

October 12, 2025



Victim or Victor?

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: Wounds That Heal

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today's Focus: Victim or Victor?

We can reject a **victim mentality** and instead live with the confidence of **Christ's victory**. Jesus warns his followers that persecution, betrayal, and hardship will come—not as signs of defeat, but as opportunities to bear witness to his love. Rather than reacting with anger, fear, or vengeance, Christians are invited to model the patient endurance of Jesus, who conquered not through power but through sacrificial love. Believers show true strength when they serve and forgive even in suffering. Because Christ, the ultimate innocent victim, rose in triumph, his people are not victims of the world's hatred but victors through his grace. By trusting his promises and enduring with faith, we testify that love—not retaliation—wins the day.



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!

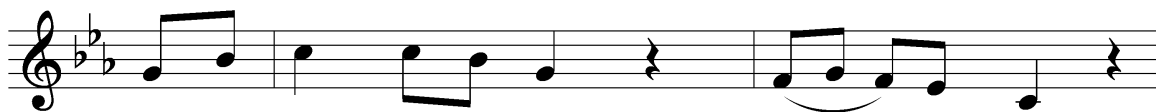


/livinghopechatt

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Ten Thousand Reasons

CW 607



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



- 1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
- 2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
- 3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



7 it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; 7 still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good-ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
ten thou - sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

Text: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974 Tune: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974

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The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshipers 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

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

1 John 1:8-9

**For the wrong we have done, and all the good we have failed to do;
for angry deeds, for hurtful words, for uncharitable thoughts;
for self-centered living, and for failing to walk with humility and gentleness;
for longing to have what is not ours,
and for failing to give thanks for what is ours;
for those sins we do not even remember committing:
Holy God, have mercy on us.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glor - y be to God on high! Your name, O
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring, For your great



Lord, we glor - i - fy; We praise you for your
glor - y, heav'n - ly King, For all, O Fa - ther,



peace and grace, Your fa - vor toward our fall - en race.
you have done Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

Prayer of the Day

Grant, O merciful Lord, to your faithful people pardon and peace that they may be cleansed from all their sins and serve you with a quiet mind; 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

Old Testament Reading

Malachi 4

¹“Surely the day is coming; it will burn like a furnace. All the arrogant and every evildoer will be stubble, and the day that is coming will set them on fire,” says the LORD Almighty. “Not a root or a branch will be left to them. ²But for you who revere my name, the sun of righteousness will rise with healing in its rays. And you will go out and frolic like well-fed calves. ³Then you will trample on the wicked; they will be ashes under the soles of your feet on the day when I act,” says the LORD Almighty.

⁴“Remember the law of my servant Moses, the decrees and laws I gave him at Horeb for all Israel.

⁵“See, I will send the prophet Elijah to you before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. ⁶He will turn the hearts of the parents to their children, and the hearts of the children to their parents; or else I will come and strike the land with total destruction.”

Epistle Reading

2 Thessalonians 1:5–10

⁵All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering. ⁶God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you ⁷and give relief to you who are troubled, and to us as well. This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. ⁸He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might ¹⁰on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you.

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.

I Am Trusting You, Lord Jesus

CW 816



1 I am trust - ing you, Lord Je - sus, trust - ing on - ly you;
2 I am trust - ing you for par - don; at your feet I bow,
3 I am trust - ing you for cleans - ing in the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust - ing you to guide me; you a - lone shall lead,



trust - ing you for full sal - va - tion, free and true.
for your grace and ten - der mer - cy trust - ing now.
trust - ing you to make me ho - ly by your blood.
ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing all my need.

5 I am trusting you for power;
you can never fail.
Words which you yourself shall give me
must prevail.

6 I am trusting you, Lord Jesus;
never let me fall.
I am trusting you forever
and for all.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.
Tune: Henry W. Baker, 1821–1877
Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

The Gospel centers our worship as it shares with us the good news about Christ.
We stand out of respect for our Savior as we hear about his words and deeds

Sermon Reading

Luke 21:5–19

⁵ As some were talking about the temple, how it was decorated with beautiful stones and offerings, Jesus said, ⁶ “These things that you see here—the days will come when there will not be one stone left on another—every one will be thrown down.”

⁷ They asked him, “Teacher, when will these things happen? And what is the sign that these things are about to happen?”

⁸ He said, “Watch out so that you are not deceived! For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am he,’ and ‘The time is near.’ Do not follow them.

⁹ Whenever you hear of wars and revolutions, do not be terrified, for these things must happen first, but the end will not be right then.”

¹⁰ Then he said to them, “Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. ¹¹ There will be great earthquakes, famines, and plagues in various places. There will be horrifying sights and great signs from heaven. ¹² But before all these things, they will lay their hands on you and will persecute you, handing you over to synagogues and prisons, bringing you before kings and governors for my name’s sake. ¹³ It will turn out to be your opportunity to testify. ¹⁴ So make up your minds not to prepare beforehand how to defend yourselves, ¹⁵ for I will give you words and wisdom that none of your adversaries will be able to withstand or contradict. ¹⁶ You will be betrayed even by parents,

brothers, relatives, and friends. They will put some of you to death. ¹⁷ You will be hated by all people for my name's sake. ¹⁸ But not a hair of your head will perish. ¹⁹ By patient endurance you will gain your lives. EHV

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Victim or Victor?

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What can make a "victim mentality" so problematic?
2. What are some of the signs Jesus lists that will come before the end (and also before the destruction of the temple)?
3. What period of time are the "End Times" and why is that important to know?
4. How do verses 12-19 get more "personal."
5. What do these persecutions give us an opportunity to do?
6. Instead of picking up a weapon to add to the violence how did Desmond Doss make a far bigger impact?
7. In what ways did Jesus not live up to the expectations of most and why is that exactly what our angry, violent world needs?
8. How can Jesus say "not a hair on their head will perish"?
9. Jesus bids us to take on not a victim mentality but a _____ mentality.

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. When have you seen a “victim mentality” affect relationships or communities — even within the church?
2. How can we affirm real suffering and injustice without encouraging a victim mindset?
3. Name some ways Jesus’ example on the cross challenges our natural responses to opposition or offense.
4. Which part of Jesus’ promise (“I will give you words and wisdom...”) gives you the most comfort or confidence?
5. How do power, politics, and faith sometimes get tangled — and how can Christians stay centered on love instead of control?
6. Name some ways to taken on a victor mentality in life.

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.

Please be seated.

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord God, eternal King and gracious Father. In love you made us the crown of your creation. In mercy you planned our salvation. In grace you sent your Son to redeem us from sin.

We remember and give you thanks that your eternal Son, Jesus Christ, became flesh and made his dwelling among us, that he willingly placed himself under law to redeem those under law, that he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death on a cross, that he has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood in this Sacrament. Forgive our sins, increase our faith, strengthen our fellowship, and deepen our longing for the

day when Christ will welcome us to his eternal feast. Praise and thanks and honor and glory be to you, O God our Father, and to your Son and to the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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. If you'd still like to come up to receive a blessing you are welcome to do so! 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.

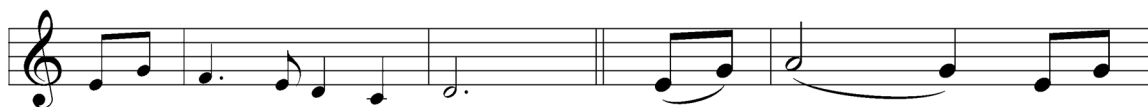
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

O Christ, Lamb of God

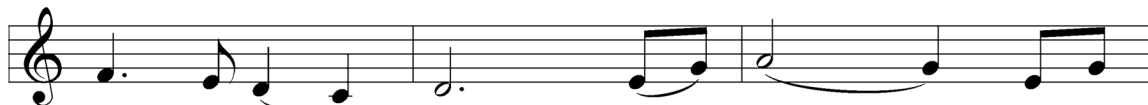
Agnus Dei



O Christ, Lamb of



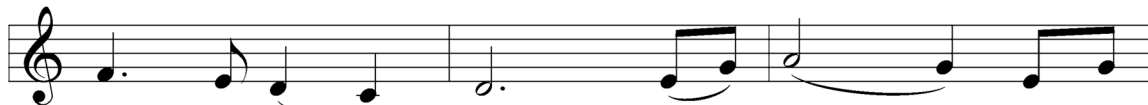
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have



mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



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.

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.

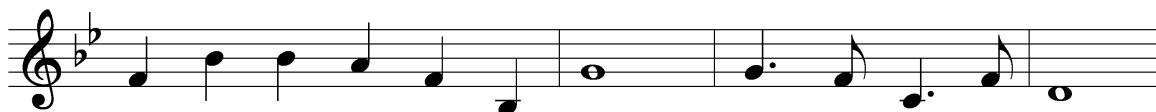
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

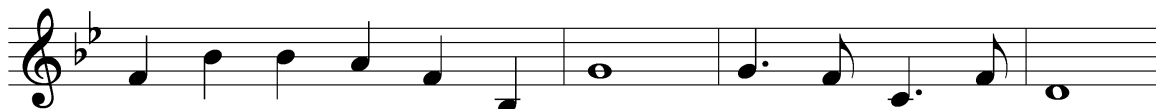
The historical "blessing of Aaron" (Numbers 6:24-26) has been spoken over God's people for over 3,500 years.

He Will Hold Me Fast

CW 813



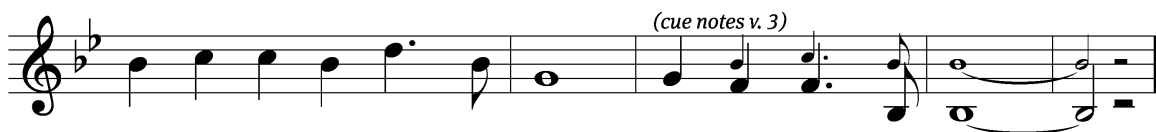
1 When I fear my faith will fail, Christ will hold me fast;
 2 Those he saves are his de - light; Christ will hold me fast;
 3 For my life he bled and died; Christ will hold me fast;



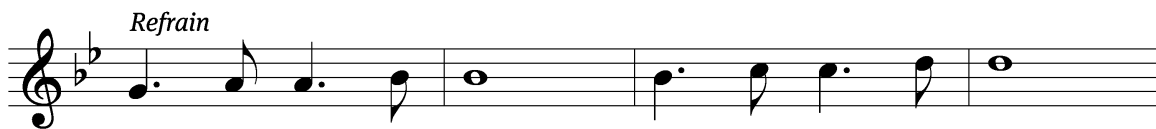
when the tempt - er would pre - vail, he will hold me fast.
 pre - cious in his ho - ly sight, he will hold me fast.
 jus - tice has been sat - is - fied; he will hold me fast.



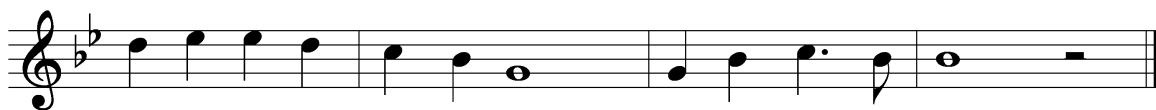
I could nev - er keep my hold thro' life's fear - ful path,
 He'll not let my soul be lost; his prom - is - es shall last;
 Raised with him to end - less life, he will hold me fast



for my love is of - ten cold— he must hold me fast.
 bought by him at such a cost, he will hold me fast.
 till our faith is turned to sight when he comes at last! (Refrain 2X)



He will hold me fast; he will hold me fast;



for my Sav - ior loves me so, he will hold me fast.

Text (sts. 1–2): Matt Merker, b. 1984, alt.; (sts. 1, Ref, 2): Ada Habershon, 1861–1918; (st. 3): Matt Merker, b. 1984

Tune: Matt Merker, b. 1984

Text (sts. 1–2): Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Clarity in Calamity: the Book of Joel. In this series we'll journey through Joel's powerful message of warning and restoration. We'll see how God uses crisis to call his people closer, how repentance opens the door to renewal, and how the promise of the Spirit gives hope beyond destruction.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano—Sarah Dyer; vocals—David Dyer; guitar



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 Saviors 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.

Theology on Tap—Tuesday October 14 @ 7:00PM

Grab a drink. Grab a bite to eat. Get a taste for good theology and good conversation in a laid back setting. Each week we'll take a deeper look at Sundays sermon content and discuss how to apply that message to everyday life.

Theology on Tap meets at **Lupi's Pizza** in Cambridge Square.
9454 Bradmore Ln. Suite 109—Cambridge Square, Ooltewah

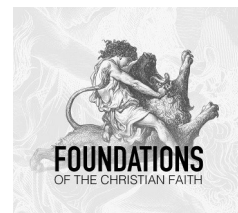


Oktoberfest—Saturday October 25 @ 1:00PM—4:00PM

We were able to meet well over 500 neighbors who came to this event last year and it's a great way to be a presence in our community! We hope you can get involved in some aspect of the event to make it a fun and welcoming atmosphere for our guests! We are partnering up with City Auto across the street just like last year. Please contact our admin assistant, Melissa Turner, if you would like to find a way to serve! (adminassistant@livinghopechatt.com). You also should have received an email in your inbox with more details on jobs to sign up for.

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 8:00pm. Message pastor for a class link.

Candy Donations

One of our prizes this year for Oktoberfest is going to be candy. If you would like to purchase and donate candy for us to hand out, please bring it to church or coordinate dropping it off to Jennfier Melso, Jenny Hynson or Melissa Turner. We ask that the candy be individually wrapped and "fun size".

Living Hope Men's Group—Next session: Monday, October 20 @ 7:00AM

The new Living Hope men's group will be meeting every other Monday morning at 7am at Panera Bread on Gunbarrel Rd. The group will discuss a wide variety of topics that address men living as citizens of the kingdom of heaven in a fallen world. Men of all ages are invited. Panera Bread—1810 Gunbarrel Road—Chattanooga, TN 37421

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.

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Broghan Nolan 10/12

Bruce Hansen 10/18

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Tiffany Amerson — Thanksgiving for successful back surgery last week.

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—Hansen, Mayer
Ushers—Ludwig, Smith
Acolyte—Bohdi Turner

Service Teams — Next week Oct 19

Sunday Setup Team—Baggett, Bloedorn
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Rice, Schulz
Acolyte—Will Hynson



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

Pastor Eric Melso

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