

July 13, 2025



Life with God in the Picture

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

We live in a world where a thousand things are competing for our attention. There is the real danger that we focus on the frivolous and ignore the indispensable. As a result, we often talk about the importance of being "free from distraction." But the stakes are higher than that. We need to be *freed* from distraction. We need the spiritual power to give our undivided attention to that which truly makes a difference, not only here and now, but also in eternity. A life focused on all the right things is only possible because of a Savior who is always focused on us.

Today's Focus: Life with God in the Picture

"Everything is meaningless!" That's how king Solomon begins the book of Ecclesiastes. And if there is no God, then he is right. As Solomon looks at life in the world from a secular view he makes the argument that a life without God in the picture will ultimately leave you without true purpose or meaning. It sounds very depressing but Solomon says all this so that we can actually see the light, and hope and high purpose of a life *with* God!

Two things happen when you have a life with God in the picture. #1 – the story moves in a meaningful direction. #2 – your work has meaning and purpose.



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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With the Lord Begin Your Task

CW 776



1 With the Lord be - gin your task; Je - sus will di - rect it.
 2 Let each day be - gin with prayer, praise and ad - o - ra - tion.
 3 With your Sav - ior at your side foes need not a - larm you;
 4 If your task is thus be - gun with the Sav - ior's bless - ing,



For his aid and coun - sel ask; Je - sus will per - fect it.
 On the Lord cast ev - 'ry care; he is your sal - va - tion.
 in his prom - is - es con - fide and no ill can harm you.
 safe - ly then your course will run, naught your soul dis - tress - ing.



Ev - 'ry morn with Je - sus rise, and, when day is end - ed,
 Morn - ing, eve - ning, and at night Je - sus will be near you,
 All your trust and hope re - pose in the might - y Mas - ter,
 Good will fol - low ev - 'ry - where while you here must wan - der;



in his name then close your eyes; be to him com - mend - ed.
 save you from the tempt - er's might, with his pres - ence cheer you.
 who in wis - dom tru - ly knows how to stem dis - as - ter.
 you at last the joy will share in the man - sions yon - der.

Text: Morgen- und Abend-segen, Waldenburg, 1734, abr.; tr. W. Gustave Polack, 1890–1950, alt.

Tune: Peter Frank, 1616–1675

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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

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

...in wasting the precious time you give us.

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

...in the faithful care of our relationships.

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

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

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

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

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

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

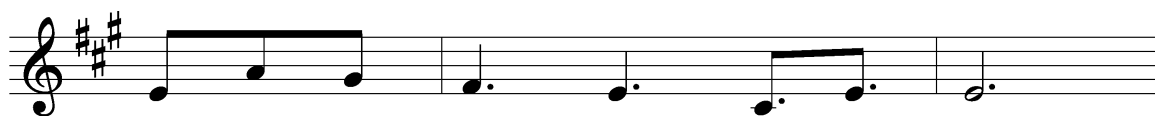
Amen.

Reformation Song

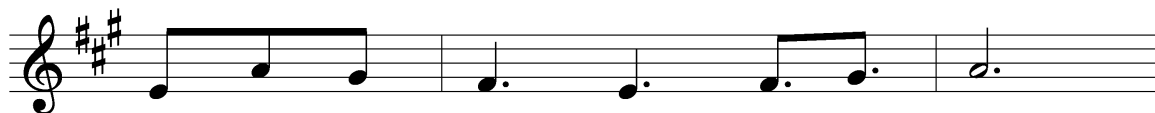
CW 877 sts. Ref, 3-4



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



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



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



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



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

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

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

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Prayer of the Day

Mercifully grant, O God, that your Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts, for without your help we are unable to please you; 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

Colossians 3:1–11

¹Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. ²Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. ³For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God. ⁴When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.

⁵Put to death, therefore, whatever belongs to your earthly nature: sexual immorality, impurity, lust, evil desires and greed, which is idolatry. ⁶Because of these, the wrath of God is coming. ⁷You used to walk in these ways, in the life you once lived. ⁸But now you must also rid yourselves of all such things as these: anger, rage, malice, slander, and filthy language from your lips. ⁹Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices ¹⁰and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.

¹¹Here there is no Gentile or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all.

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

Reading

Luke 12:13–21

¹³Someone in the crowd said to him, “Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me.”

¹⁴Jesus replied, “Man, who appointed me a judge or an arbiter between you?”

¹⁵Then he said to them, “Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions.”

¹⁶And he told them this parable: “The ground of a certain rich man yielded an abundant harvest. ¹⁷He thought to himself, ‘What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.’

¹⁸“Then he said, ‘This is what I’ll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store my surplus grain. ¹⁹And I’ll say to myself, “You have plenty of grain laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.” ’

²⁰“But God said to him, ‘You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?’

²¹“This is how it will be with whoever stores up things for themselves but is not rich toward God.”

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.

What Is the World to Me

CW 717



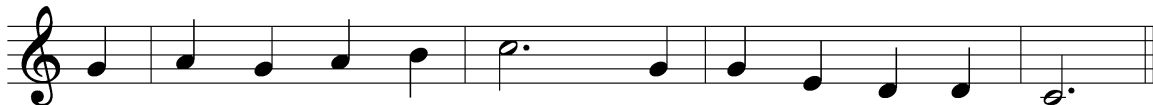
1 What is the world to me with all its vaunt-ed plea - sure
 2 The world seeks af - ter wealth and all that mon - ey of - fers,
 3 The world is like a cloud and like a va - por fleet - ing,
 4 What is the world to me! My Je - sus is my trea - sure,



when you and you a - lone, Lord Je - sus, are my trea - sure!
 yet nev - er is con - tent though gold should fill its cof - fers.
 a shad - ow that de - clines, swift to its end re - treat - ing.
 my life, my health, my wealth, my friend, my love, my plea - sure,



You on - ly, dear - est Lord, my soul's de - light shall be;
 I have a high - er good, con - tent with it I'll be;
 My Je - sus shall re - main, though all things fade and flee,
 my joy, my crown, my all, my bliss e - ter - nal - ly.



you are my peace, my rest. What is the world to me!
 my Je - sus is my wealth. What is the world to me!
 my ev - er - last - ing rock. What is the world to me!
 Once more then I de - clare: What is the world to me!

Text: Georg M. Pfefferkorn, 1645–1732, abr.; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Tune: Ahasverus Fritsch, 1629–1701

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Ecclesiastes 1:1-2,12-14; 2:18-26

¹The words of the Teacher, son of David, king in Jerusalem:

²“Meaningless! Meaningless!”

says the Teacher.

“Utterly meaningless!

Everything is meaningless.”

¹²I, the Teacher, was king over Israel in Jerusalem. ¹³I applied my mind to study and to explore by wisdom all that is done under the heavens. What a heavy burden God has laid on mankind! ¹⁴I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

¹⁸I hated all the things I had toiled for under the sun, because I must leave them to the one who comes after me. ¹⁹And who knows whether that person will be wise or foolish? Yet they will have control over all the fruit of my toil into which I have poured my effort and skill under the sun. This too is meaningless. ²⁰So my heart began to despair over all my toilsome labor under the sun. ²¹For a person may labor with wisdom, knowledge and skill, and then they must leave all they own to another who has not toiled for it. This too is meaningless and a great misfortune. ²²What do people get for all the toil and anxious striving with which they labor under the sun? ²³All their days their work is grief and pain; even at night their minds do not rest. This too is meaningless.

²⁴A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, ²⁵for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment? ²⁶To the person who pleases him, God gives wisdom, knowledge and happiness, but to the sinner he gives the task of gathering and storing up wealth to hand it over to the one who pleases God. This too is meaningless, a chasing after the wind.

Life with God in the Picture

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is “New Rich”?
2. How does Solomon open the book of Ecclesiastes?
3. What does the phrase “under the sun” refer to?
4. What ultimately happens to all our hard work and accomplishments?
5. Two things happen when you have a life with God in the picture:

 #1. The story moves in a _____.

 #2. Your work has _____.
6. What is meta-narrative?
7. What incident shakes up the musical *Into the Woods*?
8. What is our story building toward?
9. In what way is God more than just an all-knowing narrator?
10. What satisfaction does God give us from our labors?
11. As Christians, being “rich” only requires one thing. What?

Discussion questions on next page.

**TRUTH — It isn't our work that gives our story meaning.
It's our story that gives our work meaning**

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. What does a “rich” life look like for you?
2. Read verse 26. List some ways God has given you wisdom, knowledge, and happiness.
3. Agree or disagree: Unbelievers seek after pleasure while a believer’s goal is contentment.
4. Share some ways you’ve found deeper meaning and purpose in some of the various jobs/professions you’ve had in your life.
5. Had you ever heard of the term “meta-narrative” before today? In what ways does that concept help you better find meaning and your place in life?

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!

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

Prayer of the Church

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

For the well-being of all people everywhere, that they may receive from you all they need to sustain body and life, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the spread of your life-giving gospel throughout the world, that all who are lost in sin may be brought to faith in you, hear our prayer, O Christ.

Christ, have mercy.

For patience and perseverance in this life, that we may not lose the hope of heaven as we await your return, hear our prayer, O Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Lord of life, live in us that we may live for you.

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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

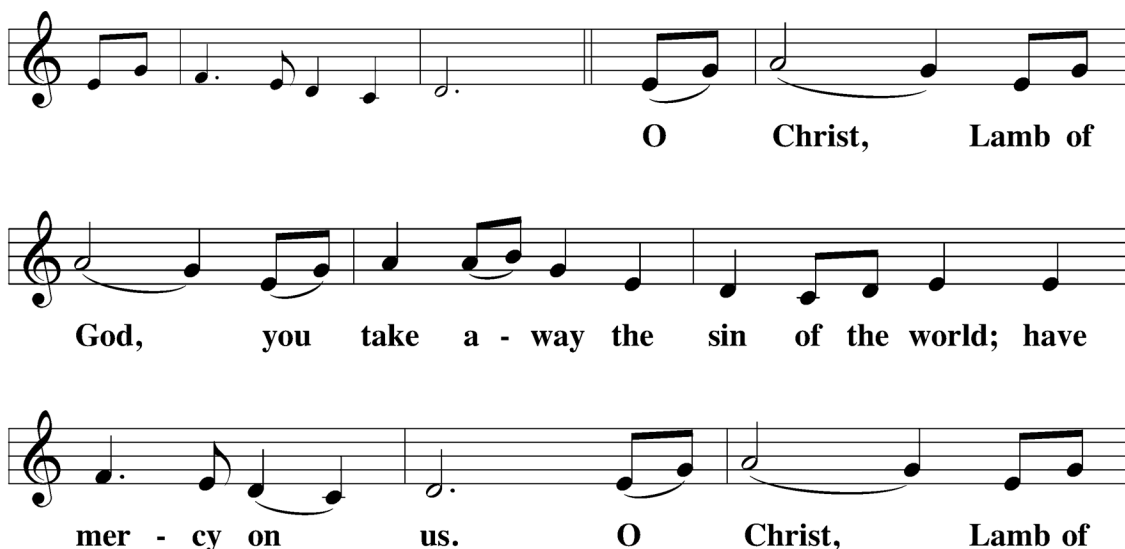
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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:

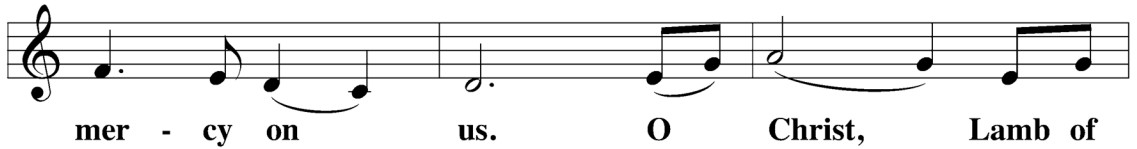
O Christ, Lamb of God

Agnus Dei



The musical notation is written on three staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn, with lyrics 'O Christ, Lamb of' aligned under the notes. The second staff continues the melody with lyrics 'God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have'. The third staff concludes the melody with lyrics 'mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of'. The lyrics are in a bold, sans-serif font. The musical notation includes various note values (quarter, eighth, and half notes), rests, and slurs to indicate phrasing.

O Christ, Lamb of
God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of



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.

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

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.

My Worth Is Not in What I Own

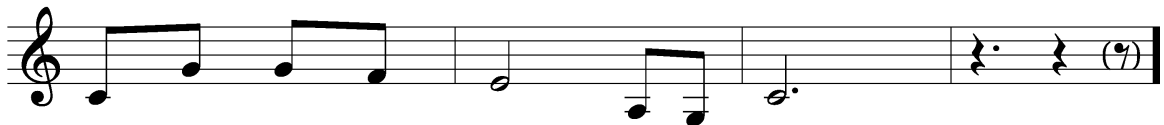
CW 753 sts. 1-2, Ref, 3-5



1 My worth is not in what I own, not
2 My worth is not in skill or name, in
3 As sum - mer flow'rs we fade and die; fame,




in the strength of flesh and bone, but in the
win or lose, in pride or shame, but in the
youth, and beau - ty hur - ry by. But life e -



cost - ly wounds of love at the cross. v. 2
blood of Christ that flowed at the cross. Refrain
ter - nal calls to us at the cross. v. 4

Refrain



I re-joice in my Re - deem - er— great - est trea - sure,
well-spring of my soul. I will trust in him, no oth - er; my
soul is sat - is - fied in him a - lone.

4 I will not boast in wealth or might,
or human wisdom's fleeting light.
But I will boast in knowing Christ
at the cross. (Refrain)

5 Two wonders here that I confess:
my worth and my unworthiness.
My value fixed—my ransom paid
at the cross. (Refrain)

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Kristyn Getty, b. 1980; Graham Kendrick, b. 1950

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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 power and purpose of prayer

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Emily Knutson; piano

Sunday School and Bible Study—off for the month of July

Our Sunday school and adult Bible study will be off for the next few weeks. Stay tuned for when we re-launch in August!

Theology on Tap—Tuesday July 15 @ 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



Volunteer Painters Needed! - Saturday July 19 @ 8:30am

We're looking for 1 to 2 more volunteers who'd be willing to help with the painting project for the classroom on the far end of our building. This is the first room we're prepping in order to begin our SpaceTogether effort. We hope to rent this room out to various local organizations/businesses in order to better utilize our awesome facility during the week, connect with new people, and even give us a little bit of financial aid as well.

The primer will already be applied so all that's needed is taping and painting.

If interested please speak with Brad Thom — secretary@livinghopechatt.com

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 12:00pm. 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

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—Mon. July 14**
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

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.

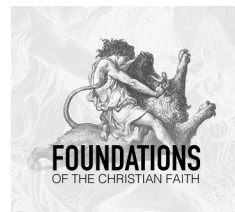
Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

- 7-15- Annabelle Melso
- 7-17- Carla Mayer
- 7-18- Maggie Schmidt
- 7-20- Dagon Talley

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.



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—Frizzell
Snack Provider—Living Hope
Ushers—Frizzell, Smith
Acolyte—Will Hynson

Service Teams — Next week July 20

Sunday Setup Team—Smith
Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bogue, Bunting
Ushers—Marshall, Spann
Acolyte—Emi Ludwig

Pastor Eric Melso

423-933-2452

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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