

August 16, 2026



A Church for All People

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: The Church God Wants

"I want a church that..." How would you complete that statement? Would you focus on size—big or small? Would you think more about style—formal versus laid back? Is it certain desired church programs that come to mind? What exactly do you want in a church?

In this worship series, we see that that is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does God want in a church? You might find a church that runs all the youth programs you want or has a vibe that you enjoy or is in your ideal location. But if that church is not doing what Christ wants it do, then it really is not a spiritually healthy place to be. So, let us think about the church God wants. What does it look like? What are its priorities? What does it all do? How can we be that kind of church?

Today's Focus: A Church For All People

What do you do when you feel like you're on the outside looking in? Maybe you've wondered whether you've failed too much, wandered too far, or simply don't deserve a place at God's table. In Matthew 15, a Canaanite woman comes to Jesus with nothing to offer except a desperate faith that clings to his mercy. She is willing to take even the scraps. But Jesus gives her far more. And Jesus does the same for us. When our sin and failures leave us feeling like outsiders, Christ doesn't leave us begging beneath the table. He brings us all the way in, not because we deserve a seat, but because his grace is greater than our failures. And we now get to be a church that shares that grace with all.



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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The Church's One Foundation

CW 855 sts. 1-5



1 The Church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;
 2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth;
 3 The Church shall nev - er per - ish. Her dear Lord, to de - fend,
 4 Tho' with a scorn - ful won - der the world sees her op - pressed,
 5 Mid toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war



she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the Word.
 her char - ter of sal - va - tion: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
 to guide, sus - tain, and cher - ish, is with her to the end.
 by schisms rent a - sun - der, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,
 she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more



From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;
 One ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,
 Tho' there be those that hate her and strive to see her fail,
 yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up, "How long?"
 till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,



with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
 and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.
 a - gainst both foe and trai - tor she ev - er shall pre - vail.
 and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.
 and the great Church vic - to - rious shall be the Church at rest.

Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1839-1900, abr., alt.

Tune: Samuel S. Wesley, 1810-1876

Text and tune: Public domain

Call to Worship

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Holy Baptism

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born of water and the Spirit.

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

John 3:5,6

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived us. *Psalms 51:5*

But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.

1 Corinthians 6:11

Baptized into Your Name Most Holy

CW 680 sts. 1-2



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



Ho - ly Ghost, I claim a place, though weak and low - ly,
child and heir. My faith - ful Sav - ior, there you let me



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,



dead to sin, your Spir - it now shall live with - in.
com - fort me when threat-'ning clouds a - round I see.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful

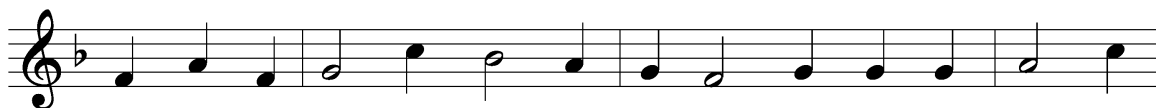
and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

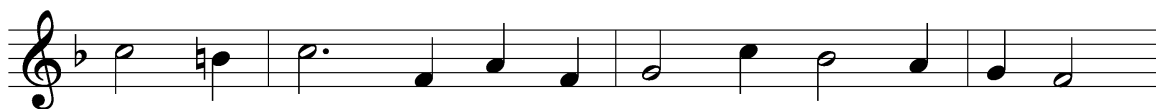
For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.



3 My faith - ful God, you fail me nev - er; your prom - ise sure - ly



will en - dure. O cast me not a - way for - ev - er



if words and deeds be - come im - pure. Have mer - cy when I



come de - filed; for - give, lift up, re - store your child.

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless (*Ephesians 5:25-27*).

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

Amen.

BAPTISMAL RITE *for Tristan Murray and Kiana Ratliff*



4 All that I am and love most dear - ly— re - ceive it all, O

Lord, from me. Let me con - fess my faith sin - cere - ly;

help me your faith - ful child to be! Let noth - ing that I

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

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, in Christ you bring people from near and far into the fellowship of your church. Open our eyes to your saving plan, and move us to embrace all who seek your salvation so that we may rejoice together at the banquet of your love; 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

Isaiah 56:1, 6–8

¹This is what the LORD says:

“Maintain justice
and do what is right,
for my salvation is close at hand
and my righteousness will soon be revealed.

⁶And foreigners who bind themselves to the LORD
to minister to him,
to love the name of the LORD,
and to be his servants,
all who keep the Sabbath without desecrating it
and who hold fast to my covenant—

⁷these I will bring to my holy mountain
and give them joy in my house of prayer.

Their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be accepted on my altar;
for my house will be called
a house of prayer for all nations.”

⁸The Sovereign LORD declares—

he who gathers the exiles of Israel:
“I will gather still others to them
besides those already gathered.”

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 2:13–22

¹³But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

¹⁴For he himself is our peace, who has made the two groups one and has destroyed the barrier, the dividing wall of hostility, ¹⁵by setting aside in his flesh the law with its commands and regulations. His purpose was to create in himself one new humanity out of the two, thus making peace, ¹⁶and in one body to reconcile both of them to God through the cross, by which he put to death their hostility.

¹⁷He came and preached peace to you who were far away and peace to those who were near. ¹⁸For through him we both have access to the Father by one Spirit.

¹⁹Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household, ²⁰built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.

²¹In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. ²²And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit.

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.

Holy Is Your Name

CW 956



1 My — soul is filled with joy as I
 2 I am low - ly as a child, but I
 3 I pro - claim your pow'r, O God! You work
 4 To the hun - gry you give food, send the
 5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
 know from this day for - ward that my name will be re -
 won - ders for your ser - vants; you have scat - tered the proud -
 rich a - way with noth - ing. In your mer - cy you are
 prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
 mem - bered, and the world will call me bless - ed.
 heart - ed, you have lift - ed up the low - ly.
 mind - ful of the peo - ple you have cho - sen.
 Sav - ior, ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy.

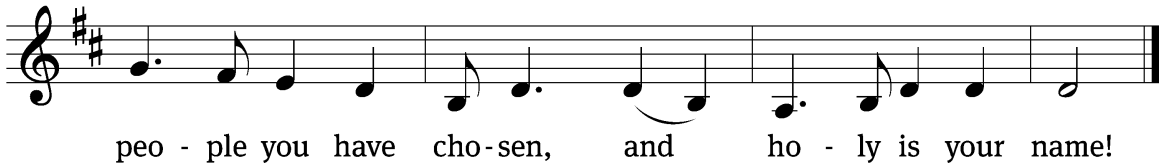
Refrain



And ho - ly is your name through all gen - er -



a - tions! Ev - er - last - ing is your mer - cy to the



Text: anonymous, alt.
Tune: Scottish
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

Matthew 15:21–28

²¹Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. ²²A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, “Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly.”

²³Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, “Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us.”

²⁴He answered, “I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel.”

²⁵The woman came and knelt before him. “Lord, help me!” she said.

²⁶He replied, “It is not right to take the children’s bread and toss it to the dogs.”

²⁷“Yes it is, Lord,” she said. “Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master’s table.”

²⁸Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

We'll Take the Scraps!

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What was the reason for Jesus to talk in such a way to this woman?
2. What was Jesus pushing this woman deeper into?
3. Instead of being offended by what Jesus said, how does the woman react?
4. What is lens #1 we're going to look at this story through?
5. In what ways do we like to stay inside our own neat, tidy little boxes?
6. What's the point about the story of Trev?
7. Whom will we be on the lookout for?
8. What is lens #2 we're going to look at this story through?
9. How does Jesus react to the "doorman outside the gates of heaven" scenario?
10. So what does this account say to sinners?

Stop focusing on _____.

Like the Canaanite woman just trust who _____ is.

Please stand

Create In Me a Pure Heart, O God

The musical score is written on six staves of a single melodic line in treble clef. The notes are as follows: Staff 1: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). Staff 2: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). Staff 3: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). Staff 4: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). Staff 5: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). Staff 6: G4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), B4 (quarter), C5 (quarter), B4 (quarter), A4 (quarter), G4 (half). 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.

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

Christians have used the Apostles' Creed since the second century to unite themselves together and to obey God's invitation to "confess with our mouth and believe with our hearts" (Romans 10:9).

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

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.

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.

Offering

We collect offerings out of thanks for what God has done for us so that we can support gospel work here and around the world. You can give using the envelope provided in your worship folder. You'll also find instructions there for how to give online if you'd prefer. Thank you for supporting our gospel ministry! If you are a guest with us don't feel obligated to contribute. This service is our free gift to you!

Praying the prayer of the church is a time when we can pray for people in all kinds of circumstances and for the work of God's church on earth.

Prayer of the Church

Eternal God and Father, we thank you for the blessings we share as members of your holy Church, for your gracious Word and sacraments, for opportunities to worship and to grow in faith and knowledge, for occasions to serve and be served, and for fellowship with believers in our congregation and our synod.

Help us rejoice in these blessings, dear Lord, and use them faithfully.

Jesus Christ, Lord of the Church, you give grace to your people by calling us to be your witnesses in the world. Open our eyes to see the great and noble mission that lies before us. In the hurting eyes of the lonely, in the pained eyes of the sick, and in the searching eyes of the lost, help us to see your face, Lord Jesus, and to serve others as we would serve you.

Awaken us to opportunities to proclaim your message of love.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, through Word and sacrament bestow on us the wisdom and power we need to witness clearly and to act boldly. Help us to speak the truth in love, to give the reason for the hope we have, and to conduct ourselves with gentleness and respect.

Set our hearts on fire as we work and witness for Christ.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray for a family member, a neighbor, or a friend who does not believe in you, or whose faith is weak or troubled.

Silent prayer

Keep in your care those who are enduring chronic pain and incessant unhappiness, those enduring rejection and struggling with poverty, those mourning the loss of someone they loved. Bring healing and help and comfort and calm to everyone in distress.

Move us to act alone or join with others to provide help and support.

Bless the Church with men and women who are willing to proclaim your Word in places where we cannot go. Keep them and their loved ones in your care and let nothing hinder their work. By the power of the gospel, restore their spirits each day, so that they do not lose heart as they serve us and others.

Move us to support them with our sincere prayers and generous offerings.

Wherever your Word is proclaimed, O Lord, grant it success. Let your kingdom come to us and others, so that we and many more might join the assembly of saints and angels to sing your praise forever.

Savior of all, hear our prayer and help us in our mission. 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.

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.

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

Go, My Children, with My Blessing

CW 930



1 Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me;
 4 I the Lord will bless and keep you and give you peace;



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you; you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.
 I the Lord will smile up - on you and give you peace;



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for -
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry; here you touched him, saw his
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you; here his ten - der com - fort
 I the Lord will be your Fa - ther, Sav - ior, Com - fort - er, and



ev - er. Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.
 glo - ry. Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 stilled you. Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free.
 Broth - er. Go, my chil - dren; I will keep you and give you peace.

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

New worship series - The Church God Wants.

In this worship series, we see that asking, “what do I want in a church?” is not the right question. Scripture says Jesus bought the Church with his blood. So, the right question then becomes: what does *God* want in a church?

Next week: A Church that lives as children of light

Thank you to today’s musicians and vocalists!

Gretchen Bassett; piano—David Dyer; guitar

Ministry Update Meeting—Today after worship

Our second trimester ministry update will be held in the lobby after worship today. Join us to get updated on our ministry plans, learn more about what to expect with a vicar as part of our ministry, and we’ll also be tackling the important topic of congregational safety as we improve some policies and procedures going forward.

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

Sunday School for children will take place after worship today. Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks. The adults will not be having Bible study today in lieu of the congregational update taking place after worship today.

Visits with Vicar

Stop by the fellowship board at church to sign up to host Vicar Michael for a meal! This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know him better and share a little Southern hospitality. You can either host him in your home for a home-cooked meal or treat him to your favorite local restaurant! You’re also welcome to invite vicar over even if you’re not providing a meal.

Summer/Fall Outreach Challenge

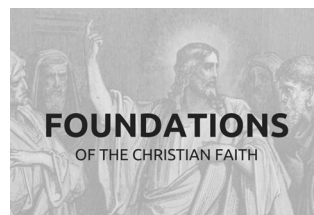
We're keeping this "challenge" as simple as possible: join a new social group to establish a relationship with someone new. Our goal with this isn't to make people come to church, but to get used to meeting new people, and developing relationships with the community and the people around us. Obviously 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! Continue to listen for more encouragement from Pastor and our Outreach Coordinator, Steve Rice, as we go along!

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.



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.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Aug 17)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Aug 17)
- 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 Aug 27)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday August 26 at 7pm

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

Living Hope Men's Group—Monday August 17 @ 7:00AM

Men's group will be meeting every other Monday morning at 7am at Panera Bread on Gunbarrel Rd. The group will discuss a wide variety of topics that address men living as citizens of the kingdom of heaven in a fallen world. Men of all ages are invited.

Panera Bread—1810 Gunbarrel Road—Chattanooga, TN 37421

Contact coordinator: Mike Frederickson (mfrederickson20@outlook.com)

Women's Group—August 17 @ 6:45PM

Women's Group will continue a study of Faith Unleashed: Utilizing Your Spiritual Gifts for Greater Kingdom Impact by Lori Lorig & Marilyn Sievert. Through this study, we will discover how God blessed ordinary people in the Bible to do exceptional things and see how He has uniquely designed each of us for His kingdom. We meet at Living Hope at 6:45pm for snacks and socializing, and the study begins at 7:00pm. Hope to see you there!

Contact Coordinator: Rachel Frederickson (rachel.k.frederickson@gmail.com)

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Sara Flater 8/17

Emily Knutson 8/19

Violet Melso 8/22

Juliet Schmidt 8/22

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Steve Rice — Undergoing treatments for a type of lymphoma cancer

Ken Bassett—Thanksgiving for his return home 7 days after open heart surgery and for continued healing and pain relief

Ashley and Nick Hildebrand—Friends of the Melsos in a bad car crash with 2 of their children needing to be in the hospital

Brent Hansen—Bruce and Rita's son who is still in the hospital receiving treatment for severe digestive issues but is doing better with hopes to return home shortly

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Snyder

Snack Provider—Hynson, Turner

Ushers—Hynson, Rice

Acolyte—Kamarrion McNabb

Service Teams — Next week August 23

Sunday Setup Team—Thom

Snack Provider—Rice, Schmidt

Ushers—Frizzell, Gorman

Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz

Pastor Eric Melso

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