

February 8, 2026



Compassion for the Outcast

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:

Text



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

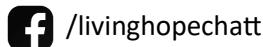
ABOUT WORSHIP

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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In Christ Alone

CW 510

1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the

light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right-eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal

ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.

What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er

stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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

Call to Worship

The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Amen.

In every worship service we confess our sins then cling to the forgiveness that Jesus gives us. Confession is called the “heartbeat of the Christian.”

Confession & Absolution

Lord God, heavenly Father, we humbly come before you today knowing that we have failed to speak lovingly, think purely, or act rightly. We have sinned against you and against others.... ...in wasting the precious time you give us.

...in our slowness and hesitancy to spread your Gospel.

...in the faithful care of our relationships.

...in our restless and relentless preoccupation with worldly wealth.

...in caring for the bodies and minds you have given us.

...in our refusal to make you our first priority.

Hear our confession, for we have sinned and are in need of your mercy and forgiveness.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

Amen

Reformation Song

CW 877 sts. Ref, 3-4



3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;

his right - eous - ness is all our plea.
all that we are has come from you.

Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;
Hearts that were once by sin - en - slaved

his per - fect work has set us free.
now by your pow'r have been made new.

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.

Text: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

Tune: Tim Chester, b. 1967; Bob Kauflin, b. 1955

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Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you sent your one and only Son as the Word of life for our eyes to see and our ears to hear. Help us believe what the Scriptures proclaim about him and do the things that are pleasing in your sight; 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

2 Kings 5:1-15a

¹Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy.

²Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy."

⁴Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. ⁵"By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. ⁶The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy."

⁷As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!"

⁸When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." ⁹So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. ¹⁰Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed."

¹¹But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand

over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage.

¹³Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy.

¹⁵Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel."

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 2:9–12

⁹But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God's special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. ¹⁰Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

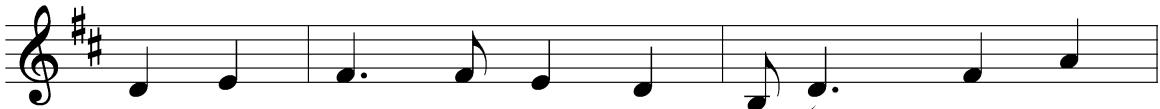
¹¹Dear friends, I urge you, as foreigners and exiles, to abstain from sinful desires, which wage war against your soul. ¹²Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day he visits us.

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.

Holy Is Your Name

CW 956



1 My ____ soul is filled with joy as I
2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

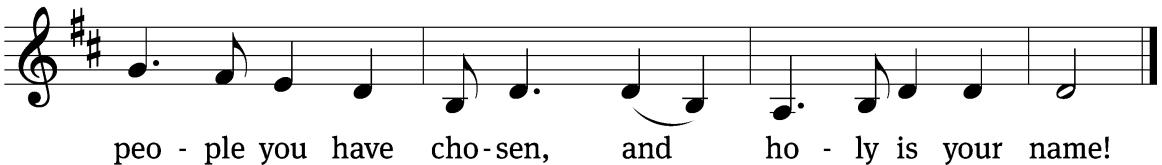
Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

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

Matthew 8:1-4

¹When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. ²A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

³Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. ⁴Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Compassion for the Outcast

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. Why did the leper Dr. Paul Brand was treating begin to cry?
2. Describe the leper’s situation in Matthew 8.

3. What kinds of extra laws were added about lepers?
4. How did the leper's request to Jesus show amazing faith?
5. Why did Jesus send the leper to the priest?
6. Why were we once outcasts?
7. How have you been brought into "God's camp"?
8. What happened to Father Damien?
9. God's grace has shaped a new heart in us. A heart that wants to do what?

My sermon notes:

Nicene Creed

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).

**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!

New Member Welcome

Lizzie Deen (Scarlett + Wesley) — Nathan + Sara Flater — Dylan + Sarah Simpson

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

Almighty God, You order and number our days according to Your wisdom. Give us repentant hearts, lest we perish with this world of violence and suffering.

Help us always to hold fast to Christ for life and salvation.

Gracious Lord, You take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desire that they would turn and live. Give pastors courage to warn of sin and death. Give all Christians strength to defend that message.

Turn sinners to life by the proclamation of Christ, who delivers from all unrighteousness.

God of all, You establish justice not through the desires of sinners but by Your Law, which is for all.

Enlighten the authorities of this and every nation, that they might rule justly for true good.

Holy God, remember Your people who cry to You for mercy in a world where towers fall and sinners work evil. Deliver those in need of healing and comfort, especially those whose lives have been ravaged by the pangs of war.

Strengthen them to look to You for help in their time of affliction.

Lord of life, You have brought us into Your vineyard and appointed us to bear good fruit. Receive our thanks for Your patience.

Grant that we would show Your love and grace in all that we say and do.

Merciful Savior, our condemnation lies crushed at the foot of your cross. May your peace, mercy and grace follow us all the days of our life until we stand at your side in glory unending.

In Jesus' name, 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 lived among us as a human being and revealed his glory as your only Son, full of grace and truth. 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'r and 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.

Tune: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1937–2010
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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.

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

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.

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort
I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil-dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
glo - ry. Go, my chil-dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
stilled you. Go, my chil-dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
Broth - er. Go, my chil-dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

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Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current sermon series: Know Jesus, Know Joy. 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.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

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 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.

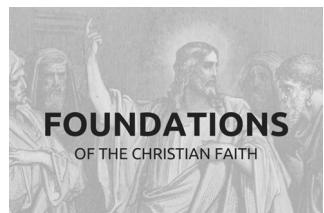
Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

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. 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 12)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Feb. 25 at 7pm

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.

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Jennifer Percy-Falls 2/10

Andrew Spann 2/10

Ben Schulz 2/12

Anniversary Blessings:

Roger and Diane Grimm 2/9

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—Snyder

Snack Provider—Frederickson, Turner

Ushers—Ludwig, Smith

Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

Service Teams — Next week Feb 15

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman

Snack Provider—Chandler, Cundiffs

Ushers—S. Rice, Schulz

Acolyte—KJ McNabb

Pastor Eric Melso

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