

August 23, 2026



A Church that Lives as Children of Light

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 that Lives as Children of Light

In a world where sin can blur the truth and leave us stumbling in darkness, Christ calls his people to something radically different: "You are light in the Lord." In Ephesians 5:8-14, Paul reminds us that Jesus has already rescued us from darkness and made us children of light. Now we get to live out that identity. We expose the lies of sin, reflect Christ's love, and point others to the only true source of light. When our own struggles and failures tempt us toward despair, we look again to Jesus, the Light of the World, whose death and resurrection give us certainty, comfort, and life.



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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Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

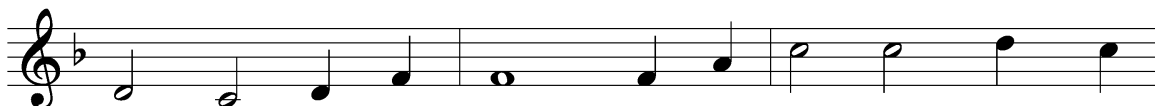
CW 517



1 Praise the one who breaks the dark - ness with a lib - er -
 2 Praise the one who blessed the chil - dren with a strong, yet
 3 Let us praise the Word in - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



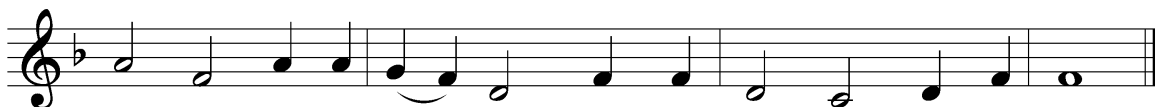
at - ing light; praise the one who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing
 gen - tle, word; praise the one who drove out de - mons with the
 in our place; Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious that we



blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the one who preached the
 pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the one who brings cool
 may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, calm - ing
 wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand; from this
 glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done; let us



storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the Fa - ther's word of peace.
 well comes liv - ing wa - ter, quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
 praise the true Re - deem - er, praise the one who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955, alt.

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

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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

If we claim to be without sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. *(1 John 1:8,9)*

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

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

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins

with his holy life and innocent death.

Trusting in him, I pray:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

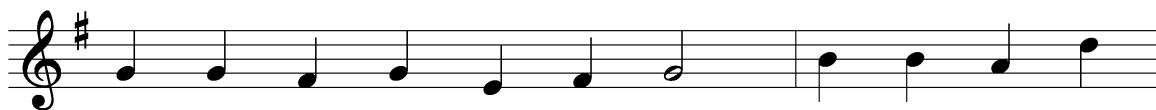
Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority,

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654 sts. 5-7



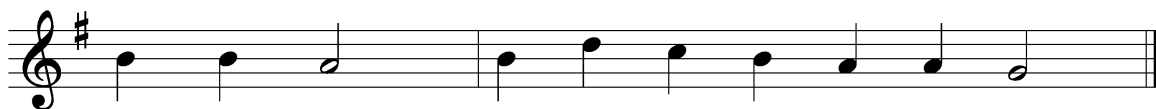
5 Oh, how blest it is to know, were as scar - let
6 Now my con - science is at peace, from the law I
7 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive, e - ven I have



my trans - gres - sion, it shall be as white as snow
stand ac - quit - ted. Christ has pur - chased my re - lease
been for - giv - en. And when I this earth must leave,



by your blood and bit - ter pas - sion, for these words I
and my ev - 'ry sin re - mit - ted. Naught re - mains my
I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



do be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
soul to grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
him I cleave: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.

Text: Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Neu-verfertigtes Darmstädtisches Gesang-Buch, Darmstadt, 1699

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, by your almighty power you opened the eyes of the blind and showed yourself to them. Turn our eyes away from worthless things, and lead us to love you sincerely; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

¹⁴“For a long time I have kept silent,
I have been quiet and held myself back.

But now, like a woman in childbirth,
I cry out, I gasp and pant.

¹⁵I will lay waste the mountains and hills
and dry up all their vegetation;

I will turn rivers into islands
and dry up the pools.

¹⁶I will lead the blind by ways they have not known,
along unfamiliar paths I will guide them;

I will turn the darkness into light before them
and make the rough places smooth.

These are the things I will do;
I will not forsake them.

¹⁷But those who trust in idols,
who say to images, ‘You are our gods,’
will be turned back in utter shame.

¹⁸“Hear, you deaf;
look, you blind, and see!

¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
and deaf like the messenger I send?
Who is blind like the one in covenant with me,
blind like the servant of the LORD?
²⁰You have seen many things, but you pay no attention;
your ears are open, but you do not listen.”
²¹It pleased the LORD
for the sake of his righteousness
to make his law great and glorious.

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
--

Gospel

John 9:1–7, 13–17, 34–39

¹As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”

³“Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

⁶After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. ⁷“Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. ¹⁴Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man’s eyes was a Sabbath.

¹⁵Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. “He put mud on my eyes,” the man replied, “and I washed, and now I see.”

¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.”

But others asked, “How can a sinner perform such signs?” So they were divided.

¹⁷Then they turned again to the blind man, “What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened.”

The man replied, “He is a prophet.”

³⁴To this they replied, “You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!” And they threw him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”

³⁶“Who is he, sir?” the man asked. “Tell me so that I may believe in him.”

³⁷Jesus said, “You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you.”

³⁸Then the man said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, “For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind.”

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

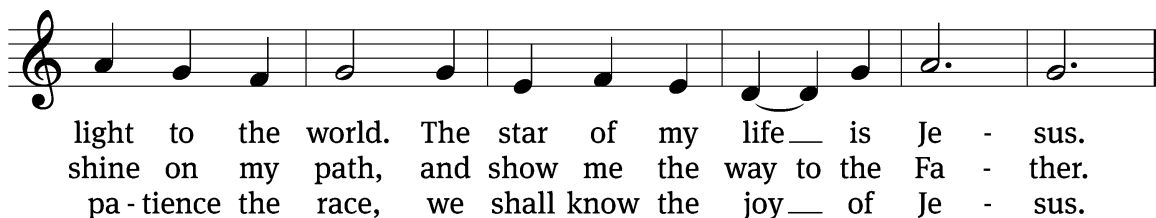
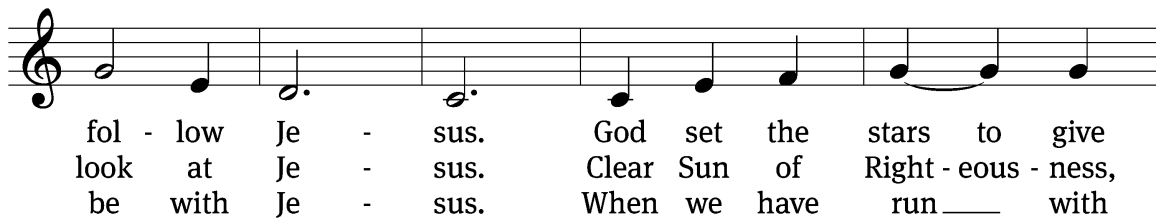
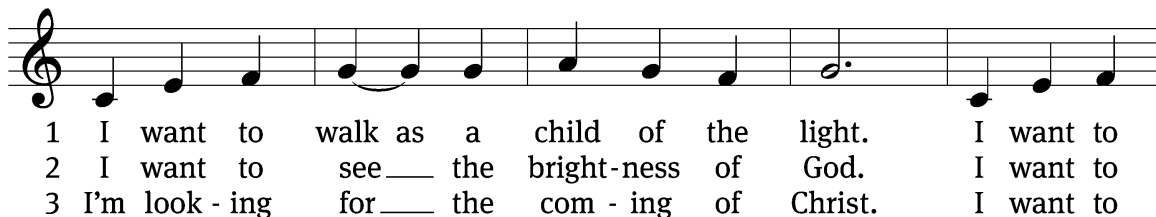
Please be seated

Children's Message

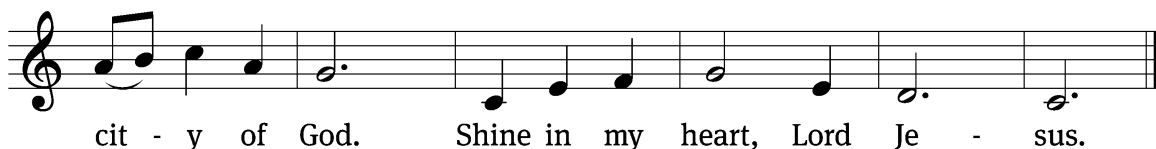
Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

CW 713



Refrain



Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Tune: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934

Text and tune: © 1970, 1975 Celebration. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

Sermon Reading

Ephesians 5:8–14

⁸For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) ¹⁰and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. ¹²It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. ¹³But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light. ¹⁴This is why it is said:

“Wake up, sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

Live As Children of Light

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What problem do we share with the people of ancient Ephesus?
2. What is the darkness that covers the world, tricking people into believing lies?
3. Although we were once darkness, what has Christ made us?
4. Paul describes the life of a Christian when he tells the Ephesians that Christ causes them to put off their _____ and put on their _____.
5. What does God see when he looks at you?
6. Because you are a child of light living in a world of darkness, you can _____.
7. Doubting your status as light because of temptations to return to dark is fundamentally wrong because _____.
8. Who is your only true source of certainty when it comes to your identity?
9. Along with exposing what is hidden, what else can you do when you live as a child of the light?

On My Heart Imprint Your Image

CW1991 #320

On my heart im - print your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus,
King of grace, That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Have no
pow'r to hide your face. This the su - per - scrip - tion be:
Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me, Is my life, my hope's foun -
da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below each staff. The piece concludes with a double bar line on the fifth staff.

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703, abr.; tr. Peer O. Strømme, 1856–1921, alt.

Tune: FREU DICH SEHR (87 87 77 88) *Trente quatre Pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551, alt.

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!

New Member Welcome

Emily Vivianne (EV) Ramsey

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.

To our worship guests seeking an altar at which to commune: Since the Lord's Supper is an expression of outward unity in the faith as well as an inner union with Christ, we ask that those who are not communicant members of our fellowship please schedule a meeting with the pastor before coming to the Lord's Table. We ask this in loving obedience to the Scriptures and not in judgment of anyone's faith, sincerity or standing before God. See the announcement about our communion practice at the back of this worship folder for more info as well.

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





Tune: Deutsche Messe, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, 1937–2010

Text: Public domain

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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.

Distribution Song: The Lord Is My Light CW 825

(sung by choir, accompanied by Mark Hennings)

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.

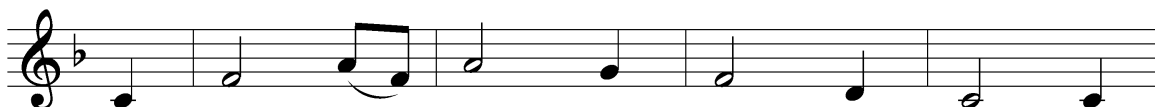
The Lord look on you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

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

Amazing Grace

CW 576



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— that
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, his
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found, was blind but now I see.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text (sts. 1–3): John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.; (st. 4): A Collection of Sacred Ballads, Richmond, 1790
Tune: Columbian Harmony, Cincinnati, 1829, ed. Benjamin Shaw; ed. Charles H. Spilman
Text and tune: Public domain

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current 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 Takes Up Its Crosses

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; preaching—Pastor Eric Melso; presiding
Emily Knutson; piano—Living Hope choir; communion distribution song

Sunday School and Bible Study—After worship at 11:30

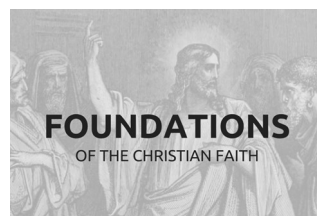
Sunday School for children and Sunday Study will take place after worship today. The adults are doing a study on the topic of Sanctification.

Children will meet with their appropriate age groups and are taught by a team of teachers with full background checks.

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.



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.

vicar@livinghopechatt.com (208) 972-2319

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. 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!

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Aug 31)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Aug 31)
- 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>

Life on Mission—Wednesday August 26 @ 7:00PM at church

"Life on Mission" is a group that will focus on personal witnessing and being an everyday missionary. We tend to think of evangelism as something really scary and outside of our comfort zone but this group will look to highlight, celebrate, and seize the opportunities that God is already placing in front of us every day. The goal is that we will find joy and encouragement as we reach out with Christ's light to the people right in our own backyard.

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday August 27 @ 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)

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:

Silas Dyer 8/24

Bob Gorman 8/29

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Diane Grimm—Upcoming biopsy on August 31.

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—Rice, Schmidt
Ushers—Frizzell, Gorman
Acolyte—Bohdi Turner

Service Teams — Next week Aug 30

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman
Snack Provider—Amerson, Mayer
Ushers—Flater, Hansen
Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz

Pastor Eric Melse

423-933-2452

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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