

October 25, 2026

Reformation Sunday



It's Time to Stay Steadfast

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: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today's Focus: Endure to the End

Following Jesus isn't always easy. He sends us out as sheep among wolves, warning us that following him may bring opposition, rejection, and suffering. So how do we keep going when the world pushes back and the road gets long? Jesus doesn't sugarcoat the struggle, but he gives us something far stronger than wishful thinking: the certainty of our salvation in him. Because our risen Savior has already secured the victory, we can face the harsh realities of life with confidence, testify about Christ with courage, and endure to the end.



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](https://www.facebook.com/livinghopechatt)

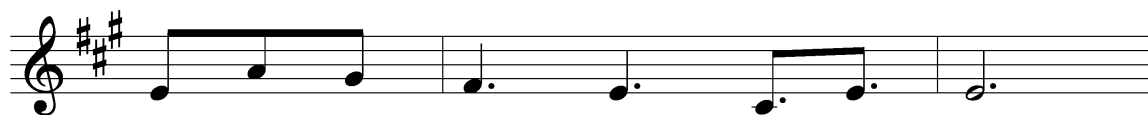
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Reformation Song

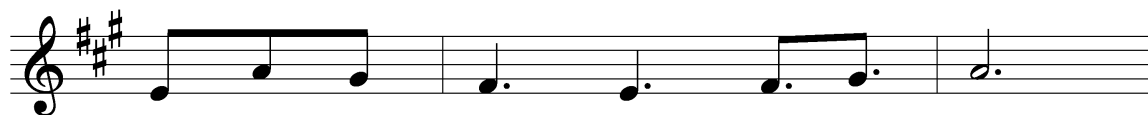
CW 877 sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;



the might - y rock on which we build.
we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.

Refrain



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

4 By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)

5 And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955 Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955
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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 God, our Father.

O Lord, our God, we confess that during times in our lives

**when it feels as though the earth gives way and the mountains fall into the sea,
we have not looked to you as our fortress and strength.**

Too often we look to ourselves,

not fearing, loving, and trusting in you above all things.

We humbly ask that for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us,

so that we may delight in your will

and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

There is no distinction: for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Romans 3:22–24

Almighty God in his mercy has given his Son to die for you and for his sake forgives you all your sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ, and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God,

the holy place where the Most High Dwells.

God is within her, she will not fall;

God will help her at break of day.

“Be still and know that I am God;

I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”

Psalms 46:4-5, 10

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,



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

Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the church your saving peace; 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

Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions’ den?”

The king answered, “The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed.”

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions’ den. The king said to Daniel, “May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!”

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel’s situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions’ den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, “Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?”

²¹Daniel answered, “May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty.”

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

Psalm

Psalm 46:1-3, 7

God is our refuge and strength,

a very present help in trouble.

Therefore we will not fear though the earth gives way,

though the mountains be moved into the heart of the sea,

though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble at its swelling.

The Lord Almighty is with us;
the God of Jacob is our fortress. Amen.

Epistle Reading

Romans 3:19–28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

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.

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

CW 863



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
 2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
 3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
 4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
 ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
 de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
 have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



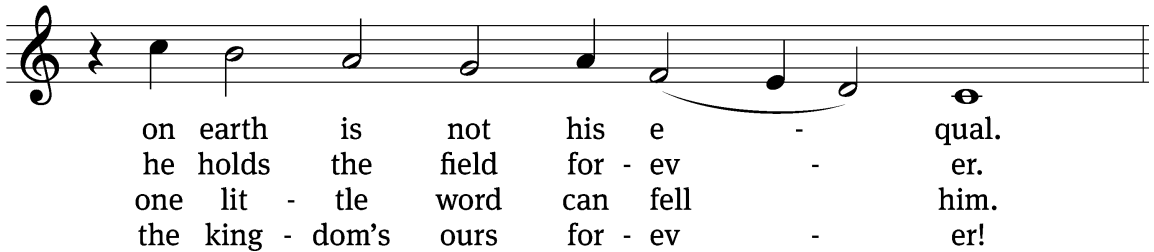
that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
 whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
 they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
 with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
 "Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
 prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
 they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
 the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
 he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
 though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite
 Tune: Martin Luther, 1483–1546
 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

Matthew 10:16–22

¹⁶ “Look, I am sending you out as sheep among wolves. So be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷ Be on guard against people. They will hand you over to councils, and they will whip you in their synagogues. ¹⁸ You will be brought into the presence of governors and kings for my sake, as a testimony to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹ Whenever they hand you over, do not be worried about how you will respond or what you will say, because what you say will be given to you in that hour. ²⁰ In fact you will not be the ones speaking, but the Spirit of your Father will be speaking through you.

²¹ “Brother will hand over his brother to death, and a father will do the same with his child. Children will rise up against parents and have them put to death. ²² You will be hated by all people because of my name, but whoever endures to the end will be saved. EHV

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Endure to the End

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is the Stockdale Paradox?
2. How does the Stockdale Paradox apply to Jesus' words here?
3. What does it mean for Christians to be "shrewd as snakes and innocent as doves?"
4. When did all these things Jesus talks about actually happen to the disciples?
5. What sort of opposition or resistance may we realistically face today?
6. "History is for a Christians a long defeat." What does that phrase mean?
7. What gives us strength and hope to endure to the end?
8. Why is it ok that we're being sent out as sheep?
9. When an end is truly guaranteed what effect can that have on the human psyche?
10. It's a long slow defeat followed by a swift and sudden _____.

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. List some examples of when the apostles had these exact types of things happen to them in their lives.
2. We didn't get to talk a lot about verses 19-20. What comfort would those verses have given to the disciples? What comfort do those verses give to you?
3. Agree or Disagree: According to verses 19-20 we don't need to prepare ahead of time to talk about our faith with people.
4. Since this is Reformation Sunday, what tie-ins do you see in these words to Martin Luther and the reformers?
5. Come up with some ways that you can act as shrewdly as snakes and as innocently as doves.

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).

Please stand.

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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 in blessing his saints of the past has given us assurance and hope that, following their example, we may run the race marked out for us and receive the crown of glory that will never fade away. 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

The image shows two staves of musical notation for the hymn 'Holy, Holy, Holy'. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat). The melody consists of quarter notes and half notes, with a final half note tied to the start of the second staff. The lyrics 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'rand might,' are written below the first staff. The second staff continues the melody with a similar pattern of quarter and half notes, ending with a final half note. The lyrics 'ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,' are written below the second staff.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'rand might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



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

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.

My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

CW 818



- 1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;
- 2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp-ta - tions;
- 3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly;



a for-tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - eous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.
curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - The Church God Wants. In this worship series, we see that asking, “what do I want in a church?” is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does God want in a church?

Next week: It’s Time to Focus on the Future (All Saints’ Sunday)

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; preaching—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; presiding -- Emily Knutson; piano

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 topic of Sanctification.

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

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.

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. In-person or online classes are available!

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

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Oct 26)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Oct 26)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Nov 5)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting on Wed Nov 18)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Nov 4 at 7pm

See more details for these groups at <https://livinghopechatt.com/small-groups>

Men's Group—Monday October 26 @ 7:00AM

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

Contact coordinator: Mike Frederickson (mfrederickson20@outlook.com)

Women's Group—Monday October 26 @ 6:45PM

Women's Group will continue a study of Faith Unleashed: Utilizing Your Spiritual Gifts for Greater Kingdom Impact by Lori Lorig & Marilyn Sievert. Through this study, we will discover how God blessed ordinary people in the Bible to do exceptional things and see how He has uniquely designed each of us for His kingdom. We meet at Living Hope at 6:45pm for snacks and socializing, and the study begins at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

Contact Coordinator: Rachel Frederickson (rachel.k.frederickson@gmail.com)

Theology on Tap—Tuesday October 27 @ 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

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Kelly Dillard 10/27

Anniversary Blessings:

Bruce and Rita Hansen 10/25

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Dee Butcher (Smith) — Dee's husband, Clay, passed away last Monday after complications during his back surgery. Prayers of comfort for Dee and the whole family even as we rejoice through tears that Clay is at peace and rest with his Savior.

Funeral service for Clay Smith – Monday Oct. 26 @ 2:00PM

Clay's Christian funeral service will be held at Heritage Funeral Home East Brainerd Road Chapel: 7454 E. Brainerd Road. He will be laid to rest at Tennessee Georgia Memorial Park.

The family will receive friends for visitation **4:00 – 7:00 PM Sunday, October 25, 2026**, at Heritage Funeral Home East Brainerd Road. All members of Living Hope are invited to celebrate Clay's heavenly victory and to gather in thanksgiving to the Lord who has "removed the sting of death" even as we mourn the passing of our friend and brother, Clay.

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—Mayer

Snack Provider— Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting

Ushers—Frizzell, Gorman

Acolyte—Ben Schulz

Pastor Eric Melso

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com



Service Teams — Next week Nov 1

Sunday Setup Team—Simpson

Snack Provider— Bassett, Dyer

Ushers—Open

Acolyte—Bohdi Turner

