

June 22, 2025



Jesus Isn't a Fair-Weather Fan for You

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: Undivided Attention

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. There are two ideas in the phrase "See life better." The first is that you can **see life more clearly**. When we look at the world in the way God shows it to us, it really can make sense. The second is that you can **see life improve**. This has to come second – if you don't see life more clearly, things will stay the same. But if we approach life more wisely, we will also see it change for the good. All by the grace of a saving God who alone makes life forever better.

Today's Focus: Jesus Isn't a Fair Weather Fan for You

There is the type of fan who follows his team if they make the playoffs. Then there is the type of fan who, regardless of his team's record, watches every game and knows the stats for every player. There are different types of followers: the half-hearted versus the committed. Jesus is uninterested in followers who pay attention to his Word and will only when their other pursuits provide the time. Jesus wants followers who are all in . . . who love him above all things . . . who would be willing to leave everything else behind if that were what it would take to be with him. We simply do not have it inside us to produce that level of commitment. But in the gospel, we see how Jesus went all in for our salvation. As we witness the way Jesus made our eternal happiness the focus of his undivided attention, the Spirit creates within us the very commitment that Christ seeks.



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

Blessed Jesus, at Your Word

CW 919



1 Bless - ed Je - sus, at your Word we are gath - ered
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Gra - cious Sav - ior, good and kind, Light from Light, from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



all to hear you. Let our hearts and souls be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks our night
God pro - ceed - ing, o - pen now our heart and mind;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant that we your Word may trust,



now to seek and love and fear you, by your teach - ings,
with the beams of truth un - cloud - ed. You a - lone to
help us by your Spir - it's plead - ing. Hear the cry your
con - fi - dent of our sal - va - tion, while we here be -



sweet and ho - ly, drawn from earth to love you sole - ly.
God can win us; you must work all good with - in us.
Church now rais - es; hear and bless our prayers and prais - es.
low must wan - der, till we sing your prais - es yon - der.

Text (sts. 1–3): Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684; (sts. 1–3): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; (st. 4): Geistreiches Gesang-Büchlein, Berlin, 1707;
(st. 4): tr. unknown, alt.

Tune: Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673, alt.

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty God, merciful Father,

I, a troubled and repentant sinner,

confess that I have sinned against you in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Jesus’ death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world.

He said to his people, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”

Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.

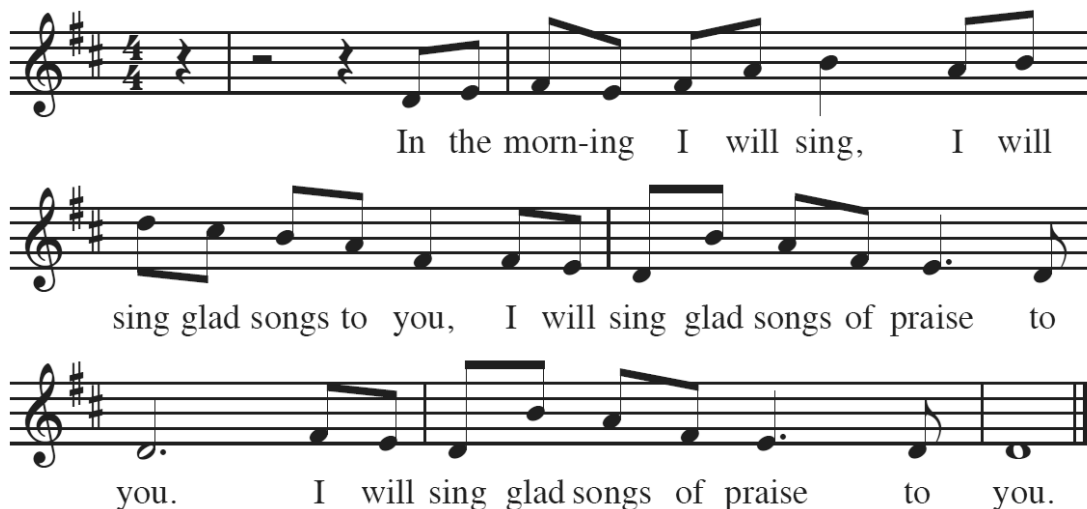
Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life!

Amen.

Psalm 63: In the Morning I Will Sing

Marty Haugen

Vocalists will sing the first refrain and the verses, congregation joins on the refrain



Verse 1

O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting.

My body pines for you like a dry weary land without water.

So I gaze on you in the sanctuary to see your strength and your glory. **REFRAIN**

Verse 2

For your love is better than life, my lips will speak your praise.

So I will bless you all my life, in your name I will lift up my hands.

My soul shall be filled as with a banquet, my mouth shall praise you with joy. **REFRAIN**

Verse 3

On my bed I remember you. On you I muse through the night;

For you have been my help; in the shadow of your wings I rejoice.

My soul clings to you; your right hand holds me fast. **REFRAIN**

Prayer of the Day

O God, you have prepared joys beyond understanding for those who love you. Pour into our hearts such love for you that, loving you above all things, we may obtain your promises, which exceed all that we can desire; 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

1 Kings 19:19–21

¹⁹So Elijah went from there and found Elisha son of Shaphat. He was plowing with twelve yoke of oxen, and he himself was driving the twelfth pair. Elijah went up to him and threw his cloak around him. ²⁰Elisha then left his oxen and ran after Elijah. “Let me kiss my father and mother goodbye,” he said, “and then I will come with you.”

“Go back,” Elijah replied. “What have I done to you?”

²¹So Elisha left him and went back. He took his yoke of oxen and slaughtered them. He burned the plowing equipment to cook the meat and gave it to the people, and they ate. Then he set out to follow Elijah and became his servant.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 11:21b–30

Whatever anyone else dares to boast about—I am speaking as a fool—I also dare to boast about. ²²Are they Hebrews? So am I. Are they Israelites? So am I. Are they Abraham’s descendants? So am I. ²³Are they servants of Christ? (I am out of my mind to talk like this.) I am more. I have worked much harder, been in prison more frequently, been flogged more severely, and been exposed to death

again and again. ²⁴Five times I received from the Jews the forty lashes minus one. ²⁵Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was pelted with stones, three times I was shipwrecked, I spent a night and a day in the open sea, ²⁶I have been constantly on the move. I have been in danger from rivers, in danger from bandits, in danger from my fellow Jews, in danger from Gentiles; in danger in the city, in danger in the country, in danger at sea; and in danger from false believers. ²⁷I have labored and toiled and have often gone without sleep; I have known hunger and thirst and have often gone without food; I have been cold and naked. ²⁸Besides everything else, I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches. ²⁹Who is weak, and I do not feel weak? Who is led into sin, and I do not inwardly burn?

³⁰If I must boast, I will boast of the things that show my weakness.

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695



- 1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo-ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
 take my feet and let them be swift and beau-ti - ful for thee.
 take my lips and let them be filled with mes-sag - es from thee.
 take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879
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 9:51, 57–62

⁵¹As the time approached for him to be taken up to heaven, Jesus resolutely set out for Jerusalem.

⁵⁷As they were walking along the road, a man said to him, “I will follow you wherever you go.”

⁵⁸Jesus replied, “Foxes have dens and birds have nests, but the Son of Man has no place to lay his head.”

⁵⁹He said to another man, “Follow me.”

But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.”

⁶⁰Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.”

⁶¹Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.”

⁶²Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Jesus Is Never a Fair Weather Fan for You

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is a fair-weather fan?
2. What kind of follower is Jesus looking for?
3. How does Jesus often respond to people who have bold claims about themselves?
4. What was likely involved in the man's request to "bury his father"?
5. What did Jesus mean by saying, "Let the dead bury their own dead"?
6. Why does Jesus' response to the 3rd wannabe follower seem especially harsh?
7. What does this account reveal about my own excuses?
8. Jesus, I'm happy to follow you as long as....
(what are you tempted to put in this blank)
9. What is the turning point in the book of Luke?
10. What has Jesus set his face on?
11. Our commitment to Jesus is never in _____.

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. What are some things that a Christian today may have to give up as a follower of Christ?
2. Share an account or passage from the Bible that reminds you of God's commitment to you.
3. Name some of the differences between literally following Jesus (walking on the road with him like in Luke 9) versus being a follower/believer of Jesus today. What are the similarities?
4. Name some other ways that a diehard fan of a sports team can serve as a decent analogy for being a follower of Jesus.

Please stand

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).

Nicene Creed

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!

Offertory: Yet Not I But Through Christ In Me
(performed by Martin Luther College students)

By City Alight

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Lord God, you are worthy to receive thanks and praise from all people. You created the world and all who live in it, and in your mercy you saved us. We give thanks to you for the grace of your Son, Jesus Christ.

Though in very nature God, he took the nature of a servant and became obedient to death, even death on a cross. He offered himself as a sacrifice for sin and redeemed us from its curse and penalty. He rescued us from the terrors of death and restored eternal life with you. He conquered our enemies and gained for us the kingdom of grace and glory.

Bless us as we receive your Son's body and blood, and lead us to remember his suffering, death, and resurrection. Forgive our sins and fill us with the hope of new life in heaven. Hear our praise and receive our thanks as we worship you—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

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.

Please see the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder.

Preface

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

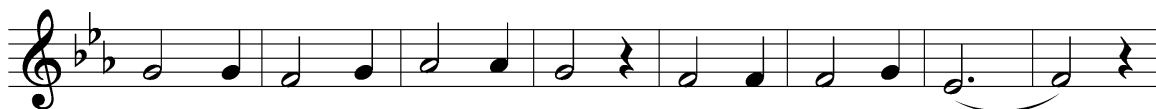
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 promised that wherever two or three come together in his name, there he is with them to shepherd his flock until he comes again in glory. 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'rand 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

Text: Public domain

Tune: © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc. adapt. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

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.

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.

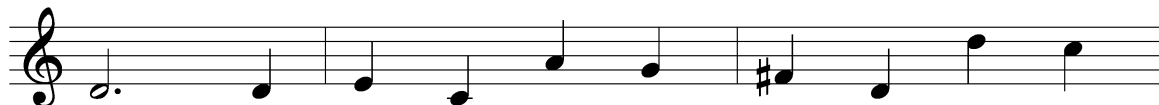
C: Amen.

On What Has Now Been Sown

CW 925



1 On what has now been sown your bless - ing, Lord, be -
2 To you our wants are known; from you are all our
3 O grant that each of us now met be - fore you



stow; the pow'r is yours a - lone to make it
pow'rs. Ac - cept what is your own and par - don
here may meet to - geth - er thus when you and



spring and grow. O Lord, in grace the har - vest
what is ours. Our prais - es, Lord, and prayers re -
yours ap - pear and fol - low you to heav'n, our



raise and you a - lone shall have the praise!
ceive and to your Word a bless - ing give.
home. E'en so, A - men! Lord Je - sus, come!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, adapt., alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

Unless otherwise indicated, Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Liturgical and musical settings of Scripture based on text from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission of Zondervan. All rights reserved worldwide.

Software distributed in partnership with Northwestern Publishing House.

Created by Christian Worship: Service Builder © 2025 Concordia Publishing House.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Worship series - Undivided Attention: We need to be freed from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us.

Next Week— Undivided Attention on the Mission Right Before Us

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Emily Knutson; piano — Elise Nolte; piano

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 June 24 @ 7:00PM

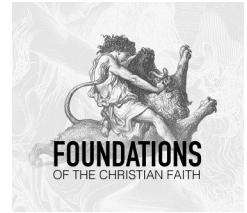
Grab a drink. Grab a bite to eat. Get a taste for good theology and good conversation in a laid back setting. Each week we'll take a deeper look at Sundays sermon content and discuss how to apply that message to everyday life.

Theology on Tap meets at **Lupi's Pizza** in Cambridge Square.
9454 Bradmore Ln. Suite 109—Cambridge Square, Ooltewah



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.



Summer Science Camp—Tuesday thru Thursday June 24-26 — 9am—12pm

This year's Bible Science Camp will be African Safari themed. The camp gives kids a way to interact with God's Word using a combination of games, art, snacks, activities, and Bible stories. Pizza lunch provided on Thursday at the camp's end.

There are still opportunities to provide a meal for the Martin Luther College Team
(4 students)

- Monday June 23 lunch + dinner
- Tuesday June 24 lunch
- Wed June 25 lunch
- Thurs June 26 dinner

Reach out to Camp Coordinator, Jennifer Melso, to get involved or learn more.
(423) 250-4943



Host Vicar David for a meal

One of the best things for a seminarian to take part in is simply talking with people and getting to know them! Vicar David would love the chance to get to know your family and we'd also love to help out those who are hosting him this summer by allowing others to provide a meal for him. Feel free to host him for lunch or dinner. There's a physical sign up sheet out in the lobby or you can sign up using the form you should have received in your inbox a couple weeks back. Thanks for taking the time to get to know David!

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—**next session on June 30**
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

Living Hope Outing—Day at the Bay—Saturday July 26 @ 12:00PM—5:00PM

Our fifth annual Day at the Bay fellowship event will be on July 26 at Chester Frost park starting at 11:00am. Come for some food, games, boat rides, tubing and swimming! Bring a dish to pass and Living Hope will provide the grilled meats, chips, and water. We could use some volunteers to help with the setup and takedown of the event. Find more info and sign up on the bulletin board in the gathering area.

7872 Causeway Road—Hixson, TN Shelter #3

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:

- 6-22- Mary Snyder
- 6-25- Kate Talley
- 6-29- Kagon Talley

Anniversary Blessings:

- 6-21- Derek and Emily Knutson
- 6-24- Mike and Rachel Frederickson

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—Marshall
Snack Provider—Frederickson, Thom
Ushers—Frizzell, Marshall
Acolyte—Natalie Melso

Service Teams — Next week June 29


Sunday Setup Team—Thom
Snack Provider—Schmidt / Turner
Ushers—Mayer, Smith
Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

Pastor Eric Melso
423-933-2452
pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com
www.livinghopechatt.com

 /livinghopechatt

 @livinghopechatt

