

April 19, 2026



Hope that Transcends

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: You Are My Witness

This series for the Easter season focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and their witness to the resurrection of Jesus. The witnessing of Christ didn't stop with those initial eyewitnesses. You and I today are called, too, to be witnesses of Christ by sharing that testimony and the joy and peace of salvation built on it.

Today's Focus: Hope That Transcends

In Acts 24, the apostle Paul stands on trial, falsely accused and politically trapped, yet remarkably calm and clear. While others twist facts for power and advantage, Paul speaks with steady confidence about something far greater than his circumstances: the resurrection and the hope found in Christ. We may feel the same tension today living in a world of pressure, politics, division, and injustice. But we get to point to a hope that rises above it all. A hope that doesn't depend on outcomes, fairness, or earthly power... but transcends them.



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!

 /livinghopechatt

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The Solid Rock

CW 564



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant and blood sup -
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and right - eous - ness; I dare to make no
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
port me in the rag - ing flood; when ev - 'ry earth - ly
may I then in him be found, clothed in his right - eous -



oth - er claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
prop gives way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, fault - less to stand be - fore his throne.

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.
Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868
Text and tune: Public domain

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.

Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

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

We are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died.

Christ died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

As we come into God’s presence, let us confess that often we have lived for ourselves, confident in the forgiveness of him who lived, died, and rose for us.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do, You should cast me away from your presence forever. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.

If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins.

But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.

After his resurrection, Christ commanded his church to proclaim the forgiveness of sins to all nations, promising them that their words were as certain as his. Therefore, it is by Christ’s command and with his authority that I say to you: In the name of Jesus your sins are forgiven. Christ is risen!

He is risen indeed!

Alleluia, Alleluia, Give Thanks

CW1993 #154 v. 1,2,5

REFRAIN

Capo 3: (A7) C7 (D) F (Bm) Dm (Em) Gm (A) C

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give _ thanks to the ris - en Lord. Al - le -

(D) F (Bm) Dm (A) C (D) F *Fine*

lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Give _ praise to his _ name.

Verse 1

Jesus is Lord of all the earth,
He is the King of creation

REFRAIN

Verse 2

Spread the good news o'er all the earth,
Jesus has died and has risen

REFRAIN

Verse 5

Come let us praise the living God,
Joyfully sing to our Savior

REFRAIN

Prayer of the Day

O God, by the humiliation of your Son, you lifted up this fallen world from the despair of death. By his resurrection to life, grant your faithful people gladness of heart and the hope of eternal joys; 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

1 Peter 1:17–21

¹⁷Since you call on a Father who judges each person's work impartially, live out your time as foreigners here in reverent fear. ¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

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 24:13–35

¹³Now that same day two of them were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁴They were talking with each other about everything that had happened. ¹⁵As they talked and discussed these things with each other, Jesus himself came up and walked along with them; ¹⁶but they were kept from recognizing him.

¹⁷He asked them, "What are you discussing together as you walk along?"

They stood still, their faces downcast. ¹⁸One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only one visiting Jerusalem who does not know the things that have happened there in these days?"

¹⁹"What things?" he asked.

"About Jesus of Nazareth," they replied. "He was a prophet, powerful in word and deed before God and all the people. ²⁰The chief priests and our rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and they crucified him; ²¹but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel. And what is more, it is the third day since all this took place. ²²In addition, some of our women amazed us.

They went to the tomb early this morning ²³but didn't find his body. They came and told us that they had seen a vision of angels, who said he was alive. ²⁴Then some of our companions went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see Jesus."

²⁵He said to them, "How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?" ²⁷And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself.

²⁸As they approached the village to which they were going, Jesus continued on as if he were going farther. ²⁹But they urged him strongly, "Stay with us, for it is nearly evening; the day is almost over." So he went in to stay with them.

³⁰When he was at the table with them, he took bread, gave thanks, broke it and began to give it to them. ³¹Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, and he disappeared from their sight. ³²They asked each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he talked with us on the road and opened the Scriptures to us?"

³³They got up and returned at once to Jerusalem. There they found the Eleven and those with them, assembled together ³⁴and saying, "It is true! The Lord has risen and has appeared to Simon." ³⁵Then the two told what had happened on the way, and how Jesus was recognized by them when he broke the bread.

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.

Jesus Christ, My Sure Defense

CW 446



1 Je - sus Christ, my sure de - fense and my Sav - ior,
2 Je - sus, my Re - deem - er, lives; I, too, un - to
3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by
4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence
5 Glo - ri - fied, I shall a - new with this flesh then



now is liv - ing! Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence
life shall wak - en. End - less joy my Sav - ior gives;
hope for - ev - er; faith's strong hand the rock has found,
I am tak - en; but by faith I now dis - cern
be en - shroud - ed; in this bod - y I shall view



rests up - on the hope he's giv - ing, though the
shall my cour - age then be shak - en? Shall I
grasped it, and will leave it nev - er. E - ven
that from death I shall a - wak - en with my
God, my Lord, with eyes un - cloud - ed; in this



night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
fear, or could the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.
Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.
flesh I then shall see Je - sus Christ e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Otto von Schwerin, 1616–1679; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941; (st. 5): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.

Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598–1662

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Acts 24:10–21

¹⁰When the governor motioned for him to speak, Paul replied: “I know that for a number of years you have been a judge over this nation; so I gladly make my defense. ¹¹You can easily verify that no more than twelve days ago I went up to Jerusalem to worship. ¹²My accusers did not find me arguing with anyone at the temple, or stirring up a crowd in the synagogues or anywhere else in the city. ¹³And they cannot prove to you the charges they are now making against me. ¹⁴However, I admit that I worship the God of our ancestors as a follower of the Way, which they call a sect. I believe everything that is in accordance with the Law and that is written in the Prophets, ¹⁵and I have the same hope in God as these men themselves have, that there will be a resurrection of both the righteous and the wicked. ¹⁶So I strive always to keep my conscience clear before God and man.

¹⁷“After an absence of several years, I came to Jerusalem to bring my people gifts for the poor and to present offerings. ¹⁸I was ceremonially clean when they found me in the temple courts doing this. There was no crowd with me, nor was I involved in any disturbance. ¹⁹But there are some Jews from the province of Asia, who ought to be here before you and bring charges if they have anything against me. ²⁰Or these who are here should state what crime they found in me when I stood before the Sanhedrin— ²¹unless it was this one thing I shouted as I stood in their presence: ‘It is concerning the resurrection of the dead that I am on trial before you today.’ ”

Hope That Transcends

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What happened to cause Paul to be standing on trial before governor Felix?
2. What are the 3 main points Paul makes in his defense?
3. God gets across 3 big points for us in this account:
 - #1. God gives a snapshot of how the world will view Christianity.
In what way will Christianity be viewed?
 - #2. God shows us how Paul used all of this adversity as an opportunity to witness.
How will our witness shine out more brightly in times of adversity?
 - #3. God shows us how we get to witness about our hope that transcends.
What things does our hope transcend (rise above)?
4. What are the 3 main groups of how people approach politics in 2026?
5. What is the group we are part of?

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. Can you think of any ways in history or in our modern times when Christianity has been viewed as and used as a pawn on the “game board”?
2. Why is it sometimes difficult to speak about our hope in Christ during adversity? How can your attitude in difficult situations become a testimony to others?
3. The sermon described three groups: “Die-Hards,” “Confused,” and “Exhausted.” Which do you most relate to, and why? What does it practically look like to live as part of the fourth group—“The Hopeful”?
4. Why do you think Paul emphasizes his belief in the resurrection so strongly? How can remembering the resurrection change the way you handle stress, injustice, or conflict?

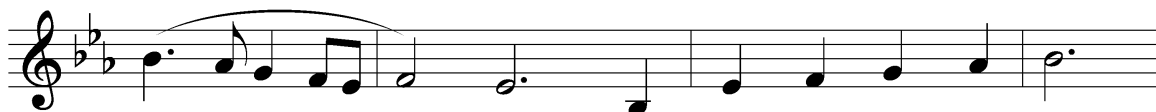
Please stand

This Joyful Eastertide

CW 449 sts. 1, Ref



1 This joy - ful Eas - ter - tide a - way with sin and



sor - row! My love, the Cru - ci - fied,

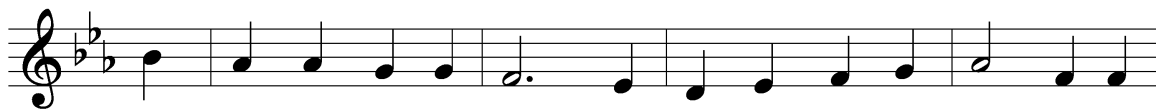


has sprung to life this mor - row.

Refrain



Had Christ, who once was slain, not burst his three-day pris - on,



our faith had been in vain: but now has Christ a - ris - en, a -



ris - en, a - ris - en; but now has Christ a - ris - en!

Text: George R. Woodward, 1848–1934
Tune: Davids Psalmen, Amsterdam, 1684
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

O Lord God, our strength, our song, and our salvation, you fulfilled your promises by the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, from the dead.

Thanks be to God! You give us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In your compassion you sent Christ, the Good Shepherd, who laid down his life to rescue the lost.

Drive out all doubt and gloom that we may delight in your glorious triumph.

Lift our eyes heavenward to see him who lives to make intercession for the saints, and grant us confidence in the greatness of his power. Keep before us the vision of your redeemed people standing before your throne and singing the song of victory:

Worthy Is the Lamb who was slain to receive wisdom and power and honor and glory and praise.

Make us instruments of your peace as we bring the good news of hope and new life to those around us. Guide us in the use of all that you have entrusted to us: our time, our talents, and our treasures.

Risen Lord, live in us that we may live for you.

Merciful Lord Jesus, grant healing to the sick, and strengthen the faith of the suffering and the dying. Assure them of your abiding presence, and comfort them with the hope of eternal life.

Gracious Father, you have restored to us the joy of your salvation. With happy hearts, we come before you and say:

Alleluia! Thanks be to God! 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.

Good News of God Above

CW 905 sts. 1-3



1 Good news of God a - bove is ours to tell a -
2 The love of Christ pro - claim, who left his home on
3 The Lord of glo - ry lives! From cross and death and



broad, the Fa - ther's ev - er - last - ing love in
high; to live our hu - man life he came, our
grave his own a - bun - dant life he gives to



Christ the ris - en Lord. For neigh - bors near and
hu - man death to die. The Fa - ther's on - ly
those he died to save. His right - eous - ness and



far the seed of life is sown; then spread the
Son be - came the sin - ners' friend, our lot to
peace de - clare from sea to sea; his prais - es



seed by word and deed to make the Sav - ior known.
share, our sin to bear, and death's do - min - ion end.
sound the world a - round for Christ has made us free.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Tune: Kermit G. Moldenhauer, b. 1949

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Tune: © 1993 Kermit G. Moldenhauer, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming services

New worship series - You Are My Witness. This series for Easter season focuses on the Acts of the Apostles and their witness to the resurrection of Jesus. The witnessing of Christ didn't stop with those initial eyewitnesses. You and I today are called, too, to be witnesses of Christ by sharing that testimony and the joy and peace of salvation built on it.

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano — David Dyer; guitar



Sunday School and Bible Study

Sunday School for children will take place after worship today. Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

The adults will not be having Sunday Study today and will be picking up next week with a new study series on “The Chosen” TV show.

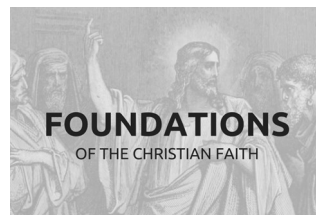
To prep for next week's discussion please watch season 3 episode 1.

Vicar Request Approved!

In case you missed the news last week, we received the exciting news that Living Hope's request to have a vicar for fall 2026 through summer 2027 has been approved by the Board for Home Missions! A vicar is a 3rd year student from our synod's seminary (Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary). The vicar gets to spend a year being mentored and serving in real church situations before returning for one last year of classes. We'll be finding out who is serving here in mid-May and we'll be having a watch-party for the vicar call service here at church on Wednesday May 20th.

Foundations Bible Study

If you're interested in membership here at Living Hope, Foundations is our "next step" class, but even if you're not interested in membership, you'll find it to be a good overview of what God has to say to you in his Word. If you're interested in attending the course just check the box on your connection envelope that says "I'd like to attend a membership class" in order to jump into a new group class or individual class. In-person or online classes are available!



New in-person classes are available on Saturdays at 10:30am at church.

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

Living Hope Small Groups

- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Apr 20)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Apr 27)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Apr 23)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Apr 29 at 7pm
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm

Women's Group—Monday April 20 @ 6:45pm

Women's Study is starting a new book, and we would love for you to join us! Come Monday, April 20th as we begin our study of Faith Unleashed: Utilizing Your Spiritual Gifts for Greater Kingdom Impact by Lori Lorig & Marilyn Sievert. Through this study, we will discover how God blessed ordinary people in the Bible to do exceptional things and see how He has uniquely designed each of us for His kingdom. We meet at Living Hope at 6:45pm for snacks and socializing, and the study begins at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

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

Theology on Tap—Tuesday April 21 @ 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



Service Group—“Hands of Hope” - Thursday April 23 @ 10:00AM

This is a service focused group with members working together to clean and maintain our church facilities, as well as supporting other small projects. The group will meet twice a month on Thursday mornings at 10 a.m. (for approximately 2 hours or less) and is open to all members: retired, near-retired, or anyone who has free time! This is a budgeted group, so in addition to the work time there will be a time of fellowship with lunch provided afterward at a restaurant.

Contact coordinator: Gretchen Bassett, 423-584-1981 (gretchen.bassett@gmail.com)

Living Hope Men’s Group—Monday April 27 @ 7:00AM

The new Living Hope 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)

Life on Mission—Wednesday April 29 @ 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.

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:

Levi Dyer 4/22

Kenzo Fleming 4/25

Sandra Collins 4/25

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Tyler and Sarah Cundiff + family — thanksgiving for a healthy baby boy born on Friday!

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer
Snack Provider—Frederickson, Hynson
Ushers—Mayer, Rice
Acolyte—Ember Turner

Service Teams — Next week Apr 26

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Schmidt, Turner
Ushers—Frizzell, Gorman
Acolyte—Eliza Dyer



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

Pastor Eric Melso
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