November 8, 2026



Encouraged All the Way to the End

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: Encouraged All the Way to the End

People are fascinated by the end times, but all the speculation and theories can make the subject seem more confusing and frightening than encouraging. That's not Paul's purpose in 1 Thessalonians 5. He wants us to see how the certainty of Christ's return gives us confidence for life right now. We don't know when the end will come, but we know who is coming, and we know what he has done for us. So we don't have to live in fear or uncertainty. Through Christ, we are encouraged to be ready, encouraged to be different, and encouraged to be confident all the way to the end!

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

ABOUT LIVING HOPE

Living Hope Lutheran Church is a new 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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Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers

CW 493



1 Re - joice, re - joice, be - liev - ers, and let your lights ap - pear;
2 The watch - ers on the moun - tain pro - claim the Bride - groom near;
3 You saints, who here in pa - tience your cross and suf - f'rings bore,
4 Our hope and ex - pec - ta - tion, O Je - sus, now ap - pear;



the eve - ning is ad - vanc - ing, and dark - er night is near.
go forth, as he ap - proach - es, with al - le - lu - ias clear.
shall live and reign for - ev - er when sor - row is no more.
a - rise, O Sun so longed for, a - bove this shad - owed sphere.



The Bride - groom is a - ris - ing and soon is draw - ing nigh.
The mar - riage feast is wait - ing; the gates wide o - pen stand.
A - round the throne of glo - ry the Lamb you shall be - hold,
With hearts and hands up - lift - ed we plead, O Lord, to see



Up, pray and watch and wres - tle; at mid - night comes the cry.
A - rise, O heirs of glo - ry; the Bride - groom is at hand.
in tri - umph lay be - fore him your shin - ing crowns of gold.
the day of earth's re - demp - tion that sets your peo - ple free.

Text: Laurentius Laurenti, 1660–1722, abr.; tr. Sarah B. Findlater, 1823–1907, alt.
Tune: Swedish
Text and tune: Public domain

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

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

To God Be the Glory

CW 627



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 and Savior, you have set the final day and hour when we shall be delivered from this world of sin and death. Keep us ever watchful for the coming of your Son that we may sit with him and all your holy ones at the marriage feast in heaven; 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

Isaiah 52:1–6

[1]Awake, awake, Zion,
clothe yourself with strength!
Put on your garments of splendor,
Jerusalem, the holy city.
The uncircumcised and defiled
will not enter you again.
[2]Shake off your dust;
rise up, sit enthroned, Jerusalem.
Free yourself from the chains on your neck,
Daughter Zion, now a captive.

[3]For this is what the LORD says:

"You were sold for nothing,
and without money you will be redeemed."

[4]For this is what the Sovereign LORD says:

"At first my people went down to Egypt to live;
lately, Assyria has oppressed them.

[5]"And now what do I have here?" declares the LORD.

"For my people have been taken away for nothing,
and those who rule them mock,"
declares the LORD.

"And all day long
my name is constantly blasphemed.
6Therefore my people will know my name;
therefore in that day they will know
that it is I who foretold it.
Yes, it is I."

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

Matthew 25:1–13

1"At that time the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. 2Five of them were foolish and five were wise. 3The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them. 4The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. 5The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

6"At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'

7"Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. 8The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.'

9" 'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.'

10"But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

11"Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!'

12 "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'
13 "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour.

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

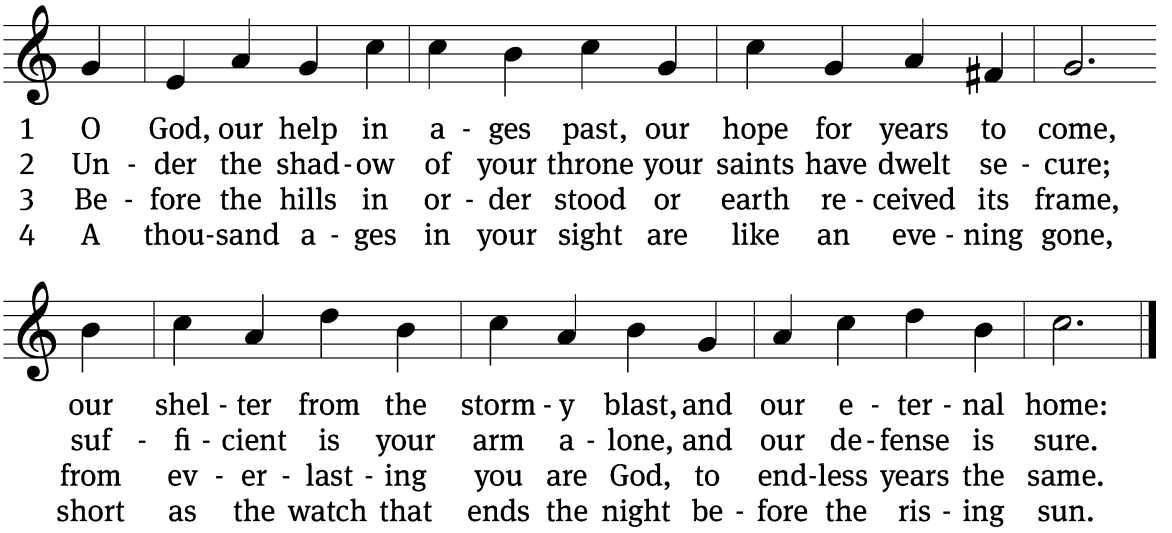
Please be seated

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.

O God, Our Help in Ages Past

CW 820



5 Time, like an ever-rolling stream,
soon bears us all away;
we fly forgotten, as a dream
dies at the op'ning day.

6 O God, our help in ages past,
our hope for years to come,
still be our guard while troubles last
and our eternal home!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt. Tune: William Croft, 1678–1727 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

1 Thessalonians 5:1–11

[1]Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, [2]for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3]While people are saying, “Peace and safety,” destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

[4]But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. [5]You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. [6]So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober. [7]For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk, get drunk at night. [8]But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, putting on faith and love as a breastplate, and the hope of salvation as a helmet. [9]For God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ. [10]He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. [11]Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

Encouraged All the Way to the End

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What does “Eschatology” mean?

2. Paul encourages us to be R_____.

3. Why will people who say, “peace and safety” have destruction come on them?

4. In what ways can even believers become spiritually drowsy or complacent?

5. What is the point of bringing up labor pains?

6. Paul encourages us to be D_____.

7. What is your identity?

8. What do you "suit up" in as a child of the light?

9. Paul encourages us to be C_____.

10. Why don't we need to fear the return of Christ?

11. How can we say "peace and safety" in a way the world can't?

Discussion questions: *(for Theology on Tap)*

1. Why do you think people are so fascinated with trying to figure out when Jesus will return? What dangers come with that kind of speculation?
2. List some things that can lull us into spiritual complacency.
3. Name some ways that faith and love act like a breastplate for you and how hope acts like a helmet. Why do you think Paul didn't list the full armor of God here that he does in Ephesians 6?
4. What questions do you have about Judgment Day? Even if some of those questions can't be answered share how you will still have confidence on that day anyway.
5. How might you be a better encourager to others? What are some things you could do to "build someone up"?

Please stand

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for you Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our wakefulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

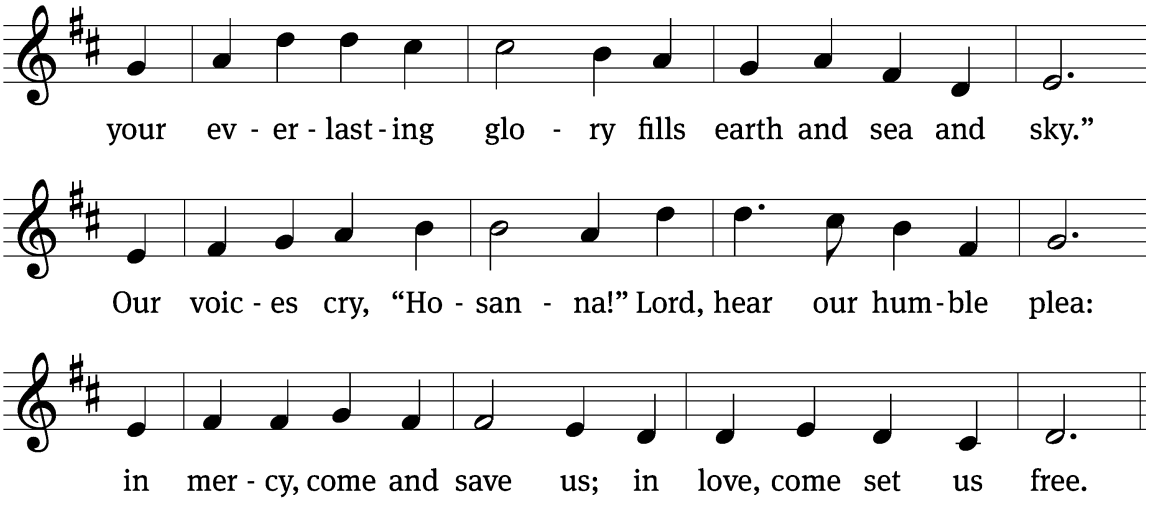
It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who preserves his Church to the end of time, when he will come again as king to judge all people and take his own to glory. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts of heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Tune: AURELIA





Text: Michael D. Schultz
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley
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Words of Institution

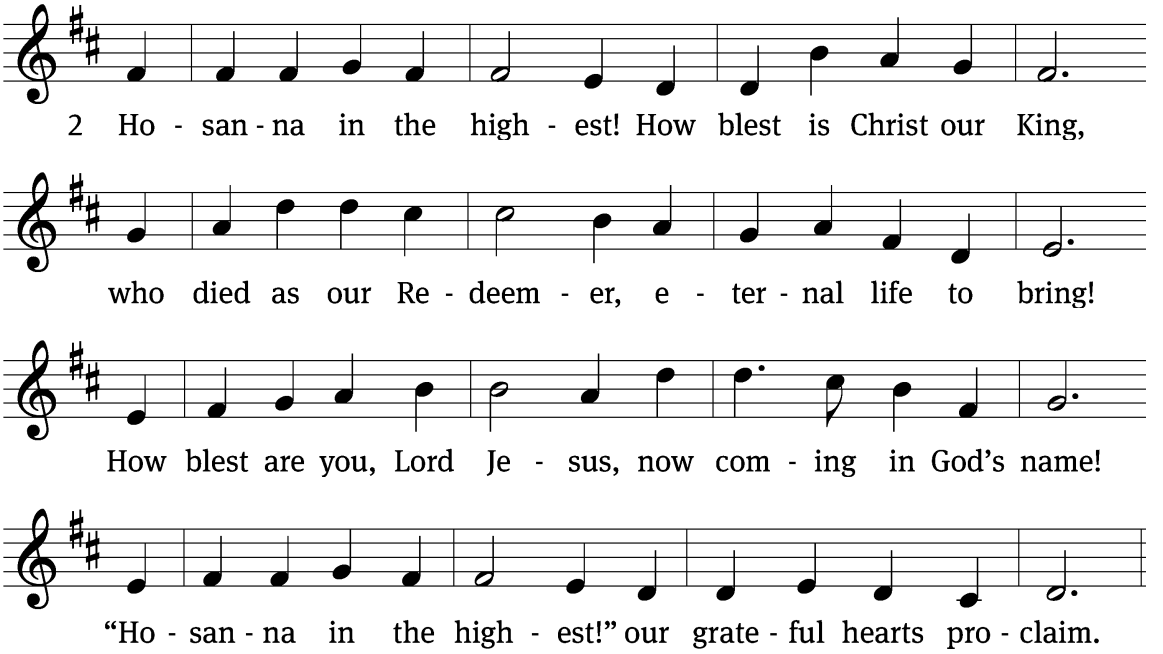
The peace of the Lord be with you always.
Amen.

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.

Tune: AURELIA



Text: Michael D. Schultz
Tune: Samuel S. Wesley
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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.

Jesus Paid It All

CW 562



Text: Elvina M. Hall, 1820–1889
Tune: John T. Grape, 1835–1915
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - The Beginning of the End. "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.

Next week: It's Time to Put Your Affairs in Order

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; preaching—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; presiding
Emily Knutson; piano – Living Hope Choir; vocals

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

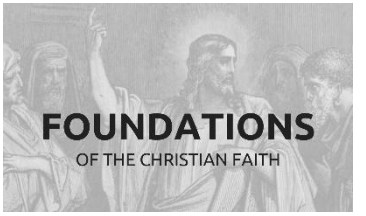
Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will take place after worship today. The adults are doing a study on the topic of Sanctification.

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

Please note that next week we will begin our new schedule of having Sunday Study for adults and kids before the service beginning at 9AM.

Visits with Vicar

Stop by the fellowship board at church to sign up to host Vicar Michael for a meal! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know him better and share a little Southern hospitality. You can either host him in your home for a home-cooked meal or treat him to your favorite local restaurant! You're also welcome to invite vicar over even if you're not providing a meal.
vicar@livinghopechatt.com (208) 972-2319



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.

A new session of Foundations will begin today after the service. It will run during the same time as Sunday Study and Sunday School. Online sessions are also available. Message pastor for a link.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Nov 9)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Nov 9)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Nov 19)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Nov 18)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Dec 16 at 7pm

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

Men's Group—Monday November 9 @ 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 November 9 @ 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! This will be the last session for 2026 before picking back up next year.
Contact Coordinator: Rachel Frederickson (rachel.k.frederickson@gmail.com)

Theology on Tap—Tuesday November 10 @ 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

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:

Aubrey Berna 11/10 Dylan Simpson 11/11 Grady Amerson 11/13 Dan Gorman 11/14

Anniversary Blessings:

Ken and Gretchen Bassett 11/14

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—Thom
Snack Provider— Flater, Turner
Ushers—Ludwig, Smith
Acolyte—Eliza Dyer

Service Teams — Next week Nov 15

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Frederickson, Hansen
Ushers—Gorman, Simpson
Acolyte—Sam Hynson

Pastor Eric Melso
pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com
www.livinghopechatt.com

WELS Christ's Love, Our Calling.

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN CHURCH
HOPE FOR EVERYDAY