

March 1, 2026



The Blessing of Prayer

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: 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.

Today's Focus: The Blessing of Prayer

Ask, seek, knock. Jesus invites us to seek God and to search for him. These are not achievements but admissions of need. God invites the empty to receive what only he can give. He teaches us in response to treat others in the way God treats us. Jesus does not bless those who already have righteousness. He blesses those who know they lack it. This week, we hear the invitation of a gracious God who satisfies the hungry, welcomes those who seek, and opens the narrow way that leads to life.

Today, Pastor Lucas Bitter from Intown Lutheran Church in Atlanta is swapping with Pastor Eric who is in Atlanta this morning. We thank Pastor Lucas for sharing God's Word with us today and telling us more about their exciting urban ministry in the heart of Atlanta!



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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Come Away from Rush and Hurry

CW913

To the tune of "Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly"

- 1 Come away from rush and hurry
to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
here to seek and find God's grace.

- 2 In the pastures of God's goodness
we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
into service we are led.

- 3 Come, then, children, with your burdens—
life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—
he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
when to self we gladly die.

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

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.

Amazing Grace

CW 576 sts. 1-2

1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, you alone can satisfy the deepest hunger of our hearts. Draw us to your Word, strengthen our faith, and lead us by your grace on the way that leads to life, through 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 55:1-3, 6-7

¹“Come, all you who are thirsty,
come to the waters;
and you who have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without cost.

²Why spend money on what is not bread,
and your labor on what does not satisfy?
Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good,
and you will delight in the richest of fare.

³Give ear and come to me; listen, that you may live.
I will make an everlasting covenant with you,
my faithful love promised to David.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.
Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

Epistle Reading

1 Peter 5:6–11

⁶Humble yourselves, therefore, under God’s mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time. ⁷Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you.

⁸Be alert and of sober mind. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, standing firm in the faith, because you know that the family of believers throughout the world is undergoing the same kind of sufferings.

¹⁰And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. ¹¹To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen.

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.

What a Friend We Have in Jesus

CW 721



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp-ta - tions? Is there trou-ble an - y-where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit, oh, what need-less pain we bear,
 Can we find a friend so faith - ful who will all our sor-rows share?
 Do your friends de-spise, for-sake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



all be-cause we do not car - ry ev - 'ry-thing to God in prayer!
 Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak-ness— take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a sol-ace there.

Text: Joseph M. Scriven, 1819–1886, alt.
 Tune: Charles C. Converse, 1832–1918. 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 Reading

Matthew 7:7–11

⁷“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. ⁸For everyone who asks receives; the one who seeks finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be opened.

⁹“Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? ¹¹If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

The Blessing of Prayer

Please Stand

Holy Is Your Name (Song of Mary)

CW 956 sts. 1, Ref, 5



1 My ——— soul is filled with joy as I
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you

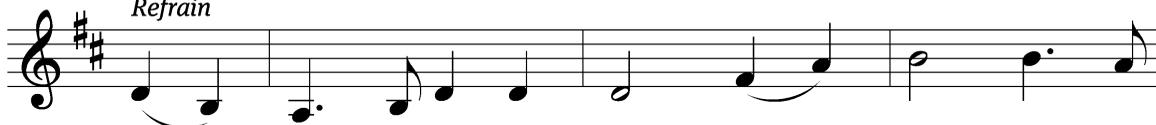


sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
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



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

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

Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

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

Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

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.

Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

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.

Please be seated

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!

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.

The Lord's Prayer

Let us pray as our Savior taught us:

Our Father in heaven.

Our Father, almighty Ruler over all things, we, your children by faith in Christ Jesus, pray to you with confidence and joy.

Hallowed be your name.

Keep us from dishonoring you by false teaching and ungodly living; help us cling to your pure and precious Word and lead a life which is pleasing to you.

Your kingdom come.

Keep us in faith by your grace that we may remain members of your kingdom, the holy Christian Church. Fill our hearts with a concern for souls and bless the work of all who preach and spread your saving Word, that your kingdom may grow and prosper.

Your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Destroy the plans of the devil and all the enemies who seek to rob us of our life with you. In all things help us to obey you as gladly as do the angels in heaven. When you lead us in ways which seem dark and unknown, help us surrender our will to yours.

Give us today our daily bread.

Provide for us each day with what we need for our lives and make us truly content and grateful for what you give us. Move us to cast all our care on you, because you care for us.

Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us.

For the sake of your Son, our Lord Jesus, put away our sins and make us clean by his blood and death. Move us by your great love to forgive those who wrong or grieve us.

Lead us not into temptation.

Suppress Satan's power when he tries to tempt us. If at first we listen to his voice, give us wisdom to detect his trickery and strength to overcome him.

But deliver us from evil.

Shield us from harm. When we do face adversity and endure trouble, help us to carry our burdens with patience and trust, knowing that you work out all things for our good. Finally, when our last hour comes, take us to our home in heaven.

You alone, O Father, are the eternal King from whom we seek help. You alone have the power to grant our desires. You alone have the glory now and in eternity for all you have done. With confidence and trust we say:

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.

The Lord Loves You Face to Face



A ho - ly God should have me cursed. A ho - ly Lord should do his worst.
In dark-ness I have walked a - lone. I've put my trust in hearts of stone.



I am the one he should re - vile but God looks on me and smiles.
These re - bel steps I have re - traced, God shines on me his face.



The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord smile up - on you. From sin re - leased,



he gives you peace. The Lord loves you face to face.

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Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - Lent: Exactly What I Need.

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. Next Week—What I Need: Faith

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Mark Hennings; piano — David Dyer; guitar — Sarah Dyer; piano, vocals

Intown Lutheran Ministry Presentation—After worship @ 11:30AM

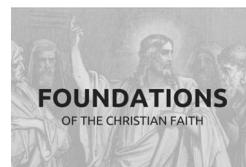
Stick around after the service in the lobby area where Pastor Lucas will be sharing stories about the exciting work being done in the heart of Atlanta at Intown Lutheran. Lucas and his wife, Meredith, moved into the city in summer 2017 and Intown launched worship on the exact same day as Living Hope!

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

- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Mar 9)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Mar 2)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Mar 12)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Mar. 25 at 7pm
- Small Catechism Discussion Group—Saturday evenings online weekly at 8pm starting Mar. 7

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.

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 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>

Women's Small Group—Restarts on Monday March 9 @ 6:45PM at church

This study is a wonderful way to gather in fellowship and grow in your relationship with God and others through His Word. Please arrive at 6:45 PM for snacks and fellowship; the study will begin at 7:00 PM. (If you had joined us in the past, please note that moving forward we will use Living Hope as our consistent location instead of rotating, and we will have snacks in place of a full meal.) We will continue our study of *In God's Orchard: Cultivating the Fruit of a Spirit-Filled Life*. Print outs of the lesson will be available for everyone.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to Rachel Frederickson
rachel.k.frederickson@gmail.com.

Congregational Update—Sunday March 15 after worship

At our upcoming ministry update we'll unveil our newly updated ministry plan and budget. Plan to stick around to hear more about what's coming up, how you can get involved in our gospel outreach, and to share your valuable input with the Council.

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Ron Chandler 3/4

Emi Ludwig 3/5

Ringgold Hynson 3/6

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Mary Snyder — Thanksgiving for successful surgery on Thursday

Georgene Meyer — The woman Don McCary is a caretaker for who had a trip to the hospital

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Baggett, Bloedorn

Snack Provider—Bassett, Dyer

Ushers—Open

Acolyte—Kamarrion McNabb

Service Teams — Next week Mar 8

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer

Snack Provider—Schmidt, Hynson

Ushers—Open

Acolyte—Ember Turner

Pastor Eric Melso

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