



SAVED BY GRACE ■ ANCHORED IN HOPE
 ■ FREED TO SERVE



Mission:
Discovery

Discovery at Hope Lutheran

Starting September eleventh a new voyage of Discovery will happen in the Gallatin Valley and at Hope Lutheran. In 1805 and 1806 the Lewis & Clark team crisscrossed this valley, then a new frontier for an emerging nation. In 1916 Lutheran immigrants who had followed that dream began a course of action that created Hope Lutheran Church only three years later. Now almost a century after that beginning, Hope has become a significant community of faith in our area. We have wonderful facilities, energetic ministries for youth, families, worship, outreach and music to name just a few.

We are beginning a movement of Discovery to see what our next century of ministry will become. You are being asked to prayerfully participate in this Discovery process. So think about **DISCOVERING:**

- ✿ A CONGREGATION ACTIVELY
"CONNECTING LIFE AND FAITH",
- ✿ A CONGREGATION LIVING
"GOD AT WORK IN THE WORLD",
- ✿ A CONGREGATION MAKING
"A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR LIFE,"
- ✿ BEING A PART OF A FUTURE BEING OPENED
BEFORE US BY GOD!

All of this *has started* in our new facilities, led by staff and members alike to make ministry happen. This Discovery project is designed to fund ministry so that we can be active in our move to the future. It will match resource for resource to make what we do vivid and alive and to ensure we can use the tool of our new building to do God's work. You are making a very important decision to fund our future. Your support will insure that Hope's second century will touch more lives. We are committed to be a strong place for the children and grandchildren of the current Gallatin population. Our goal is to be a strong faith community to strengthen and empower the people in this valley for a long time to come.



Did You Know?:

- SINCE MOVING TO OUR NEW CHURCH, 16 COUPLES HAVE BEEN JOINED IN MARRIAGE?
- OUR CONGREGATION HAS GROWN BY 5% IN THE LAST 3 YEARS?
- SINCE MOVING TO OUR NEW LOCATION, WE HAVE CELEBRATED OVER 70 BAPTISMS?
- VISITORS & NON-MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE NEARLY 4% OF OUR TOTAL OFFERING?

Pastor Mitch Jones

IT'S A FACT:

with almost 1,600 members, we are one of the largest congregations in the Gallatin Valley!

Please consider the following during your time of discerning how God has blessed you to respond.

For well over a decade, Hope has focused on its facility; the location, the size, the design, the cost, etc. This vision of a new facility united us and we rallied to the challenge before us. There was much tangible evidence of purpose and progress as the new building took shape and was occupied in late fall of 2008.

Now we are in a new day... a day that the Lord has made... let us rejoice and be glad for the abundance provided by our God. There is much to celebrate as we enter a new era of mission made possible by our beautiful new building. Not only do we worship and sing God's praises, we love and serve one another and invite others to discover God at work among and through us out into the world. All of that is wrapped up in one word... *"Discovery!"*

However, as a family of faith doing God's work, we are never without challenges. Our challenge now is to unite as we did a decade ago but this time to fill our beautiful church home with inspired, gospel based mission. Accomplishing this requires us to be as unwaveringly determined to expand the mission of Hope Lutheran Church as we were to build this building. Now our guide is not a building blueprint but rather it is vision statement serving as a blueprint for our future mission. This is the very core of *"Discovery!"*

Christian Vision is based on our understanding of the Gospel and God's purpose for our existence. It is a picture of what we carry around in our hands and hearts of who we are and what we are called to accomplish. Vision is a message to ourselves that inspires us and generates passion. Last year 257 people completing the congregational survey listed "having a clear picture of Hope's future" as the #1 urgent need. Mission on the other hand articulates the essential nature of our values and our work. It expresses our purpose in a way that generates commitment, innovation and courage and brings our vision alive.

We are proposing that Hope's vision be "Connecting Life and Faith" and our mission is to "Welcome All to Discover God at Work in the World".

"Discovery!" is about prayer, discernment, and unflinching commitment to clarify and live out the vision God has in store for us. God is calling us to work together to support mission and create ministries that maximize every nook and cranny of this building. We believe that our biggest opportunities and best mission experiences are before us and that many seekers and believers will want to be a part of this exhilarating ministry. Our *"Discovery!"* Fund Appeal is about discovering our collective future. At the same time it is about each of us as we run the race with perseverance, with unwavering faith and with unbridled gusto and generous commitment.

Hebrews 12 tells us... "let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith..."

"Discovery!" is all about God at work in the world through each one of us... through our energy, our skill, our finances, our passion.

"Discovery!" is all about you!!



How a Little... Adds Up to A Lot!

Average Weekly Giving	Number of Givers	1st Step Increase	OR	2nd Step Increase
\$300+	1	\$30		\$50
\$200+	4	\$25		\$40
\$150+	4	\$25		\$40
\$100+	3	\$15		\$25
\$75+	22	\$15		\$25
\$50+	32	\$10		\$15
\$25+	53	\$5		\$10
\$10+	74	\$5		\$10
Under \$10	<u>169</u>	\$3		\$5
	342			

Frequently Asked Questions

WHY ARE WE CONDUCTING A THREE YEAR FUNDING PROGRAM NOW?

We are raising additional money for two reasons: (1) to strengthen current ministries plus gradually implement new ministries that expand our mission and (2) to pay the mortgage payments in 2012, 2013, 2014.

WE HAVE CONDUCTED TWO FUND APPEALS IN THE PAST. HOW IS THE “Discovery!” APPEAL DIFFERENT?

The two previously conducted appeals were both capital appeals and raised money to build our current facility which was dedicated on November 2, 2008. Since 2007 over \$2,200,000 has been received for the building enabling us to pay down our long-term debt to 3.45 million and accumulate a sizable restricted building fund. When leaders are assured that money will be available to make debt payments for the next three years, they will use a portion of the reserve fund to pay down the loan principle.

Now the #1 financial challenge is to raise additional money to strengthen current ministries and introduce much needed new ministries in the future. Currently the only dedicated source of support for ministries is the weekly offering plate. Hope is a slightly larger congregation now than it was when it relocated yet support for its annual mission and ministries was less in 2010 than in 2007. We simply must have greater support to strengthen and expand our mission if we are to make full use of our beautiful new facility. For that reason the “Discovery!” Appeal is a vision/mission appeal focusing on how to strengthen current ministries and expand the overall future mission of Hope as well as meet monthly mortgage payments.

WE HEAR A LOT ABOUT VISION – WHY?

Hope is entering into a new era. We are occupying a much larger facility that is designed to accommodate more people and more ministries. We are calling a new Lead Pastor. The more we can identify and communicate our vision, the more likely we will call the right individual. Discovering expanded mission opportunities for our own family, the surrounding community and beyond requires an expanded worker base made up of both paid professionals and an expanded, energized volunteer core. To do this and do it well requires a clear understood and supported vision. According to the 257 people who completed the congregational survey conducted last fall, the most urgent need at Hope is to have a clear picture of Hope’s vision. Vision is the engine that drives every organization whether it be for profit or not-for profit; secular or Christian. For Hope, discerning vision intentional review of scripture, fervent prayer and extensive people input.



IF “Discovery!” IS ALL ABOUT VISION FOR THE FUTURE – WHAT IS OUR VISION?

We are in the process of discerning our vision. The Vision/Mission Team is proposing this Vision Statement, “Connecting Life and Faith.” They are also proposing this Mission statement, “We Welcome All to Discover God at Work in the World.” Much thought, scriptural review and prayer has gone into these statements which will serve as the foundation of who we are and why we are in ministry. Both statements will be brought to the congregation this fall in a variety of ways to gather input.

HOW WILL THIS VISION BE PUT INTO PRACTICE?

Congregational input from last year’s vision/mission assessment interviews and survey resulted in good guidelines for where the congregation endorses strengthening and expanding mission. These are five areas that stood out:

- Enhancement of the music program for the long-term
- Deepening our youth and family ministries
- Exploring the possibilities of early childhood education connected to MSU as an outreach to the community
- Hiring a Coordinator of Volunteers to broaden, equip and deploy our volunteer sector
- Continue to study ways to reach out to our community by welcoming all to discover God at work in the world

Continued on P. 6



Part I - “Living In Trust Of God’s Grace And Abundance”

The Challenge... to trust in God’s abundant provisions, worry less about your life and be generous even as God is generous.

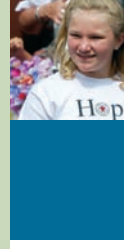
The Promise... being greatly blessed by God for your generosity.

In response to God’s grace, Christians are called to respond and act with joy and expectancy. We are encouraged to be ever growing, generous persons (stewards) and share greatly the many gifts given to our care. Through these actions we will be blessed to be a blessing to others while making this world a better place as we expand God’s Kingdom.

Read one Bible passage a day and then reflect on these questions:

1. *What have I done for others in my life that made me the most happy?*
2. *Do I feel like a blessed person? Why? Why not?*
3. *What is the greatest influence or control in my life; money or God’s word? How do I know?*

Capture five minutes of quiet time daily and pray for a generous spirit, particularly in those areas where you take the greatest pride of self accomplishment or experience a sense of greed.



Our God is a God of unc...
provider, who in turn calls...
tells us in Matthew 5:28, “Li...
Live generously and graciously...
towards you.” The theme of th...
on Christ’s words about our l...
we have can prevent us from...
generosity. My prayer is that...
life in grace and gratitude and...
committing an investment leve...
the mission of Hope Lutheran C...

*Ann Rauvola Bailey, Founder...
Consultant Group based in St. ...*

Ephesians 1:3-5

You have been chosen.

**DAY
1**

“Long before God laid down the earth’s foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. ... It’s in Christ that we find out who we are and what we are living for. Long before we first heard of Christ, he had his eye on us, had designs on us for glorious living, part of the overall purpose he is working out in everything and everyone” (The Message)

Ephesians 4:5-7 & 11-12

We have different gifts, but we are all blessed with Grace.

**DAY
2**

“... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of us all, who is above all and through all and in all. But grace was given to each of us according to the measure of Christ’s ultimate gift....The gifts he gave were that some would be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ.” (NRSV)

Excerpts from Luke 12

Do not worry but keep the main thing, the main thing.

**DAY
3**

“He said to his disciples, ‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat, or about your body, what you will wear. For life is more than food, and the body more than clothing.... Consider the lilies, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these.... It is human nature to strive for material things; but your Father knows what you need. Instead, strive for his kingdom, and the worldly things will be given to you as well. Sell your possessions, and give alms. Make purses for yourselves that do not wear out, an unfailing treasure in heaven, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.’” (NRSV)

2 Corinthians 9:7-11

A joyful, generous disciple will be enriched in every way.

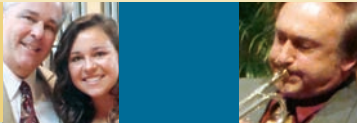
**DAY
4**

“Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written, ‘He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.’ He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us.” (NRSV)



conditional love and an abundant life that leads us to live as people of grace. Jesus calls us to live out our God created identity. We are called to love towards others, the way God lives and loves. This 8 day, self-directed study focuses on the love of possessions and how what we have affects our lives. Knowing the joy and blessings of this study guides you to live your life in a way that inspires you to be courageous by the power of God's gift to Discovery in support of the Church.

*of Kairos. a national Church
Paul, MN*



Capture five minutes of quiet time daily and pray for God's presence to be made known and God's will to prevail in decisions throughout your home, church, community, country, and the entire world.

Part II - "Living In Thanks, Praise, And Proclamation!"

How can I do this?... by daily praising and thanking God for caring for you in faithfulness and abundance.

by being a generous steward so others will come to know of God's goodness.

by inviting others to share the Christian journey.

This is our time and our place to assure that God's message of love and redemption is carried forward in a clear and bold voice. Let us boldly live out our Mission, given by Jesus Christ: to share God's love, welcome others into his church, and grow to become like Jesus.

Read one Bible passage a day and then reflect on these questions:

1. **How can I effectively share the joy of my faith with others?**
2. **Does the way I live my daily life send out a clear and bold message that I am a person centered in Christ?**
3. **Do my actions give honor and praise to God?**

**DAY
5**

Matthew 28:19 & 20 *Christ's Great Commission.*

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age."
(NSRV)

**DAY
7**

Excerpts from Philippians 4 *Pray about everything.*

"Celebrate God every day. I mean revel in him! Don't fret or worry. Instead of worrying, pray. Let petitions and praises shape your worries into prayers, letting God know your concerns. Before you know it, a sense of God's wholeness, everything coming together for good, will come and settle you down. It's wonderful what happens when Christ displaces worry at the center of your life."
(The Message)

**DAY
6**

John 15:7-11 *Abide in love to receive God's abundance.*

"If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so I love you; abide in my love. If you keep my commandments, you will abide in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete."
(NRSV)

**DAY
8**

1Peter 4:7-11 *Praise God through your actions.*

"Discipline yourselves for the sake of your prayers. Above all else, maintain constant love for one another... Be hospitable to one another... Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift you have received... serve with the strength that God supplies so that God will be glorified in all things. To Him belong the glory and power, forever and ever. Amen."
(NRSV)

Frequently Asked Questions

... Continued from page 3

WHAT ARE THE FINANCIAL GOALS OF THE “Discovery!” APPEAL?

Leadership has approved a 1.5 million dollar base goal for “Discovery!” Reaching this goal means that for every dollar spent on mortgage payments (\$734,400 over three years) a matching dollar will be spent on strengthening current ministries and expanding the future mission of Hope.

HOW DOES OUR “Discovery!” COMMITMENT AFFECT OUR ANNUAL GIVING?

It doesn't! Your “Discovery!” gift is above and beyond your annual support of ongoing mission and ministries. If you cannot support both efforts, please continue to support and increase your regular, ongoing annual giving.

HOW MUCH SHOULD I GIVE?

Everyone has to decide for him or herself, but here are some guidelines for you to consider:

- Reflect on your blessings from a generous God and give out of joy and gratitude
- Ask God for direction. Pray and meditate over a period of time and be open to the Spirit
- Be informed by reading all the “Discovery!” materials sent or delivered to you
- Complete all Bible Studies that are part of the materials you receive
- Participate in the many prayer opportunities offered as part of Discovery
- Give until it takes your breath away and you feel joy swelling up in your heart

HOW WILL I BE CONTACTED FOR MY “Discovery!” GIFT?

You will be receiving a Discovery Response Packet on or near Sunday, October 9th in which will be information on how to make your Discovery response. Actual presentation of your Discovery Response Card will take place at either of the Discovery rallies on Sunday, October 16 or on Thursday, October 20th or at a special Discovery worship on Sunday, October 23rd. People who have not indicated a response by October 30th will be contacted by a Hope volunteer as part of the appeal follow-up.



HOW LONG DOES MY “Discovery!” GIFT CONTINUE?

You have up to three-years to complete your gift. The official giving period starts in January of 2012 and continues through December of 2014. Up front giving is encouraged.

MAY I GIVE STOCKS, REAL ESTATE, INSURANCE, OR OTHER GIFTS IN KIND IN ADDITION TO CASH GIFTING?

Absolutely! For many people, appreciated assets or non-cash resources are wise ways to help fund a gift to Hope Lutheran Church. For those 70 years of age and up, there may be special opportunities to give from IRA's or advancing a portion of one's estate now rather than through a Will. Our consultant Ann Bailey has expertise in this area and will be teaching a “Creative Giving” seminar on Sunday, October 9th @ 10 am to help spark innovative thinking.

WILL THERE BE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DESIGNATE MY “Discovery!” GIFT?

“Discovery!” Gifts will be used at and for Hope Lutheran Church's mission; however, there may be some instance that a donor wishes his/her gift to be allocated to a certain area of mission or ministry in total or in part. The church council has approved a guideline for accepting such designations and will evaluate each request accordingly.

WHAT IF MY FINANCIAL SITUATION CHANGES OR I MOVE OUT OF THE AREA BEFORE I HAVE COMPLETED GIVING MY GIFT?

We know that circumstances can change. If you find that you wish to increase, decrease, fulfill your commitment early or cancel, please contact the church office for referral to the appropriate person.

IMPORTANT... In addition to a written commitment in support of the “Discovery!” Fund Appeal, people will be asked to make another written commitment of support. This one is to indicate support of the 2012 Annual Ministry Plan. This could be termed as “regular” or “ongoing” giving to support Hope's mission, ministry, outreach, salaries, building costs, etc for 2012. We are converting the old “budget” into a narrative style Ministry Plan which will be distributed to all people as an enclosure in the Discovery Response Packet on October 9th.





All are invited to join the Circle of Generosity by contributing to this appeal.

“Discovery!” Giving Guide

Gifts on this Giving Guide are encouraged to be given over a three-year period beginning in January 2012, and continuing through December 2014.

Up-front giving is always encouraged. Discovery Gifts should be money above and beyond ongoing annual support. The guide is based on the number of giving units currently active at Hope. Our “base” goal of \$1.5 Million is approximately 60% of the guide. Reaching the base goal enables to allocate the majority of our “Discovery!” resources to mission.

Please review the enclosed Bible Study in your packet then pray and reflect.

Please consider your gift to the “Discovery!” appeal by reviewing the Gift Guide below and placing your response in an amount that takes your breath away and brings joy to your heart.

The generosity of just one person can have a powerful ripple effect!

Number of Gifts	Total Gift
1	\$ 250,000
1	\$ 150,000
1	\$ 100,000
1	\$ 50,000
2	\$ 35,000
4	\$ 25,000
15	\$ 15,000
18	\$ 10,000
22	\$ 12,000
25	\$ 10,000
32	\$ 7,500
40	\$ 5,000
52	\$ 3,000
130	\$ 1,500 or less

For Jesus said, “where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.”

Matthew 6:21



Brothers, Sisters and Friends of Hope Lutheran Church

As your congregational president, I would like share a few thoughts with you concerning our congregation and the new *"Discovery!"* Project which is getting underway. Hope Lutheran church will soon embark on a new *"Voyage of Discovery"*. Over the past few months **Pastor Mitch Jones** has joined **Pastor Jennifer Wilson** and together they are helping us step forward, and as a congregation, take a good look at ourselves. In the process we are discovering who we are, and where we want to go. It has been an enlightening experience for many of us.

Tremendous activities and efforts are occurring by numerous members of Hope Lutheran Staff and people of our congregation. **Paul Goodman**, with a cadre of volunteer helpers has energized our youth program through increased participation and activity with ultimately strengthens the entire Hope Youth Program. Activities ranging from Chili-Cook Offs, Mel's Diner, Vacation Bible School, The Christmas Shop, camping trips, and youth retreats, just to name a few; are taking place throughout the year. The youth at Hope have come together in programs that continue to grow. They are already discovering what empowered youth can accomplish

The Keenagers (new senior ministry) has been started totally by volunteers. Their first ever event last month, drew over 40 participants to a fun-filled pot luck BBQ with games, door prizes, and yes, even entertainment! This group is energized and has already started to Discover what may lay ahead. With help from **Eric Funk**, the music program at Hope is also growing. This fall we can be looking forward to numerous musical events being hosted by Hope. We are blessed to have so much talent within our congregation.

Things many of us do not realize are taking place, such as the vegetable garden that has been started as a way for Hope to help the **Gallatin Valley Food Bank** be able to offer fresh vegetables to their clients. The garden did not just appear; volunteer's hard work has been necessary for it to happen. As a result we discovered what Hope can do with a small plot of ground!

This winter we will have the amazing opportunity to welcome **Pastor John Nunes**, the Executive Director of Lutheran World Relief and his wife **Monique**. Pastor Nunes' visit to Hope will bring a message of discovery focusing on how to move Hope's mission forward as part of the greater church.

In the next three years we will make a commitment to fund our mission. There are going to be challenging, engaging, exciting and rewarding times as Hope moves forward on our *Voyage of Discovery*. Please prayerfully consider how you and your family will join Hope's voyage. We are all needed, we are important and with God at our side, we are able to move mountains!

Thank You, and God Bless,

Gary Bishop

Church Membership History:

2000.....	1024
2001.....	1065
2002.....	1120
2003.....	1199
2004.....	1241
2005.....	1313
2006.....	1506
2007.....	1530
2008.....	1565
2009.....	1604
2010.....	1557



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