**Paul Albers- Executive for Congregational Services of Rocky Mountain Lutheran Church**

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**Key Points From Talk:**

* Paul has been in the district office for almost 16 years, and has been involved in many schools.
* Paul has changed his job numerous times.
  + “No matter what you choose to do, it will change”
    - Foundation for anything you do: character, ethics, willingness to learn… Who you are in Christ.
      * Foundation of faith will direct choices.
  + Be a Christian in vocation (helping others helps the Church).
  + All careers intersect and help to prepare you for what’s next.
  + “What you do with your life matters because of whose you are”.
  + All together we form the body of Christ- we all contribute by doing different things.
* Works with teachers and youth ministers to try to build a sense of community- so then Lutheran High School in Parker doesn’t feel like the only Lutheran school etc.
* Why do you do what you do?
  + Lutheran schools are the best places to form Christians, loves Jesus, academic knowledge and spiritual formation of people. Not just students, also helps teachers and staff.
* After graduation from a Lutheran school, you are not done being “formed”, you still have room to grow in your faith.
* Adjustment from Lutheran school to public university is difficult, but that’s because of not being spiritually prepared.
* Difference between Lutheran and public schools:
  + Theology classes- teachers and students can’t share faith in public schools
  + People are different, and more diverse in public school.
  + Science- evolution and creation: public schools don’t teach creation. It hides what the world says.
  + Sin is everywhere, people still make mistakes, but at a lutheran school, there is room for grace and mercy.
  + Better decision making at a Lutheran school.
  + Tolerance is different- what is accepted is part of culture.
  + Foundation becomes firmer in more sheltered school to better withstand what is to come.
  + Tuition is a problem:
    - Public schools get money from taxes.
    - Lutheran schools get money from tuition and fundraisers.
    - Lutheran schools have a hard time reaching students with special needs or talents.
      * Good at hitting middle 70%.
      * We don’t have the funding for “extra help”.
      * Lights academy and different academies are an exception to that.
      * Lutheran schools don’t usually provide what every student needs.
    - One setback of a Lutheran school is making it not a school for the wealthy.
      * Hard to fix, relies on tuition, can’t give free tuition to reach everyone.

**Reflection:**

Mr. Albers came and talked to our class about Lutheran schools and the difference between them and public schools. He also talked about how we don't always have the same plan as God does for our lives, and sometimes the plans that we have change. At the end of the talk, he gave us a copy of a letter he had received a few days before. A family was having problems with the school their children were attending (they took their kids out because of the problem). They claimed the problem was because of the new principal. We looked at the letter and had to determine what was fact and what was opinion. After a lot of analyzing, he then explained how sometimes emotions impact us directly and can get in the way of our thinking. I was really interested in this talk the whole time because I could relate to all of the situations he was talking about involving public vs. Lutheran schools. He gave us a lot of advice and examples from his life. It was easy to listen to his stories and we could all tell that he had a lot of experience with different things. Although there were really three different topics he was going over, they all seemed to connect.