

August 10, 2025



Pulled in One Direction

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: Pulled in One Direction

At the root of the Biblical word "worry," is the idea of distraction, of being pulled in several directions at once. Can you relate? Our worry pulls us around and so often makes up the bulk of our day. We go from worrying about the first thing on our to-do list to having anxiety about the 10 other things at the end of the day we didn't cross off our to-do list.

But what if instead of being pulled in 10 directions throughout life, *you could instead be pulled in just one direction*? Does that sound appealing to you? Peaceful? Focused and purposeful? That's what Jesus is giving you today – a pull in one direction as the cure for worry and anxiety. This is a great way to wrap up our sermon series on Undivided Attention. Jesus is giving us one path to be pulled down, the path toward him and his kingdom, putting every other worry in its place.



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 of All Hopefulness

Christian Worship Supplement #769



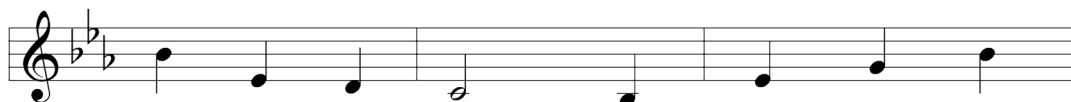
1 Lord of all hope - ful - ness, Lord of all joy,
 2 Lord of all eag - er - ness, Lord of all faith,
 3 Lord of all kind - li - ness, Lord of all grace,
 4 Lord of all gen - tle - ness, Lord of all calm,



Whose trust, ev - er child - like, no cares could de -
 Whose strong hands were skilled at the plane and the
 Your hands swift to wel - come, your arms to em -
 Whose voice is con - tent - ment, whose pres - ence is



stroy, Be there at our wak - ing and
 lathe, Be there at our la - bors and
 brace, Be there at our hom - ing and
 balm, Be there at our sleep - ing and



give us, we pray, Your bliss in our
 give us, we pray, Your strength in our
 give us, we pray, Your love in our
 give us, we pray, Your peace in our



hearts, Lord, at the break of the day.
 hearts, Lord, at the noon of the day.
 hearts, Lord, at the eve of the day.
 hearts, Lord, at the end of the day.

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

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.

Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world.

Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All Glory Be to God on High



1 All glor - y be to God on high! Your name, O
2 Our grate - ful thanks to you we bring, For your great



Lord, we glor - i - fy; We praise you for your
glor - y, heav'n - ly King, For all, O Fa - ther,



peace and grace, Your fa - vor toward our fall - en race.
you have done Through Je - sus Christ, your on - ly Son.

Tune: HERR JESU CHRIST, DICH ZU UNS WEND (LM) *Cantionale Germanicum*, Gochsheim, 1628.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray and willing to give far more than we either desire or deserve. Pour upon us the abundance of your mercy, forgiving us those things of which our conscience is afraid, and giving us those good things for which we are not worthy to ask except through the merits and mediation of 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

Genesis 15:1-6

¹After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision:

“Do not be afraid, Abram.

I am your shield,

your very great reward.”

²But Abram said, “Sovereign LORD, what can you give me since I remain childless and the one who will inherit my estate is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no children; so a servant in my household will be my heir.”

⁴Then the word of the LORD came to him: “This man will not be your heir, but a son who is your own flesh and blood will be your heir.” ⁵He took him outside and said, “Look up at the sky and count the stars—if indeed you can count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your offspring be.”

⁶Abram believed the LORD, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Epistle Reading

Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16

¹Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. ²This is what the ancients were commended for.

³By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God’s command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

⁸By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. ⁹By faith he made his home in the promised land like a stranger in a foreign country; he lived in tents, as did Isaac and Jacob, who were heirs with him of the same promise. ¹⁰For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God. ¹¹And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. ¹²And so from this one man, and he as good as dead, came descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as countless as the sand on the seashore.

¹³All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance, admitting that they were foreigners and strangers on earth. ¹⁴People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. ¹⁵If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.

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.

How Firm a Foundation

CW 800



1 How firm a foun - da - tion, you saints of the Lord,
 2 "Fear not, I am with you, O be not dis - mayed,
 3 "When through the deep wa - ters I call you to go,
 4 "When through fi - ery tri - als your path - way shall lie,
 5 "The soul that on Je - sus has leaned for re - pose



is laid for your faith in his ex - cel - lent Word!
 for I am your God and will still give you aid;
 the riv - ers of sor - row shall not o - ver - flow,
 my grace all - suf - fi - cient shall be your sup - ply;
 I will not, I will not, de - sert to its foes;



What more can he say than to you he has said,
 I'll strength - en you, help you, and cause you to stand,
 for I will be with you, your trou - bles to bless,
 the flames will not hurt you; I on - ly de - sign
 that soul, though all hell should en - deav - or to shake,



to you who for ref - uge to Je - sus have fled?
 up - held by my right - eous, om - ni - po - tent hand.
 and sanc - ti - fy to you your deep - est dis - tress.
 your dross to con - sume and your gold to re - fine.
 I'll nev - er, no nev - er, no nev - er for - sake!"

Text: A Selection of Hymns, London, 1787, ed. John Rippon, alt.
 Tune: Genuine Church Music, Winchester, 1832, ed. Joseph Funk
 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Luke 12:22–34

²²Then Jesus said to his disciples: “Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. ²³For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. ²⁴Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! ²⁵Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? ²⁶Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest?

²⁷“Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. ²⁸If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! ²⁹And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. ³⁰For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. ³¹But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well.

³²“Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. ³³Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

Pulled in One Direction

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What are some of the top 5 worries most Americans have in 2025?
2. What's at the root of the Biblical word "worry" here?
3. Why does Jesus bring up the worries of lacking food and clothes here?
4. What's the deeper, spiritual danger of worry?
5. What is God's kingdom? How do we seek it?
6. Right after telling us to seek God's kingdom what does Jesus tell us God gives?
7. What two things Jesus says here can both be true?
8. In what way is worry like a fog?
9. Jesus says, "Don't worry," as he walks _____ .

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. Share what some of your top 5 worries/concerns are. In what specific way does Jesus help you overcome that worry or put it in perspective?
2. What types of messages do you hear from the world about how to think about stress and anxiety? What types of messages do you hear from the world about how to take care of your own needs?
3. Discuss the difference between *worry* and *concern*. What types of things in life are acceptable to be concerned about even if you don't need to worry about them? List some examples of times when worry crosses the line into *sinful worry*.
4. Where do you draw the line between what is God's responsibility to handle and what is your responsibility to handle? Is it easy or difficult for you to let God take care of what you need?
5. In your own words, what does it mean to seek and receive the kingdom of God (v.31-32)?

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!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Gracious God and Father, we praise you for the countless blessings, which we receive from your hand: the beauties of creation and the bounties of the earth, the joy of life and the pleasure of friendship, the good of work and the gift of rest, the privilege to share happiness and sorrow with one another. Above all we praise and thank you for your saving Word and for you Son's body and blood, which you give us to eat and to drink in the sacrament. Through these means of grace, you send the Holy Spirit into our hearts and unite us to Jesus and to the whole Christian Church on earth.

Strengthen us through this heavenly food; increase our trust in Christ and our love for one another.

Great God and Lord, without your continuing help we easily waver in our faith, lose courage, and grow careless in our wakefulness. The times and days are perilous. Give us strength to face the evils of each day with fresh confidence. Open our lips to speak of your grace, and move us to use the gifts that you give us to share your Word of salvation with all people. Protect and prosper the family, the school, the government, and all good institutions that you have established for the benefit of society. Remember in mercy those who are sick and suffering, and bring your healing to troubled homes and lives.

Move us to pray for those in need and to help them with deeds of kindness.

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

Silent prayer.

Now, eternal God and Father, keep us in the saving faith and so enable us to overcome all things through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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.

Holy Communion

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



C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.



You are my God, and I will ex - alt you.



I will give you thanks, for you have be - come my sal -



va - tion. Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly is the Lord of hosts.



The whole earth is full of your glo - ry.

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.

Do Not Let Your Hearts Be Troubled

CW 809

Vocalists sing the verses, cong. joins on the refrain.

Refrain



Do not let your hearts be trou-bled; have faith in God and faith in
me. I will go forth to pre-pare a place for you; then I'll come
back to take you with me, that where I am, you may al - so be.

- 1 In God's house there are many places
for you to dwell in peace and safety.
You know the way to where I'll lead you;
if you are lost, I will show the way. (Refrain)

- 2 I am the way, the truth, and the life;
only through me can you know what I know.
If you knew me, you would know the Father;
if you see me, you see your God. (Refrain)
- 3 The words I speak are not only of myself;
it is your God who lives within me.
If you believe that your God and I are one,
I will provide when you call my name. (Refrain)

Text: David Haas, b. 1957, alt.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - Wounds that Heal. Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Next week: God's Word Divides

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Mark Hennings; piano— Sarah Dyer, Jordyn Mueller, Jonas Turman, Melissa Turner; vocals

Outreach Brainstorm Session—Today after worship

The first of our follow-up events to our Everyone Outreach workshop, back in May, will be held after worship. This won't be a normal congregational meeting. This session will be interactive and held in the gathering area. Lunch will be provided. We'll be getting everyone involved and split into groups to come up with a bunch of ideas for how we can better welcome first time guests and repeat guests.

Previous attendance at the Everyone Outreach workshop is not required! Children are welcome to attend with parents as well. We always want to be thinking outside of our walls here at Living Hope and focus on those who *are not here yet*! This will be a great step toward that goal!

Sunday School and Bible Study—Sunday August 17 after worship at 11:30

Sunday School for children and Sunday Study for adults will both re-launch next Sunday. The adults will begin a study on the book of Judges.

Theology on Tap—Tuesday August 12 @ 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



Living Hope Small Groups

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

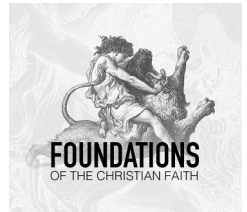
- Theology on Tap—Tuesdays at 7pm (sermon discussion group)
- Women's Group—Mondays every other week—**next session—Mon. Aug. 11**
- Book of Concord Discussion—Wednesdays at 7pm (online group)

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.

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—Thom
Snack Provider—Living Hope—Pizza lunch
Ushers—Ludwig, Smith
Acolyte—Ember Turner

Service Teams — Next week

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder
Snack Provider—Hansen, Mayer
Ushers—Hynson, Schulz
Acolyte—Bohdi Turner

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Colin Baggett—August 13 Ben Mattson—August 13

Anniversary Blessings:


Grady and Tiffany Amerson—August 11 Mark and Carla Mayer—August 13

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Terry Lundquist — Recovering from an emergency trip to the hospital this past week.
Bettie Pearce—Recovering from a fall at her apartment.

HOPE for everyday people
HOPE for everyday problems
HOPE for everyday unknowns
HOPE for everyday anxiety
HOPE for everyday life

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