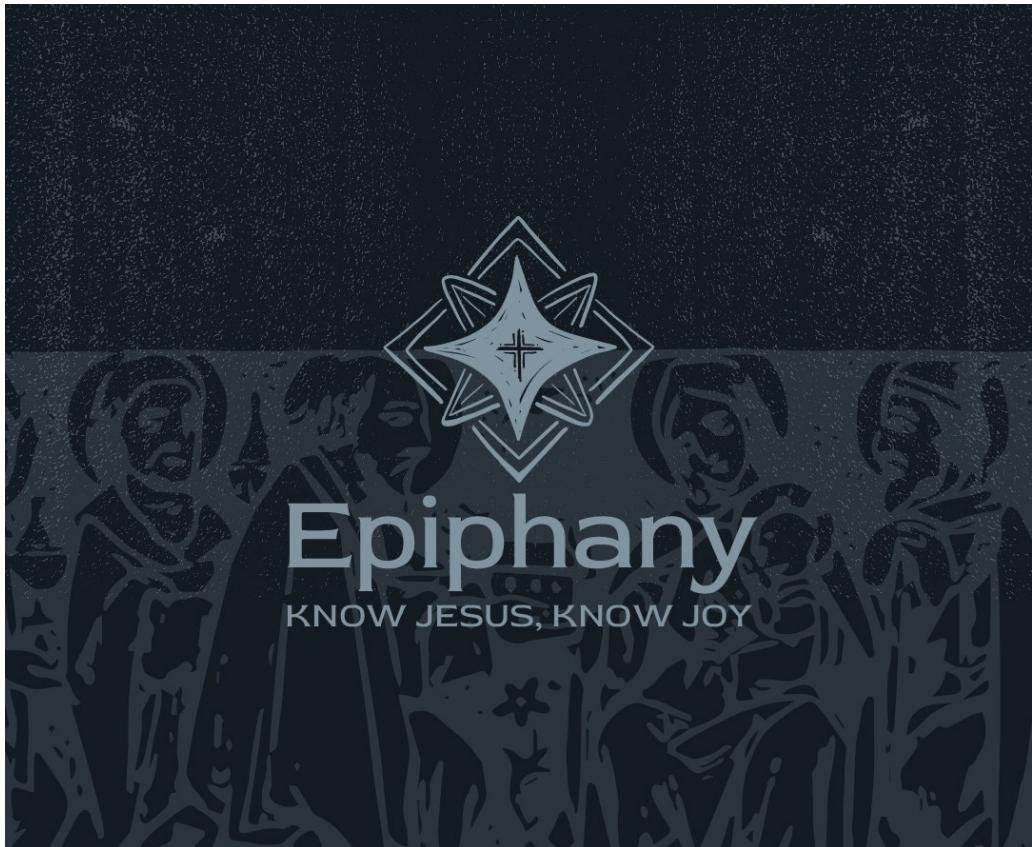


February 15, 2026

Transfiguration Sunday



No More Gloom

LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

welcome to
WORSHIP

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

CURRENT SERIES INFO

Current Series: Know Jesus, Know Joy

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

Today's Focus: No More Gloom

The prophet Isaiah confronts our modern crisis of trust and meaning by showing that the real question is not where information is found, but whom we trust for truth and direction. Like people today who turn to endless sources—technology, media, or vague spirituality—Isaiah's audience looked everywhere except to God, resulting in despair, darkness, and gloom. Isaiah's rallying cry, "To the law and to the testimony," calls God's people back to the formative, trustworthy Word of God as the only sure guide for life, meaning, and hope. And Christ is the fulfillment of this testimony: the great light dawning in the darkest places, bringing joy where there was anguish and life where there was death. In a world still shadowed by sin and confusion, the Church is called to live and share this better story—bearing Christ's light until there is, truly, no more gloom.



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!



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Christ Begins

CW 385



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain - side.



Wa - ter runs and all heav - en
Yet six jars are filled with the
Clothes like light - ning white,
Watch the clos - ing clouds heav - en
hide him



o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

Refrain



Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a



light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my



God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Text: Luke Thompson, b. 1981

Tune: Luke Thompson, b. 1981; Kent Reeder, b. 1986

Text and tune: © 2017 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

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

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father and of the  Son and of the Holy Spirit.

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

God invites us to come into his presence and worship him with humble and penitent hearts. Therefore, let us acknowledge our sinfulness and ask him to forgive us.

**Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful,
and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

**But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:
Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son as the atoning sacrifice for sin. 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 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

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

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of your only-begotten Son, you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice that came from the bright cloud, you foreshadowed our adoption as your sons. In your mercy, make us co-heirs of glory with Jesus our King, and bring us at last to 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

Epistle Reading

Colossians 2:6–15

⁶So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, ⁷rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

⁸See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

⁹For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, ¹⁰and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. ¹¹In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, ¹²having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

¹³When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, ¹⁴having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. ¹⁵And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

Psalm 2

I will proclaim the Lord's decree:

He said to me, "You are my son;

today I have become your father.

Ask me, and I will make the nations your inheritance,

the ends of the earth your possession.

You will break them with a rod of iron;

you will dash them to pieces like pottery."

Therefore, you kings, be wise;

be warned, you rulers of the earth.

Serve the Lord with fear

and celebrate his rule with trembling.

Kiss his son, or he will be angry

and your way will lead to your destruction,

for his wrath can flare up in a moment.

Blessed are all who take refuge in him.

Amen.

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 17:1-9

¹After six days Jesus took with him Peter, James and John the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. ²There he was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as the light. ³Just then there appeared before them Moses and Elijah, talking with Jesus.

⁴Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here. If you wish, I will put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses and one for Elijah.”

⁵While he was still speaking, a bright cloud covered them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, whom I love; with him I am well pleased. Listen to him!”

⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell facedown to the ground, terrified. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them. “Get up,” he said. “Don’t be afraid.” ⁸When they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus.

⁹As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus instructed them, “Don’t tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Children's Message

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

The People Who in Darkness Walked

CW 381



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



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



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

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

Tune: Nicolaus Herman, c. 1480–1561

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Isaiah 8:19—9:4

¹⁹ When they tell you, “Consult the mediums and the spiritists, who whisper and mutter,” shouldn’t a people consult their God? Should they consult the dead on behalf of the living? ²⁰ To the law and to the testimony! If people do not speak according to this word, there will be no dawn for them. ²¹ They will pass

through the land, distressed and starving, but when this takes place and they are starving, they will be frustrated, and they will curse their king and their God. They will turn their faces upward,²² and then they will look down to the ground, but I tell you, they will see only distress, darkness, and the gloom that brings anguish. They will be banished into thick darkness.

^{9:1} Nevertheless, there will be no more gloom for the land that was in anguish. In former times, he humbled the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will cause it to be glorious, along the way of the sea, beyond the Jordan, in Galilee of the Gentiles.

² The people walking in darkness have seen a great light.

For those living in the land of the shadow of death, the light has dawned.

³ You have multiplied the nation. You have increased its joy.

They rejoice before you like the joy at harvest time,
like the celebration when people divide the plunder.

EHV

No More Gloom

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. Our modern problem doesn't involve *finding* information. What is the issue?
2. What is behind people's lack of institutional trust?
3. How was the problem of the people of Isaiah's time the same as ours?
4. What does it really mean to be spiritual but not religious?
5. What is the double standard in Isaiah 8?
6. What does Isaiah say is the result of looking for answers in the wrong places?
7. What is Isaiah's rallying cry?

8. What's the source of this great light in the dark?
9. What made the land of Zebulun and Naphtali so dark? How did the light dawn?
10. What are people still interested in and looking for today and what do we do about that?

My sermon notes :

Please stand

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage

CW 640



God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -

ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our

chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it

is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
 teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.

Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

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

Eternal God and Father, we pray for the Church around the world. Always keep your people faithful to you. Lift the veil from our eyes and guide us to see Christ in the Word and sacraments. During all the distractions of life, help us set our sights on Jesus. Keep us safe and protect us from the tricks and treachery of the devil.

Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that you move us to have compassion on those stumbling in the darkness and empower us to proclaim Christ to all who have no faith. Give us courage to be unashamed of the light you have given us and to carry it willingly with joy wherever we go and whatever we do. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Hear our prayers for Christians everywhere who are being persecuted because of the light they bear. Give them the strength to endure the hardships they are undergoing and give them the peace and hope of Christ as they battle on. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

We pray that Christ reveals his gracious presence to all who suffer. We pray especially for our families and those in our circle of friends who are sick or in need and for everyone whose needs we hold in our hearts. Lord, in your mercy:

Hear our prayer.

Be with us, Lord, as we think about the coming days of Lent. Let your law convince us that we indeed deserve your punishment and would be lost forever without

Christ. As our hearts fill with sorrow and regret, lift us up to see the Savior's sacrifice on the cross and give us hearts full of faith in him. Lord, in your mercy:
Hear our prayer.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Lord God, hear the prayers we offer and let your grace and mercy flow to us and all for whom we pray. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, the Light of the world.

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.

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

Blessing

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.

Amen.

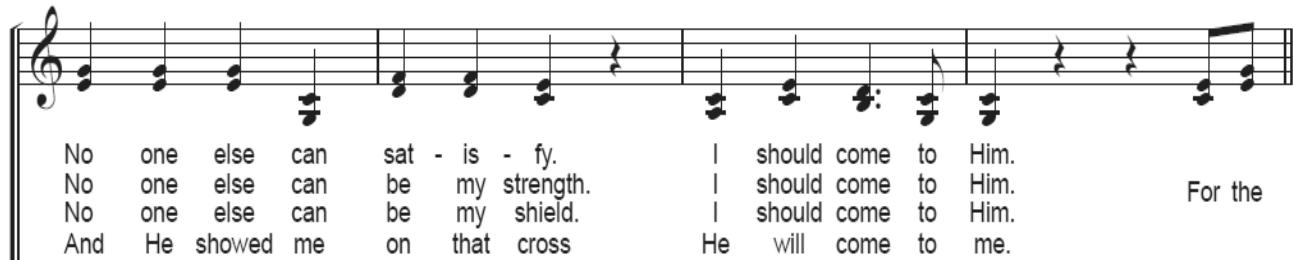
Jesus, Strong and Kind

By CityAlight

Verse 1 + 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus, Verse 4, Chorus



1. Je - sus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
2. Je - sus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
3. Je - sus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
4. Je - sus said if I am lost, He will come to me.



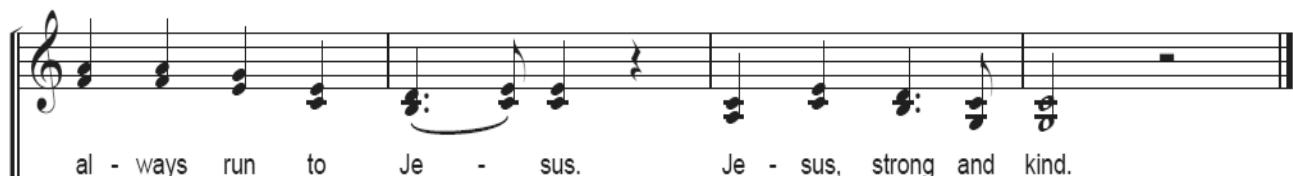
No one else can sat - is - fy. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.
And He showed me on that cross He will come to me.

For the

Chorus



Lord is good and faith - ful. He will keep us day and night. We can



al - ways run to Je - sus. Je - sus, strong and kind.

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS—NOT UPDATED

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Lent: Exactly What I Need. “I didn’t know I needed that” is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it’s a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn’t previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

Ash Wednesday—This Wednesday February 18 @ 6:30PM

Ash Wednesday worship service with imposition of ashes



Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano — 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.

Annual Volunteer Luncheon—February 22 after worship

Next Sunday Living Hope is providing a meal to say thank you to all the members of our volunteer teams and their families. If you help out on our setup team, snack team, or AV team please plan to stick around for a meal catered by McAlister's Deli. It's just a small way of saying thank you for the heart and hard work you pour into your church throughout the year. Your contributions create a welcoming space for our guests, great time for fellowship, and makes sure the message gets out to many. Thank you!

Please let Melissa or pastor know if you and your family can make it by February 19th so we can get an accurate headcount for the catering. Also please let us know of any food allergies so we can make sure we have something for everybody.

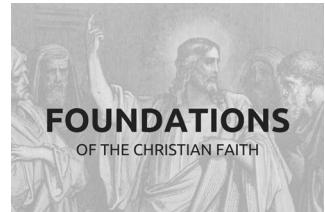
Admin Assistant Melissa Turner: adminassistant@livinghopechatt.com

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

- Theology on Tap and Women's Group — (ON BREAK)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Feb 16)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Feb 26)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Feb. 25 at 7pm
- Small Catechism Discussion Group—Saturday evenings online weekly at 8pm starting Mar. 7

New Small Group—Life on Mission—Wednesday February 25 @ 7:00PM at church

"Life on Mission" is a group that will focus on personal witnessing and being an everyday missionary. We tend to think of evangelism as something really scary and outside of our comfort zone but this group will look to highlight, celebrate, and seize the opportunities that God is already placing in front of us every day. The goal is that we will find joy and encouragement as we reach out with Christ's light to the people right in our own backyard.

New Small Group—Small Catechism Discussion—Saturday March 7 @ 8:00PM online

Our member in Taiwan, Julian Chu, will be facilitating a new online discussion group that will work through Luther's Small Catechism. The group will meet weekly on Saturday evenings starting March 7. The group will meet online using Facebook Messenger and will be using the Luther's Small Catechism book by Concordia Publishing House. Email Julian for a meeting link.
julian1991king@gmail.com

Link for book: <https://www.cph.org/luthers-small-catechism-with-explanation-2017-edition>

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:

Melissa Turner 2/14

Chris Schulz 2/14

Cynthia Millice 2/17

Natosha Henderson 2/18

Cole Lundquist 2/18

Anniversary Blessings:

Brad and Lois Thom 2/15

HOPE for everyday people
HOPE for everyday problems
HOPE for everyday unknowns
HOPE for everyday anxiety
HOPE for everyday life

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider—Chandler, Cundiffs
Ushers—S. Rice, Schulz
Acolyte—KJ McNabb

Service Teams — Next week Feb. 22

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Gorman, Frizzell
Acolyte—Natalie Melso



Pastor Eric Melso

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