

# Dallas Lutheran School

## Dallas, Texas

Dave Bangert, Executive Director



### Project Summary

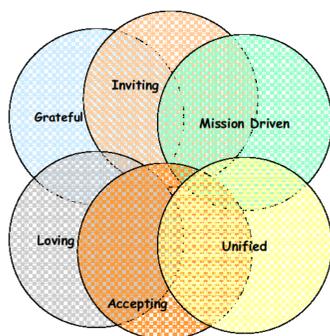
Dallas Lutheran School is a school of about 210 students from 7-12<sup>th</sup> grades in a urban setting that is supported by six Lutheran congregations. The student body is about 30% Lutheran.

The school has seen declining enrollment due to a variety of reasons. The goal of this project was two-fold.

One was to involve the Board, and to a lesser extent the community, in developing a strategic plan.

Secondly to develop an attitude within the community that models a “Community of Grace” and returns us to our real mission without getting caught up in the financial crunch of declining enrollment.

The Community of Grace At DLS is



Living  
Stones

Living  
Water

### Project Results

In January of 2011 the DLS Board along with invited parents and faculty member, had a day long strategic planning session with Ms. Kiki Johnson. Ms. Johnson is my Van Lunen appointed consultant who flew in from Florida to be with us.

As a result the Board has developed a strategic plan with a new vision statement and strategies aligned with five core beliefs:

1. DLS is a Community of Grace
2. DLS uses a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum
3. DLS is a medium-sized school
4. DLS is positioned to be sustainable from facilities to finances
5. DLS provides a safe environment for the entire community

Also, beginning in August and continuing through the year the faculty and staff followed a model of a “Community of Grace” which I developed for DLS based on readings from the “Schools as Communities” book.



### What We Have Learned

- The “Community of Grace” concept was easily assimilated into our school culture. Everyone agreed it was what we should be about. It had gotten pushed to the back with worries about enrollment and concentration on academics.
- The planning session for the strategic plan went well. Getting a committee from the Board to work on it did not go as smoothly. One other member and I really did all the work...and we’re not yet finished. The community is too caught up in the present to look at the future.
- Having a consultant go through the process is a huge blessing. A leader should be prepared to sit back and let the consultant run the show. The leader also needs a huge amount of patience to listen to what others say!

