**Pastor Eckelkamp- Pastor and serves on Lutheran High School board of directors**

**Key Points From Talk:**

* Tool in decision making and figuring out vocation:
  + Mind Map
    - Start with a dot in the middle of your paper, create branches of things you like to do, branch out positive and negatives about each, show map to others and ask, “what do you see?”
* One of the most asked questions: “What is God’s will for my life?”
  + God’s will, regarding your vocation, is to receive his love his word and his forgiveness and share them all
  + God is the God of a billion options
  + In your lifetime you will probably occupy 10 different jobs
    - The goal isn’t what you do, it’s who you are as you are doing it
    - Give yourself the freedom of the gospel
      * God gave us 10 "do nots", but 100 billion "go dos"
* God has given us:
  + Spiritual gifts
  + Heart
  + Aptitude
  + Personality
  + Experiences
* We are able to make decisions based on our unique SHAPE
  + You are God’s masterpiece- Greek: poem
* Vocation- Your calling to a particular job or position that God wants you to be in
  + Voc(al)ation
  + A calling is more than a job, it’s putting your SHAPE into action
  + “The best way to love your neighbor is to do your best work”- Luther
  + First command God gave- care for the creatures and the land on earth
  + Work is a gift. Do it for God’s glory, the benefit for others, and for God’s calling
  + Each action we do impacts other people.
  + There is so much behind a loaf of bread
  + If it’s a challenge, but brings you joy, then do it
    - Don’t just do what’s easy for you
* Genesis 2:15- get your hands in the soil, there was work pre-fall
  + Humility- get into the soil
  + Humanity came from dust (earth)
  + Everything has come from the earth- clothes, laptops, components of the room
  + Creativity is a gift the God has given us- bread clip
  + Doctrine of Vocation- everything comes together, God’s gifts being lived out
  + Comes from God
* Some people who impact other people’s lives don’t know how much of an impact they have
  + Example of third grade teacher who took extra time to teach him how to read, he now impacts hundreds of other people's lives.
* Worry is just a prayer to the wrong God
  + Don’t have lack of faith- God will provide
  + Do your best
  + Ask yourself why 5 times to get to the heart of what you are feeling

**Reflection:**

Many of us now are in high school, and we are unsure of what we are going to do when we are older. Even if we do, it often changes and we second guess what we think we want. Pastor Eckelkamp came and talked to us about God's calling and how we can fulfill His will in whatever we do. He gave us methods to organize our thoughts and he made the stressful situation less stressful and something we felt we could achieve. His use of humor and interaction with us, helped make a connection and we were able to be involved. Pastor Eckelkamp did a good job on focusing on the positive parts of decision making. He related topics back to his life so that we could see the real life application. He also focused on us individually while talking to the audience as a whole. At the end of this talk, most of us told him we were taking the ACT. We discovered that each of us were very stressed and worried for this test. He was able to calm my nerves by doing the "5 why's" method in which you start with your fear and are asked "why" 5 different times until you get to the heart of your problem. This helps you figure out what you really need to fix or relax about. This talk helped strengthen my faith in God, and reminded me that whatever I do, I need to do it in God's glory.