



Colorado Lutheran High School Association

Lights to the World

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September 15, 2011

Dear DLHS Alumni,

This letter has been a long time in the making. My prayer is that you will read it with a spirit of compassion, forgiveness, and mostly with a spirit of ministry and mission. *I read recently that if a ministry transforms lives, that you do it - no matter what.* Lutheran High School, which is the consolidation of Denver Lutheran High School and Lutheran High School Parker, is a place where God transforms lives.

I mourn the loss of the institution of Denver Lutheran High School as a separate entity. I was at DLHS for 16 years – eleven as a teacher and coach and five as a principal. While hard to accept, the simple reality was that the school was not going to survive at the Denver location. To be honest, many people have such a huge connection to their institutions and to their buildings that for some, dying a slow death would have been preferable to radical change. Unfortunately, given the considerable debt that existed on both campuses (Denver and Parker) – fading away was not an option. It certainly wasn't for me. We jumped at the opportunity to sell the campus and relocate – it seemed like the miracle cure to the downward spiral of enrollment and income loss that we were facing every year. When the relocation announcement was made, every person on the board of directors and the leadership team was on board to see that plan become a reality.

Our financial difficulties and other problems derailed that plan. We just didn't have the resources or the product to gamble on another school year at the DLHS campus with things being so uncertain about funding and future location. Our lender was unwilling to support that gamble. I personally apologize that I emphatically painted a bold picture of the future and then we did not follow through on the plans. That was never the intent. In retrospect, I believe making a radical change was the correct thing to do – God just took it in a vastly different direction.

Consolidation, while not popular or easy, has brought us to the start of a school year as “Lutheran High School.” Keep reading to get the part where I tell you about what a great start this new ministry is having.

But first I want to tell you what we've learned through all of this:

- God doesn't care if our *institutions* survive. He cares about whether we are faithful to Him and His word, and being faithful is being about the Great Commission and connecting young people to Jesus Christ. Our mission has always been about Jesus Christ. Resting in the assurance of God's grace means that we have always known that God did not need Denver Lutheran High School to do the work of promoting His kingdom on this earth. He uses the people and institutions that He chooses in the ways that He sees fit.
- What a great honor it is that God chose the ministry of DLHS at 3201 W. Arizona Ave. for His work the last 56 years. It was a wonderful run at that location. Sometimes ministries must go in directions that we didn't originally want or see. I refuse to view this consolidation as the death of ministry. The movement goes on as our people spread out to different locations. Ministry continues on at Lutheran High School in Parker, Colorado.

- The legacy of the Lights is real and God is making this ministry possible. People are coming forward who are more about mission than institution – and it’s exciting. Hurt feelings are being set aside, God is healing our loss, and His work is being glorified and racing to the forefront. DLHS alumni have come to me and asked, “What can I do to support the ministry of Lutheran High School?” The legacy of the Lights is unbelievably prominent in the continuation of the ministry of the Colorado Lutheran High School Association. To be honest, I am in awe of it.

If a ministry transforms lives, you do it no matter what.

Lutheran High School is a Christian high school that nurtures academic excellence and encourages growth in Christ. That’s our mission. It’s a mission built on the shoulders of the giants that started the Colorado Lutheran High School Association in 1952. It’s a mission that branched out to different campuses. While we are now one campus in Parker – it is a mission that will continue at Lutheran High School.

And now for the really exciting part . . .

The consolidated Lutheran High School began August 17, 2011 with 240 students, an increase of 62 students from the previous school year. Over half of the student body is new students. Let me repeat that: **over half of the student body is new.** An opportunity for ministry exists right now, and we are dedicated to providing an excellent Christian high school education to those students. Lives are being transformed.

I have been told that the task of rallying DLHS alumni to the support of the consolidated Lutheran High School is too monumental. I don’t believe that it is. *I am not looking for people who are just about institution.* **I am looking for people who are about MISSION and MINISTRY.** My prayer is that all of you can know that the same mission and ministry that you enjoyed at DLHS still exists at the LHS in Parker. We will honor your past in our building with displays, photos, and banners (a year-long process that we are working on). But most importantly, LHS will honor your legacy by being faithful . . . faithful to God’s calling to bring His Word to young people and being faithful to providing a school for the Denver metro area that is worthy of your support.


You are invited to Homecoming on Saturday, October 1, 2011. A reception is planned for all DLHS alumni at 11:00 a.m. in the Music Center. The game is at 1:00 p.m.

Information about the Colorado Lutheran High School Association can be found at www.GrowingInHIM.org.

Information about Lutheran High School can be found at www.LHSParker.org.

Please follow us on Facebook. We are “Lutheran High School” with this logo for recognition purposes:



We do have a new school logo: 

Be on the lookout for the first appeal letter of the year in your mailbox and/or inbox soon.

Lights to the World,



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