

April 6, 2025

OPEN DOORS



God's Surprising Strategies for Getting Sinners Back Home

The Time Is Now

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: Open Doors

When a wayward child wanders far from home, how does a loving parent pursue them without driving them further away? One thing that parent does is let the child know that there is an ongoing open-door policy. The child knows they will always be welcomed back home. Likewise, when we wander from God, he always keeps his door open for us. But God doesn't just passively wait for us to return. He lovingly pursues sinners in ways that make them long for home.

Today's Focus: The Time Is Now

The heavenly Father is always present in the lives of his children. He sees every sorrow we endure. He also sees every sin that we commit, even if it's only in our thoughts. He is always present. Yet, he is also always patient. God does not snap at us the second we turn from him. He gives us time to see the error of our ways. He assures us that the door back to him remains always open. By giving us room to share our struggles and shortcomings, he works in us the very repentance he desires and saves us from the judgement that would otherwise be ours.



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

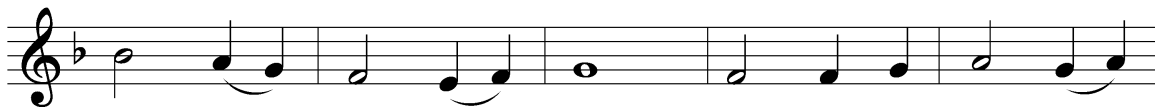
Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-730027 and CCLI A-21626251

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

CW 407



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



Prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God. All the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 trib - ute far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.

Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

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.

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

When God's children rebel and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of angels of God over one sinner who repents.

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

2 Corinthians 5:21-6:2

The congregation sings:

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 st. 3

3 To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection

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.

Amen.

The congregation sings:

2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Lord, Have Mercy Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

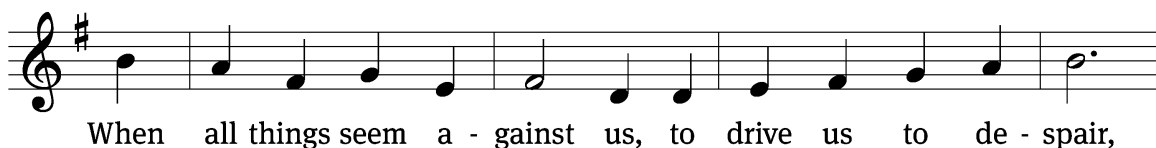
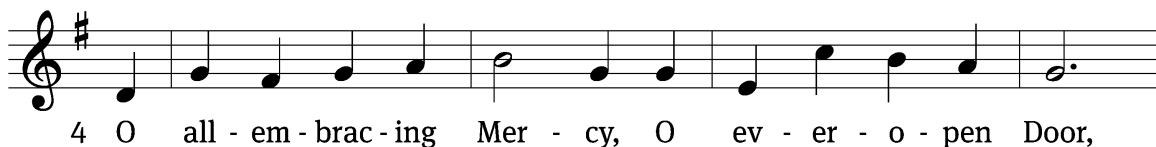
For perspective to see that, apart from Christ, gain is loss, and in Christ, loss is gain, and for the perseverance to press on and take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

The congregation sings:





Text: Oswald Allen, 1816–1878, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, by your great goodness, mercifully look upon your people that we may be governed and preserved evermore in body and soul; 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

Exodus 3:1–15

¹Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian, and he led the flock to the far side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²There the angel of the LORD appeared to him in flames of fire from within a bush. Moses saw that though the bush was on fire it did not burn up. ³So Moses thought, “I will go over and see this strange sight—why the bush does not burn up.”

⁴When the LORD saw that he had gone over to look, God called to him from within the bush, “Moses! Moses!”

And Moses said, “Here I am.”

⁵“Do not come any closer,” God said. “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶Then he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob.” At this, Moses hid his face, because he was afraid to look at God.

⁷The LORD said, “I have indeed seen the misery of my people in Egypt. I have heard them crying out because of their slave drivers, and I am concerned about their suffering. ⁸So I have come down to rescue them from the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey—the home of the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites and Jebusites. ⁹And now the cry of the Israelites has reached me, and I have seen the way the Egyptians are oppressing them. ¹⁰So now, go. I am sending you to Pharaoh to bring my people the Israelites out of Egypt.”

¹¹But Moses said to God, “Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the Israelites out of Egypt?”

¹²And God said, “I will be with you. And this will be the sign to you that it is I who have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you will worship God on this mountain.”

¹³Moses said to God, “Suppose I go to the Israelites and say to them, ‘The God of your fathers has sent me to you,’ and they ask me, ‘What is his name?’ Then what shall I tell them?”

¹⁴God said to Moses, “I AM WHO I AM. This is what you are to say to the Israelites: ‘I AM has sent me to you.’ ”

¹⁵God also said to Moses, “Say to the Israelites, ‘The LORD, the God of your fathers—the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob—has sent me to you.’

“This is my name forever,
the name you shall call me
from generation to generation.

Epistle Reading

1 Corinthians 10:1–13

¹For I do not want you to be ignorant of the fact, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and that they all passed through the sea. ²They were all baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. ³They all ate the same spiritual food ⁴and drank the same spiritual drink; for they drank from the spiritual rock that accompanied them, and that rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them; their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did. ⁷Do not be idolaters, as some of them were; as it is written: “The people sat down to eat and drink and got up to indulge in revelry.” ⁸We should not commit sexual immorality, as some of them did—and in one day twenty-three thousand of them died. ⁹We should not test Christ, as some of them did—and were killed by snakes. ¹⁰And do not grumble, as some of them did—and were killed by the destroying angel.

¹¹These things happened to them as examples and were written down as warnings for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come. ¹²So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don’t fall! ¹³No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.

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.

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

CW 705



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - utes still!
- 2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
- 3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
- 4 Make me to walk in your com-mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min-ion, Lord, but keep my con-science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan-d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, abr., alt.
Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870
Text and tune: Public domain

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

Please Stand

Sermon Reading

Luke 13:1–9

¹Now there were some present at that time who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. ²Jesus answered, “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans because they suffered this way? ³I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish. ⁴Or those eighteen who died when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵I tell you, no! But unless you repent, you too will all perish.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he went to look for fruit on it but did not find any. ⁷So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, ‘For three years now I’ve been coming to look for fruit on this fig tree and haven’t found any. Cut it down! Why should it use up the soil?’

⁸“ ‘Sir,’ the man replied, ‘leave it alone for one more year, and I’ll dig around it and fertilize it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it down.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

The Time Is Now

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What question gets asked when a disaster happens?
2. Does Jesus agree with the concept of “karma”?
3. What is Jesus’ main point in the examples of the Galileans and the Tower in Siloam?
4. What’s the point of “McDonald’s shaming”?
5. What is so irrational about the actions of the vineyard owner and gardener?
6. What’s the parable really about?
7. The warning of this parable is overshadowed by the _____ it dramatizes.
8. In what way have you had a death-to-life experience already?
9. How does this parable end?

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. Delve deeper into that question: “why do bad things happen to good people?” List some answers we could give to that question.
2. Agree or disagree: Ungodly, unbelieving nations will face judgment from God.
3. What should the Christian approach to “karma” be?

4. Which temptation seems easier to fall into: #1. comparing yourself to others or #2. being lackadaisical about repentance? (Both are in view in these verses)
5. What evidence can you think of to back up the fact that God is patient?

Please stand

Create in Me a Clean Heart

The musical score is written on six staves in treble clef. The melody is simple and uses a mix of eighth, quarter, and half notes, with some slurs and ties. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the syllables. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the sixth staff.

Cre - ate in me a
pure heart, O God, and re - new a right spir - it with -
in me. Do not cast me a - way from your
pres - ence or take your Ho - ly Spir - it from
me. Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up -
hold, up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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!

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

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

We confess that without your love we are lost.

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and for all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.

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

Silent prayer.

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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.

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

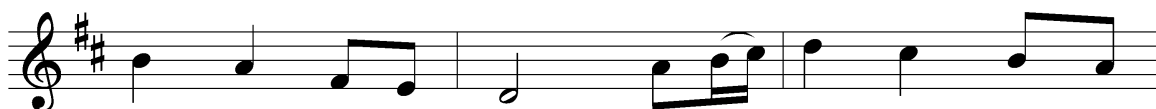
CW 748



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly give to God our all, our
2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, by the gift of Christ, his
3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice for the sake of Christ, your



best: ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough, hon - est, with a
Son, what great good - ness he has shown us, what high
Son; lo, our hope a - bides now on - ly in the



liv - ing love im - pressed. All our du - ty, all our
mar - vels he has done! Let us to him prompt - ly,
right - eous - ness he won. Bless and save us, help and



striv - ing, all our time to him be - long; praise him,
free - ly, yield our bod - ies and our souls, thank - ful
guide us, watch to com - fort and re - store, till in



then, with true de - vo - tion, come be - fore him with a song.
that his love pro - tects us, that his wis - dom all con - trols.
heav'n we rest re - joic - ing, prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New Worship series starting on Palm Sunday - See Life Better: a series on becoming disciples of Jesus. There's a very serious proposition in this sermon series: If you learn to look at your life in light of the life of Christ, you will be able to see life much, much better.

Upcoming services:

- Palm Sunday—April 13 @ 10:00am—Catered meal by Rib + Loin afterwards.
- Maundy Thursday—April 17 @ 6:30pm
- Good Friday—April 18 @ 6:30pm
- Easter Sunday—April 20 @ 10:00am—Easter Brunch afterward will be potluck style.

Please bring something to pass. A sign-up sheet will be sent via text and also placed at the beginning of the snack line. Thanks!

Thank you to today's guest preacher, musicians and vocalists!

Mark Hennings; piano—David Dyer; guitar

Sunday School and Bible Study—today after worship @ 11:30AM

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study for adults takes place after worship today. Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks. Adults will continue a study called "Building Bridges." A study on building Christ-focused relationships both within the congregation and outside of it.

Theology on Tap—Tuesday April 8 @ 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



April Fellowship Outing: Lookouts Baseball—Friday April 12 @ 7:15PM

This is the final day to sign up for our night at the Chattanooga Lookouts game. Please find the sign up sheet on the bulletin board in the lobby. Payment can be made to Robbin Lundquist any time before Friday or simply at the game before heading in.
Robbin: 423-774-5940

Dinner at Burger Republic @ 5:00PM

If you'd like, you can also plan to meet downtown before the game for burgers. Or feel free just to join for the meal even if you aren't going to the ballgame.



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.

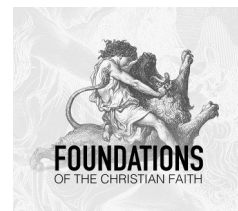
Foundations Bible Study

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.

New group classes will be starting after Easter:

Wednesday April 23 @ 7:00PM [Online]

Saturday April 26 @ 10:00AM [In-person at church]



Living Hope Small Groups

Find more information on the small groups bulletin board in the lobby about available groups to get involved with.

- Theology on Tap—Tuesdays at 7pm (sermon discussion group)
- Women's Group—Mondays every other week
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Tiffany Amerson—April 9

Mark Mayer—April 9

Anniversary Blessings:

Matthew and Melissa Turner—April 12



A graphic with a dark blue background and a subtle pattern of white stars. At the top, the word "APRIL" is in large, bold, light green letters, followed by "UPCOMING EVENTS" in smaller, bold, light green letters. Below this, a horizontal line separates the title from the "SAVE THESE DATES" section, which is in white, bold, sans-serif font. Underneath, there are five rows, each with a date in a light green rounded rectangle on the left and event details in a white rounded rectangle on the right.

| SAVE THESE DATES | |
|------------------|--|
| 29 MARCH | Booth at Aqua Tots Event 4-6 PM |
| 13 APRIL | Palm Sunday with meal 10:00 AM Service + 11:15 AM Meal |
| 17 APRIL | Maundy Thursday Service: 6:30PM |
| 18 APRIL | Good Friday Service: 6:30 PM |
| 20 APRIL | Easter Service + Easter Brunch + Kids Craft 10:00 AM Service 11:15 AM Brunch and Craft |

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Baggett, Bloedorn

Snack Provider—Bassett, Dyer

Ushers—Gorman, Hansen

Acolyte—Lydia Dyer

Service Teams — Next week

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder

Snack Provider—Living Hope

Ushers—Ludwig, Smith

Acolyte—Ember Turner

Pastor Eric Mello

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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