

## **Casting a Collaborative Vision for Christian Education**

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### *Project Background*

For the past two years, a collection of individuals with great passion for Christian education in the greater Green Bay area have met to create a collaborative plan for what our schools in this area could look like. This group, called the Dream Team, includes current and former parents, alumni, church and school leaders & businessmen.

### *What Did I Do?*

Initially, I made a decision to focus on a rebranding initiative. Focus groups were conducted to get a sense of branding messages for NEWLHS. However, God quickly transformed our thinking as that plan turned into a “big tent” type of project. Our Board of Directors charged the Dream Team with developing the strategic plan for NEW Lutheran High School. The Dream Team actively sought input from the community through a survey process to identify what the general area knew about our Lutheran schools. Meeting regularly throughout the last year we are now to the point of sharing the vision with other local Lutheran school leaders. In addition, my board encouraged me to go through development leadership training with Zach Clark to create a culture of generosity and a message that would be used to inspire people to give.

### *What Did I Learn?*

When we dream and work towards fulfilling vision for our ministries, we have to be open and adaptable to the Holy Spirit’s leading. Many times, our dreams don’t account for how great our God is and how much He really asks us to do. That was certainly true in this case. Not only was my vision too narrow, but He used many great people in my life to expand on the possibilities to the point of including as many partners as we can get for the sake of educating young people in the one true faith.

### *What Difference Did it Make?*

Jesus makes all the difference! He has brought many people together in this shared vision already with many more to come. Our #1 feeder school has already agreed to sit down and discuss a merger/association plan. There are many new faces in our churches and schools that are open to working together, which is also a very positive sign. We believe that God is shaping us and guiding us to embrace a big vision in which the body of Christ will unite.