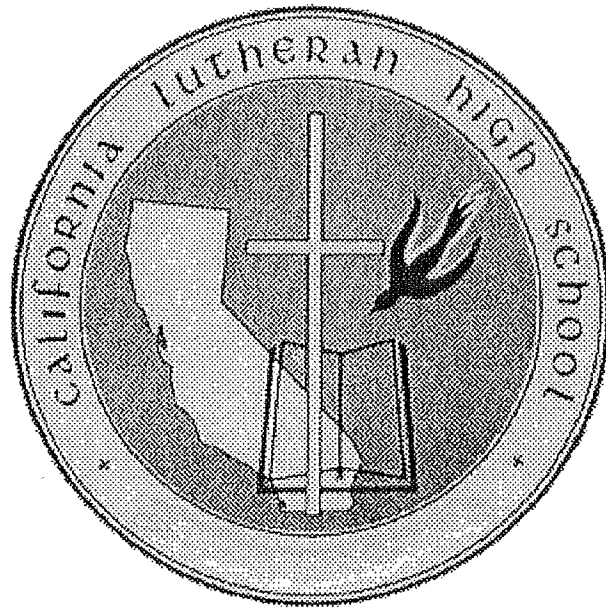


“On Him We Have Set Our Hope”

(I Corinthians 1:10)

A History of California Lutheran High School

Wildomar, California



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Church History Thesis

Professor John Brenner

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Preface

I personally would like to thank all the men, women and children who have been involved in, prayed for, and supported California Lutheran High School. Through your untiring labor of love Christian Secondary Education was made possible for me and many others. Also I thank the teachers who gave of their time and talents to share the Promise with me in and outside the classroom. Especially my thanks and praise go to the God on whom we have set our hope, not only for Christian Secondary Education, but also for the hope of eternal life. SOLI DEO GLORIA!

I would like to dedicate this paper especially to my father, Rev. Gerald Geiger, whom I have seen spend endless hours on the phone, on the plane, in meetings and in prayer for the continuance and support of CLHS for the last 23 years. I thank God for him and his untiring efforts on behalf of CLHS. The Lord has blessed every position he has held (Secretary of the Board [1974-1979, 1980-1986], Chairman of the Stewardship Committee [1986], Chairman of the Board [1987-1992], Head of the Funding Committee [1992-present] and as supportive parent [1985-present]) to make 20 years of CLHS history a reality.

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Lying in the shadows of the San Jacinto Mountains, California Lutheran High School

... exists to glorify God by using His inerrant Word to nurture discipleship in Christ, serving primarily the youth of WELS and ELS congregations, equipping them for a lifetime of service to their Savior in their homes, churches, vocation, and communities, and preparing them for eternal life. (Mission Statement of CLHS, 1996)

If one were to step on the eight-plus acre campus in Wildomar, the sight of structure and stability, learning and laughter, academics and athletics would meet his eye. The ground and buildings have a story to tell, but the story these structures relate would only be a small piece of the miracle that has taken place under the name of California Lutheran High School (CLHS).

The reader may know none, part, or all of the story. Through the work of this author and the words of these pages, may the miracle of CLHS unfold, your appreciation be heightened, and your thanksgiving be given to the One on whom, just as Paul did 2000 years ago, we have set our hope, namely our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Apostle Paul had a story to tell. To those who just met him, the miracle of his existence would have been clouded over by the miracle of the Savior he proclaimed. However, just as he saw value in letting his followers know the history behind the miracle of salvation, he also saw the importance of letting the people know the miracle of his day to day existence. So after a particularly hard and dangerous stint in the province of Asia, Paul writes to his followers in Corinth,

“We do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about the hardships we suffered in the province of Asia. We were under great pressure, far beyond our ability to endure, so that we despaired even of life. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. **On him we have set our hope** that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many. (I Corinthians 1:8-11)

The Apostle Paul knew that left to himself, he would not have survived the persecution he faced in Asia, from being stoned and left for dead to being caught up in a riot. He realized that through them all God taught him a very important lesson, “Rely on me, not yourself!” This truth Paul took with him throughout his mission work, confident that he could put his hope in God because God would always be faithful. Not only did Paul enjoy the faithfulness of his Savior, but he also realized the many blessings

God gave to him through the prayers of his fellow Christians. So they together, Paul and the believers, realizing the miracles God had performed, gave thanks to God for not disappointing their hope.

Permitting a few minor changes, these verses accurately describe the history of the miracle of CLHS and become the theme for this paper.

“We do not want you to be uninformed, supporters of CLHS, about the hardships we suffered in the state of California. The school was under great pressure, far beyond its ability to endure, so that many despaired even of the school’s existence. Indeed, in our hearts we felt the sentence of death. But this happened that we might not rely on ourselves but on God, who raises the dead. He has delivered us from such a deadly peril, and he will deliver us. **On him we have set our hope** that he will continue to deliver us, as you help us by your prayers. Then many will give thanks on our behalf for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many.”

This truth, “On him we have set our hope,” was used as the sermon theme for the installation service of CLHS’ first principal, Rev. Milton Burk. In 1977 the group of believers who had gathered at King of Kings Lutheran Church in Garden Grove looked back at how the Lord had made possible the opening of an institution of Christian secondary education in California. All those who were present realized that the Lord was the one who had brought them to that point on January 23, 1977 and would carry them into the future. Pastor Lowell Smith of San Diego “directed his listeners not to set their hope on their new principal nor on themselves, but on the God who raises the dead. Through that powerful God, the high school will become a reality” (*Northwestern Lutheran*, March 20, 1977, p. 88).

By God’s grace the high school did become a reality. Why? CLHS was born, not because the constituency placed their hope in themselves, but because they placed their hope in “that powerful God who raises the dead.” Those gathered at the installation service had no idea where the Lord would lead the high school. Many had hopes and dreams, but no one knew which ones would happen and which ones would not. Together they were certain of one thing: a hope placed in the Lord would not be disappointed. With expectation, trust and patient waiting, the miracle of CLHS unfolded.

Now, 20 years later, 1997, we, as a united group of believers, look back and give thanks to the Lord for the gracious favor he has “granted in answer to the prayers of many.” The road was long. Smooth spots gave way to potholes, potholes gave way to chasms, but through it all, the beginning struggles, the threat of closings, the multiple moves, and the day-to-day rigors, the Lord has never given a reason to lose hope. He has taught CLHS as a child. He has matured it as a teenager. So as we look

back with thanksgiving, we look forward, placing our hope in the same place as we did 20 years ago, that the Lord will nurture CLHS into adulthood in the 21st century.

On Him We Have Set Our Hope . . .

. . . To Provide Christian High School Education in California.

The thought of an institution to provide Christian secondary education in the southwest part of the United States came with the first missionaries who worked in the area in the first half of the 20th century. As President E. Arnold Sitz reported to the delegates of the 7th Biennial Convention of the Arizona-California District,

“One deep regret dogs the twelve years of our District. Already in 1923 the Synod envisioned a secondary school for Arizona. Twice since we became a District (February 22, 1954) the Synod resolved to give us such an institution. Twice it was frustrated. Everybody agrees that secondary education helps to put a bit of steel—if the school be conducted on the solid Word of God—into the concrete life of any section of the Church” (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1966, p. 10).

The first frustrated effort was reported to the Convention in 1956.

We have suffered a grave disappointment in the year past. Opportunity was offered to acquire a fully equipped boarding school for academy purposes for far less than half its worth. Though Synod at Saginaw was favorably impressed and indeed voted its purchase, later on it found itself unprepared to go through with the project. While this has put off the opening of an academy into the further future, we have the word of the Synod that the Arizona-California District is in line for such an institution. (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1956, p. 9)

From 1956 to 1960 the interest in and support for an academy in the AZ-CA District increased. Early in 1960 a piece of property became available in the Tucson, AZ area which looked suitable for an academy location. Because of the known financial woes of the Synod at large, the committee gave this recommendation to the Convention:

Therefore this committee recommends that the Arizona-California District endeavor to establish a Lutheran Academy Association for the purpose of raising the necessary funds from interested individuals to hold the site now available in Tucson in the hope that future developments may enable the Synod to acquire the property for an academy. (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1960, p. 31)

This effort became the second frustration.

Despite the frustrations with obtaining Synod support for an academy, the constituency of the AZ-CA District was determined to keep the hope of establishing a place of secondary education in their area alive. In 1966, reality of the Synod's financial situation caused the focus to shift from a Synod

sponsored Academy to a "District boarding high school or academy" (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1966, p. 38). A resolution was drafted and passed to establish a "Committee [to] survey the District as to potential for students, financial support, and all items related to the establishment of a District boarding high school or academy; . . ." (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1966, p. 38).

The five men chosen for the Committee (Pastors Gotthold Zimmermann, Lowell Smith, Silas Krueger and Robert Waldschmidt, Chairman and Teacher F. Moeller) went to work "to solicit information from the constituency of the District regarding the establishment of a Christian secondary institution of learning in the District." Their first meeting was held at Our Savior's Evangelical Lutheran Church, Pomona, California on July 10, 1967.

The Committee, recognizing what is a realistic situation in Synod, resolved to direct its attention away from Synodical aid and a synodically-established Academy to an indigenous school The Committee decided to implement its discussion and conclusions by searching out the thinking of the membership of the District through as thorough a questionnaire as possible (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1968, p. 35).

The questionnaire revealed both obstacles to and support for starting a high school. The obstacles to overcome included the following: 1) no great concentration of interest outside of King of Kings congregation in Garden Grove, 2) "the reluctance of parents to send their youth to a Lutheran High School where boarding was necessary," 3) "the financial inability of the membership of the District to support a high school," and 4) "the geographically wide-spread nature of the District" (over 2500 miles!). The support for the high school was evident 1) in the willingness of a number of volunteers to band together in whatever way to help discover means to have Christian secondary education in the District, 2) in the "surprising lack of fear on the part of enough parents to make a beginning student body for a secondary Christian facility," and 3) by enough interest to keep the hope of a high school alive and moving forward. (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1968, p. 36) The questionnaire led to the following recommendations by the Committee: 1) Begin to think in terms of areas (rather than the district as a whole) in this matter of secondary education, 2) Band area congregations together for the purpose of forming associations of congregations in order to labor toward area Lutheran High Schools, and 3) appoint a Standing Committee whose duty it shall be to further Christian education in the District at the secondary level. (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1968, p. 37)

For another two years the Committees labored and the conversations continued, but with few new ideas and little forward progress. The report to the 1970 District convention encouraged the delegates to join “in frequent prayer and ask that a full program of Christ-centered education become a reality in our district.” In addition, the Committee presented three options to the district to study. 1) Memorialize the Synod to establish a synodical academy in our district, 2) Study area high schools . . . and set up guidelines and suggest minimum standards for congregations desiring to start an area high school on their own, and 3) Establish a scholarship fund for young people to attend a synodical academy. (*AZ-CA District Proceedings*, 1970, 38-39)

Confident the Lord would provide secondary education in the district when he saw fit, the Committee went about its work to study the three options. Silas Krueger, as Chairman of the Committee, reported to the 1972 District Convention on their findings. Even though he touched on all three options, the majority of his report dealt with option number two. His report (*See Appendix A*) became the action plan to start an area Lutheran high school in California.

Two months prior to the June 1972 District Convention, the California Delegate conference, sensing the possibility for a Synod supported district academy was all but gone, authorized the appointment of “a committee to initiate the founding of a high school in California” (*The Lutheran High School News (TLHSN)*, p. 3). The appointment of this committee was the first step to narrow the scope of the high school from the district at large to only California. Taking the lead from other area high schools and the outline given by Krueger, the California Delegates, in the spring of 1973, “encouraged the formation of a California Lutheran High School Association of interested Christians of the California Conference congregations” (*TLHSN*, vol. 1, no. 1, p. 3). To facilitate the forming of an association, Convention Chairman, Rev. Armin Keibel, appointed the California Lutheran High School Committee with Rev. Hermann John as its chairman (By the next year, 1974), the California Lutheran High School Committee [CLHSC] was expanded to 12 members [*See Appendix B*]. Shortly thereafter the Committee began to solicit interest and membership for the California High School Association through individual contacts and congregational meetings.

Excitement penetrated the California Conference in the spring of 1974 when the first issue of *The Lutheran High School News* was sent out to interested families of California. The mailing of this newsletter marked the official beginning of the California Lutheran High School Association (CLHSA). Hermann John captured both the thrill of the moment and the awesomeness of the project undertaken.

A birth of a child is an exciting event in the lives of us Christians. We feel especially excited about this "birth" – the California Lutheran High School Association. With this newsletter we are beginning a new venture among us California Christians. We pray that it may be a start of something wonderful that will touch the lives of many of us . . .

. . . I admit that we do not as yet know where the Lord is leading us in this endeavor . . . but I do know that He wants us to provide Christian education for His children, for he has commanded us, "Feed My lambs." And He has promised to go with us to bless us as we carry out that command, for He has promised, "Lo, I am with you always." (John, *TLHSN*, Vol. I, No. I, p. 1)

With full trust and hope in the Lord, families joined the Association to make Christian high school education a reality. By April 1, 1974, 420 families in 22 congregations had joined the Association. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Belmont¹, with over one half of its members already a part of the CLHSA, became the first congregation to join the Association. With St. John's, Tarzana as its center of operation until incorporation was possible, the CLHSA continued to promote the idea of an area high school in California.

A common theme that ran through conversations, public or private, and meetings, committee or CLHSA, was a genuine commitment to Christian education. The Holy Spirit had led the families of the California Conference to realize the importance of establishing a firm foundation for their youth in Christ, both at the elementary level as well as at the secondary level. This conviction and this conviction alone was what made the Association a reality and what would prove to be the impetus behind the actual start of the high school.

Christian education erects a sound superstructure on the solid foundation – Jesus Christ. Christ is the center of everything taught. Every bit of knowledge and every principle of conduct rests on Him. Christian education is of value for time and eternity. It brings a blessing to the individual, to the family, the church, and the community . . . Let us not forget the wisdom of establishing a Christian high school to continue our task of erecting a sound superstructure of Christ-centered education on the solid foundation of our Savior's work. May God enable us to do this! (*TLHSN*, Vol. 1, No. 2, p. 1)

¹ Gloria Dei would continue throughout the years to be in the top five congregations (along with King of Kings, Garden Grove; Reformation, San Diego; St. John's, Tarzana; and Gloria Dei, Sierra Madre) to support the high school, especially financially.

The Lord continued to bless the efforts of the Committee and Association with forward movement and growth. Of first priority was to draft a constitution and to incorporate. To this end the CLHS Committee labored at their first meeting (October 20, 1974 at Gethsemane Lutheran Church in Los Angeles). In addition, promotional materials entitled "Teach Them Diligently," which included flipcharts, a Leadership Handbook, and slides, were distributed to area managers throughout California to use in congregations to gain support for the high school. Also of note was the adoption of the official seal of the Association (*See Appendix C*).

The high school moved one step closer to reality when the CLHSA members met for the first time in Bakersfield, California, in September of 1975. The agenda for the meeting centered on the approval of the constitution and the election of the Board of Directors (*See Appendix D*). Once the formalities of organization were complete, the Association set an ambitious goal of September 1977 as the target date to open the long dreamed for California Lutheran High School. The work to be done in the next two years was immense. The constitution had to be approved by the state of California. Membership had to be increased. Finances had to be raised. A location had to be secured. A curriculum had to be formulated. Staff had to be called. Students had to be recruited. The obstacles of small numbers and great distances still had to be overcome. Dedicated individuals, hoping in the Lord, pressed on.

At the second annual meeting of the CLHSA (May 15, 1975 in Fresno, CA) some of these questions started to find answers (i.e. proposed curriculum, increased membership, finances, etc.) while additional questions were raised. Of glaring reality was the cost of obtaining a permanent facility. Established sites ranged in price from \$250,000 to \$5,000,000. Since the total worth of the Association at the time was slightly over \$21,000, the immediate reality of this option soon faded. The recommendation by the Board to forgo the immediate purchase of a permanent site to begin in temporary facilities was tabled after a discussion arose as to whether it would be better to work toward establishing area high schools in California versus the establishment of just one high school. Having decided to focus its efforts on one high school, the CLHSA set some guidelines for the purchase of a permanent site. The site was to be an undeveloped piece of property to allow for gradual development as need arose and funds became available. In addition, an amount of \$500,000 and \$4,000/month in contributions was set as the

minimum before a land purchase and building program could be undertaken. This financial reality and challenge plagued the Association for years to come. Since a permanent facility was not yet feasible, the Association gave the Board of Directors² authority to select the best temporary facility.

By summer of 1976 two areas were identified as possible locations for a high school: Garden Grove area (6 congregations, 1342 souls with 195 children in Christian Day Schools) and the San Jose area (5 congregations, 1047 souls with 165 children in Christian Day Schools). Since the San Jose area was independently looking to start secondary education, the Site Selection Committee targeted the Garden Grove area as the most advantageous area to start a high school for four reasons. 1) The Garden Grove area had the largest concentration of WELS membership. 2) It had the largest grade school enrollment of the state. 3) The congregations were willing to aid in the governing of the high school, and 4) Major freeways were close by (CLHSA Board of Director Minutes, 8/14/76). On August 14, 1976 the Board resolved to start California Lutheran High School in the Garden Grove area.

The next step was to call a principal. Knowing the task of beginning a high school would not be easy, the Board requested a man with the following qualifications: 1) Be a steadfast, sincere Christian, 2) Be synodically trained and certified—either pastor or teacher, 3) Be academically qualified to obtain state certification, 4) Be an experienced educator, 5) Be familiar with curriculum development and supervision, 6) Be familiar with the operation of our Lutheran high schools and academies, 7) Possess administrative and executive ability, and 8) Possess a friendly, outgoing personality to interact with parents, students, faculty and staff as well as promote public relations for the CLHSA (CLHSA Board of Director Minutes, 8/14/76). At the following Board meeting, the Holy Spirit guided the Board to call Rev. Milton Burk, already a member of the CLHSA Board of Directors, as the high school's first principal. (Duties, cf. 10/16/76 CLHSA Board of Director Minutes) Within a few weeks the Lord led Pastor Burk to take on the awesome challenge of being the school's first principle.

The opening day goal of September 1977 fast approached. The Site Selection Committee worked hard to find a spot on which to hold classes. The Board of Directors was refining their individual duties

² Rev. Milton Burk Chairman, Mr. Chris Hester, Vice Chairman, Rev. Gerald Geiger, Secretary and Mr. Al Nelson as Treasurer

to make efficient use of their time and talents. The Curriculum Committee was pouring over other school's curriculums to decide what classes were necessary to include in the first years of education. The Finance Committee traversed the state promoting the high school and securing funds for its operation. The Publicity Committee was busy printing and mailing materials to the Association and prospective Association members. All their efforts, whatever they were, were based on the certain hope that the Lord would bless their school with a building, students, teachers, and finances to miraculously bring to reality a dream which had started so many years ago.

Probably the most pressing challenge during the final months before September 1977 was the securing of a sight for the high school.³ Hopes were high when the Site Selection Committee reported on a school site in the Pomona area, Parnell Ranch. The Parnell Ranch School was located a few miles south of Pomona, ten minutes from the Ontario airport (ironically close to where the school is currently located!) The facility consisted of two classroom buildings, a dining facility, two dormitory units, a swimming pool and a stable on 18 acres of land. The plan was to negotiate a lease for the property with an option to buy it for a price less than \$250,000. Board secretary, Rev. Gerald Geiger captured the sentiment, "We can only pray that God will make this a reality. Indeed the Lord has opened a door. We await His direction to see if we will be permitted to enter" (Letter to all pastors dated 10/20/76).

The Parnell Ranch School site, part of a larger 160-acre lot, seemed like an ideal location for the beginning and future of CLHS. Seeing the potential, the Negotiating Committee, chaired by Al Nelson, offered to purchase from Jamestown College (the owners) an 18-acre parcel of the land, which included the buildings for \$350,000. As the offer sat in the hand of Jamestown College, the Association waited anxiously for their decision. When nothing was heard, Al Nelson followed up with the Realtor only to find out the property had been sold in total (all 160 acres) to a local developer. Realizing that Jamestown College was holding CLHSA's offer as a backup pending the sale of the entire property, Nelson, although

³ The first CLHS structure could rightfully be a folding chair in the parking lot of King of Kings Lutheran Church. As the Board tried to nail down a location for a high school, the constituency of the state was having a hard time supporting something they knew didn't exist. As Pat Foley, a dedicated Board member and an individual who had a hand in many of the proposed and actual sites, was talking to Ray Manthe, principal of King of Kings grade school, he grabbed a folding chair and placed it on the parking lot and said, "All we have to do is call this California Lutheran High School and people will support it, even if it is a folding chair!"

dejected, advised the Board to realize that this was the Lord's will and he would "lead us to the right location" (Parnell Ranch Property Report, 2). As the targeted opening day drew closer and a permanent site seemed more distant, the Site Selection Committee followed the resolution of CLHSA and directed its efforts to securing a rental facility in the Garden Grove area.

At the April 1977 meeting of the Association, excitement filled the air as the goal of September approached, but yet not without hesitation. One of the biggest concerns was the financial basis. According to the resolution of the Association at its second meeting in Fresno, classes were not to begin until funds were secured for an entire year of operation in addition to holding sufficient funds for the equivalent of two or three full time instructors.

Despite the financial shortcomings, the Association, hoping and trusting in the Lord, continued on toward the opening day in September. The Curriculum Committee presented its proposed class schedule to the Association for approval (*See Appendix E*). The challenge with the curriculum was to provide as much as possible with the limited resources available. The goal of the curriculum was to offer a general pre-college education, provide interested students with the classes to continue their studies at synodical schools for the pastoral or teaching ministries, and help those who learned at a slower pace.

The next step was to secure students for opening day. The challenge was increased by the uncertainty not only in the location itself, but also in the Boarding possibilities. Despite these major uncertainties, the Association had to know if there would be students to show up in September, only four months away. Principal Burk sent out a letter to all the parents of prospective 9th and 10th graders to alert them of the status of the high school, inform them of the proposed tuition fees (\$500 for member/ \$700 for non-member⁴), and have their indication of the willingness to enroll their student. The numbers, while not large, 14 for the 9th grade, did indicate willingness on the part of parents to send their children to this pioneering project.

With September only months away the Board authorized the Site Selection Committee to look into the renting of portable classrooms to situate on the property of King of Kings Lutheran Church in

⁴ For comparison, tuition rates for the '97-'98 school year are set at \$3200 for members and \$3900 for non-members.

Garden Grove. Upon approval of a conditional use permit by the city of Garden Grove, this, along with the library room of King of Kings Grade School, became the temporary facilities for the opening of CLHS. The closing notes by Secretary Geiger reflected the realization of the immensity of the project the people of California had undertaken, "As the Board and its committees work toward the opening of the high school, we ask for your prayers and financial support. This is a major effort and requires the support of as many as possible" ("Notes" CLHSA Board of Directors, 6/11/77).

September 11, 1977 was a historic date for all those who prayed for, labored for and dreamed of a WELS Lutheran high school in California. With an opening service at King of Kings Lutheran Church, the people of California gathered to thank their God for giving them their high school and asked his blessing on what would be years of blessings and challenges for CLHS. The following day, September 12, was the actual first day of class for a group of 10 freshmen, three boys and seven girls⁵. Finally Christian secondary education had come to California. High school students in California would now have the opportunity "to find identity, meaning, purpose, and power for their life in Christ by growing in grace and in their knowledge of Him as their Lord and Savior (2 Peter 3:18) . . . (and to be given) help to live out their life in unselfish Christian service to the world (1977-78 *Catalog*, Philosophy and Purpose) (See *Appendix E*).

For the first five weeks of class this group under the teaching of Principal Burk and other part-time teachers met in the library of the King of Kings grade school. Finally the permits were acquired and the building became a classroom on October 18, 1977.

The first portable classroom (affectionately known as "The Ark" after a rainstorm surrounded the classroom with water; Principal Burk was known as "Noah") would soon prove inadequate for the growing enrollment. Again the members of the Board went to work, this time to find a permanent site for the high school.

⁵ The first class consisted of six local students, Dawn Fitzgerald (Garden Grove), Diane Fletcher (Santa Ana), Penny Foley (Garden Grove), James Godfrey (La Habra), Scott Henricksen (Los Alamitos), Tim Houser (Anaheim), and four boarding students, Katherine Kaiser (Escondido), Andrea Porter (Oceanside), Yvette Radi (Pomona), and Sherri Sprague (Phoenix). Two of the boarders stayed with Principal Burk and the other two, one each, with local students. Of note is that one of the students repeated the ninth grade just so that she could have a full four years of Lutheran secondary education.

On Him We Have Set Our Hope . . .

. . . *To Provide a Permanent Facility.*

The location of a permanent site would prove to be of utmost importance in establishing a sense of permanency and stability to the high school in the minds of the Association members. As Jim Sievert indicated in the minutes of a April 21, 1978 meeting, "We feel that it is imperative for the high school to receive its own identity which it cannot have at King of Kings . . . We feel that everyone in California must start thinking in terms of California Lutheran High School and not as the Garden Grove Lutheran High School." To this end the Site Selection Committee strove. Despite being hampered at times by the lack of finances and the lack of direction, the Committee, having placed their hope in the Lord, was confident the Lord would provide a permanent facility.

By January of 1978 the Site Selection Committee had honed in on a 15.4-acre site in the Corona area. However, since the financial burden was too great for the Association, the acreage was narrowed to 5.45 acres at a cost of \$75,000. Because of the distance from Garden Grove, the main concerns in this purchase were housing and transportation. Even though the resolution to purchase these 5.45 acres was defeated, a resolution was passed to move the school into temporary facilities rented from the United Methodist Church in Corona. Despite the resolution, the move never materialized and the 1978-79 school year opened in the "Ark" at King of Kings.

By November of 1978, the Lord, after closing the door to Corona, opened an opportunity for the high school to move to Tustin. Due to a decrease in elementary enrollment in the Tustin Unified School District, the Sycamore Elementary School in Tustin was offered for lease. A special meeting of the Executive Committee authorized bidding on a three-year lease for the entire facility. With the savvy of a professional businessman, Board Chairman Chris Hester negotiated a number of subleases to bring the actual cost of the first year to the high school down from \$42,100 per annum to \$10,100 per annum. The facilities were perfect for a growing school and reasonable enough to alleviate some of the financial stress of the school. The facility covered 12 acres and provided eight classrooms, office space, a multipurpose

building, and large athletic fields. Truly there was reason for CLHS supporters to give thanks on January 3, 1979 when the move to Tustin had been completed.

During the stay in Tustin, the search for a permanent facility continued. Feelers were sent throughout the state to identify possible permanent site locations for the high school. The criteria for the site were identified as 1) Land for future expansion, 2) Availability to transportation, 3) Available medical facilities, 4) Buildings (classrooms, kitchen and dining area, dormitories or similar facilities, library), 5) Recreational facilities with a total minimum size of five acres of land. Since the lease at Tustin was only guaranteed through June of 1983 the Site Selection Committee recommended the beginning of a fund to allow the next move of the high school to be to a permanent site.

For a short time in the spring of 1982, a parcel of land was offered for free in connection with the Prince of Peace congregation in Yucaipa. Although the costs of buildings and housing would be significantly less than in the Garden Grove area, the lack of funds to build sufficient facilities, the distance from the largest number of commuting students and the distance from the larger WELS congregations all played into the dismissal of this property option.

As CLHS continued to grow, the need for boarding facilities grew more acute. Many members of King of Kings congregation opened their homes for this purpose⁶, but as the number of boarding students grew over 45, the need for some other facility was apparent. Two options presented themselves to meet the need. One was to open mini-dorms. These facilities were actual houses that would board up to six students (maximum allowed under California law) under the supervision of a "dorm mom or dad." Beginning with the 1983 school year, one mini-dorm operated under the supervision of Greg Bork. By the end of the school year, Pat Foley had secured the use of a dormitory facility in the Tustin area run by the Orange County Catholic Diocese, Sisters of the Company of Mary. Although no full-time boarding students could stay here due to the use of the facility by the Diocese for weekend retreats, it did alleviate the large number of part-time boarders from the in-home boarding program. Penny Bartol and Lee Rodewald became the first dorm supervisors of this facility.

⁶ Pat Foley, head of the boarding program at the time, once had 7 students plus three children of their own in their three-bedroom house. Space was added in a room addition to the garage and a camper trailer.

The Lord gave a boost to the dream of a permanent facility when in his wisdom he called to his home Renata Greder (member of Prince of Peace in Yucaipa). Out of faith she left a large portion of her estate to the high school. The Board decided to designate a large portion of the approximate \$155,000 to the purchase of land for a permanent site, while using a minimal amount for the operating budget.

As the Tustin area continued to grow in size, the fear hovered in the back of many minds that one day the Tustin Unified School District would want their school back. With prices for land and facilities only climbing and the gift of the Greder estate in hand the Association purchased a parcel of land in Rancho California for the price of \$175,500. The 54 acre parcel of land was located in a growing area of Riverside County. Initially purchased for its investment value, a committee⁷ was formed to determine its feasibility for its use as a future permanent site for the high school. The initial building plan called for an investment of \$2,000,000 for a facility for 150 students. The site itself would allow for a school of up to 600 students.

In March of 1986, the inevitable happened. The Tustin Unified School District, feeling pressure from the taxpayers to open more schools, was forced to look at the seven facilities they were leasing out to other parties. The Sycamore Elementary School was one that was to return to the TUSD. Although the lease CLHSA held on the property ended in June of the same year, the school board allowed the lease to be renewed for one year, through the 86-87 school year with a "no comment" on future lease options.

The abrupt release from the Tustin facility proved to be the beginning of ten years of movement and uncertainty for CLHS. Over the course of the nine years in Tustin, the sense of permanency and stability had allowed the enrollment to grow over 100. To maintain this type of momentum and stability, the Board had to give the constituency a sense that there was a place for CLHS to continue. This was the challenge. This was the center of many prayers.

The Lord did answer the immediate need by allowing CLHS to use the Tustin facilities for one additional year, but the end was imminent. Although the Association continued to develop plans for the use of the land at Rancho California, the pressing need of a facility for the 88-89 school year carried the

⁷ The committee consisted of J. Clasen of Fallbrook, chairman; J. Schlepp of Oceanside, R. Dyrssen of San Diego, D. MacDonald of Riverside, and A. Silvola of Fallbrook. George Kelly of Belmont offered his services as design engineer to design the facilities.

day. Neither was there a way the funds would be available, nor would time allow for a school to open in Rancho California by September of 1988. With the uncertainty of a site and the woeful financial situation the Site Selection Committee posed three soul-searching questions to the Association members in March of 1987. 1) Do we want a high school in California? 2) Will we support a high school? 3) Will we accept and support a high school in Rancho California? With faith and renewed financial support the high school continued.

At a November 1987 meeting, Mr. Mark Olsen presented a possible temporary facility for the high school, the Geisler Middle School of the Huntington Beach school system. With 10 acres and space for 900 students, the option seemed adequate space-wise, but a stretch financially (\$80,000/year). Another option in the Huntington Beach area was the Burke school property. Prince of Peace in Yucaipa again offered the use of their site on a temporary basis only.

As the Tustin lease came to an end with the end of the 87-88 school year, the need for a facility grew. Options were high priced (especially when they were compared with the \$15,000 that was being spent on rent) and the pros had to be carefully weighed against the cons. Time was needed but time was of the essence. Suggestions even included going back to the portable classrooms at the King of Kings property in Garden Grove. However, the Lord presented another option; one much more desirable than those previously offered. The Newport Christian High School property of 1.32 acres became available for purchase. Through a number of private investments and a deal involving the Rancho California property, the property would be sold to CLHS for \$1.5 million. The facility, other than the lack of outdoor athletic fields provided all the needs of the high school, including office space, fifteen classrooms, gymnasium, and kitchen facilities.

Along with this option, Pat Foley discovered a lease option at a Jewish Community Center in Garden Grove. This facility would provide minimal facilities and athletic fields. After the bid to buy Newport Christian was rejected and the lease on one of the Huntington Beach sites was given to another party, the Board was left with the option of the Jewish community⁸ center for classes the following year.

⁸ At a rental cost of \$90,000/year, many of the dollars committed to Newport Christian were designated to offset the high rental cost of the Jewish Community Center.

Unfortunately the damage was already done. The insecurity and unknown future of the high school during this year dealt a blow, in students and support, from which CLHS is still recovering. After all, the final arrangements for the new school year were not finalized until June of that year, after the spring semester had ended. With the high cost of the lease and less than ideal facilities at the Jewish Community Center, the Board continued to search for a permanent facility, confident the Lord would provide.

Throughout the 1989-90 school year, proposals and options for permanent sites were presented to the Board. The Burke and Geisler sites in Huntington Beach, along with the Lake Elsinore Hospital Site and Mission Valley sites all were considered to a greater or lesser degree. Since using the Rancho California property as the future high school site was determined not to be feasible, the resolution was made to sell the property and use the funds for "the purchase and/or building of a permanent CLHS site." The unfortunate turn in the economy of the Rancho California area made the sale of the property proceed slower and at a lesser profit than originally expected.

As the Rancho property failed to sell and the lease options with Huntington Beach were faltering the Board, at the suggestion of Rev. Gerald Geiger, shifted their attention north to Penryn (30 miles north-east of Sacramento) and the property adjacent to Hope Lutheran Church. The 10-acre parcel of land was offered for purchase for \$400,000. As the push was made to purchase this land⁹, a three-year lease agreement was signed with the Huntington Beach School Board for the use of the Burke Elementary School site.

The Burke site served adequately as the fourth location of CLHS, but the lack of permanence permeated the feeling of the constituency. As a result enrollment continued to fall and operating costs continued to rise. At the end of the three-year lease the Association would insist that the next move be to a permanent facility and that money be sunk into our own property rather than just to pay the rent.

⁹ The Penryn property was actually purchased by the Lutheran High School Foundation (a foundation set up in support of Christian secondary education in California) with the prayer it would be of benefit to the high school in the future. When the LHSF was unable to maintain payments, several individuals assumed ownership. After a steep decline in the property value, the land reverted back to its original owner. All told, the deal netted a loss of approximately \$100,000.

However, during the three-year interim, efforts continued to be made to study the feasibility of the Penryn property for high school use.

As the Board continued to deliberate what was the right move, Ken Peterson in his principal's report to the Board of Director's on December 8, 1990 expressed the frustration held personally, within the faculty and throughout the state at large.

... everyone wants to do the right thing, but no one can agree what the right thing is. In my opinion this has been the CLHS story for the past fourteen years. We should be much larger and more established than we are. More congregations should be seeing the need for Christian education on the secondary level. With each new board of directors come new ideas about what the right thing is. The result has been years of indecision and frustration that several times has resulted in board members' resignations, strained relationships between the CLHSA and congregations, and some loss of financial support. The circumstances that have necessitated our three moves have cost CLHS greatly in the growth of our student body, stability of our program, curriculum growth, wear on our faculty, and overall credibility of our high school.

I feel that this board would be making a serious mistake in abandoning the goal of acquiring our own facility. We would also be turning our back on thousands of hours of meetings, and years of promises to our constituency of a plan for the future that includes our own site . . .

It takes strong leadership to lift a school from one phase of development to another. I'm confident that you men have the God-given gifts and love for our high school to do just that. The Lord has promised us His unfailing help as we carry out His Gospel work, and we trust in that promise.

He continued in his report to the February 23, 1991 Southern California Delegate Conference.

... With each move there have been some setbacks and some blessings. Our loss of two previous locations may be warning signs that we need to do more than just talk about our future. Stability is a key issue in seeking larger enrollment that will better support our program. In my opinion, stability will only come when we can provide a permanent site.

It is most important that as we look to a future site for CLHS we attempt to put aside our personal reasons for wanting our high school in a specific area. A division of our high school association will not result in stability. If every member of the CLHSA had his wish granted about where CLHS would be, there would be twenty Lutheran high schools in this state. It would be an answer to many prayers if all of our congregations in California could make a commitment to Christ-centered secondary education to the degree of saying, "Let's fully support California Lutheran! Let's encourage the purchase of a site--be it ever so humble--where we can have our own classrooms."

With that hope and confidence the Board under the leadership of Chairman Gerald Geiger, moved forward to obtain this goal, rejoicing all the way that the Gospel ministry to teens in California had been allowed to continue despite the shortcomings and setbacks.

After a sizable change of personnel in the school board of the Huntington Beach School District, the fear again was heightened that the facility would have to be relinquished back to the District. Even though Mr. Peterson tried to reestablish a rapport with the Huntington Beach Board, the reality of a summer 1993 move became more acute.

The Lord answered the prayers of CLHS by opening a door to purchase an 8.12 acre piece of land in Wildomar, about 45 minutes from King of Kings in Garden Grove and the same from the churches in the San Diego area. A special meeting of the Association held in November of 1992 considered the purchase of this land for \$1,158,000. Having been given a preliminary "OK" by the Association at the November meeting, Larry Walter and Mark Olsen proceeded to work out the details of the property financing and feasibility to present to the regular meeting of the Association in January of 1993. With the blessing of the Association, the sale of the Rancho California property, and the willingness of the bank to carry both a sizeable loan and a \$300,000 note from the previous owner, the hope of a permanent site for CLHS was finally realized. With an ambitious goal to open the 1993-94 school year on the new campus, the leaders of the Board went about the task, under the theme "God Gives--We Build" to solicit funds from the members to make the new permanent site for CLHS a reality.

As with anything in California, the bureaucracy and the fees charged for permits, grading, landscaping and buildings caused the development of the property to move at a slower pace than originally hoped. From time to time the future of the property development was touch and go. Permits, landscaping, and other projects to meet Riverside County and California building codes were eating up the gifts of the people. Inaccurate bookkeeping and unforeseen costs ^{caused} allowed the Association to nearly go bankrupt. Yet the Lord answered prayers and allowed the miracle of the high school to continue in Wildomar through gifts and low-interest loans from friends of CLHS.

With the opening of school in 1993 only a few weeks away, the county of Riverside still had not granted a conditional use permit for the use of the property to operate a high school. This was vital to proceed with the moving of portable classrooms and dormitories onto the site. Many were wondering if the county requirements would ever be satisfied. As the opening day of classes drew near, St. Stephen's in Fallbrook agreed to temporarily house the high school until it could occupy the Wildomar site. With four classrooms and cramped quarters the facilities were less than ideal, but greatly appreciated considering the circumstances. As it turned out, the high school remained at St. Stephen's for the entire school year. Meanwhile, the Board of Directors, especially Frank Hastings, worked hard to meet the county requirements (fire safety, water and sewer, electrical, flood control, landscaping, traffic flow, street

improvements, etc.) to allow the high school to open in Wildomar for the 94-95 school year. The preschool did not help matters much by not complying with local or state requirements. To make matters worse, they had to be forced by the high school to comply in order for CLHS to get their needed permits.

By the end of November 1993, the county had approved the conditional use of the property. Having gotten over this hurdle, the portable classrooms were moved on site with dormitories to follow a few months later. By the grace of God work continued on the property to prepare it for opening of the '94-'95 school year. But as the day grew closer, still the county had not given full rites for the high school to occupy the property. In desperation, Mark Olsen, chairman of the Board of Directors appealed to the County of Riverside to issue a temporary occupancy permit. "We want you to understand that this temporary occupancy permit could very well be essential to the survival of California Lutheran High School" The high school really could not suffer another major blow to its student body or support base. Permanency needed to be established if the high school were to survive.

Even with the opening day of classes put off a week, then two, the county did not allow the property to be occupied. As a result the Board made emergency provisions to hold classes at the Rancho Community Church until such time as the property could be occupied. As the Lord tested the limits of all those involved, from the Board to the boarders, from the faculty to the parents, from the supporters to the students, he never gave them a reason to doubt that the hope of a permanent facility would not be realized. On November 18, 1994, a portion of the hope was realized as the county of Riverside authorized the use of the classroom facilities.¹⁰

With a united voice of thanks for past and present blessings and a confident hope for the future of CLHS, the members of the Association gathered on January 28, 1995 to dedicate the permanent site of CLHS to the glory of God. In the worship service at Christ the Vine Lutheran Church in Temecula, Pastor Armin Keibel, through the words of Philippians 4:13, "I can do everything through him who gives me strength," reminded those gathered that as they were dedicated to Christ, he had been there in the past to help through the troubles and grant many blessings and he would continue to guide them into the future.

Today we of CLHS dedicate our own new campus for Christian education. The Lord Jesus Christ has given and has promised many challenges. He has shown us how to meet them. His Word testifies that we can do all things through Him who gives us strength. We have had Him behind us. We have Him before us. We are dedicated to Him. We are dedicated to Christ. This justifies our existence! (Conclusion to Pastor Keibel's dedication sermon)

Following the worship service, the group moved to the quad area on the campus of CLHS for the reading of the dedication rite by Pastor Gerald Geiger.

Just as graduation day in 1981 was a landmark day as the first class graduated from CLHS, so graduation day of 1995 was a joyous and momentous day as nine seniors became the first group to attend classes on and to graduate from CLHS' own property¹¹. Just as Homecoming 1981 was the first homecoming game played at CLHS, so the Homecoming game of 1995, the first to be played on the new CLHS football field, was the first true "homecoming" for the school that had been wandering around without a permanent home for 18 years. TO GOD ALONE BE THE GLORY!

Even though the ground the students walk on is the permanent home of CLHS, the work is not done to establish a sense of permanency. The Board and Association continue to strive, under the fundraising chairman, Rev. Gerald Geiger, to obtain a permanent structure on the property to serve in lieu of the portable classrooms. The dream is to have a permanent facility to accommodate the academic and athletic program by October of 1997. To this day, prayers rise to the throne of our faithful God on whom we have set our hope, to provide the miracle gift for this permanent building.

On Him We Have Set Our Hope . . .

. . . To Provide Financial Support.

Probably one of the biggest debates in the history of the high school in California was over the question, "Is it worth it?" The question has been asked for years. From the beginning, the Synod at large debated the question as they wrestled with the decision of whether or not to start a synod academy on the

¹⁰ The dormitories were not occupied until the fall of 1995. Even then, the actual permit was not received until months later.

¹¹ Principal Ken Peterson had promised the class of 1994 that they would graduate from the site in Wildomar. As a result the class of 1994 became the first to have their graduation ceremony at Wildomar even though they had never attended classes there.

West Coast. The original committee members debated whether or not it was worth it to tax the small numbers of congregations and individuals in California with an added burden of supporting a high school. The California ^Mmission Board, with 35 of 44 California congregations on some sort of mission support in 1977, debated whether those congregations should be able to support the high school in addition to their responsibilities to their other debts. Even during the existence of the school, the debate continued as the cost per student fluctuated between ~~\$7,000-12,000~~ \$7-12,000. Was the immense cost of secondary education worth the price?

In response to this question, Silas Krueger wrote in his report on Secondary Christian Education to the 1972 AZ-CA District convention,

There is no denying the fact that Christian education costs are great—even astronomical—but this does not lessen in the least their need and value. I feel, however, that the Lord of the Church has not left us impoverished and financially unable to achieve the establishment of area high schools It would be giving in to the materialism of the world and disdaining the gifts of God, it seems to me, if we allow ourselves to think that we cannot generally afford high schools

Of those who would contend in a general way that we cannot afford Christian education I would ask the question, "Can we afford not to have agencies such as area high schools?" The spiritual attrition rate among the youth in our congregations generally has reached what we could properly term an alarming rate. If any modern business corporation were experiencing the loss or turnover in customers that we experience among our young people, that corporation would do some serious "soul-searching." Can we, who are dealing with the immortal, blood-bought souls of our youth, be any less concerned? I think not! What is more, Scripture itself has given us the directive for counteracting the forces of evil—an on-going and thorough program of Christian education.

Finally each of the members of the CLHSA had to decide whether a dollar figure could be placed on the soul of a teenager. If they agreed with the feelings of Krueger, then the answer to the question was easy. If the high school would provide the means by which the Holy Spirit would keep another sheep safe in his fold for an eternity, then whatever the cost, it was worth it. The cost was great, but the consequences were greater. This conviction continues to motivate many people to put aside personal wealth to share the wealth of the gospel with teens, one at a time.

Despite the conviction in the importance of secondary Christian education, still the challenge for a limited member base to provide enough funds for the ongoing and capital expenses of a high school located in California was great. Rarely was there a month when the treasurer didn't use phrases like "minimal income this month," "income was less than needed for the month," "we have deficit of . . .," "we have a budget short fall of . . .," in his report to the CLHSA or the Board of Directors. But yet more

often than not, the Lord allowed these reports to be followed up with phrases like, "a generous gift was given," or "we have met our expense through a special gift." Somehow and sometimes in miraculous last minute gifts the Lord provided.¹²

From the beginning the Association realized that the cost of providing high school education in California would be expensive. With land, buildings and cost of living higher than most parts of the United States, the high school realized the immense financial challenge they were undertaking. The original Association committee took this challenge before the members under the theme of "Teach Them Diligently" to encourage people that "God does great things through small numbers of people." God certainly would have to do great things through a small number of people as they saw the budget rise from \$44,000 in 1977 to over \$108,000 the following year with increases each successive year. The dollars were committed on paper under the stewardship program entitled, "Pass It On," but the challenge was for the people to follow up by giving what they had committed. By the end of the 1979 school year, the high school realized a budget shortfall of \$14,000.

Only two years into their existence the questions again had to be asked, "Is it worth it?" and "Can we afford it?" In a letter dated June 17, 1979, from Rev. Jon Mahnke of Carlsbad, California to Rev. A.B. Habben, president of the CLHSA, Mahnke expressed sincere concerns about the ability of California to financial support a high school.

After wrestling with the problem for quite some time now and after a great deal of discussion with others and after an abundance of prayer, I have come to the conclusion that we should realistically face the facts. California Lutheran High School is most desirable to have. We've worked for it. We've prayed for it. However, I am now of the opinion that the escalating costs are beyond the ability of our small base of support to handle.

And when commenting on the 33% increase in the budget from the amount of 1979-80, he said, "Only a miracle of God could produce that amount in 1980-81."

In response to Mahnke's concerns and others like him, the Association held a special meeting in August of 1979 to seriously look at the financial future of CLHS and its ability to continue. Even though the result of the meeting was a proposed "bare-bones" budget and a salary freeze for the called workers,

¹² On one occasion as Jerry Baldwin was describing the dismal financial situation of the high school, Mr. Peterson handed him a check for around \$30,000 to cover the expenses. A gift that was given only a short time earlier provided another small miracle for CLHS.

the answer to the question, "Is it worth it?" came back again a resounding, "Yes!" "We are confident that the Lord will bless our school if we only put our trust in Him" (*TLHSN*, vol. VI, no. 4, p. 1).

With confident trust and ardent zeal, Stewardship Committee members headed by Rev. Hermann John continued to solicit funds from the members of the Association and others. Time after time, with the future of the high school hanging in the balance, appeals went out for funds. Time after time the Lord opened the hearts of his people to give generously, sometimes thousands at a time. As an example, in August of 1983 CLHS was blessed with a nearly \$150,000 gift from the estate of Renata Greder for the use toward capital expenditures (see history of the permanent facility).

In addition to soliciting funds, the Board realized that enrollment was critical to achieve financial stability. So in 1983 the funding effort shifted its emphasis from outright gifts to increasing enrollment. Through a campaign called, "We Are Family," the Stewardship Committee introduced the "Adopt a Student" program where a family could financially support a student through their gifts, rather than an outright donation. This seemed to help increase enrollment, but again the high school found itself with a projected budget deficit of \$25,000 in the winter of 1985. Like 1979, the 1985-86 budget deficits caused the members to again ask the question, "Can we survive?"

Not only was the financial status of the high school in trouble during these years, but the high school was also losing a sense of credibility. For years the Board had sent out appeals to the people for funds. Now it seemed as though the Board was "crying wolf" too often. Some were skeptical of the high school's management of the funds they received, especially in connection with the purchase of the Rancho California property since there was no plan as to how to develop it. In response to that year's (1987) funding campaign, "Because We Want You To Know," many were surprised the high school had been doing as well as it had for as long as it had. Only one answer could be given. The hope that was placed in the Lord was not disappointed.

Little by little the Lord provided. Month by month the high school survived. Sometimes the Lord answered in big ways such as a \$30,000 gift by a family in January of 1989, a \$50,000 gift from the Tiegs estate in 1991, a \$200,000 gift in 1994 for the building of a gym and classroom building, and a

\$500,000 interest only loan in 1996 to reduce operating costs. However, even with these and many other gifts, the struggle to survive continued.

As the high school was forced to pay high rents after the move from Tustin, the 1990 the budget grew to nearly \$480,000 which stretched the giving limits of 20 member congregations and 3,700 CLHSA members. Even a \$100,000 line of credit at a local bank could not stave off another financial crises in November of 1991. The congregation support was half of what it was the previous year and the treasurer, Jerry Baldwin, was predicting a \$136,000 end of the year deficit. As a result mandatory bills, such as salaries, insurance, and lease payments could not be paid. The Board addressed the problem in a meeting on October 12, 1991.

We need \$20,000 by the end of the month, thus we need to aggressively get the word out on our financial crisis. We discussed ways to address the problem. We have no source for borrowed funds. Suggestions included hiring a business manager, calling emergency association meeting, write letters to parents and member congregations and raise fees and tuition. After discussion, it was suggested we have a special association meeting on Saturday Nov. 2, 1991 at 9:00 A.M. at CLHS. In the letter to announce the meeting, emphasis will stress the severity of our current financial condition and the importance of the meeting to the immediate and long term future of CLHS (Minutes, Board of Directors, 10/12/91).

As a result of this emergency meeting, the tuition rate was increased to eliminate some of the shortfall. However, in an attempt not to lose students who could not afford the increase, which would add to the financial woes, a portion of the tuition could be given as a donation to allow for a tax deduction.

In less than a month, the Lord answered the prayers of the high school by allowing \$50,000 to be given to CLHS through the Tiegs estate. Also the members of Association congregations responded to the challenge so that in January of 1992, the treasure could report, "Congregational and individual offerings have increased significantly" (Minutes, Board of Directors, 1/10/92). The increase was short-lived and again in October of the same year, congregational giving was again down 30% from the previous year. Budget cutbacks at the congregational levels were cited as a reason for the shortfall. Despite the situation, the Lord opened the hearts of individuals to respond to the challenge.

The greatest challenge in the financial history of CLHS began with the move to Wildomar. Despite the efforts of the "God Gives—We Build" stewardship program, the high school found themselves buried under the construction costs. Bill after bill came due to pay the cost of obtaining the permits and preparing the property for occupation. Complicated by the retirement of long-time bookkeeper Jerry

Baldwin, the high school did not often have accurate figures as to the money they owed. As the county continued to drag their feet in granting occupancy, the Board began to investigate the particulars of the accounts owed. As a result of the study, the high school found themselves, for all intents and purposes, nigh unto bankruptcy. Moneys had been overspent to the tune of \$180,000. Contractors hired attorneys, filed liens and even lawsuits to reclaim the moneys the high school owed them. Meanwhile, as Board Chairman Mark Olsen noted on January 5, 1995 in his "State of the School" report, "Contributions to the building committee have been reduced to a trickle It would appear that without a significant upturn in financial support, CLHS will be unable to meet its obligations and develop into the future."

Amidst the prayers and praise of thanks at the dedication service of the Wildomar site in January of 1995, the grim reality of the financial crisis was brought before the Association members. A plea went home with every member to pray on behalf of the future of the high school. Without another miracle, CLHS would have to file bankruptcy. Again the Lord did not disappoint. Through the work of a task force, problems were identified in the areas of communication, poor spending of funds, and confidence in the high school itself. The Lord used this task force to set up a program of matching funds (Joining Hands—Matching Funds Partnership) and increased communication among the CLHSA. so that by June 1, only five months later, the people had responded with gifts to eliminate the operating debt. Within a year the past due bills related to the construction activity were paid in full. Rev. Gerald Geiger, Chairman of the Funding Committee reported to the Association in the May 21, 1995 meeting.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY! PRAISE TO THE LORD! THANK YOU, LORD! Thus far has the Lord helped us! God has heard us in the day of trouble, he has answered our prayers and we have reason to glorify him. May we continue to seek his help and follow his direction.

Even though the Lord provided for a miracle to eliminate much of the debt, an ongoing basis of financial support had to be secured. "The Lord has allowed us to take some big steps forward toward a blessed future. With his help and guidance let's build on the foundation so that many generations to come can benefit from the ministry of CLHS" (Geiger in his report to the Association, 5/21/95). In Him we place our hope to provide financial support.

What the total number of dollars is that has been given to the high school is unknown, but one thing is certain the Lord has provided a miracle. By all estimates and figures the small number of people

in California shouldn't be able to support a high school. By God's grace working in the hearts of people dedicated to Christian secondary education, he has provided for its existence. To him alone be the glory!

On Him We Have Set Our Hope . . .

. . . To Provide Dedicated Leaders

Over the course of twenty years, many individuals, too many to mention them all, have been instrumental in bringing about the day to day, year by year existence of CLHS. However, just as a group of soldiers is disjointed and lacks unity without a leader, so the efforts of the high school would have been disjointed and lacked unity without the blessing of dedicated leaders. Certainly many men have played leadership roles on committees and the Board, but in a high school setting none is more prominent than the principal.

Three men have served in this capacity over the past 20 years. God has used each man for different purposes, at different stages of the history, with unique talents and strengths to lead the high school from infancy to adolescence into adulthood.

Rev. Milton W. Burk (nicknamed "Noah" [see page 11]) brought many years of Christian education experience to the state of California. His first formal experience¹³ in the education field came shortly after his graduation from Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary when he taught at the Lutheran High School in Milwaukee from 1945-1946. A few years later he served as an instructor and dormitory supervisor at Northwestern Lutheran Academy in Mobridge, South Dakota (1948-1950). After serving for 15 years in the parish ministry, Burk returned to the education field as the dean of students at Milwaukee Lutheran Teachers College in 1965. Five years later he moved to New Ulm, Minnesota where he served as the dean of students and instructor at Martin Luther Academy. In 1973 he accepted the call from Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Yucaipa, California to serve as their pastor.

Within that same year, Burk became involved in the work for a high school in California when he was appointed to the California Lutheran High School Committee as a member of the Constitution Subcommittee. Seeing the skills and drive of a leader, the Association members elected him to be the first

chairman of the Board of Directors in 1975. As Chairman, Burk helped the Association develop long and short-term goals for the development of the high school, traveled many miles to promote the high school, and spent hours developing the constitution, formulating a curriculum, finding a site, and attending to many other particulars necessary to open the high school. In 1976 the Association, having much respect for the personality, talents and qualifications of Pastor Burk, extended the call to him to be CLHS' first principal at the October 16 Board meeting. After much prayer and deliberation the Lord led him to accept the call in December of the same year. In the January 1977 issue of *The Lutheran High School Newsletter*, Burk commented on some of the reasons he decided to accept this challenging call. First of all he was confident the Lord would "equip, prepare and fortify" him for the call. Second, he saw the hand of God preparing him for the task with the years of experience as dean and instructor at various institutions. Third, he saw with the increasing number of Christian day schools, the need growing for a "facility in which teenagers of our congregations can daily be under the influence and guidance of the Good Shepherd." Fourth, he realized the great support of the people in California for such a facility, and fifth, he saw the confidence those that had called him placed in him and his abilities. "What an honor! What a privilege! What an opportunity for service! Under the circumstances, how could one decline?" (Burk)

After his installation in January of 1977, Burk spent most of his weekends on the road preaching in the area congregations and promoting the high school. Time spent at home was used to attend meetings, follow-up on possible enrollees, and prepare classes for the upcoming opening school year. Life did not slow down for Burk when the Lord allowed CLHS to open in September of 1977. Burk had many hats to fill from full-time teacher (religion, English and math) to full-time dean to full-time principal to full-time administrator to admissions officer and others. Those that remember him inevitably comment on his dedication to see the dream of a high school become a reality for the people of California.

Despite all the rigors of his schedule as well as the setbacks and disappointments of the infant years, Milton Burk continued in his classes, in meetings, and among the faculty to keep the primary purpose of the high school before everyone's eyes.

¹³ As father of ten children, Burk had plenty of informal education experience in the home!

... it is well to remind ourselves that our high school is still intended to be in a very real sense a workshop of the Holy Spirit in which the entire academic and extracurricular program is anchored in the Word of our God and centered in Christ, the Savior and only Hope and Help of sinners. (Principal's report to the Association, March 21, 1981)

After five years as principal, Burk accepted a call back into the parish ministry to serve in Prescott, Arizona. Principal Burk certainly was a blessing to the fledgling high school. From concept to conception, from trailer to Tustin, Burk provided the leadership and charisma to make Christian secondary education in California a reality. A letter from the 1981-1982 *Hawk Happenings* Staff reflects what Principal Burk meant to the students.

Dear Pastor Burk,

We know that when you eventually read this, you will no longer be here in our midst at California Lutheran High School, but somewhere in Prescott, Arizona. Before our memory of you, or your memory of us, becomes too faint, we would like to remind you of what you mean to all of us here at CLHS.

You were an administrator—someone who dealt out punishments as they were deserved and dealt out rewards as they were earned.

You were a language instructor—Latin and German were never harder or more exciting to learn.

You were a religion instructor—you reminded us of what was right and what was wrong, and then pounded them so gently into our minds.

But most of all, Pastor, you were a friend—a friend who helped us at softball practice, a friend who helped us learn how to play golf, a friend who helped us take pride in and love our school like you did, a friend who helped us whenever we asked; even sometimes when we were too ashamed to ask.

Thank you, Pastor Burk, for giving California Lutheran High School five fruitful years of your time, energy, and love. To put it simply, we will miss you—very much. May God bless you and your family forever—He certainly has blessed us while you were here.

Mr. Kenric Peterson, who had been on staff since 1978, was asked to be the interim principal in 1983 while the Board called various men to occupy the position vacated by Milton Burk. In 1984, after a year of calling, the Board called Peterson to be the second principal of CLHS. Prior to teaching at CLHS, Ken and his wife, Karen, spent five years in Hong Kong as teachers in Immanuel Lutheran English Middle School. Ken served as principal and teacher of English and religion and Karen as teacher of English, religion and math. The teaching experience in Hong Kong was the first call Peterson received upon completion of his B.S. Degree in secondary education from Mankato State University in June of 1973.

The thrill of "helping to begin a Lutheran High School from its early beginnings" led Peterson to follow the call of the Lord to CLHS. From the second year of CLHS' existence he had a key role working with Principal Burk to expand the curriculum, to share the teaching responsibilities, to recruit new

students and the like. With an interest in journalism he was instrumental in starting and supervising the school newspaper, the *Hawk Talk* and the school yearbook, *Hawk Happenings*.

With vision for the future and dedication to the program, Peterson became the choice of the Board to be the school's second principal in 1984. With untiring labor, he provided stability and leadership as the school grew to prominence in Tustin but stumbled to near extinction through four later moves. Through the challenges and the successes, the joys and the sorrows he realized that CLHS was "His plan, on His time, in His care."

This truth provided strength for Peterson and the school as they weathered some tough challenges. Yet the Lord gave him strength, wisdom and guidance to bring the school through tough financial situations, strain within the faculty, a lack of site and facilities, limited numbers of students, and a lack of confidence in the high school among parents. All these challenges were overcome with prayer and the Lord's constant guidance. For Peterson, the joys far outweighed the challenges and disappointments. He identified the blessing of permanent site in Wildomar as an answer to a dream of his for the high school and as one of the biggest joys he had as principal. Other joys which stand out are related to physical blessings such as a \$200,000 gift given to the high school on a Christmas Eve, good times with the boarding students which lived next door to him in Tustin, and the growing support of Californians for the high school.

Far above any of these however, is the joy that he had in passing the promise of the Gospel on to students and seeing the hand of a mighty God working to sustain His high school.

The greatest blessing for all associated with CLHS was the joy the Gospel brings us knowing that Jesus, as our good Shepherd, takes care of His sheep in every way greater than could possibly be imagined. There were countless times when individuals didn't know how to solve a given problem. God had the solution and the miracle to make it happen . . . What a joy it is to see students I had the privilege to teach, now preaching and teaching others! What a joy it is to teach the children of the parents you taught in previous years before. And what a joy it is to see students you had an opportunity to share the Gospel with, becoming Christians and now bringing their families to the Lord's Supper. There is much joy in serving the Lord! (Letter from Peterson, 4/23/97).

During the 1994 school year, the Board called Mr. Peterson to serve as development director and teacher. He accepted this change of responsibilities. Before he could begin his new responsibilities, Peterson received and accepted a call to teach at Michigan Lutheran Seminary in Saginaw, Michigan. He bid farewell to CLHS at the graduation exercises that spring.

For 15 years the Lord used Peterson in his service to the teenagers of California. For 11 of those years, he allowed him to be the “parent” to lead the high school from its infant years in Garden Grove and Tustin, through its rocky, unstable adolescent years in five different locations to the beginnings of the permanency and stability of adulthood in Wildomar. When asked to summarize his years at CLHS, Peterson responded, “I would characterize my years at CLHS as a special privilege, a faith-strengthening joy in ministry God gave me to do His work. I couldn’t begin to thank Him enough for giving me that opportunity.”

Following Peterson’s departure in 1994, Michael Bahn served as an interim principal for a year before the Board extended the call to the current principal, Pastor Gregory Bork. Since 1982, Bork has been involved with CLHS to a greater or lesser degree. After growing up in Milwaukee, attending Wisconsin Lutheran High School, Northwestern College and Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary, Bork was assigned as a vicar to King of Kings Lutheran Church in Garden Grove, California in 1981. Following the year of vicaring, Bork’s plans for a leave of absence from the Seminary to further his education were detained by a call to be an emergency instructor for CLHS. After two years, he terminated his “student status” at Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary and accepted a full-time call to teach at CLHS. In 1988 he was planning to finish his last year at the Seminary, but was called by an ELS congregation (Faith Lutheran Church) in Irvine to be their pastor. Despite the new responsibilities, he continued for two years as a part-time instructor and one (1990-91) again as a full-time teacher. After four years of dedicated service to Faith Lutheran Church, the Board called Bork to be the third principal.

I accepted the Call as principal because, as I told my congregation, “The Lord has need of him” (referring to Jesus’ comments to His disciples about needing a donkey, a beast of burden, to do some work for Him). Also, I had teaching experience, knew the needs and challenges of the school, was familiar with the program so that I would not need much time to become acclimated, knew the churches and pastors of the area and what they thought about the school, had experience with the needs of the boarding program, had a degree in education and was pursuing one in counseling (Letter from Bork, 4/22/97).

The Lord certainly did bring a wealth of experience to CLHS in Pastor Bork. As he mentioned, his experience touched almost every major area of life at CLHS, from boarding parent to dean of students, from pastor to counselor, from teacher to friend, from athletic trainer to linguist, all the Lord has used and will use in the future. Always looking to the Lord for guidance and direction, Bork, in every aspect of

high school life, strives to “teach the Word of God and model Christian faith to our teenagers in California every day.” This desire of his is always reflected in his teaching, his leadership and his concern for every teen under his care. After fifteen plus years connected with CLHS, Bork would describe his ministry at CLHS as “an intense ministry of youth discipleship.’ ‘Youth discipleship’ reflects the focus of this ministry, and ‘intense’ reveals the level of work/activity involved with it.”

By God’s grace, these three men have brought CLHS to 1997. With God’s continued guidance and direction, these men and other’s hopes for the future will not be disappointed.

On Him We Have Set Our Hope . . .

. . . To Provide in the Future

The 300 plus people who were encouraged at the installation service of Milton Burk to set their hope on Christ, probably had no idea that that hope would lead to an 8.12 acre facility in Wildomar with 70 students, five full-time and one part-time faculty members. For twenty years hopes placed in the Lord have not been disappointed. The Lord *has* provided Christian secondary education in California. The Lord *has* provided a permanent location for CLHS. The Lord *has* provided financial support. The Lord *has* provided dedicated leaders for the school. The Lord *will* continue to provide in the future. A hope placed in the Lord *will not* be disappointed!

What are some of the hopes and dreams for the future of CLHS? Although the answers may vary somewhat in specifics, generally the hopes are the same. First and foremost—and this hope has not changed for 20 years—CLHS hopes to continue its mission of training youth for life and service to God in the world and in eternity. Second, it desires to increase the numbers of parents and association members who support the high school. Third, CLHS would like to appear more permanent by replacing the portable buildings on campus with a permanent structure to include educational, athletic, music, dining, and administrative facilities. Currently plans are being developed and plans for funding are underway to make this hope a reality. Fourth, those involved with the boarding program hope to improve it so that living away from home is no longer a great obstacle for parents to overcome to send their children from a distance. Fifth, the faculty would like to both expand the curriculum to add more courses and additional

music programs and increase the use of modern technology in the classroom and operations to move the high school into adulthood of the 21st century.

What will California Lutheran High School be like in another 20 years? Will it be a thriving 400-student school with the latest in technology and curriculum, or will it still be under 100 struggling to survive from day to day? The externals may change but the purpose remains the same, to share the hope of the Gospel with the teenagers of today. How that will happen, where it will happen and with whom it will happen have yet to be determined. However, just as the Lord has proven faithful to CLHS in the past 20 years, he surely will prove faithful for the next 20. So let us “give thanks . . . for the gracious favor granted us in answer to the prayers of many” over the past 20 years. Then let us with full confidence continue the work of CLHS into the 21st century, confident that the Lord *will* bless it because **On Him We Have Set Our Hope.**

Soli Deo Gloria!

Appendix A

Report of Silas Krueger to the 1972 AZ-CA Delegate Conference on the method to form an area Lutheran high school

1. Form an association.
 - a. Willing, dedicated and self-sacrificing Christians
 - b. At least one pastor, teacher (if available) and layman from each area congregation
2. Organize a continuing program of congregational education.
 - a. A review and study of the basic doctrines of Law and Gospel
 "Only as each member grows in his knowledge and understanding of God's saving acts will he be willing to use every gift with which the Lord has blessed him to work for an area high school."
 - b. A study on the various aspects of Christian education.
 - c. A reminder of the only "good" reasons to establish an area high school
 "To teach Christ as true God and true man and our only way to salvation; to strengthen Christ's youth by constructing a curriculum in which God is glorified at all times."
 - d. Handle objections
 - The needs for mission work are more pressing
 "Education can and should be the partner of evangelism; a sound Christian education leads to a lively evangelistic zeal."
 - "We can't afford a high school."
 - "Can we afford not to have agencies such as area high schools?"
3. Formulate an initial plan
 - a. Find a central location (30-35 miles radius from 85% of students)
 - b. 5,000 communicants to support the school
 "... it would take 'a big miracle of the Lord to make an area high school go' with any less than that."
 - c. Plan for providing a financial base.
 - d. Determine number of students willing to enroll in the ninth grade
4. Form a federations
 - a. "Christian education is the responsibility of all members, not just of parents who have children of school age.
 - b. "Christian education is expensive
 - c. "Members without children of school age should learn to contribute toward the school as an important part of Christ's work.
 - d. "A federation gives continuity and stability which an association might not always be able to bring to an area high school."
5. Getting started
 - a. Which grades to start with
 - b. Curriculum
 - c. Principal (Pastor or teacher?)
 - d. Facilities (Rent or build?)
6. When to start
 - a. Base of 3,500 communicants, minimum
 - b. "Plan from the start for the day in which the high school will move into its own building."

Appendix B

California Lutheran High School Committee members

Chairman: Rev. Hermann John (Woodland Hills)

Rick Porter (Oceanside)

Secretary: Rev. Gerald Geiger (Belmont)

Constitution Subcommittee:

James Dallmann (Pomona)

Rev. Milton Burke (Yucaipa)

Ray Tiegs (Laguna Hills)

Area Managers:

No. California - Erling Ylvisaker (Redwood City)

Los Angeles - David Negrey (Arcadia)

San Diego - Hal Giese (La Mesa)

Finance Subcommittee:

Ken Grosenick (Granada Hills)

Earl Suckow (Cucamonga)

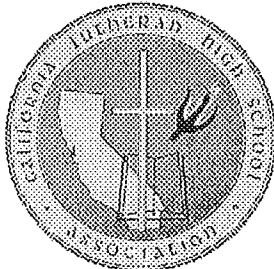
Promotion Subcommittee:

Rev. Lowell Smith (San Diego)

Rev. Lyle Lange (Escondido)

Appendix C

The Seal of California Lutheran High School and its Association



The seal . . . identifies the purpose of our California Lutheran High School Association. In a simple way it sets before us our objective in these beginning days of our attempt to found a high school for our youth.

In the center of the seal our eyes are focused on the cross of Jesus Christ. The cross universally represents mankind's salvation won for them by the Son of God. The teaching of the cross of Christ is the center of Christian education.

The teaching of God is found in the Scriptures. Thus at the foot of the cross in the seal is the representation of the Book of the Bible. Its infallible teachings are the subject of Christian education.

For a person to believe the Scripture's testimony of Jesus the Savior, the work of the Holy Spirit is essential. He, the dove, descends on the heart to convince.

The area, which we intend to serve with our Lutheran high school, is the State of California. Thus it is represented.

Finally the seal is enclosed in a circle to represent that the Christian education we give today is not meant for only here and now, but produces results for eternity. The circle that never begins or ends is the representation of eternity, encircling the name of our association: CALIFORNIA LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL ASSOCIATION.

(The Lutheran High School Newsletter, Vol. 2, No. 1, Winter 1975, p. 1)

Appendix D

California Lutheran High School Association First Board of Directors

3-year term:	Pastor Milton Burk (Chairman) Teacher James Dallmann Mr. David Negrey Mr. Ray Tiegs Mr. Al Nelson (Treasurer)	Mr. Howard Henrickson Mr. Erling Ylvisaker 1-year term: Pastor Gerald Geiger (Secretary) Teacher David Sauer Mr. Chris Hester Mr. Rod Jensen
2-year term:	Pastor Hermann John Teacher Raymond Manthe	

Appendix E

California Lutheran High School Proposed Curriculum (1977)

<u>Ninth Grade</u>	(Band or piano) <i>Plus electives offered to 9th grade</i> * if money and help are available	<i>Plus electives offered lower grades</i> *if money and help are available
Required: Religion I English I Algebra or General Math Physical Science Basic Music Physical Education Electives: Latin I Church History Geography *Art I *Choir *Instrumental Music * if money and help are available	<u>Eleventh Grade</u> Required: Religion III English III U.S. History Physical Education Elective: Latin III German I Spanish I Algebra II Chemistry Business Math Bookkeeping/ Accounting *Typing II (business/clerical) *Shorthand I *Business Machines *Art III *Graphic Arts II *Cooking I *Sewing I *Small Motor Mechanics *Choir *Instrumental Music (Band or Piano)	<u>Twelfth Grade</u> Required: Religion IV English IV American Government Physical Education Elective: Latin IV German II Spanish II (Conversational) Advanced Math *Physics *American Problems *Shorthand *Office Practice *Commercial Law *Consumerism *Art IV *Cooking II *Sewing II *Technical Drawing *Automotive Mechanics *Choir *Instrumental Music (Band or Piano) <i>Plus electives offered in lower grades</i> *if money and help are available
<u>Tenth Grade</u>		
Required: Religion II English II Life Science or Biology California History Geometry or Algebra I Physical Education Elective: Latin II World History *Art II *Graphic Arts I *Typing I *Choir *Instrumental Music		

Appendix F

Philosophy, Purpose and Goal of California Lutheran High School

California Lutheran High School's philosophy of education is based upon the Holy Scriptures as the inspired Word of God and centers in Jesus Christ to whom all Scriptures bear witness as the only Savior of all mankind. The primary purpose is to provide the opportunity for students to find identity, meaning, purpose, and power for their life in Christ by growing in grace and in their knowledge of Him as their Lord and Savior (2 Peter 3:18). Faith in Christ finds fruitful expression in life; therefore, Christian education is designed to help the students live out this view of life in unselfish Christian service in their world.

California Lutheran High School provides a unique educational environment in which the Word of God encourages the fellowship of believers in the yielding of their lives to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. The role of the student is to develop his God-given gifts and abilities so that he may be equipped for life of good works which God has already prepared for him to do (Ephesians 2:10). The role of the faculty is to minister to the students. Such a ministry requires spiritually mature and academically qualified faculty members who are continually open to the Word of the Holy Spirit.

In this Christian setting all knowledge and learning are viewed as a potential channel for God's grace and power. The curriculum of California Lutheran High School is determined by the requirements of a complex and changing society, by the needs and aptitudes of the individual student, and by the purpose and substance of the Gospel of Christ. Students are given the opportunity to develop not only individual talents but also the skills and attitudes to make thoughtful Christian decisions and to take positive Christian action as they live out their varying roles in society as the people of God.

GOALS

California Lutheran High School will endeavor to maintain an educational environment so that each student through the Word and Spirit may know God and His forgiving love in Christ, respond in faith and love, identify himself as a child of God and member of the Body of Christ, and as such:

1. Appreciate and use the Means of Grace.
2. Become an active participant in the program of his church.
3. Witness to Christ by word and deed.
4. Become a responsible citizen who is capable of independent thought.
5. Be sincerely concerned about the needs of others.
6. Grow in self-understanding.
7. Develop proper attitudes toward work and the willingness and ability to adjust as conditions change.
8. Develop a satisfactory competence in the literary skills.
9. Develop work habits and skills necessary for creative thinking.
10. Develop physical skills necessary for performing practical activities.
11. Develop creative ability and aesthetic appreciation.
12. Continue in the quest for knowledge and understanding in the fear of the Lord.
13. Continue a program of physical activity for the purpose of maintaining a fit body.
14. Participate in worthwhile and God-pleasing leisure time activities.
15. Relate responsibly to God's whole creation while living in the Christian hope.

Appendix G

Chairmen of the Board of Directors

Rev. Milton Burk	1975-1977	Rev. Gerald Geiger	1987-1991
Mr. Chris Hester	1977-1978	Mr. Orv Jordahl	1992-1993
Rev. A.B. Habben	1979-1980	Mr. Mark Olsen	1994
Rev. Allen Beyersdorf	1980-1986	Mr. Tom Wolf	1995-present

Appendix H

Events of CLHS history

July 1967	First meeting of the Committee appointed by the 1966 District convention to determine interest and support for a high school in the district.
April 1972	California Delegate Conference authorizes the appointment of a committee to initiate the founding of a high school in California.
June 1972	Silas Krueger reports to the District Convention on the steps to be taken to start a secondary program of education.
Spring 1973	Rev. Armin Keibel appoints the California High School Committee with Rev. Hermann John as its chairman.
Spring 1974	Official beginning of the California Lutheran High School Association. First publication of <i>The Lutheran High School News</i> .
April 1974	Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Belmont, California becomes first CLHSA member congregation.
September 1975	First meeting of the CLHSA in Bakersfield, California. Constitution and Board of Directors approved.
Spring 1976	CLHSA is incorporated as a tax exempt, non-profit organization.
Summer 1976	Garden Grove area selected for first location of the high school.
January 1977	Rev. Milton Burk installed as high school's first principal.
September 1977	California Lutheran High School opens with 10 students in the library building of King of Kings Lutheran Church in Garden Grove.
October 1977	Classes begin to be held in the "Ark," a portable classroom on the King of Kings' property.
March 1978	Blue and white chosen by the students as the school colors. "C-Hawks" becomes the official mascot. CLHSA becomes a member of the Wisconsin Synod High School Association

- April 1978 Kenric Peterson of Hong Kong accepts the call as the second full time instructor.
- November 1978 The first edition of "Hawk Talk" is published.
The CLHS choir makes its first public appearance at Mission Festival services at St. John's, Tarzana (November 5).
- January 1979 Classes begin at Sycamore Elementary School in Tustin.
Association authorizes addition of grade eleven for 1979-80 school year and grade twelve for 1980-81 school year.
- March 1979 First yearbook, *Hawk Happenings*, published.
- April 1979 Ron Wels of Collins, WI accepts call to teach in the area of science.
- May 1979 Stephen Berg accepts call to teach in the area of history and athletics.
- August 1979 A 16 passenger 1957 Ford bus, nicknamed "Henry" is purchased to bus students from Riverside. Ron Wels is the first bus driver.
- September 1979 First interscholastic athletic competition, girls volleyball vs. Calvary Christian.
- November 1979 Basketball begins with a junior varsity team.
- March 1980 Track is added to the sports program.
- April 1980 The CLHSA is organized on a regional basis with members of the Board of Directors elected to represent three geographical areas: northern California, greater Los Angeles, and greater San Diego, each area establishing its own regional committee to step up promotion, recruitment, and stewardship.
- Spring 1981 CLHS Ladies' Auxiliary is organized with Mrs. Doralene Stilwell as president.
- June 1981 First senior class of eight graduates on June 5.
- September 1981 Football added to the athletic program.
- October 1981 First Homecoming
- June 1982 Principal Burk accepts call to First Lutheran in Prescott, AZ. Ken Peterson assumes principal duties. Board of Directors approves school-sponsored dances.
- September 1982 Student Union opens for daytime use by students.
- January 1983 First annual Student Variety Night is held.
- June 1983 Gary Nutt accepts call as fifth full-time teacher.
- September 1983 First mini-dorm opens with Vicar Greg Bork as supervisor.
- January 1984 Rue Stone and Gregory Bork accept calls as sixth and seventh full-time instructors, respectively.
- Spring 1984 CLHS receives approximately \$150,000 from the estate of Renata Greder.

- May 1984 Dormitory of the Sisters of the Company of Mary is used for part-time borders.
- September 1984 Paul Terrell volunteers his services as full-time librarian.
- April 1985 Rev. Herbert Huhnerkoch of Miami, FL accepts the call to be the first Dean of Students.
- November 1985 First meeting of the CLHS Alumni Association held before the Homecoming football game.
- May 1985 Purchase of 54 acres in Rancho California
- September 1987 Enrollment reaches an all time high of 104.
- July 1988 Move from Tustin to Jewish Community Center in Garden Grove.
- July 1990 Move from Jewish Community Center in Garden Grove to the Burke Elementary School in Huntington Beach.
- November 1992 CLHSA purchases 8.12 acres for \$1.16 million in Wildomar for permanent site of CLHS.
- July 1993 Move from Burke Elementary School in Huntington Beach to St. Stephen's in Fallbrook.
- November 1993 Lease for dormitories at Wildomar signed.
- June 1994 First graduation held in a tent at the Wildomar site.
Kenric Peterson accepts call to Michigan Lutheran Seminary; Michael Bahn serves as interim principal.
- July 1994 Move from St. Stephen's in Fallbrook to Rancho Community Church, Temecula.
- November 1994 Move from Rancho Community Church to permanent site in Wildomar.
- January 1995 Wildomar site is dedicated to the glory of God.
- July 1995 Sod laid on the football field.
- August 1995 Rev. Gregory Bork installed as principal.
- October 1997 Twentieth anniversary of CLHS celebrated.

Appendix I

Graduates of CLHS

1981

Annette Back
Penny Foley*
Dawn Fitzgerald
Sandra Halverson
James Godfrey
Yvette Radi

1982

Lana Batts
Jay Fouts
Debbie Fritz
Philip John
Albert Kim
Cathy Miller
Greg Nelson
Michelle Nitz*
Laurie Radichel
Mona Schill

1983

Jill Bugbee
Terri Crawford
Dale Dyrssen
Becky Vallesky
Beth Ernst
Krista Fritz*
Jon Godfrey
Carl Greppin
John Stoppelman
Maeta Wulf

1984

Anne Bugbee
Tim Cunningham
Dawn Dyrssen
Amy Evans
Ken Hamre
Vicki Humann
Becky John
Karen Jorgensen
Michael O'Kelly*
Lee Pechin
Dawn Scherkenbach

1985

Danny Cowles
Mark Fritz
Rhonda Moline
Meg Nitz*
Brian Pluckhan
Sharon Radtke
Scott Sacks
Jeff Schlittenhart

Jackie Vallesky
David Voss
Thomas Zimdars

1986

Elizabeth Allen
Kathy Bensend
Doug Cribbs
Bill Cross
Nancy Cross*
Brian Ernst
John Faulkner
Jill Foley
Betsy Godfrey
Julie Guthmiller
Chris Hamre
Tanya Hashizumi
John Hoff
John Humann
Peter Lee
Andrew Mahnke
Ruth Moldstad
Kim Netze
Scott Rousseau
Kevin Schlittenhart
Philip Todd
Michael Turner
Michelle Wille
Sarah Williams

1987

Joel Billings
Patrick Brainerd
Shane Brown
Katy Bugbee
Wendy Cross
Eric Erickson
Renee Ernst
Stephen Geiger
Sandra Kadow
Robby Krueger
Karen Pasch
Mitch Radi
Marci Reed
David Sacks*
Minna Silvola
Giancarlo Turreta

1988

Leigh Brady
Lisa Brown
Cindy Deaton
Ellen DeLoye
David Godfrey

Brian Guthmiller
Debbie Heyn
Marla Jorgensen
Matthew Mahnke
Marcus Moon*
Sandra Newbold
Paul Rittierodt
Tim Rosenow
Tom Rowe
Curt Sacks
Matthew Sieberg
Lisa West

1989

Laurel Bensend
Jacqueline Brady
John Foley
Kathy Manthei
Victoria Miller
Todd Moe
Michael Geiger
Steve Heyn
Renee Humann
Steve Jaspersen
James Manke
Mark Olson
Mark Schauwecker
Mario Pronzato
Chad Mott
Heather Stevens*
Nerieda Summers
Brian Weaver

1990

Lisa Dagleish
David DeLoye
Jeff Dimichina
Derek Ehinger
Jeni Erickson
Brent Ernst
Rob Hasty
Walter Hirt
David Jorgensen
Ben Luedtke
Amy Moe
Brian Olsen
Roberta Sims
Rich Stevens
Jennifer Turner
Sandra Turreta
David Yamann

1991

Matthew Beyersdorf

Ellis Lee
Fred Dageforde
Armin Eberhard
Ron Gusman
Christy Jordahl
Lori Lichtenwald
Brad Luedtke
Cindy MacKain
Brad Pluckhan*
Lana West

1992

Dean Adams*
Andrew Aguilar
Dusk Bennett
Eric Breiland
Heidi Beyersdorf
Ellen Eberhard
Carolyn Garcia
Sarah Geiger
Mark Jorgensen
Michael Krueger
Gwen Linger
Minerva Marrero
Alicia Parrott
Marc Rittierodt
Jesse Summers
Stacey Walker
Annette Weindorf

1993

Jennifer Bergener
Brian Ehinger
Dennis Enser
Matt Foley
Dolores Gusman
Suzanne Jordahl
Cheryl Jorgensen
David Johnston
Matt Krug
Erika Nemeth
Erik Olsen
Augustine Paik
Elizabeth Rowe
Tannaz Sarbaz
Vicki Sydow
Wesley Wolf*

1994

Theresa Bahn
Gregory Huntington
Jason McGee
Loriann Miller
Tiana Mondaca

Jeremy Morris*
Gary Shellum
Douglas Shiery
Matthew Underwood
Joel Walker

1995

Elena Barrientos
Mary Geiger
Michael Manthei
Jamie Melback
April Sheiry
Jeremy Steele
Ron Thompson
Sarah Wenzel
Sarah Wolf*

1996

Sarah Bahn
Jason Clifford
Kathy Cross
Daniel Ehinger
Joanna Gusman
Andrew Olsen
Raven Thomas*
Alexis Wilson

1997

Joshua Bahn
Chris Barry
Melissa Betts
Sabrina Carpenter
Arturo Castillo
Kelcie Davis
Angelina Enser
Ronnie Hunt*
Nathaniel Kogler
Nicholas Maglietto
Tabitha Palmquist
Melissa Rinehart
Jennifer Rittmann
Jason Steele

Total 226

* Class President

Appendix J

Valedictorians of CLHS

Year	Name	Year	Name
1981	Yvette Radi	1990	David Jorgensen
1982	Michelle Nitz	1991	Cindy MacKain
1983	Beth Ernst	1992	Ellen Eberhard
1984	Becky John	1993	Erik Olsen
1985	Jackie Valleskey	1994	Douglas Shiery
1986	Kim Netzke	1995	Mary Geiger
1987	Stephen Geiger	1996	Sarah Bahn
1988	Curt Sacks	1997	<i>Not available</i>
1989	Michael Geiger		

Salutatorians of CLHS

Year	Name	Year	Name
1981	James Godfrey	1990	Brian Olsen
1982	Debbie Fritz	1991	Brad Pluckhan
1983	Krista Fritz	1992	Sarah Geiger
1984	<i>Not Available</i>	1993	Wesley Wolf
1985	Meg Nitz	1994	Joel Walker
1986	Tanya Hahizumi	1995	Sarah Wolf
1987	Wendy Cross	1996	Andrew Olsen
1988	Matthew Mahnke	1997	<i>Not available</i>
1989	Heather Stevens		

Student Council Presidents of CLHS

Year	Name	Year	Name
1979	Dan Burk	1989	Mark Olson
1980	<i>Not Available</i>	1990	David Jorgensen
1981	Yvette Radi	1991	Armin Eberhard
1982	Jay Fouts	1992	Stacey Walker
1983	Dale Dyrssen	1993	Dolores Gusman
1984	Tim Cunningham	1994	Douglas Shiery
1985	Scott Sacks	1995	Mary Geiger
1986	Doug Cribbs	1996	Kathy Cross
1987	Stephen Geiger	1997	Andy Hoeschen
1988	Curt Sacks		

Appendix K

Faculty and Staff of CLHS

(Apologies are given to any who may have been unintentionally omitted. For all who faithfully served CLHS over the past 20 years, we give thanks to our God.)

<i>Teacher's Name</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Classes Taught</i>		<i>Other Responsibilities</i>
<i>Bahn, Michael</i>	1993-present	Algebra I Consumer Math Accounting	Geometry Spanish I Music	Choirs Interim Principal (1995)
<i>Baldwin, Gerhard</i>	1984-93			Bookkeeper
<i>Bartelt, David</i>	1989-present	CA History Economics Pre-Algebra	Government Physical Education U.S. History	Athletic Director Boys' Athletics
<i>Berg, Stephen</i>	1979-88	Government U.S. Government General Math Social Studies Choir Physical Education	CA History U.S. History Pre-Algebra Religion Word of God	Athletic Director Boys Athletics
<i>Bobholz, Chris</i>	1987			Girls' Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Bogue, Helen</i>	1994			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Bork, Gregory</i>	1983-88, 89-91, 95- present	Geography Latin	German Religion	Boys Minidorm Supervisor Athletic Trainer Dean of Students Principal (1995-present)
<i>Bruce, Baily</i>	1992			Minidorm Supervision
<i>Burk, Milton</i>	1977-82	Religion Latin	German Math	Principal (1977-1982)
<i>Cady, Coral</i>	1986-87	Music Piano	Personal Typing	Choirs Dorm Supervision
<i>Degner, Vonda</i>	1988			Dormitory Supervisor
<i>DeLoye, Norlene</i>	1988-92			Secretary
<i>Dietz, Karen</i>	1981-84	Typing		Girl's Athletics
<i>Edwards, Karen</i>	1991			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Ehinger, Darlene</i>	1991-92			Secretary
<i>Eisenmann, Terry</i>	1987			Girls' Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Faust, Robert</i>	1991-present	Advanced Math Biology Computer Physical Education	Algebra II Chemistry Physics	Baseball Coach Volleyball Coach
<i>Feiock, Betty</i>	1979	Choir		
<i>Forshner, Miriam</i>	1983-86			Secretary
<i>Gaitan, Tracey</i>	1992-93			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Gast, Debbie</i>	1992-93			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Goeglein, Rev. Mark</i>	1993	Spanish II		
<i>Gullixson, Margaret</i>	1988-92	Algebra Spanish I and II	Geometry Music	Choirs Softball Coach

<i>Teacher's Name</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Classes Taught</i>		<i>Other Responsibilities</i>
<i>Haag, Rev. David</i>	1992-95	Latin World History	Word of God	Dean of Students JV Boys Basketball Coach
<i>Haeuser, David</i>	1982-84	Spanish English Literature	Music Religion	Librarian
<i>Hains, Christina</i>	1985	Physical Science Spanish	Pre-Algebra	
<i>Huhnerkoch, Rev. Herbert</i>	1986-87	Computer Education Spanish I,II,III	Word of God	Dean of Students
<i>Ingram, Mrs.</i>	1981	Art		
<i>John, Rev. Hermann</i>	1995	Word of God		
<i>Jordahl,</i>	1979	English		
<i>Jorgensen, Edwin</i>	1979			Band
<i>Keibel, John</i>	1993-94			Secretary Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Knueppel, Kellye</i>	1990-91			Girls' Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Krauss, Lois</i>	1987			Girls' Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Kuehl, Tim</i>	1989	Advanced Math Biology Physical Education	Algebra II Computer Physics	
<i>Lemke, Wendy</i>	1988-90			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>MacKain, Jean</i>	1989-90			Secretary
<i>Mantihe, Mrs. Ray</i>	1979			Piano
<i>McMurdie, Rev. William</i>	1988	World History		
<i>Miller, Diane</i>	1981			Secretary
<i>Moldstad, Rev. Robert</i>	1981	Spanish		
<i>Moll, Rev. John</i>	1995	Physical Science Word of God	U.S. History	Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Nutt, Gary</i>	1983-87	Consumer Math Economics Physical Science World History	Algebra Geography Geometry	Bowling Softball Coach
<i>Nutt, Krystal</i>	1983-85	Band Piano	Music	Cheerleading Choirs
<i>Pechin, Lee</i>	1994			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Peterson, Karen</i>	1979, 81-82, 85-87, 89	Accounting Geometry Science	Algebra Mathematics	Secretary (1988-89)
<i>Peterson, Kenric</i>	1978-94	Drama Composition Biology Public Speaking	English Social Studies Journalism World History	Principal (1983-1994)
<i>Poetter, Chris</i>	1991	Science Word of God Accounting	German World History	Baseball Coach Girls' Basketball Coach
<i>Radi, Merlene</i>	1979			Secretary
<i>Radtke, Sherill</i>	1983	Sewing		

<i>Teacher's Name</i>	<i>Years Served</i>	<i>Classes Taught</i>		<i>Other Responsibilities</i>
<i>Radue, Craig</i>	1986-87	Physical Science	Biology	Boys' Athletics Dormitory Supervision
<i>Rardin (Bork), Julie</i>	1992, 1995-present	German Consumer Math	World History Algebra II	Basketball Coach Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Rittierodt, Sue</i>	1987			Secretary
<i>Schlittenhart, Pam</i>	1983			Bookkeeper
<i>Schulz, Gary</i>	1981	Religion Music Appreciation	English	
<i>Schulz, Rev. Greg</i>	1988-90	Science	Word of God	Pastor of Students Girls' Basketball Coach
<i>Schulz, Tom</i>	1988			Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Schwark, Bruce</i>	1988	Computer Education World History		Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Scott, Suzanne</i>	1995			Dormitory Supervisor
<i>Sternhagen, Beth</i>	1988			Minidorm Supervisor
<i>Stoll, Mabelle</i>	1994			Secretary
<i>Stone, Rue</i>	1983-present	Literature Typing Reading Skills Drama	English Composition Piano	Choir Handbell Choir
<i>Terrell, Paul</i>	1985-93			Librarian
<i>Timmermann, Rev. Robert</i>	1989-90	German Word of God	Latin World History	
<i>Verner, Eric</i>	1992			Minidorm Supervision
<i>Wels, Ron</i>	1981-85	Algebra I & II Advanced Math Computer Science Physical Science	Chemistry Biology Physics	
<i>Wenzel, Rev. Glenn</i>	1994	Word of God		
<i>Westphal, Riley</i>	1986-88	Advanced Math Chemistry Physics	Algebra II Physical Education	Girls' Athletics Tour Choir
<i>Zell, Joyce</i>	1995			Bookkeeper

Bibliography

Original documents used included the following:

- Proceedings from the Arizona-California District Conventions
- Minutes from CLHSA meetings
- Minutes from CLHS Board of Directors meetings
- Personal correspondence
- Bulletin inserts
- Principal's reports
- CLHSA Constitution
- CLHS Catalogues
- Issues of the *Hawk Talk*
- Issues of *Hawk Happenings*
- Issues of *The Lutheran High School News*

Interviews (written and oral) were conducted with the following:

- Rev. Gregory Bork
- Mr. Pat Foley
- Rev. Gerald Geiger
- Mr. Kenric Peterson