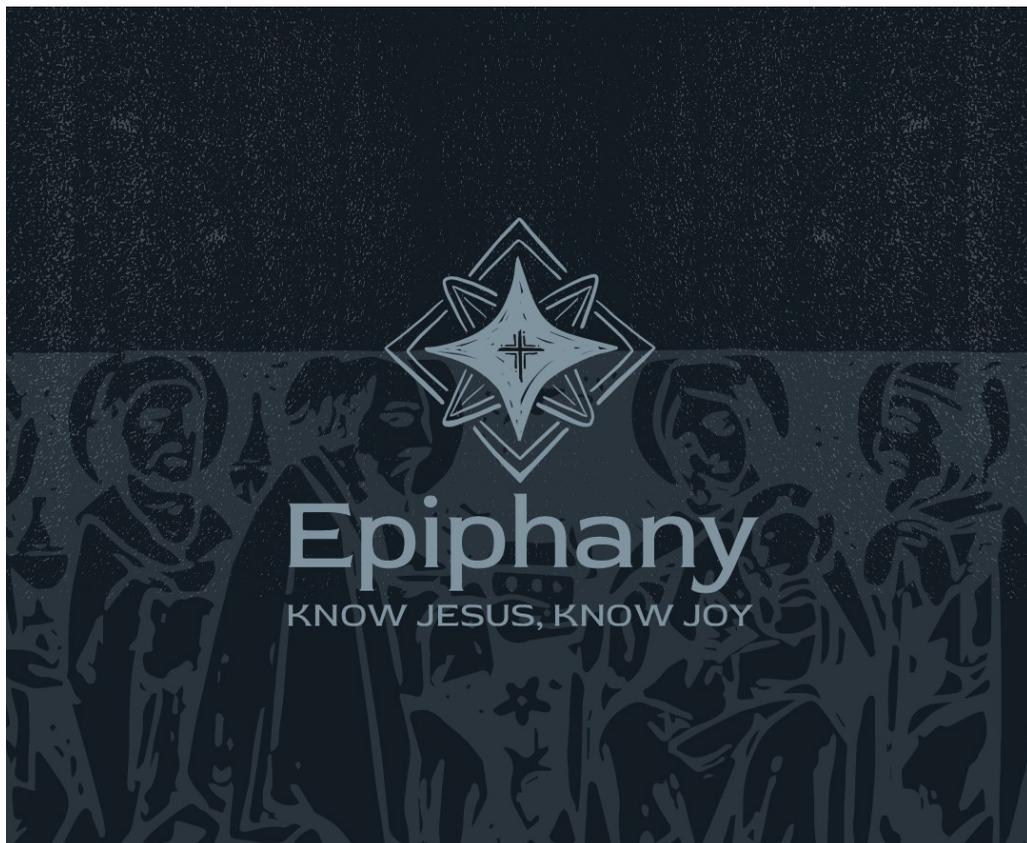


January 11, 2026



Attracted to the Light

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

We're so glad you decided to worship with us today. You could have chosen to be anywhere this morning, and you chose to spend your time with Living Hope. Thank you! It's an honor to have you here and to have the chance to fill you with hope. Welcome to Living Hope.

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: Know Jesus, Know Joy

Epiphany is the season of revelation—when God pulls back the curtain and shows us who Jesus truly is. From the worship of the Magi to the waters of baptism and the first signs of glory, Jesus is made known not just as a teacher, but as the Savior of the world. This series invites us to move beyond familiarity to true knowing. As we encounter Jesus in Scripture, worship, and daily life, we discover a joy that is deeper than happiness and stronger than circumstances. When Christ is revealed, joy is renewed. Because to know Jesus is to know joy.

Today's Focus: Attracted to the Light

The terms darkness and light are loaded with meaning. Light is a symbol of knowledge, goodness, life, truth, happiness, salvation. Darkness is a symbol of ignorance, grief, hopelessness, sin, evil, damnation. Sadly, darkness seems to be the world's default setting. Isaiah agrees: "See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples..."

But God assures us, our light has come. Jesus is the light of the world, the light and life of all mankind. Through faith in Jesus, light is now our default setting. Jesus overwrites it. We rise and shine with the light God shines on us trusting the Lord to take care of the rest : attracting people to his light and life.



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a brand new mission church on Chattanooga's east side. We are funded by and a member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod, a collection of over 1,300 churches across the United States and Canada.

Living Hope succeeds in its mission when hope forever in Jesus brings hope for every day in life.

For more on our mission, background, and beliefs just visit our website: livinghopechatt.com

ABOUT WORSHIP

Worship at Living Hope is designed to fill you with hope! The message you hear at Living Hope will center you on your Savior, Jesus, and what he's done for you. Worship isn't just about filling up God with praise. Worship is all about *God filling you* with good news!

We follow a basic order of service, called the liturgy. In the message, in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news (gospel) about Jesus from start to finish. Gospel-centered worship is also designed to include participation of those in attendance.

- Feel free to get up to use restrooms **at any time** during the service.
- **Restrooms** are located around the corner to your right.
- A **nursery** is available for small children out the left-hand side of the worship space. Just look for the **Kid's Zone sign** just past the info corner by the main entrance. Feel free to use that space during worship. The service will be livestreamed into the room.
- **Kid activity bags** are available on a table by the entrance to the sanctuary.
- Please fill out a **connection card**. It's our best way to stay in touch with you and thank you for joining us today! You'll find connection cards on the table at the entrance.
- Everything you need to enjoy today's worship will be found in this Worship Folder. **Songs** will also be found on the screen.

Show friends where you are—check in!

 /livinghopechatt

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How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 1-3



1 How love - ly shines the Morn - ing Star! The na - tions see
2 O high - est joy by mor - tals won, true Son of God
3 O might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved me ere



and hail a - far the light in Ju - dah shin - ing.
and Mar - y's son, the high - born King of a - ges!
you had be - gun this an - cient world's foun - da - tion.



O Da - vid's son of Ja - cob's race, my Bride - groom and
In your blest bod - y let me be, e'en as the branch
Your Son has made a friend of me, and when in spir -



my King of grace, for you my heart is pin - ing.
is in the tree, your life my life sup - ply - ing.
it him I see, I joy in trib - u - la - tion.



Low - ly, ho - ly, great and glo - rious, O vic - to - rious
Sigh - ing, cry - ing for the sa - vor of your fa - vor,
What bliss is this! He is liv - ing, to me giv - ing



Prince of grac - es, fill - ing all the heav'n-ly plac - es.
rest - ing nev - er till I rest in you for - ev - er.
life for - ev - er; noth - ing me from him can sev - er.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshippers of their baptisms.

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the “heartbeat of the Christian.”

Confession & Absolution

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner,

confess that I have sinned against you

in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should.

I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Jesus' death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world.

He said to his people, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”

Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.

Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life!

Amen.

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

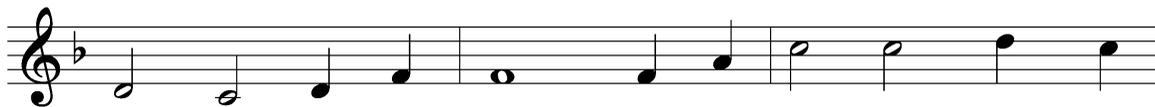
CW 517 sts. 1, 3



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing
in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the
may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing
glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.
praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, by the leading of a star, you once made known to the nations your one and only Son. Guide us, also, who know him now by faith to come at last to the perfect joy of your heavenly glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 3:2-12

²Surely you have heard about the administration of God's grace that was given to me for you, ³that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly. ⁴In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, ⁵which was not made known to people in other generations as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to God's holy apostles and prophets. ⁶This mystery is that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

⁷I became a servant of this gospel by the gift of God's grace given me through the working of his power. ⁸Although I am less than the least of all the Lord's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the boundless riches of Christ, ⁹and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things. ¹⁰His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, ¹¹according to his eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord. ¹²In him and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.

Gospel

Matthew 2:1–12

¹After Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the time of King Herod, Magi from the east came to Jerusalem ²and asked, “Where is the one who has been born king of the Jews? We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him.”

³When King Herod heard this he was disturbed, and all Jerusalem with him. ⁴When he had called together all the people’s chief priests and teachers of the law, he asked them where the Messiah was to be born. ⁵“In Bethlehem in Judea,” they replied, “for this is what the prophet has written:

⁶“But you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah,
are by no means least among the rulers of Judah;
for out of you will come a ruler who will shepherd my people Israel.””

⁷Then Herod called the Magi secretly and found out from them the exact time the star had appeared. ⁸He sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the child. As soon as you find him, report to me, so that I too may go and worship him.”

⁹After they had heard the king, they went on their way, and the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. ¹⁰When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. ¹¹On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. ¹²And having been warned in a dream not to go back to Herod, they returned to their country by another route.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Children's Message

Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

The People Who in Darkness Walked

CW 381



1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious
2 To us a child of hope is born, to us a son is
3 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, the Ev - er - last - ing
4 His right - eous gov - ern - ment and pow'r shall o - ver all ex -
5 Lord Je - sus, reign in us, we pray, and make us yours a -



light; the heav'n - ly dawn broke forth on those who
giv'n, and on his shoul - ders ev - er rests all
Lord, the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, the
tend; on judg - ment and on jus - tice based, his
lone, for you are with the Fa - ther and the



dwelt in death and night, who dwelt in death and night.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, all pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, the God by all a - dored.
reign shall have no end, his reign shall have no end.
Spir - it ev - er one, the Spir - it ev - er one.

Text: John Morison, 1749–1798, abr., alt.

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Isaiah 60:1–6

¹“Arise, shine, for your light has come,
and the glory of the LORD rises upon you.

²See, darkness covers the earth
and thick darkness is over the peoples,
but the LORD rises upon you
and his glory appears over you.

³Nations will come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

⁴“Lift up your eyes and look about you:
All assemble and come to you;
your sons come from afar,
and your daughters are carried on the hip.

⁵Then you will look and be radiant,
your heart will throb and swell with joy;
the wealth on the seas will be brought to you,
to you the riches of the nations will come.

⁶Herds of camels will cover your land,
young camels of Midian and Ephah.
And all from Sheba will come,
bearing gold and incense
and proclaiming the praise of the LORD.

Attracted to the Light

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is instinctive for humans?
2. What is the “default mode” for our world?
3. What things do darkness and light often represent?
4. What’s our “default setting” from birth?
5. How does God intervene?
6. Which account pairs up perfectly with Isaiah 60:1-6?
7. What does it mean that prophecy “telescopes”?
8. How did Jesus display light in the darkness?
9. What turnaround would have been amazing to Isaiah’s Israelite listeners?
10. In these verses what causes hearts to throb and swell with joy?
11. How does this section end on a mission-minded note?
12. In the end we’re not *forcing* people to the light. What are we doing?

My sermon notes:

Christians have used the Nicene Creed since the fourth century to unite themselves together and to obey God's invitation to "confess with our mouth and believe with our hearts" (Romans 10:9).

Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one being with the Father.**

Through him all things were made.

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,
and became truly human.**

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Offering

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

New Member Welcome

Ben Snyder

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

Prayer of the Church

Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God and Mary's Son, in the fullness of time you came into our world to save us from sin and death.

You ushered in the day of grace so long foretold.

Beloved Son of the Father, revered by the Magi, baptized by John, you came preaching and teaching, healing and comforting, forgiving and encouraging:

You brought the light of life to those walking in darkness, and the joy of salvation to those doomed to death.

Prince of peace, shine like a beacon for us and the people of our world. Let the good news of salvation be heard in the remotest corners of the earth. Open our own lips to speak your name to those around us who still live without faith or hope:

Arouse us and our missionaries to flood the world with the light of your gospel.

Lord of the Church, let your peace rule our hearts that we may use our gifts to serve you and each other in willing gratitude and joy. Watch over our loved ones near and far, that they may remember your love and rejoice in your salvation. Strengthen the faith of the sick and the disheartened. Give hope to those in despair and comfort those who mourn.

Be gracious to all and lead us to reflect your love in everything we say and do.

Finally, bring us and all your believers to the heavenly home where we will stand in the full light of your glory and with all your saints and angels sing the everlasting song of triumph.

Amen.

When Jesus' disciples asked him how to pray he gave them the words of this prayer. (Matt. 6:9-13 and Luke 11:2-4) Since Jesus advises we pray this way, we say "The Lord's Prayer" every Sunday.

Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as an inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity or standing before God. See the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder for more info as well.

Holy Communion

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

Words of Institution

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Amen.

As you wait to go up to the table take some moments to examine your heart.

Acknowledge sin. Trust God's forgiveness through Christ. Recognize the real presence of Jesus' body and blood together with the bread and wine. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Distribution

Personal Prayer: Lord Jesus, with joy and gratitude I now come to your table to receive the precious food of your life-giving body and blood. May it strengthen me to remain in you as you remain in me, so that I bear much fruit in devoted service to you and in acts of kindness to others. Amen.

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace

CW 950



1 Lord, bid your ser - vant go in peace, your
2 This is the Sav - ior of the world, the
3 With saints of old, with saints to come, to



word is now ful - filled. These eyes have seen sal -
Gen - tiles' prom - ised light, God's glo - ry dwell - ing
you we lift our voice; to Fa - ther, Son, and



va - tion's dawn, this child so long fore - told.
in our midst, the joy of Is - ra - el.
Spir - it blest be hon - or, love, and praise.

Text (sts. 1-2): James Quinn, SJ, 1919-2010; (st. 3): Henry V. Gerike, b. 1948

Tune: American

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Text (st. 3): © 2006 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: License no. 151146301

Tune: Public domain

The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

Blessing

M: Brothers and sisters go in peace.

Live in harmony with one another; serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

How Lovely Shines the Morning Star

CW 370 sts. 4-5



4 Oh, joy to know that you, my friend, are Lord, be - gin -
5 Lift up the voice and strike the string, let all glad sounds



ning with-out end, the first and last, e - ter - nal!
of mu - sic ring in God's high prais - es blend - ed.



And you at length— O glo-rious grace— will take me to
Christ will be with me all the way, to - day, to - mor -



that ho - ly place, the home of joys su - per - nal.
row, ev - 'ry day till trav - 'ling days are end - ed.



A - men, a - men! Come and meet me, quick - ly greet me!
Sing out, ring out tri - umph glo - rious, O vic - to - rious



With deep yearn - ing, Lord, I look for your re - turn - ing.
cho - sen na - tion; praise the God of your sal - va - tion.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608, abr., adapt; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608

Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current sermon series: [Know Jesus, Know Joy](#)

This series invites us to move beyond familiarity to true knowing. As we encounter Jesus in Scripture, worship, and daily life, we discover a joy that is deeper than happiness and stronger than circumstances. When Christ is revealed, joy is renewed. Because to know Jesus is to know joy.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano

Connection Envelopes

We'd love to get your valuable feedback on our worship service today. If this is your first time at Living Hope we also want the opportunity to give you a gift to say "thanks for being our guest!" You can place your connection envelopes in the offering plate as it passes or in the basket located at the entrance of the sanctuary. Also feel free to just hand it to pastor.

Sunday School and Bible Study—After worship at 11:30

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will take place after worship today. The adults are doing a study on the book of Judges called Broken Savors as we take a deep dive into a very rich and messy book of the Bible full of applications for us today.



Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

Living Hope Small Groups

Find more information on the small groups bulletin board in the lobby about available groups to get involved with.

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Jan 19)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Jan 15)
- Theology on Tap and Women's Group — (ON BREAK)

Foundations Bible Study

If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope, Foundations is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership, you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word. If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class" in order to jump into a new group class or individual class. There are both in-person or online classes available!



In person classes are available on Saturdays at 11:00am at church.

Online classes are available on Thursdays at 7:30pm. Message pastor for a class link.

Fellowship Event: Living Hope Talent/No Talent Show—Saturday February 7th: 4-7PM

Time to get out of the house and have some fun! Living Hope will be having its first Talent/No Talent Show on Saturday, February 7th from 4-7pm. We are looking for people of all ages to share their "talents" with everyone! If you are a musician, magician or the best fitted sheet folder, we want you there! Artistically talented? Bring and share, we would love to see it! We will have a sign-up sheet in the fellowship area or you can sign up with the link that was emailed to you last week. There will be a sign up for those who want to present a talent and a sign up for those who just want to share in the food and fun. Pizza and drinks will be provided.

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Kevin Spann 1/14 Isaiah Snyder 1/16

Anniversary Blessings:

Kim and Tony Cundiff 1/13

Communion at Living Hope

Communion is important to us at Living Hope and we seek to honor the biblical view of *close communion*. Before coming up for communion, all adults should ask themselves these questions:

1. Do you confess your sins and seek to turn away from the sins you confessed?
2. Do you recognize that Jesus' sacrifice on the cross is the only way sin is forgiven?
3. Do you recognize that in the Sacrament you receive Jesus' true body and true blood along with the bread and the wine? (*1 Corinthians 11:27-29 + 1 Corinthians 10:15-17*)
4. Do you believe that the Bible *IS* God's inspired Word and does not just contain some truths of God?
5. Do you believe that Living Hope Lutheran Church teaches only the truth of God based on His inspired Word? (A summary of these teachings is taught in the *Foundations* course.)

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider—Hynson, Turner
Ushers—Ludwig, Schulz
Acolyte—Ember Turner

Service Teams — Next week Jan 18

Sunday Setup Team—Baggett, Bloedorn
Snack Provider—Mayer, C. Rice
Ushers—Hansen / Open
Acolyte—Eliza Dyer

Pastor Eric Melso

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