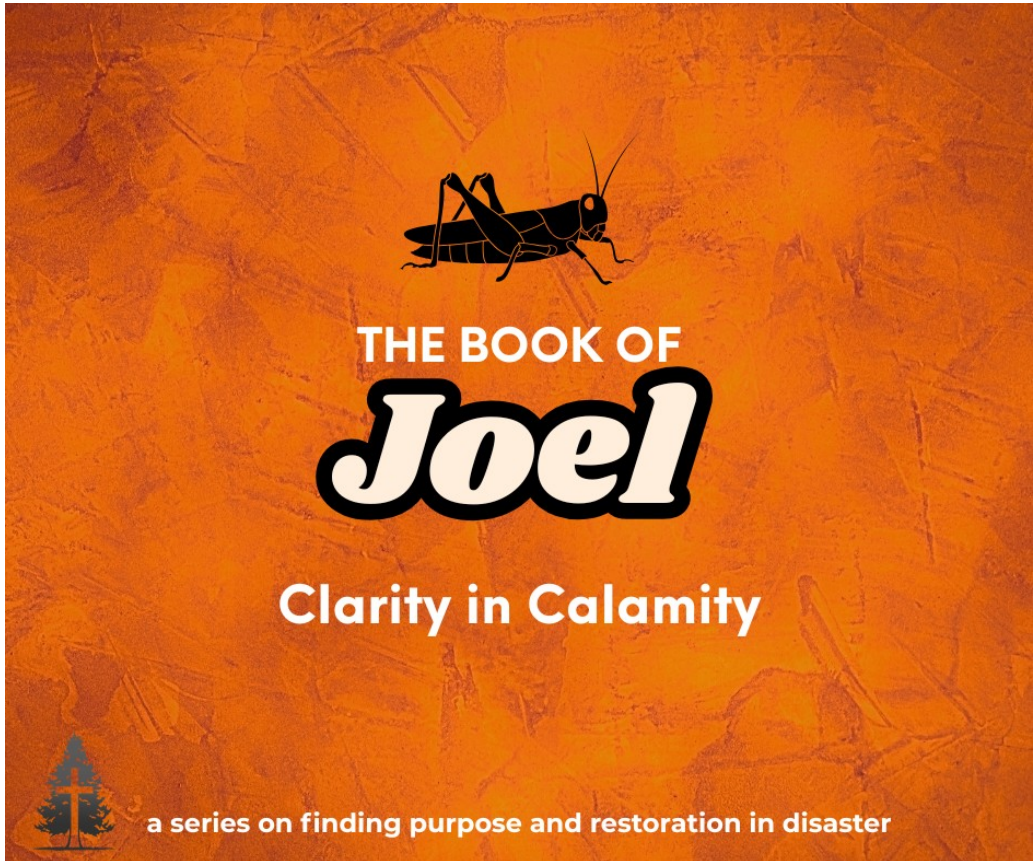


November 23, 2025



A Clearer Reason to Give Thanks

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 Book of Joel—Clarity in Calamity

When disaster strikes—when the world feels stripped bare and life seems out of control—where is God? The book of Joel begins with devastation: locusts, drought, and despair. Yet through the chaos, God speaks with surprising clarity. Joel calls God's people not to panic, but to return—to repent, to renew hope, and to rediscover God's faithfulness.

In this series, Clarity in Calamity, 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.

Even in the ruins, God's voice cuts through the noise—offering direction, mercy, and a future filled with his presence.

Today's Focus: A Clearer Reason to Give Thanks

The book of Joel makes for a great "Thanksgiving" themed book of the Bible. Our lives are not always filled with plenty and abundant blessings. But if the Giver of the blessings is with us and on our side then we can give thanks every day. Whether his hand brings hardship or blessing, we know his purposes are good and he wants us to trust in him and turn to him in faith. He is a God with a track record of restoring his people. We can trust he will do the same for us.



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!

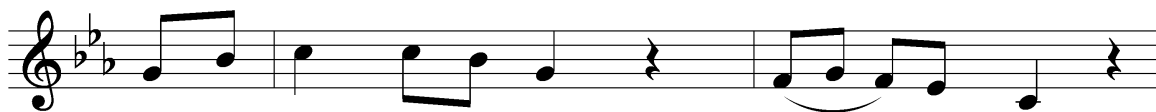


/livinghopechatt

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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



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; 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—

Refrain



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

Text and tune: © 2011 Thankyou Music / Atlas Mountain Songs / Worship Together Songs / sixsteps Music, admin. CapitolCMGPublishing.com. Used by permission: CCLI no. A-21626251

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

The prophet Joel cries out,

“Even now,” declares the Lord, “Return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning.”

Let us return to the Lord,

who is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

Merciful Lord,

we confess that we have turned away from you.

Like the people in Joel’s day,

**we have ignored your warnings,
trusted in our own strength,
and failed to live as your people.**

**We have allowed our hearts to grow dry,
our prayers to grow faint, and our compassion to fade.**

Have mercy on us, O God.

Tear open our hearts so they may be healed.

Renew in us a right spirit,

and restore to us the joy of Your salvation.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Hear the good news from the prophet Joel:

“I will pour out my Spirit on all people... And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Joel 2:28, 32

In Jesus Christ, the promise is fulfilled—

God has turned his face toward us in mercy.

Your sins are forgiven, your heart is made new,

and the Spirit of life is poured out upon you.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

To God Be the Glory

CW 1993 #399

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!

He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'To God Be the Glory'. It consists of three staves of music in 3/4 time, written in a key with one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a '1' indicating the first ending. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with a final note on each staff that is a half note.

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.

Refrain

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son

And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (11 11 11 11 with Refrain) William H. Doane, 1832–1915.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your mercies are new every morning, and you graciously provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant us your Holy Spirit that we may acknowledge your goodness, give thanks for your benefits, and serve you in willing obedience all our days; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

James 1:16–18

¹⁶Don't be deceived, my dear brothers and sisters. ¹⁷Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. ¹⁸He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

118E Let Us Rejoice

Psalm 118E (Choir sings verses)

Refrain

This is the day the LORD has made, let us re -

joice and be glad! This is the day the LORD has

made, let us re - joice and be glad!

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Marty Haugen

Text: © 1969 ICEL. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

Tune: © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
his mercy endures forever.
Let the house of Israel say:
“His mercy endures forever.” (Refrain)

2 The hand of the LORD has struck with pow'r,
his right hand is exalted;
I shall not die, but live anew,
declaring the works of the LORD. (Refrain)

3 The stone which the builders rejected
has become the corner stone;
the LORD of love and mercy
has brought wonder to our eyes. (Refrain)

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

Gospel

Luke 19:1–10

¹Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through. ²A man was there by the name of Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was wealthy. ³He wanted to see who Jesus was, but because he was short he could not see over the crowd. ⁴So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore-fig tree to see him, since Jesus was coming that way.

⁵When Jesus reached the spot, he looked up and said to him, “Zacchaeus, come down immediately. I must stay at your house today.” ⁶So he came down at once and welcomed him gladly.

⁷All the people saw this and began to mutter, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸But Zacchaeus stood up and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord! Here and now I give half of my possessions to the poor, and if I have cheated anybody out of anything, I will pay back four times the amount.”

⁹Jesus said to him, “Today salvation has come to this house, because this man, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”

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.

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

CW 484



1 Oh, that I had a thou - sand voic - es to praise my
2 Dear Fa - ther, end - less praise I ren - der for soul and
3 I praise you, Sav - ior, whose com - pas - sion has brought you
4 Glo - ry and praise, still on - ward reach - ing, be yours, O
5 Shall I not then be filled with glad - ness? Shall I not



God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
bod - y, no - bly joined; I praise you, guard - ian kind and
down to ran - som me. Your pit - ying heart sought my sal -
Spir - it of all grace, whose ho - ly pow'r and faith - ful
praise you ev - er - more and tri - umph o - ver fear and



joic - es, would then pro-claim in grate-ful songs to all, wher -
ten - der, for all the dai - ly joys I find so rich - ly
va - tion; you bore the cross tri - um-phant - ly, brought me from
teach - ing give me a - mong your saints a place. What - ev - er
sad - ness, al-though my cup of woe runs o'er? Though heav'n and



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me.
spread on ev - 'ry side and free - ly for my use sup - plied.
bond-age full re - lease, made me your own, and gave me peace.
good by me is done is worked by grace di - vine a - lone.
earth shall dis - ap - pear, your end - less love is ev - er near.

Sermon Reading

Joel 2:21–27

²¹Do not be afraid, land of Judah;
be glad and rejoice.

Surely the LORD has done great things!

²²Do not be afraid, you wild animals,
for the pastures in the wilderness are becoming green.

The trees are bearing their fruit;
the fig tree and the vine yield their riches.

²³Be glad, people of Zion,
rejoice in the LORD your God,
for he has given you the autumn rains
because he is faithful.

He sends you abundant showers,
both autumn and spring rains, as before.

²⁴The threshing floors will be filled with grain;
the vats will overflow with new wine and oil.

²⁵“I will repay you for the years the locusts have eaten—
the great locust and the young locust,
the other locusts and the locust swarm—
my great army that I sent among you.

²⁶You will have plenty to eat, until you are full,
and you will praise the name of the LORD your God,
who has worked wonders for you;
never again will my people be shamed.

²⁷Then you will know that I am in Israel,
that I am the LORD your God,
and that there is no other;
never again will my people be shamed.

A Clearer Reason to Give Thanks

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What story does the grandfather tell his granddaughter?
2. What are 2 obstacles that get in the way of a thankful heart?
 1. _____ thankfulness
 2. Forgetting the _____, because the _____ are so nice.
3. Restoration breeds deeper _____.
4. How did the Lord repay the people of Judah for the years the locusts had eaten?
5. What does the story of the farmer and the horse teach us?
6. How could hindsight change the people of Judah's perspective on the locusts?
7. The _____ is always greater than the gift.
8. What is the most amazing gift of all that God has given?

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!

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 of heaven and earth, you made all things beautiful. You have provided green forests and refreshing streams. You have arranged the orderly procession of day and night for our work and rest.

Thank you for the mountains and the prairies, the roaring sea, and the gentle breeze.

Thank you for roofs that shelter us, for clothing that protects us, and for food and drink. Thank you for our work, for projects that are done well, and for the approval of supervisors and teachers. Thank you for all who serve at night to make our days more pleasant.

Thank you for associates at work, for their encouragement and praise, and for the joys of human friendships.

Thank you for our cities and our countrysides, for farms and factories, for streets and highways, and for all of life that flows so swiftly before us.

Thank you for children at play, their boundless energy, and their shouts of joy and laughter.

Thank you for the morning greetings we receive, and for all the smiles that come from faces loved by you.

Thank you for Christian parents, for their affection and their care.

Thank you for the healing you bring when we are sick, the protection you send when we are in danger, and the comfort you offer when we are sad. Lead us to be thankful as we believe that in all things you work for the good of those who love you.

Thank you for those who help and encourage us in difficult times.

Thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ, for his coming to us in Word and sacraments, for his giving and forgiving, and for listening to our prayers. Receive our gifts and offerings as our sacrifice of praise.

Lead us in thankful living today and always. Amen.

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!

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 preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. 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



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,



heav - en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho-san - na in the high - est, ho-san - na in the high - est.

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.

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 617

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the hymn, the second staff the second line, and the third staff the third line, ending with a double bar line.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Imminent Arrival. People eagerly anticipate the Christmas season. The Latin word *adventus* means arrival, and in the Christian church we eagerly anticipate three arrivals of Christ: the commemoration of his birth, his return on judgment day, and the moments he touches our hearts in Word and sacrament. This time of year (and always!) we get to feel the excitement of an imminent arrival. The Lord is near!

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Mark Hennings; piano — Living Hope choir; vocals



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.

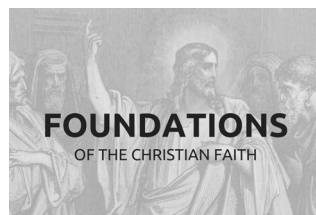
Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

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.



Living Hope Small Groups

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

- Theology on Tap and Women's Group — (ON BREAK)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Nov 17)
- Hands of Hope—Thursdays twice a month at 10am. (next meeting Thurs Nov 20)

Living Hope Food Pantry Stock-up

Our church food pantry is running low, and we are asking our church family for help in blessing our neighbors. We'd love donations of pop-top canned items and family-friendly non-perishables. This would be things like:

baked beans, mac n' cheese, ramen, canned pastas, soups, vegetables, peanut butter, jam, and other easy staples.

Every item you give helps a family sit down to a comforting meal. We give this food out to people who contact us directly for help and to our neighbors in Cromwell Hills. If you're able, please drop donations on the table in the fellowship area. Thank you for sharing Christ's love in this way!

New Church Library

Our member Mary Snyder is heading up a new library program here at Living Hope. We'd love our members to make use of the solid Biblical teaching in some of the resources we'll have available. Here's some notes about our new church library.

- The library is located in the gathering area on the bookshelves on the stage.
- Books in the library include copies of The People's Bible, audio books, and religious oriented texts, as well as biographies of John Newton and Martin Luther.
- There is a sign out sheet in a binder near the books. Please sign on the appropriate line for the book borrowed and also sign the book back in when returned.
- If anyone would like to donate to the library, please contact Mary Snyder who will add the books to the list and forward to Jean Bogue to be added to the sign out sheet. Donated books should be religious in nature.

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:

George Collins 11/23

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Ron Chandler — undergoing radiation treatment for prostate cancer

Lizzie Deen — Lizzie's father passed away unexpectedly this past week

Roger Grimm—recovering from a mouth surgery

Rob Pendowski — moving back north to Indiana

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—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Schulz, Smith
Acolyte—Kamarriion McNabb

Service Teams — Next week Nov 30

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider—Amerson, Mayer
Ushers—Gorman, Hansen
Acolyte—Ka'myah Davis

Pastor Eric Melso

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