate mistakes that were made by board and conference alike. One of those mistakes is found in the first article of the college constitution. There it reads that this organization that had been founded, would be known as "Wisconsin Lutheran College Conference, Inc. In my estimation



**THE WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE SEAL**

— an explanation of its meaning —

**THE NAME** — Around the top of the seal is the name of our school — WISCONSIN LUTHERAN COLLEGE. Our school is an institution of higher learning. Its confession is Lutheran. It is located in the State of Wisconsin and serves the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod.

**THE ALPHA** — In the very center of the seal is the letter Alpha, the first letter of the Greek alphabet. In Revelation 21:6 Jesus says, "I am Alpha ... the Beginning." Christ is the beginning of wisdom. We know Him as the Father has revealed Him to us by the Spirit through the pages of Holy Scripture. The Bible, above all, is the textbook of every student and faculty member at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

**THE OMEGA** — Intertwined with the Alpha in the center of the seal is the letter Omega, the last letter of the Greek alphabet. In Revelation 21:6 Jesus also says, "I am ... Omega ... the End." The end and purpose of our life is Jesus. To be with our Lord forever in eternity is the goal of every student and faculty member at Wisconsin Lutheran College.

**THE FIGURE IN THE WHITE ROBE** — Also in the center is a figure robed in white. The figure represents the child of God, whose sinful self is clothed in the righteousness of Christ. Wisconsin Lutheran College is a school whose students and faculty are children of God by faith in the atoning sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

**THE SHIELD AND DATE** — The central symbols of our school seal rest on a shield. This shield represents time, of which Jesus is both Alpha and Omega — the Beginning and the End. The child of God stands in time — in the present. The date "1973" is the year in which our school was founded. Wisconsin Lutheran College was founded in time to serve the timeless Christ by educating the students of the present.

**THE RADIANT CROSS** — All time is a time of grace. Therefore the shield of time rests squarely on the radiant cross of Christ which shines through eternity. The top three arms of the cross which stand independent of the shield and its symbols represent the three persons of the Triune God, who alone is truly eternal. The radiance of the eternal cross surrounds the shield of time. For a student at Wisconsin Lutheran College the saving knowledge of the cross lends a positive glow to all that he learns about this world in time.

**THE SEAL AS A WHOLE** — The very center of the seal is the head of the figure in the white robe. Wisconsin Lutheran College's purpose is to educate the child of God. The head of the figure in the white robe serves also as the crossbar of the letter Alpha. The student at Wisconsin Lutheran College has his mind molded by what God has revealed in the past about His Son through the prophets and apostles in Holy Scripture. The head of the figure is encircled by the Omega. The student at Wisconsin Lutheran College is surrounded by the sure hope of his eternal life through faith in Christ. The figure in the white robe rests against the shield of time, yet his feet are outside of time and stand at the foot of the cross. The student at Wisconsin Lutheran College knows that the child of God has his beginning in time as God's highest creation, yet by standing in the shadow of the eternal cross, the child of God also knows that he is immortal and looks forward to being with God — outside of time — in eternity.

it was unwise to give this new college the same name as the teacher's college that had left town. People were confused by this move. Even today people still carry around that misconception that students of W.L.C. are studying to be Christian Day School teachers.

They still think this isa Synod supported college. In the beginning, the selection of this name looked like a deliberate "dig" on those who were for the merger of the old W.L.C. and D.M.L.C. All in all, the selection of this name has caused the school problems. Problems that are finally being alleviated in 1979.

Another difficulty that had to be overcome, was answering the question of what it really meant to be a member of the college conference. There was confusion in the beginning because some churches were allowed to

After months and months of clarification, the college seal and its explanation were accepted.

join that association simply by verbally saying that they endorsed what was going on here. Others thought that by paying \$50.00 yearly membership fees, they were free of obligation to further support the work at W.L.C. With simple mathematics, it is easy to see that 30 congregations contributing \$50.00 each, couldn't even pay the interest on \$85,000 expenditure for the Student Center. Thank God that most of those 30 congregations gave more than that membership fee, but without all churches having this same commitment the financial situation of the college was on shifting sand. This whole situation is unfortunate because this stopped many other people from pledging their support and sending their students to W.L.C. Many Pastors and their flocks had a "wait and see" attitude about the college, wondering if it would be in existence from year to year. But by God's grace this school weathered the worst of the storm, and now we seem to be pretty well accepted as an institution that is here to stay.

That final area where mistakes were made, is concerned with where the college conference in 1973 planned to put its permanent campus. It is very commendable that people were thinking in terms of a school that would only serve the college student body, but it is very unfortunate that so much time was wasted, and so much heartache was caused over trying to buy the 50 acres that had been acquired for the building of the old W.L.C. The Synod had put this property, located in Brookfield, Wisconsin, up for sale. There was no way, though, that this infant institution could have come up with \$500,000 to pay for that land. Various board members had their hearts set on this purchase. Arguments revolved around the question as to why Synod officials were asking \$500,000 for land that they had invested only \$378,000 for. Such arguments were a complete waste of time, because the college conference could never come up with even \$378,000 let alone money to build on that land after the purchase.

At this same time a doctor in Wisconsin was also interested in this land as a site for building condominiums. The property committee of W.L.C. spent months trying to work out a deal with this doctor so that after his purchase he would sell the college 30 acres of this plot. The doctor was more than willing to take

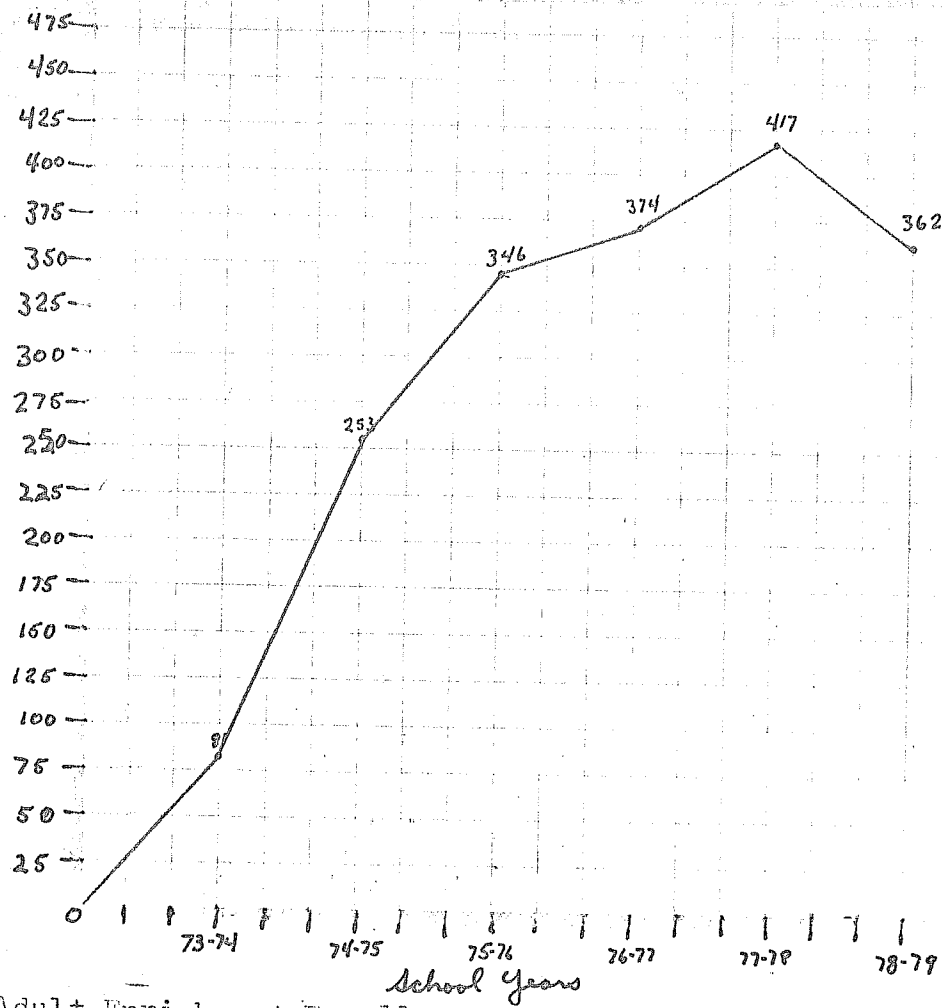
the college to the cleaners on such a proposal by giving a sales price of \$390,000 for a little more than half of the 50 acres. His contract also demanded that the college conference agree to help in paying for street and sewer improvements and for the expense of selling this program to the City of Brookfield. If the college didn't build in five years he was to be given legal rights to buy this land back from the association. Soon it became clear that Wisconsin Lutheran College would not build on this site. The conference board knew that they had all they could do to meet the present yearly budget of \$50,000. In retrospect, we can once again see the Lord's hand in what was happening. In the future He would answer the prayers for a permanent campus, but for now His children were to wait and grow.

### Sending Roots Deep Into The Ground, The Sprout Matures

On May 17, 1974, at the end of that first school year, a graduation service was held for Kathleen Reece. She was a transfer student to the new campus and the college's first graduate. Although rain put a damper on the festivities and drove them into W.L.H.S. auditorium, nothing could dampen the high spirits of the people who attended the service. This was a historical day. The school had survived the year, and the fruit of its efforts was one student with diploma in hand. This was a happy day and there would be many more of these in the near future.

In spite of financial problems and troubles finding a permanent home for the college, the Board of Regents, in October of 1974, decided to call a full time worker to the staff. The college was in need of its own president. He would be a man who could dedicate all of his time to solve the difficulties mentioned above, and by setting up a plan of attack for the school he could possibly head off future obstacles impeding its progress. Although repeatedly calling men to fill this position, another school year would go by before someone would accept this call.

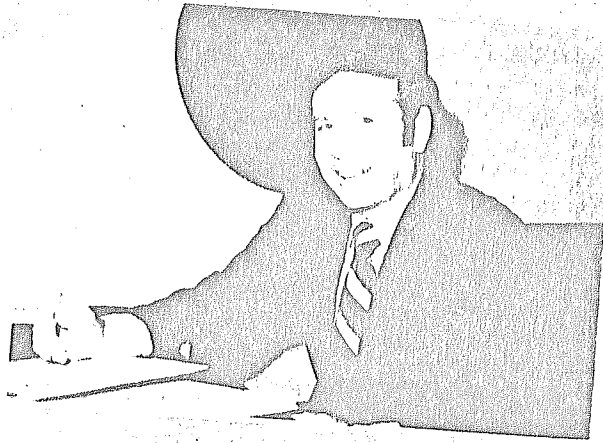
Even though it must have been disappointing when divine calls were returned to the Board of Regents, the progress of the college was very encouraging. Enrollment wasn't growing by leaps and bounds but it was holding its own. One program that really blossomed in the 1974-75 school year was the system set up for adult enrichment. Wisconsin Lutheran College was established to serve more than the students looking for two years of college credit. W.L.C. saw its mission in serving all adult members in our circles, helping them to grow in their understanding. In the spring of 1974, 81 people had attended a non-credit seminar on the Christian family. In the next



Adult Enrichment Enrollment Figures

school year adult enrollment in similar courses would more than triple. This liberal arts college was filling a need. In the future over 60 different courses would be offered to interested adults, ranging from oil painting to a study of the Book of Romans. Still today, this is one of the most successful programs W.L.C. offers.

It was in June of 1975, that our Lord moved a man to accept the call of college President. Gary Greenfield, a D.M.L.C. graduate and a teacher at Siloah Lutheran School, was that man. Holding a doctorate in the field of Education, he would be a definite asset to the growing school. Having Dr. Greenfield on campus, helped stabilize the situation of W.L.C. He set to work to establish definite goals for the institution which allowed him to start working toward important objectives. After



Dr. Greenfield, College President

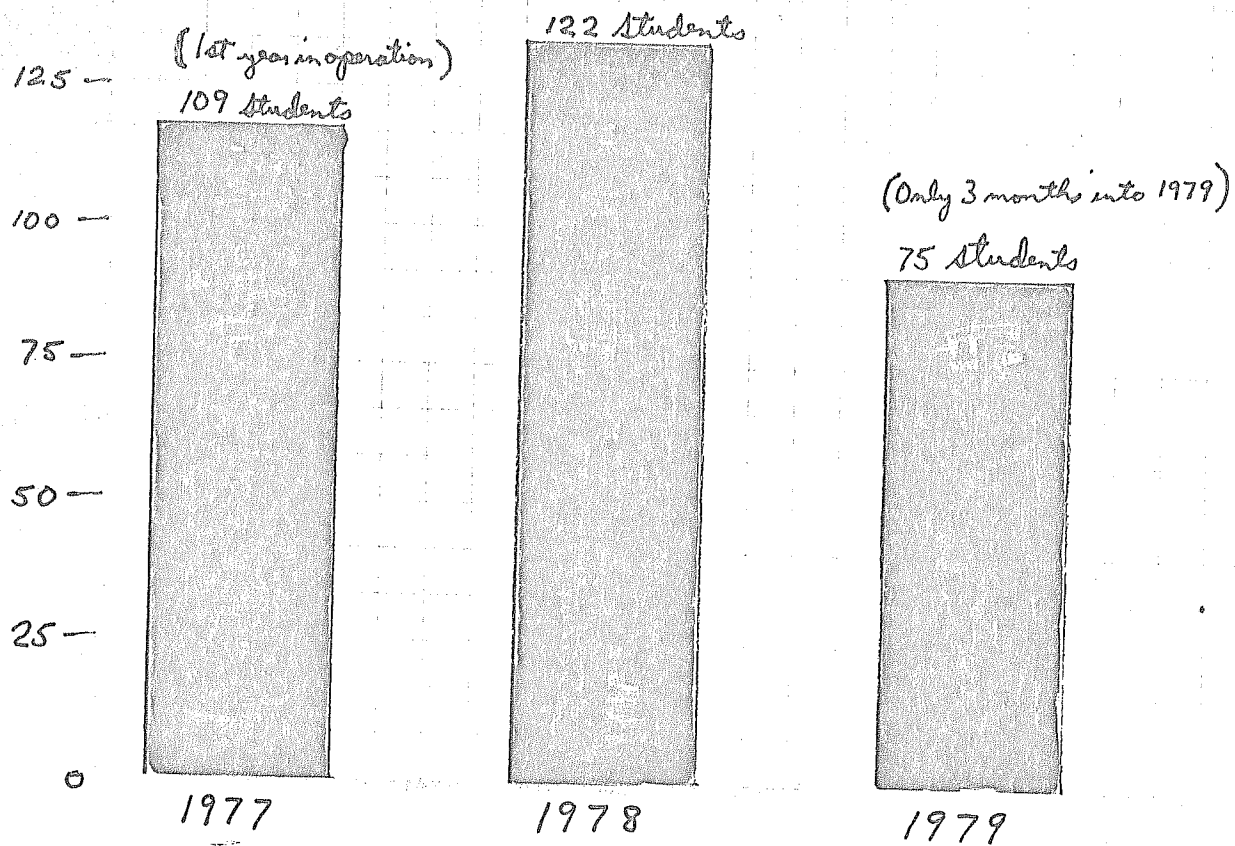
getting directives from the Board of Regents, it was established that the number one concern was to make W.L.C. a top notch junior college. This would mean that the President would work up ways of drawing more congregations into the College Conference, thus increasing the amount of support W.L.C. could depend on. He was to actively

involve himself in recruitment of new students and explore the possibilities of adding more full-time faculty members to the staff. He was to concern himself with securing a permanent grounds and plant for the institution to operate from, and of utmost importance, he was to work toward accreditation of this new school.

Dr. Greenfield was installed in this new position on September 14, 1975. As college president he immediately began striving toward the goals mentioned above. One of the major accomplishments that he saw through that first year in office, was the P.A.C.E. Program (Program of Adult Correspondence Education) By offering correspondence courses the college, would no longer have to restrict adult enrichment class to those who could drive to our campus. Now W.L.C. could serve our members nation wide. An added bonus of this program was that it served as a recruitment tool, making people aware of our presence and of our purpose.

Mr. James Wandersee was appointed to direct these special services. While his work at W.L.C. did establish the P.A.C.F. program, it also served as part of Mr. Wandersee's doctoral dissertation in the field of Communications. He devised a series of six lessons, each consisting of two half hour tapes. At the beginning of the course the student would receive an illustrated booklet filled with diagrams and response questions





The P.A.C.E. Program will serve over 300 people, nation wide, in its 3 year existence.

to the taped lesson. Upon completing the listening of a tape, the student would answer the questions in his workbook, write a 20 point quiz that accompanied the tape, and then send both the old tape and quiz back to W.L.C. When the college would receive this package, the quiz was corrected and sent immediately to the student with a new tape. Such taped instruction was not only economical but it also gave individualized instruction to people thousands of miles away from Milwaukee. This project was initially funded with a \$4,000 grant from Aid Association for Lutherans. Up to the present, this system has served well over 300 people throughout the United States.

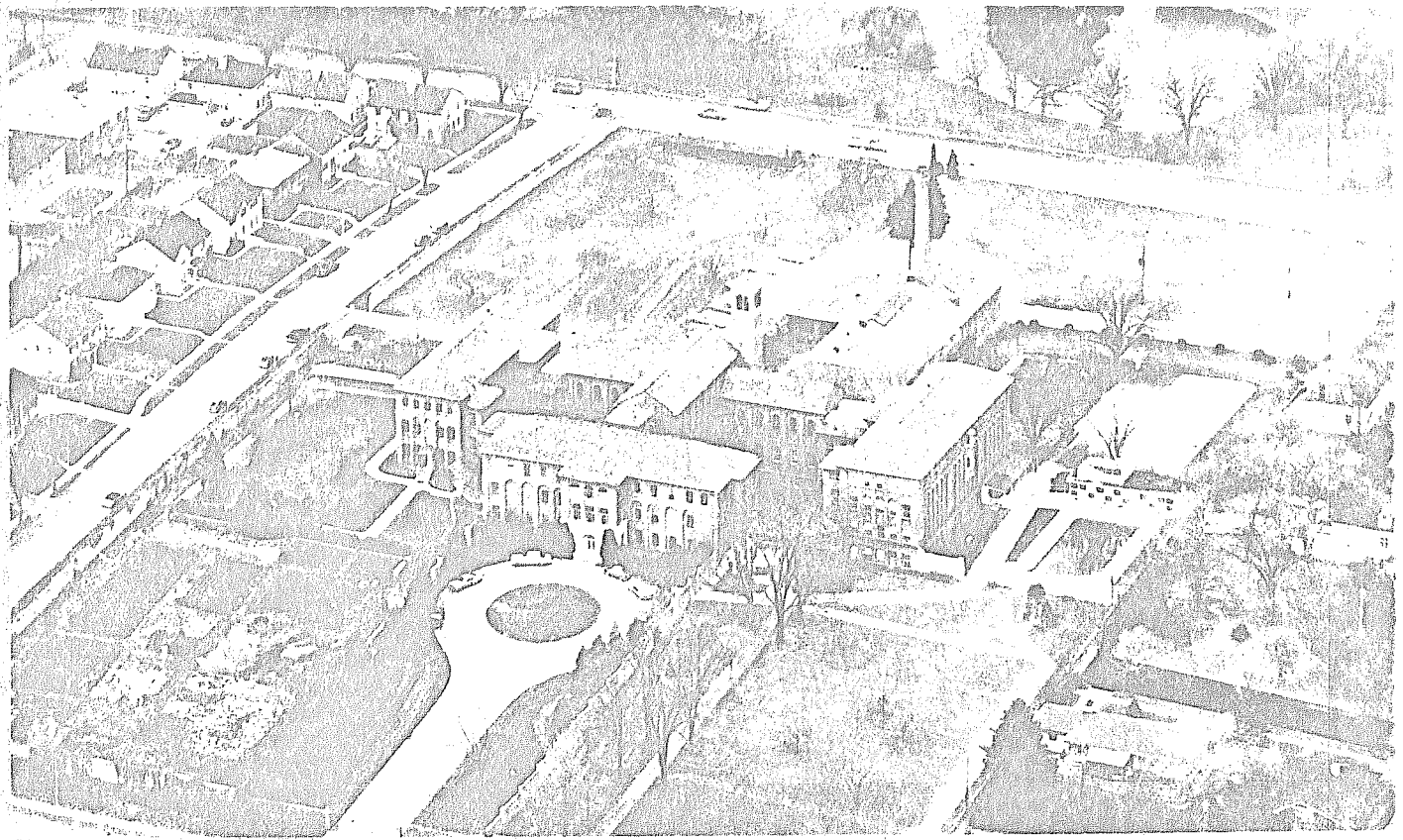
It was in September of 1976, that a status study of the college was submitted to the Board of Regents for their approval. This study along with \$1,500 was to be sent to North Central

Association of Colleges and Schools, in the hope that they would accept us as candidates for accreditation. Before this time the transfer of credits to other four year colleges was a thorn in the side for W.L.C. Teams from each four year institution would have to inspect the facilities and curriculum of W.L.C., and then if everything was acceptable, each school had to write us a letter of intent if they agreed to accept our credits. This was both a timely and a costly proposition, since it was the responsibility of the college requesting the transfer of credit to foot the bill for this visit. If North Central granted W.L.C. candidate status for accreditation, these headaches would be over and nation wide, universities would accept our credits.

North Central's recommendation arrived in February of 1977. When Dr. Greenfield read their report many felt like crying. Their recommendation to W.L.C. was that the college withdraw their application for accreditation. The school had a chance of being accepted, but if denied they would be penalized in that they would have to wait a full year before submitting another application. The reasons for this recommendation were that the college still had a shaky financial status; it lacked a comprehensive plan for the future; and of lesser importance, there was the lack of a physical plant and full time staff to operate it. W.L.C. took the advice of North Central. In about a year's time, a second attempt would be made. For the time being, the college would be content to work out agreements with individual universities to accept our credits.

Many important factors in 1977 helped the college to ready itself as it prepared to apply to North Central a second time. In March of '77, the college staff doubled when Prof. Roger Fleming accepted a call to be Professor of Biblical Studies. He was installed as the college's first<sup>full</sup>-time instructor in August of the same year.

After coming into existence, the greatest single blessing that W.L.C. ever experienced, happened in June of 1977. It was God's will that now the time was right for His college in

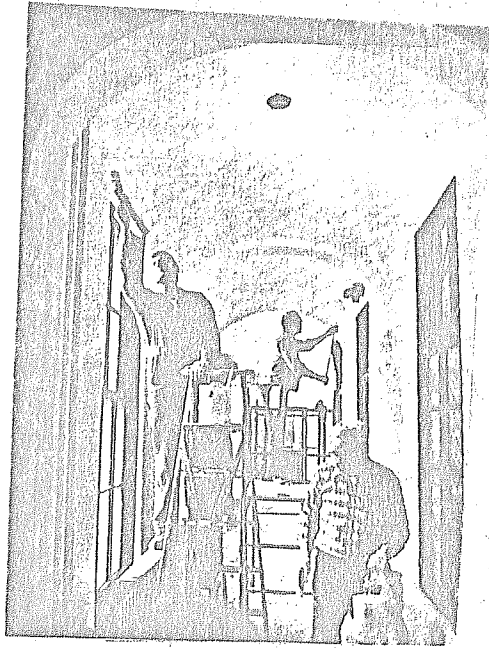


The House of Good Shepherd, The Present Campus of W.L.C.

in Milwaukee to have its own campus. In June of 1977, the House of Good Shepherd, a former girls home, was put up for sale. This institution was situated on 8.5 acres of land in the city of Milwaukee. The physical plant consisted of five red brick buildings with tile roofs and copper gutters. The interior space of these buildings was 91,000 square feet. As an added bonus, it had a beautiful chapel for spiritual exercise and an 85,000 gallon swimming pool for exercise of another variety.

The Board of Regents moved that Maynard Mayer and Associates, an architectural firm, be hired to research the construction of the buildings and the renovations they would require to house a college student body. Heating, plumbing, electrical and structural consultants as well as city building inspectors were called in to examine the facility. They unanimously agreed that the campus could easily be adapted for college use.

In July of 1977, in a special meeting, delegates voted

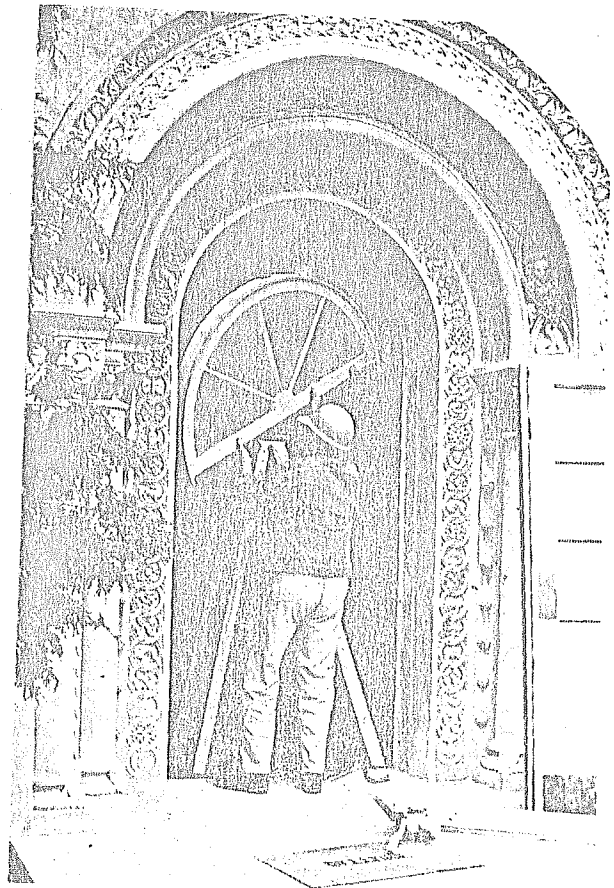


Remodeling Of Our Present Campus.

this school into the hands of the college conference.

In August of 1977, the administration began moving on to the new campus of W.L.C. In the months ahead, \$155,000 worth of remodeling would be done. Improvements had to be made to meet state building codes. Fire doors and walls had to replace conventional doors. A wheel chair ramp, exit lights, new plumbing, thermostats and emergency lighting were installed. Ceilings were lowered and lighting was updated. Walls were

overwhelmingly to offer \$750,000 to the sisters of this Catholic order for this property. Surprisingly the offer was accepted. I say "surprisingly" because the land alone was worth \$771,000 and the buildings were assessed at a value of 4.5 million dollars. The sister's who ran this home, sold it to W.L.C. because they wanted it to be used for the same purpose that it was constructed: as an institution of Christian learning. The sisters have to be commended for their dedication and the Lord has to be praised for placing



removed from between small rooms so that they could serve as larger classrooms. The greatest improvement was in the new construction of one floor in the women's dormitory, which included the completion of a new shower area and restroom.

With thousands of hours of donated time, a volunteer work force did much of the painting and cleaning that gave the campus a much needed facelift. Besides donating hours, friends of the college gave over \$160,000 in gifts for support of the new school campus. Another \$808,144 were acquired by the college finance committee in the form of membership loans and the college student center was sold for an additional \$99,640. God had given His children the means and the opportunity to establish a liberal arts Christian college on their own grounds, in their own buildings.

This college campus now had facilities to accommodate a student body of 350, provide office space for 30 staff members, and house 180 dormitory students. In the eyes of many, it appeared that God had once again given the true children of Israel the promised land.

### A Flower Blooms To God's Glory

Although physical remodeling continued at W.L.C. in the 1978-79 school year, the greatest amount of transformation occurred in other areas. A second application was submitted to North Central Association of Colleges and Schools. Because of a firmer financial base, added faculty members, and a beautiful teaching facility, Dr. Greenfield was pleased to learn on April 4, 1979, that we had been accepted as candidates for accreditation. This meant that credits would transfer throughout the United States; W.L.C. students would now be eligible for the Federal Government's Basic Education Opportunity loans and grants; and students from foreign mission fields would be able to enroll at our college.

Such remarkable news could only be topped by the addition of two more called faculty members to our staff. Pastor Paul Kelm, a campus pastor in Madison, accepted the call to be the college's first dean of students and teacher in the social sciences. Professor Luther Spaude, formerly a teacher at W.L.H.S., will be joining the W.L.C. family as a full-time professor in the natural sciences (specifically physics and chemistry). Both of these men can only add to the stability of this Christian institution, by sharing the large work load the staff now must carry.

If a person looks at our student body, he can't help but notice that the college is blooming. The first semester of this last year, we had an all time high enrollment of 51 full-time students. Other changes that affected students this year, were the starting of a school newspaper and a yearbook staff. A student body constitution was written and interscholastic women's sports are soon to be a regular part of campus life at W.L.C. In the future, all indications show the enrollment will continue to climb.

Other tidbits for a historical record might be that the college conference has now grown to 64 member congregations. They support this school with their dollars, and because of a service club which started this year, they can now better serve W.L.C. with their talents. The service club directs people to areas where they would enjoy working, whether that be with our mailing program, in our library, or on our grounds.

History is being made everyday this college continues to grow and change. Every new book that touches a library shelf, every improvement that makes education here more enjoyable, is a page in that on-going history. But the big story on how W.L.C. will shape Lutheranism in America is not in the history of our buildings or our staff. It is found in the personal histories of those that this college reaches.

We are not the "great white hope" of Christianity today, but I firmly believe that God's kingdom can only be better



A rear view of our campus which captures the symbol of our W.L.C.; the bell tower.

served through the operation of this school. A fine Christian man once asked<sup>reg. Q.</sup> what would happen to our church body if all of its 400,000 members were active leaders and evangelists in their home congregation. My answer to him was that with the direction and help of the Holy Spirit we could reach thousands of people with the Gospel, people who normally would never come in contact with W.E.L.S. pastors or teachers.

In a small way, Wisconsin Lutheran College, with the constant help of our Almighty Lord, is attempting to better train the lay membership of our Synod. This school is established to further the Christian education of this very group, so that they can better serve Jesus. Once again this year, 15 graduates will walk out of this institution with heads high and diplomas in hand. With joy in my heart, I eagerly watch them leave this campus, confident that the Holy Spirit has used the instruction of this college to strengthen them in faith and make them more zealous in confession.

What effect will Wisconsin Lutheran College have on Lutheranism in the future? I can't tell you, only God knows. But this I am sure of: if God can make a great plant out of a little mustard seed, than if it is His will, He can take this small Christian college and cause it to have a glorious effect on His Kingdom.