



Reach out.
Root deep.
Love one another.

Hope Lutheran Church

To encourage all people to
know the love of Christ.

OVERFLOW WITH HOPE

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We need you.
Invite | Join | Serve | Pray

A VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Romans 15:13 (NIV)

13 May the God of hope fill you with all the joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may **overflow with hope** by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13 gives us a beautiful picture of a life of faith. A life that is so abundantly blessed by God that joy and peace capture our hearts, minds, and souls so that we overflow with the grace of God. A life that is so full of the goodness of God that it spills out in every direction, blessing and inviting others to know the God that **overflows** with love!

A life of Holy Spirit overflow refuses to measure itself by the scarcity of this world, , rather, as image bearers, as children of God, we are defined by the unlimited, eternal, all sufficient provision and grace of God. Imagine a life defined not by our perceived scarcity, but by God's abundance! This is an **overflow**.

Our faith is like this. It cannot be contained. It is not meant to be hidden away. We are to be the salt of the earth and light of the world.

In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven. **Matthew 5:16**

This is our calling. It is our destiny. It is the purpose of your life. To be filled to **overflowing** with the life changing, world altering, sin busting, purpose giving, eternity making Hope of Jesus Christ! It is what we were made for! To be instruments, vessels, clay jars, filled up and poured out with God's goodness and love.

But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.

2 Corinthians 4:7

And yet, great challenges face the cause of Christ in our culture.

Overflow with Hope

A little history...

Pew Research Center has found that the religious affiliation and participation of American's is on a steady decline with a corresponding growth of religious "nones" who report belief in "nothing in particular". (<https://www.pewresearch.org/religion/2019/10/17/in-u-s-decline-of-christianity-continues-at-rapid-pace/>)

What or who is to blame?

Many seek to tackle that question. Some would say that we simply are drifting in a similar pattern of the decline of Christianity seen in European countries (most with less than 3 % of the population ever going to church). Others would argue our affluence, comfort, and prosperity have blinded us. It is the evil one at work. Maybe we didn't hold to our traditions strongly enough? Perhaps we were not willing enough to embrace new and contemporary styles of worship? Polarization in our culture and divisive politics have not been helpful.

Is this death inevitable? What is God up to?

In response it seems that Christians fall into various camps:

Cultural Accommodation: Whether right or left politically the bible is proof texted to fit to justify a personal viewpoint or agenda. The focus becomes on social or personal issues rather than foundational concerns of orthodoxy. Little or no room is left for questioning loyalties or compromise.

Cultural Retreat: The end is near, and the goal of the church is to insulate from the world and protect our own. Circle the wagons! This can be expressed in either a rigid allegiance to an issue-based agenda, or a staunch allegiance to a particular theological, denominational, or worship tradition.

Are these the only options?

The answer is a resounding NO! We are called to be culture transformers! As Jesus followers we do not conform to the patterns of this world, but we are transformed by the renewing of our minds by the Holy Spirit (Romans 12:1-2). We are not called to hide, but to engage, with incarnational, servant hearted, humble, and consistent love. To be salt and light! To be the body of Christ alive and active. To fulfill our great commandment (Matthew 22:36-40) and great commission (Matthew 28:16-20) purpose and be engaged, with the love of Jesus.

We will not give up on living out our mission!
We will not run away and hide from a challenge!

Our giants are big, but giants fall.

We are, and always have been, a church with a laser focus to encourage all people to know the love of Christ. We have two primary concerns: to reach the lost, and to help people root and grow deep in their relationship with Jesus Christ.

These biblical purposes are accomplished by a relentless commitment to our five core ministry strategies:

WORSHIP: Our worship teams provide 11 weekly worship services at Hope West, Hope North, Hope South, and Hope Online!

YOUTH MINISTRY: Youth ministry staff and volunteers provide ministry to over 2500 young people weekly cradle to college!

HOPECARE: From funerals to hospital visits, Stephen Ministry to care baskets, hundreds of volunteers provide countless hours of care and love to our community.

ADULT GROWTH: 24% of our adult congregation engage in a next step on our Soul Business map, growing deeper in their maturity in Christ.

MINISTRY OPERATIONS: All this ministry requires incredible organization and support. Our campuses are supported by an incredible operations team.

These ministries are guided by a biblical purpose, “To encourage all people to know the love of Christ.” And they are shaped by our culture which has been developed by over 64 years of ministry in our community. (See Hope’s culture document).

And so...**a big vision for Hope.**

OVERFLOW WITH HOPE

REPLICATING

Our vision, values and culture lead our ministries, not one person or personality. All gifts contribute and matter in the Kingdom. We are team structured. This is how we can be one church with multiple locations. Growth in Jesus is a discipleship process.

RELENTLESS PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

There is a Holy Discontent in our church to seek excellence in all we do to honor God and make a difference in people's lives.

SOUL BUSINESS

Hope is a place where we encourage people to get their lives right with Christ. All are invited to bare their brokenness and be real before the cross. Graceful self-awareness is essential for growth in Christ. Confessing to a forgiving God is part of our life together. Ministry begins at the foot of the cross. Transparency and vulnerability are values lived out in all ministries at Hope.

EXPERIENTIAL TRANSFORMATIVE WORSHIP

We expect to encounter God in worship. We expect lives to be transformed in Worship. Worship is not a performance or a show but an encounter with the Living God.

HUMILITY

The first shall be last and the last shall be first. We will engage our world and win people for Christ with great humility.

JESUS FIRST

We strive to keep our focus on Jesus. Our unity is found in our faith in Jesus Christ, to know him and grow in a relationship with him.

CULTURE OF HOPE



LOVE PEOPLE

At Hope we put people before policies. Caring for and helping hurting people is fulfilling the law of Christ and a part of who we are.

DEEPLY ROOTED IN GOD'S WORD

The word of God is the final authority for all matters of faith and life.

HIGH HOSPITALITY

God's Grace abounds in the way we welcome and invite people to our church.

RADICAL MIDDLE

Jesus came full of Grace and Truth (John 1:14). God's word is truth. God offers his Grace freely to all who believe. We walk the line of the truth of God and His unconditional unmerited love for others.

OUTREACH AND OWNERSHIP

We want people to become deeply rooted in their relationship with Christ. We exist to reach those who do not yet know Jesus. There is no compromise between the two.

THE NEXT GENERATION IS THE CHURCH NOW

We are an intergenerational church that places a high value on youth. There is nothing we won't do to pass on our faith to the next generation. Our children will lead us.

SACRIFICIAL GENEROSITY

We are blessed to be a blessing. As a church we have the sacred responsibility and the profound privilege of living generous lives. Our generosity will make an impact for Christ, locally, regionally, and globally.

Our goal is to overflow with hope so that we multiply our impact in outreach, discipleship, and compassion.

Reach Out Strategic Initiative

Outreach Overflow

He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.” Mark 16:15
Hand in hand with the building of the West Campus is a renewed movement to reach people wherever we are planted. Hope is one church with multiple locations united in a mission to encourage all people to know the love of Christ. We seek to grow and reach those in our community that do not yet know Jesus. This outreach strategy will be hallmarked with the following emphases:

Personal Invite

Multiple studies all conclude that the number one reason someone doesn't go to church is that no one invited them. Remember, our faith is personal, but it is not private! The goal of this strategy is to provide the necessary tools, encouragement, instruction, and passion to equip all our members to invite people to church.

High Hospitality

High hospitality is a long-standing cultural value. The goal of this strategy is to build on that strong tradition and practice by challenging us to imagine what it would look like if everyone who walked through our doors experiences Jesus in the way they are welcomed.

Youth Ministry

Our children are often our greatest evangelists. We strive to fulfill the promises made in baptism and walk alongside families to plant the seed of Hope deeply in the souls of our young people. We believe our young people are not just the church of tomorrow, but the church right now. We will create space and practices for all kids and students to be welcome and know God's love in Jesus Christ.

Build a Home for Hope West

In the Fall of 2022, our church voted unanimously to purchase land in West Fargo. Hope West continues to grow, and it is time to raise the necessary resources and make the appropriate plans to build a permanent west campus for the glory of God. This campus will create the space and tools necessary to reach out to this rapidly growing part of our community.

Root Deep Strategic Initiative

Discipleship Overflow

Then he said to them all: "Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. 24 For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. Luke 9:23-24

Psalm 1 teaches us that we are like a deeply rooted tree planted by streams of water when we meditate and study God's word together. Biblical literacy is at an all time low in our culture. The fruit we bear in outreach and love to our community is directly proportionate to the health of our roots. It is critical that we dive deep in the study of God's word together. We seek to double our impact of those on the Soul Business Map. This means we want to engage as many people as possible in the next step beyond worship.

This discipleship overflow will be hallmarked by:

Deeply Rooted Bible Study and Bible Study

We believe all believers should engage in the study of scripture. This means that we will create opportunities and tools for everyone to get into God's Word always. This will include building on our walk through the entire bible study called deeply rooted, grow our weekly bible podcast, and challenge and teach everyone to read and apply God's word to life.

Building a Hope Academy

This vision is for our church to become a ministry training and sending center. This would mean identifying and equipping more pastoral interns, developing youth ministry internships, training worship ministry interns, and more. This is a way we can replicate our culture and multiply our impact here and beyond.

Everyone on the Soul Business Map

Currently around 22% of our adult membership is engaged in the next step of serving or growing in our church as we measure on what we call our Soul Business map. We do not believe Christianity is a spectator sport but a team effort where we all get off the bench and get to work for the Kingdom of God!

Love One Another Strategic Initiative

Compassion Overflow

*34 “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”
John 13:34-35*

Our God is a generous God that calls us to live with abundant generosity. An overflow of Hope in our community looks like God’s people feeding the hungry, caring for the elderly, meeting the needs of children, housing the homeless, and continuing to work with our local, regional, and global ministry partners. We will build on our history and multiply our impact as we serve together. This will be hallmarked by:

Personal and Corporate Generosity Growth

Proverbs 11:24-25 teaches us:

*24 The world of the generous gets larger and larger;
the world of the stingy gets smaller and smaller.*

*25 The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed;
those who help others are helped.*

Generosity changes aligns our hearts to the heart of God and joins us to His work in the world. We will meet real needs with life changing and extravagant generosity.

A Call to Serve

Jesus calls us to be his hands in feet in the world. All of our gifts and talents are important as we serve our community and beyond. We will seek to multiply our impact by being generous with one of our most important resources-time.

Our challenges are great. Reaching these goals will require an incredible amount of time, treasure, and talent. It will ask us to be selfless and bold, laying down and sacrificing our desires to fulfill His will for our community and region.
Let us Overflow with Hope together!

What are we asking from you?

Reach Out. - Invite one person to worship.

Root Deep. - Get involved on the Soul Business Map. Join our Deeply Rooted Bible Study.

Love One Another. - Find a place to give your time and serve our community.

Lastly, we ask you to **Pray** for this vision for our congregation.

