

July 5, 2026

STILL TRUE



God's truth does not expire...



Still True: You Get a Fresh Start

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: Still True

In a world overflowing with opinions, pressure, confusion, and competing loyalties, God's Word remains unchanged. His truth still saves sinners. His grace still calls the unworthy. His Son still leads his Church. His promises still hold under pressure. His love still comes first. This series follows believers who learned that the gospel is not merely true in theory—it is still true for real life.

Today's Focus: Baptism Gives You a Fresh Start

Today, since Pastor Eric is out of town for some family weddings, we'll get to hear a message written by WELS pastor Julius Buelow with our church president David Dyer, reading that sermon message. Pastor Julius serves at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. Pastor Julius just so happens to be Pastor Eric's college and seminary roommate!

The message today will focus on this question: Do you want a fresh start? Do you want your hurts taken away, to come to peace with death, to become grateful for the miracle of each day, to be rinsed clean? That's exactly what God does for us in baptism. This is true for you ever since the day you got baptized: you get a fresh start!



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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Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now

CW 918



1 Lord Je - sus Christ, be pres - ent now; our hearts in
2 Un - seal our lips to sing your praise; our souls to
3 Un - til we join the hosts that cry, "O ho - ly,
4 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



true de - vo - tion bow. Your Spir - it send with
you in wor - ship raise. Make strong our faith; in -
ho - ly Lord Most High!" And in the light of
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



grace di - vine, and let your truth with - in us shine.
crease our light that we may know your name a - right
that blest place we then shall see you face to face.
Trin - i - ty, be praise through - out e - ter - ni - ty!

Text: Lutherisch Hand-Büchlein, Altenburg, 1648; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.
Tune: Cationale Germanicum, Gochsheim, 1628
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

We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

Merciful Father in heaven,

I am altogether sinful from birth.

In countless ways I have sinned against you

and do not deserve to be called your child.

But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:

Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.

Cleanse me from my sin,

and take away my guilt.

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.

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 sts. 1-2



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-1878, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, our heavenly Father, your mercy attends us all our days. Be our strength and support amid the wearisome changes of this world, and at life's end, grant us your promised rest and the full joys of your salvation; 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

Ezekiel 36:24–36

²⁴“ For I will take you out of the nations; I will gather you from all the countries and bring you back into your own land. ²⁵I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your impurities and from all your idols. ²⁶I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. ²⁷And I will put my Spirit in you and move you to follow my decrees and be careful to keep my laws. ²⁸Then you will live in the land I gave your ancestors; you will be my people, and I will be your God. ²⁹I will save you from all your uncleanness. I will call for the grain and make it plentiful and will not bring famine upon you. ³⁰I will increase the fruit of the trees and the crops of the field, so that you will no longer suffer disgrace among the nations because of famine. ³¹Then you will remember your evil ways and wicked deeds, and you will loathe yourselves for your sins and detestable practices. ³²I want you to know that I am not doing this for your sake, declares the Sovereign LORD. Be ashamed and disgraced for your conduct, people of Israel!

³³“ This is what the Sovereign LORD says: On the day I cleanse you from all your sins, I will resettle your towns, and the ruins will be rebuilt. ³⁴The desolate land will be cultivated instead of lying desolate in the sight of all who pass through it. ³⁵They will say, “This land that was laid waste has become like the garden of Eden; the cities that were lying in ruins, desolate and destroyed, are now fortified and inhabited.” ³⁶Then the nations around you that remain will know that I the LORD have rebuilt what was destroyed and have replanted what was desolate. I the LORD have spoken, and I will do it.’

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

Gospel

John 12:23–26

²³Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

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.

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

CW 680



1 Bap-tized in - to your name most ho - ly, O Fa - ther, Son, and
2 My lov - ing Fa - ther, there you took me to be hence-forth your
3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; your prom - ise sure - ly
4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— re - ceive it all, O



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me
will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er
Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;



a - mong your saints, your cho - sen host. Bur - ied with Christ and
the fruit of all your sor - rows share. O Ho - ly Spir - it,
if words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I
help me your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I



dead to sin, your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
com - fort me when threat - ning clouds a - round I see.
come de - filed; for - give, lift up, re - store your child.
am or own serve an - y will but yours a - lone.

Text: Johann J. Rambach, 1693–1735, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Romans 6:3–11

³Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.

⁵For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly also be united with him in a resurrection like his. ⁶For we know that our old self was crucified with him so that the body ruled by sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin— ⁷because anyone who has died has been set free from sin.

⁸Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. ⁹For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him. ¹⁰The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God.

¹¹In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Baptism Gives You a Fresh Start

Sermon Notes:

Please Stand

Create In Me a Pure Heart

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.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Create In Me a Pure Heart". It consists of six staves of music in a single system, written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat. The music is in a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are: "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." The score ends with a double bar line.

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. Today we have a special prayer for our nation on this 4th of July weekend.

Prayer of the Church

Almighty God, we acknowledge with thanks that all we have and enjoy is a gift from your gracious hand. We come before you today in heartfelt appreciation for our nation and its people.

We thank you for enabling us to worship you in freedom and to serve you without fear.

You have enriched us with the bounties of farm and factory, the beauty of forest and mountain, and the marvels of medicine and science.

For all these blessings, we praise and glorify you.

Look with favor upon our nation and preserve our cherished liberties. Enable our leaders to govern with wisdom, honesty, courage, and justice. Protect those who serve in the armed forces and those who maintain peace and safety in our communities.

Give us willingness to obey our nation's laws and to work for the common good.

Keep our financial institutions secure and our economy strong. Bless our fields that they may produce abundant harvests. Guard us from calamities of nature and accident and spare our land from the ravages of disease and epidemic.

Teach us not to worry but to cast all our cares on you.

Strengthen the homes of our nation. By your Spirit lead husbands and wives to love each other, parents to nurture their children, young adults to assume responsibility, and children to show respect.

Lead the citizens of our land to honor the useful foundations of society.

Care for those who are sick or have been injured. Calm those who are disappointed and depressed. Provide guidance to those who care for people in trouble or in need.

Lead us to provide help when we can and to pray at all times.

To you, O Lord, we bring our thanks and our requests.

Hear our prayers for Jesus' sake. 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.

In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er

Continued on next page



stilled, when striv-ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - Still True. In a world overflowing with opinions, pressure, confusion, and competing loyalties, God's Word remains unchanged.

Next week: Keep Up the Good Fight

Thank you for serving us today!

- David Dyer (church president); presiding for worship
- Rev. Julius Buelow (of Mt. Olive Lutheran in Lincoln, Nebraska); provided sermon message
- Emily Knutson; piano

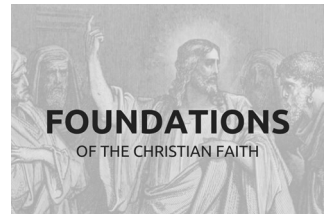
Sunday School and Bible Study

Both adults and children are on break for Sunday Bible study this week. Classes will resume on Sunday July 12.

Foundations Bible Study

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

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



Viking Steel Concert—Sunday evening July 19

Wisconsin Lutheran High School's traveling steel pan drum band, Viking Steel, has a summer tour in Tennessee and Georgia this year and Living Hope gets to host one of their free concerts at our church. Viking Steel was started in 2017 and uses the steel pan, an instrument native to the Caribbean islands of Trinidad and Tobago. Viking Steel is the largest high school steel band program in the state of Wisconsin and they have performed recently for two of our WELS International Youth Rallies. The music they perform includes classic hymns, contemporary worship songs, pop music, and other island favorites. The exact time of the concert will be nailed down soon.

Summer/Fall Outreach Challenge

We're keeping this "challenge" as simple as possible: join a new social group to establish a relationship with someone new. Our goal with this isn't to make people come to church, but to get used to meeting new people, and developing relationships with the community and the people around us. Obviously we'd love to see these new people we meet also begin (or deepen) their relationship with Jesus but our goal is simply to meet a new friend/acquaintance, be ourselves, and allow God to open doors for sharing our faith. There is no more effective way to make disciples for Jesus than by getting to know people and being ourselves. So, instead of some big outreach event this summer we'd just like to send you out as an everyday missionary. And there's no door knocking involved. Simply join a group that participates in something you already enjoy doing: running, sports, art, a book club, library gathering, etc.

In the lobby you'll find a sheet where you can write down your name and the new group/social circle you plan to be part of—that way our outreach team can be praying for you and we can all encourage one another in our efforts. The most important thing with this is simply to have fun with it and be yourself!

Please check your inbox for an email from Living Hope that was sent last week which has more details about our new "outreach challenge." And continue to listen for more encouragement from Pastor and our Outreach Coordinator, Steve Rice, as we go along!

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:

Claudia Bunting 7/6

Elijah Talley 7/6

Rebekah Nolan 7/8

Gabe Amerson 7/11

Anniversary Blessings:

Eric and Jennifer Melso 7/11

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. July 20)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon July 20)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm (off for July and August)
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs July 16)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday July 22 at 7pm

See more details for these groups at <https://livinghopechatt.com/small-groups>

Living Hope Men's Group and Women's Group

The Men and Women's small groups will both be on a short break until they resume on Monday July 20.

Theology on Tap

Our sermon discussion group that meets at Lupi's Pizza in Ooltewah is off for the months of July and August.

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday July 16 @ 10:00AM

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

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

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Thom
Snack Provider—Mayer, Rice
Ushers—Open
Acolyte—KJ McNabb

Service Teams — Next week July 12

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Bassett, Dyer
Ushers—Open
Acolyte—Ben Schulz



LIVING HOPE
L U T H E R A N C H U R C H

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

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