

Decades of Hope

On Sunday, October 6, 2019, the Hope Lutheran community will gather to celebrate Hope's 100 Year Anniversary serving Bozeman and the Gallatin Valley. Our "*Decades of Hope*" events and presentations offer an opportunity to reflect on the congregation's rich history and to ponder the challenges and opportunities for the decades ahead.

Perhaps a useful starting point is reflecting upon some of the significant acts of *Faith* and *Hope* by earlier generations; commitments and sacrifices that brought us to 2019 and the opportunities ahead. What were the members of Hope Lutheran thinking (and committing to) when:

- In September 1919 a handful of families committed to chartering a new congregation and bringing a pastor to Bozeman, building the first formal church building in 1925.
- In 1950-51 the Grand Avenue sanctuary was built at a then staggering cost of \$64,000, financed in part by members taking second mortgages on their own homes!
- In 1961 an education/fellowship hall wing was added at a cost of \$87,000, most of which was borrowed money paid off in the following 18 years.
- In 1967 Hope Lutheran helped launch Christ the King Lutheran church here in Bozeman.
- During the 1980's, the congregation helped purchase land in Belgrade for what would soon become Peace Lutheran.
- In 1997 Hope purchased a 20 acre site on South 19<sup>th</sup> for \$320,000; paid off by 2003.
- In 2004 the congregation overwhelmingly supported the beginning of the Expand our Mission program to design and construct a new church home on South 19<sup>th</sup>.
- In 2008 we completed construction and dedicated our current 32,000 square foot church home, built at a cost of \$7.5 million. Thrivent Financial provided a long-term mortgage of \$3.7 million. As of July 2019 our mortgage balance is \$2,600,000, with a monthly payment of \$17,129.00.
- Today, over 80 church and community groups utilize our facilities, including Family Promise, Christmas Shoppe, youth groups, Inter-Faith Quilters and many more. Hope Lutheran is an active community of faith, education, music, youth, families, seniors, and more.

The 1994 Diamond Anniversary theme for Hope Lutheran was "*Hope for Today and Tomorrow*". Indeed, the faith and optimism for building the future – making commitments that probably felt overwhelming at times – seem to be the core of Hope Lutheran. Making "*stretch commitments*" has been a hallmark of *Decades of Hope*.

So, what are the opportunities, the challenges, the needs that the current Hope Lutheran community is ready to tackle? What will our legacy be? What should our "*stretch commitments*" look like in the years and decades ahead? Besides our regular commitments to sustaining the current activities of the church (our general budget and current giving), what more can or should we be doing?

The Mission Resource Team, the Governing Council, and your pastoral staff want to hear from you about our future plans and commitments. In the coming months you will have several venues open for sharing your thoughts about the future of our church community. What are your goals, aspirations, fears or dreams for the Hope Lutheran community? What are you willing to do to make the Decades of Hope stretch far into the future?

Please prayerfully consider these questions and challenges, and willingly share your thoughts and commitments. What should our *“Faith in the Future”* look like as we celebrate the *“Decades of Hope”* in the months ahead?

Dan Larson, Mission Resource Team

MRT Members: Dick Deschamps, Clinton Gerst, Lesley Bredvik, Dale Olson, Dan Larson