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The Move: Concordia Lutheran School’s Relocation
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Beginning in 1899, Concordia Lutheran School served as a ministry of Concordia Lutheran Church on Fort Wayne’s near east side for over fifty years. As the 1950’s rolled on, a number of factors convinced the leaders of the church that the school could no longer effectively function in its current facilities and location. After extensive research, a decision was made to move the school and eventually the church to a more suburban location.

From the outside, the move might look like just one more example of the white flight that so impacted inner-city neighborhoods in the 50’s and 60’s. However, the internal decision-making process at Concordia was far more complex than might have been imagined. Add to that the impact of cultural changes within the city of Fort Wayne, especially on the east side. Determining the real driving forces behind the move makes for intriguing research.

Through first person interviews, letters, meeting minutes and other historical records of the church and through scholarly resources, a more detailed and nuanced understanding can be gained of Concordia’s decision to move its school ministry. In the process, a missing, or perhaps just misunderstood, piece of Fort Wayne’s history is discovered.