

WHERE DO THE PASTORS GO TO HIGH SCHOOL?

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There is nothing like a discussion (or argument) to get one to look at the facts about something. This study is the result of such a discussion. A classmate and I were discussing our worker training system. Both of us are products of twelve years in that system. He maintained that two-thirds of our pastors come from the system. I felt that it was less, but really had no idea what the percentage would be. So we looked at our class roster, and came up with about a third. Of those whose high school we knew, only one of three came through the Academies of our synod. (Actual research finally indicated 42%) Thus was born the idea for this paper. It seemed that a study of the past twenty-five or so years of Seminary graduates might indicate some trends. (Or at least settle our argument)

After a few phone calls and some asking around, I discovered that the only place this research could be done is here at the Seminary.

This paper is not written to discuss the Synod's system of worker training. Two papers come to mind which cover that subject. One is The Role of the Prep School in our Educational System, by Richard Strobel (June 1978). The other is Kingdom Balance, by Conrad Frey (Oct. 1984). The Strobel paper is on file in the Seminary Library, and I believe that the Frey paper is being processed, and will soon be on file in the library. The real purpose of this paper, then, is simply to give the facts and make an observation or two on numerical trends.

The study encompasses the Seminary graduating classes of 1960-1985. It is assumed that all in the class of 1985 will graduate. There is an eight-year lag between high school and Sem graduation, so the high school classes are, with several exceptions the classes of 1952-1977.

The raw data are given in Table 1. This table lists all the graduates, broken down by school for the twenty-six year period. This table is by far the most important table. It will form the basis for all the other tables, and will allow the reader to do his own studies if he is so disposed. It seems that the best way to present this is to give a few notes on each table, and then a few comments, table by table.

Table 1

The table begins with the four preparatory Academies of our Synod, Martin Luther Academy (since moved to Prarie du Chien), Michigan Lutheran Seminary, Northwestern Lutheran Academy, Mobridge, S.D. (defunct), and Northwestern Prep in Watertown Wis. These Academies are run with the sole purpose of providing candidates for the preaching and teaching ministries. Not surprisingly, NPS had the most graduates. Michigan Lutheran Seminary was second, which did surprise me.

The next portion of Table 1 deals with the Area Lutheran high schools. Not all of our high schools are named--only the ones with graduates in the ministry. In the coming years, schools such as Shoreland and Kettle Moraine will be represented. Wisconsin Lutheran High School leads this list, which is not much of a surprise. But coming in third was Luther High in

Onalaska, Wisconsin. This was unexpected.

The third portion of the first table is comprised of those who were in fellowship with us: Bethany in Mankato, MN; Concordia, Milwaukee; all the other Concordias around the country; and Milwaukee Lutheran High School. The numbers from these are not very important, but did at least seem to demand some kind of classification.

The final portions of the table are Public School students, and the total of each graduating class.

Tables 2 & 3

For the sake of spotting trends, Table 1 is broken down into five and ten-year periods.

Tables 4 & 5

In these tables, the numbers are broken down into types of schools. It is probably most helpful to look at the percentage tables. In them we see a declining role being played by the Academies. We also see a slightly larger role being played by the public schools, and a rapidly increasing role being played by our Area Lutheran High Schools. The category "Other" includes Bethany, Concordias, and Milwaukee Lutheran.

The statistics on Northwestern Prep were added since it is the largest feeder of students to the Seminary. The percentages show that Prep is playing a smaller role as a percentage of total graduates, and a slightly smaller role in the total of Academy graduates. The numbers have not declined too much, but the percentages have.

Tables 6 & 7

These tables are simply averages for each school. They are broken down into both five- and ten-year tables. Also listed are the twenty-six year averages. In any case in which the average is less than 0.5, an x is used to denote this. In this way, it is shown that a school did have some output in the designated period.

Tables 8 & 9

These tables are a mixture. They are averages by type of school. However, they find most of their basis in Table 4a and 5a. They are just averages of 4a and 5a. Again, Northwestern Prep is added for the sake of comparison.

Table #1 Year-by-year breakdown of students by school

| Year | MLA | MLS | NLA | NPS | East Fork | FVL | Lakeside | Onalaska | Manitowoc | Mich. Lu. | St. Croix | Winnebago | Wisco | Bethany | Concordias | Conc. Mil. | Mil. Luth. | Public | Class Total | |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------|-----|----------|----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|------------|------------|------------|--------|-------------|------|
| 1960 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 6 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 3 | 17 | |
| 1961 | 5 | 1 | | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 4 | 26 | |
| 1962 | 1 | 2 | | 10 | | | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | 17 | |
| 1963 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 12 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 2 | 20 | |
| 1964 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 4 | | | | | | | | 1 | 2 | | | | | 3 | 15 | |
| 1965 | 3 | 4 | | 13 | | | | | | | | | | | 1 | | | 9 | 32 | |
| 1966 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 12 | | | | | | | | 2 | | | | 2 | | 8 | 28 | |
| 1967 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 14 | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 3 | | 1 | 1 | | 8 | 36 | |
| 1968 | 4 | | | 19 | | 1 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 1 | 1 | | 1 | 32 | |
| 1969 | 3 | 1 | | 17 | | 3 | | | | | | 2 | 2 | | 2 | | | 8 | 39 | |
| 1970 | 5 | 1 | 2 | 13 | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | 1 | | | | | 9 | 33 | |
| 1971 | 6 | 9 | | 18 | | 1 | | | 1 | | | | 1 | | | | | 8 | 45 | |
| 1972 | 2 | 7 | | 17 | | 4 | | | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | | 2 | 42 | |
| 1973 | 10 | 4 | 2 | 23 | | 2 | | | 2 | | | | 4 | | | | | 8 | 55 | |
| 1974 | 2 | 9 | | 16 | | 2 | | | 1 | | | 1 | 4 | | | | | 7 | 44 | |
| 1975 | 4 | 10 | 1 | 12 | | 4 | | | 1 | | | | 3 | | | 1 | | 13 | 48 | |
| 1976 | 3 | 9 | 4 | 19 | 1 | 1 | | | 3 | | 2 | | 5 | | | | | 14 | 61 | |
| 1977 | 6 | 11 | | 18 | | | 1 | | 2 | | 1 | | 3 | | | | 1 | 12 | 59 | |
| 1978 | 8 | 6 | 3 | 22 | | 5 | | | 3 | | | 1 | 8 | 1 | | | | 8 | 64 | |
| 1979 | 7 | 10 | | 12 | | 3 | | | 2 | | | 1 | 3 | | | | | 12 | 51 | |
| 1980 | 3 | 14 | 2 | 9 | | 1 | | | 1 | | 2 | | 6 | | | | | 11 | 51 | |
| 1981 | 5 | 5 | 3 | 14 | | 2 | | | 3 | | 2 | | 5 | | | | | 16 | 55 | |
| 1982 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 21 | | 4 | | | 1 | | 1 | | 6 | | 1 | | | 9 | 60 | |
| 1983 | 2 | 11 | | 13 | | 1 | | | 4 | | 1 | | 4 | | | | | 11 | 50 | |
| 1984 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 18 | | 1 | | | 3 | | 3 | | 5 | | | | | 13 | 59 | |
| 1985 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 13 | | | | | 1 | | 2 | | 7 | | | | | 18 | 57 | |
| Total | 107 | 144 | 33 | 377 | 1 | 38 | | 3 | 27 | 20 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 73 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 219 | 1096 |

Table #2 Five-year totals by school

| | M | M | N | N | E | F | L | O | M | M | S | W | W | B | C | C | M | P | TG |
|---------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| 1960-64 | 16 | 10 | 3 | 44 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 14 | 95 |
| 1965-69 | 17 | 10 | 4 | 75 | 5 | | | | | | | | | | 6 | 7 | | 34 | 167 |
| 1970-74 | 25 | 30 | 4 | 87 | 11 | | | 5 | 5 | | 1 | 1 | 13 | 1 | | 1 | 1 | 34 | 219 |
| 1975-79 | 28 | 46 | 8 | 83 | 1 | 13 | 1 | 9 | 5 | | 3 | 3 | 20 | 1 | | 1 | 2 | 59 | 283 |
| 1980-84 | 20 | 42 | 10 | 75 | | 9 | 1 | 12 | 8 | 2 | 7 | 2 | 26 | | 1 | | | 60 | 275 |
| 1985 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 13 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | | | | | 18 | 57 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|----|-----|---|----|---|----|----|---|----|----|----|---|---|---|---|-----|------|
| 1960-69 | 33 | 20 | 7 | 119 | | | | | | | | | | 1 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 48 | 262 |
| 1970-79 | 53 | 76 | 12 | 170 | 1 | 24 | 1 | 14 | 10 | | 4 | 4 | 33 | 2 | | 2 | 3 | 93 | 502 |
| 1980-85 | 21 | 48 | 14 | 88 | | 9 | 2 | 13 | 10 | 3 | 9 | 3 | 33 | 1 | | | | 78 | 332 |
| 1960-85 | 107 | 144 | 33 | 377 | 1 | 38 | 3 | 27 | 20 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 73 | 3 | 6 | 9 | 6 | 219 | 1096 |

Table #3 Ten-year totals by school and Grand totals

Table 4a Breakdown by school types (5 year) 4b Breakdown by percentages

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-------|-----|-----------|----|------------|---|-------|----|--------|----|-----|----|-------------|----|--------------|---|---------|----|----------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| 1960-64 | 95 | Total | 73 | Academies | 1 | Area Luth. | 7 | Other | 14 | Public | 44 | NPS | 77 | % Academies | 1 | % Area Luth. | 7 | % Other | 15 | % Public | 46 | % NPS/Total | 60 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1965-69 | 167 | Total | 106 | Academies | 18 | Area Luth. | 9 | Other | 34 | Public | 75 | NPS | 63 | % Academies | 11 | % Area Luth. | 5 | % Other | 20 | % Public | 45 | % NPS/Total | 71 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1970-74 | 219 | Total | 146 | Academies | 36 | Area Luth. | 3 | Other | 34 | Public | 87 | NPS | 67 | % Academies | 16 | % Area Luth. | 1 | % Other | 16 | % Public | 40 | % NPS/Total | 60 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1975-79 | 283 | Total | 165 | Academies | 55 | Area Luth. | 4 | Other | 59 | Public | 83 | NPS | 58 | % Academies | 19 | % Area Luth. | 1 | % Other | 21 | % Public | 29 | % NPS/Total | 50 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1980-84 | 275 | Total | 147 | Academies | 67 | Area Luth. | 1 | Other | 60 | Public | 75 | NPS | 53 | % Academies | 24 | % Area Luth. | 1 | % Other | 22 | % Public | 27 | % NPS/Total | 51 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1985 | 57 | Total | 24 | Academies | 15 | Area Luth. | 0 | Other | 18 | Public | 13 | NPS | 42 | % Academies | 26 | % Area Luth. | 0 | % Other | 32 | % Public | 23 | % NPS/Total | 54 | % NPS/Acad. |

Totals may be found in 10 year table.

Table 5a Breakdown by school types (10 year) 5b Breakdown by percentages

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|------|-------|-----|-----------|-----|------------|----|-------|-----|--------|-----|-----|----|-------------|----|--------------|---|---------|----|----------|----|-------------|----|-------------|
| 1960-69 | 262 | Total | 179 | Academies | 19 | Area Luth. | 16 | Other | 48 | Public | 119 | NPS | 68 | % Academies | 7 | % Area Luth. | 6 | % Other | 18 | % Public | 45 | % NPS/Total | 66 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1970-79 | 502 | Total | 311 | Academies | 91 | Area Luth. | 7 | Other | 93 | Public | 170 | NPS | 62 | % Academies | 18 | % Area Luth. | 1 | % Other | 19 | % Public | 34 | % NPS/Total | 55 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1980-85 | 332 | Total | 171 | Academies | 82 | Area Luth. | 1 | Other | 78 | Public | 88 | NPS | 52 | % Academies | 25 | % Area Luth. | 1 | % Other | 23 | % Public | 27 | % NPS/Total | 51 | % NPS/Acad. |
| 1960-85 | 1096 | Total | 661 | Academies | 192 | Area Luth. | 24 | Other | 209 | Public | 377 | NPS | 60 | % Academies | 18 | % Area Luth. | 2 | % Other | 19 | % Public | 34 | % NPS/Total | 57 | % NPS/Acad. |

In both tables, the percentages may not equal 100 due to rounding.

Table 6 5 year averages by school (Based on Table 2)

x = less than 0.5

| Year | MLA | MLS | NLA | NPS | East Fork | FVL | Lakeside | Onalaska | Manitowoc | Mich. Luth. | St. Croix | Winnebago | Wisco | Bethany | Concordias | Conc. Mil. | Mil. Luth. | Public | Total |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|-----------|-----|----------|----------|-----------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-------|---------|------------|------------|------------|--------|-------|
| 1960-64 | 3.2 | 2.0 | 0.6 | 8.8 | | | | | | | | x | | x | x | x | 0.6 | 2.8 | 19.0 |
| 1965-69 | 3.4 | 2.0 | 0.8 | 15.0 | | 1.0 | | | | | | 1.2 | 1.4 | | 0.8 | 1.0 | | 6.8 | 33.4 |
| 1970-74 | 5.0 | 6.0 | 0.8 | 17.4 | | 2.2 | | 1.0 | 1.0 | | x | x | 2.6 | x | | x | x | 6.8 | 43.8 |
| 1975-79 | 5.6 | 9.2 | 1.6 | 16.6 | x | 2.6 | x | 1.8 | 1.0 | | 0.6 | 0.6 | 4.0 | x | | x | x | 11.8 | 56.6 |
| 1980-84 | 4.0 | 8.4 | 2.0 | 15.0 | | 1.8 | x | 2.4 | 1.6 | x | 1.4 | x | 5.2 | | x | | | 12.0 | 55.0 |
| 1985 | 1 | 6 | 4 | 13 | | | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 7 | | | | | 18 | 57 |

Table 7 10 year averages by school and totals (Based on table 3) x = less than 0.5

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---------|-----|-----|-----|------|---|-----|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|---|------|------|
| 1960-69 | 3.3 | 2.0 | 0.7 | 11.9 | | 0.5 | | | | | | | | x | 0.5 | 0.7 | x | 4.8 | 26.2 |
| 1970-79 | 5.3 | 7.6 | 1.2 | 17.0 | x | 2.4 | x | 1.4 | 1.0 | | x | x | 3.3 | x | | x | x | 9.3 | 50.2 |
| 1980-85 | 3.5 | 8.0 | 2.3 | 14.7 | | 1.5 | x | 2.2 | 1.7 | 0.5 | 1.5 | 0.5 | 5.5 | | x | | | 13.0 | 55.3 |
| 1960-85 | 4.1 | 5.5 | 1.3 | 14.5 | x | 1.5 | x | 1.0 | 0.8 | x | 0.5 | 0.5 | 2.8 | x | x | x | x | 8.4 | 42.1 |

Table 8 5 year averages by type

| | Academies | Area Luth. | Other | Public | Total | NPS |
|---------|-----------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1960-64 | 14.6 | x | 1.4 | 2.8 | 19.0 | 8.8 |
| 1965-69 | 21.2 | 3.6 | 1.5 | 6.8 | 33.4 | 15.0 |
| 1970-74 | 29.2 | 7.2 | 0.6 | 6.8 | 43.8 | 17.4 |
| 1975-79 | 33.0 | 11.0 | 0.8 | 11.8 | 56.6 | 16.6 |
| 1980-84 | 29.4 | 13.4 | x | 12.0 | 55.0 | 15.0 |
| 1985 | 24 | 15 | | 18 | 57 | 13 |

x = less than 0.5

Table 9 10 year averages by type and totals

| | Academies | Area Luth. | Other | Public | Total | NPS |
|---------|-----------|------------|-------|--------|-------|------|
| 1960-69 | 17.9 | 1.9 | 1.6 | 4.8 | 26.2 | 11.9 |
| 1970-79 | 31.1 | 9.1 | 0.7 | 9.3 | 50.2 | 17.0 |
| 1980-85 | 28.5 | 13.7 | x | 13.0 | 55.3 | 14.7 |
| 1960-85 | 25.4 | 7.4 | 0.9 | 8.0 | 42.1 | 14.5 |

x = less than 0.5

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As a student at the Seminary, I could not, of course, be allowed to examine student files. But President Schuetze came up with a compromise. I would work with a secretary, Mrs. Gloria Schumacher. She would go through the files and read off high schools from the Seminary applications. I copied this information down onto lists. Thank you to both President Schuetze and especially Mrs. Schumacher for their efforts on my behalf. Without their help there would be no paper.