

August 30, 2026



God's Gambit

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?

Today's Focus: God's Gambit

Some people want to follow Jesus because they think that Jesus will respond by giving them all kinds of peace and prosperity. In Matthew 16 Jesus teaches that is a serious misunderstanding. Because Jesus willingly sacrificed himself, following him means that we too will have to willingly sacrifice in our lives. Being a disciple of Jesus means carrying a cross. Not because he wants us to suffer, but because it is the path he took to victory. God's "gameplan" defies all expectations of the world, because he asks his people to win... by losing.



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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Come Away from Rush and Hurry

CW 913

To the tune of Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

- 1 Come away from rush and hurry
 to the stillness of God's peace;
from our vain ambition's worry,
 come to Christ to find release.
Come away from noise and clamor,
 life's demands and frenzied pace;
come to join the people gathered
 here to seek and find God's grace.

- 2 In the pastures of God's goodness
 we lie down to rest our soul.
From the waters of God's mercy
 we drink deeply, are made whole.
At the table of God's presence
 all the saints are richly fed.
With the oil of God's anointing
 into service we are led.

- 3 Come, then, children, with your burdens—
 life's confusions, fears, and pain.
Leave them at the cross of Jesus;
 take instead his kingdom's reign.
Bring your thirsts, for he will quench them—
 he alone will satisfy.
All our longings find attainment
 when to self we gladly die.

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

Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to forgive us.

**Forgive my sins, O Lord – forgive the sins of my present and the sins of my past,
the sins of my soul and the sins of my body;
the sins which I have done to please myself,
and the sins which I have done to please others.**

Forgive my sins of weakness and the sins that I committed deliberately.

**Forgive me for the sins I remember and the sins I have forgotten,
the sins I have tried to hide from others
and the sins I long to hide from my own memory.**

Out of your great mercy, Lord, forgive me of *all* my wrongs!

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

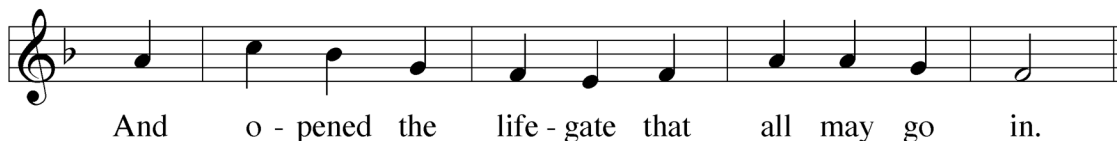
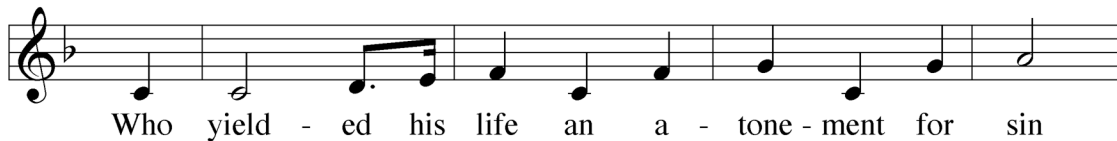
In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins.

Hear the word of Christ through his called servant: I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

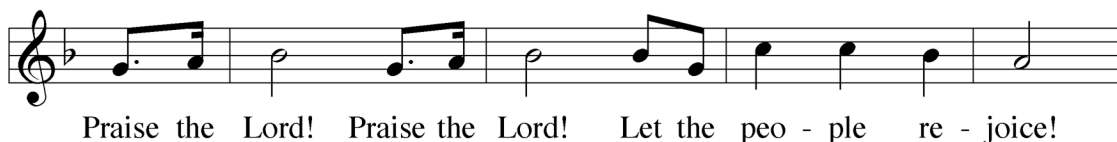
Amen.

To God Be the Glory

CW1993 #399 v.1



Refrain



Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915, alt.

Tune: TO GOD BE THE GLORY (11 11 11 11 with Refrain) William H. Doane, 1832–1915.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.
You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.

Let this people turn to you,
but you must not turn to them.

²⁰I will make you a wall to this people,
a fortified wall of bronze;
they will fight against you
but will not overcome you,
for I am with you
to rescue and save you,”
declares the LORD.

²¹“I will save you from the hands of the wicked
and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

Psalm

Psalm 31:1-5, 24

In you, Lord, I have taken refuge; let me never be put to shame;
deliver me in your righteousness.

Turn your ear to me,
come quickly to my rescue;
be my rock of refuge,
a strong fortress to save me.

Since you are my rock and my fortress,
for the sake of your name lead and guide me.

Keep me free from the trap that is set for me,
for you are my refuge.

Into your hands I commit my spirit;
deliver me, Lord, my faithful God.

Be strong and take heart,
all you who hope in the Lord.

Epistle Reading *Romans 8:18–25*

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

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.

Take My Life and Let It Be

CW 695



- 1 Take my life and let it be con - se - crat - ed, Lord, to thee;
- 2 Take my hands and let them move at the im - pulse of thy love;
- 3 Take my voice and let me sing al - ways, on - ly for my King;
- 4 Take my sil - ver and my gold, not a mite would I with-hold;



take my mo - ments and my days, let them flow in cease-less praise.
take my feet and let them be swift and beau - ti - ful for thee.
take my lips and let them be filled with mes - sag - es from thee.
take my in - tel - lect and use ev - 'ry pow'r as thou shalt choose.

- 5 Take my will and make it thine,
it shall be no longer mine;
take my heart, it is thine own,
it shall be thy royal throne.

- 6 Take my love, my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879

Tune: William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Sermon Reading

Matthew 16:21–26

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

God’s Gambit

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. In God’s Gambit, he plans to win with _____ and with _____.
2. Why didn’t Peter understand what Jesus was saying?
3. If we put our own concerns over God’s, whose work are we doing?

4. What did Peter not understand about Jesus's words?
5. Why can we trust God's Word?
6. What does it mean to follow Jesus?
7. What does carrying a cross look like?
8. What will happen if you willingly "loose your life"?
9. How does the cross compare to our eternal home in heaven?
10. Can we be confident that we will be able to carry our crosses?

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. Sometimes people talk about how nice it would be if God would just tell us what was going to happen. Even though God's ways are mysterious to us, Scripture shows that he does let his people in on the "game plan" surprisingly often. What are some places in Scripture where God has given you a look at the future? Did you pay attention to these insights, or did the events they describe surprise you anyway?
2. One of the major reasons that so many different churches exist today is that the concerns of God don't line up with human concerns. Can you think of some examples of how people have valued human concerns over God's concerns when it comes to their beliefs?
3. Carrying your cross can look different for everybody. What are some examples of what it could look like? If you're willing to share, what might it look like in your life?
4. How has carrying the cross been a blessing in your life?
5. What would you say to someone who wants to follow Jesus, but is having a hard time denying themselves?

Please stand

May the Grace of Christ Our Savior

CW 928

May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's
bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor
rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in
un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in
sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'May the Grace of Christ Our Savior'. It consists of five staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The lyrics are: 'May the grace of Christ our Sav - ior and the Fa - ther's bound - less love with the Ho - ly Spir - it's fa - vor rest up - on us from a - bove. Thus may we a - bide in un - ion with each oth - er and the Lord, and pos - sess in sweet com - mun - ion joys which earth can - not af - ford.'

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807

Tune: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844

Text and tune: Public domain

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!

Installation of Church Officer

Mike Frederickson—Treasurer

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

Loving God and Lord, you created the universe that surrounds us and the globe on which we live. You control all things through your Son, who sits at your right hand in glory.

Comfort us with the promise of your eternal presence.

Give your Word power as it works in our hearts and minds. Clear away our confusion, and demolish our doubts. Send your Spirit to strengthen both our confidence in your promises and our desire to live according to your will.

Take away our love of sinning, and restore us each day by your grace.

The signs of the times warn us that the end of time is near. Protect us from scoffers who sneer at your truth. Spare us and Christians around the world from all forms of hate and persecution.

Give us courage to carry the cross with patience and joy.

Instill in the hearts of our children a desire to follow you as they prepare for future days. Help them distinguish between what is passing and what is eternal, between instant thrills and lasting joy. Encourage more young people to prepare for service in the public ministry of the gospel.

Mold us and move us to be good examples for our youth.

Hold in your care, Lord, those who are experiencing physical or emotional pain and all who are afflicted by disease or facing death. Pour out your compassion on the grieving, and comfort the mourners who miss someone they loved.

Move us to pray for these brothers and sisters and to help when we can.

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Whether we pray together or alone, you have promised to hear and answer us. Give us patience to accept your blessings in whatever way you send them. In your love and wisdom, prepare us for the day when you will take us to be with you forever.

Hear us 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.

My Soul Finds Rest in God Alone

CW 818



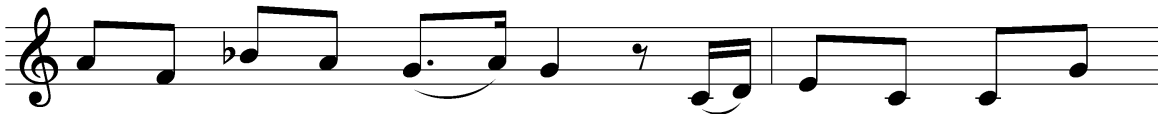
1 My soul finds rest in God a-lone, my rock and my sal - va - tion;
2 Find rest, my soul, in God a-lone a - mid the world's temp-ta - tions;
3 I'll set my gaze on God a-lone and trust in him com-plete - ly;



a for-tress strong a - gainst my foes, and I will not be
when e - vil seeks to take a hold, I'll cling to my sal -
with ev - 'ry day pour out my soul, and he will prove his



shak - en. Though lips may bless and hearts may curse, and
va - tion. Though rich - es come and rich - es go, don't
mer - cy. Though life is but a fleet - ing breath, a



lies like ar - rows pierce me, I'll fix my heart on
set your heart up - on them; the fields of hope in
sigh too brief to mea - sure, my king has crushed the



right - ous - ness, I'll look to him who hears me.
 which I sow are har - vest - ed in heav - en.
 curse of death and I am his for - ev - er.

Refrain



O praise him, hal - le - lu - jah, my de - light and my re - ward;
 ev - er - last - ing, nev - er fail - ing, my Re - deem - er, my God.

Text: Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Aaron Keyes, b. 1978; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

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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 willing to say hard things

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; preaching—Pastor Eric Melso; presiding
 Mark Hennings; piano

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.

Theology on Tap—Tuesday September 1 @ 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

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

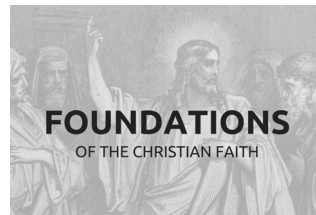
We're keeping this "challenge" as simple as possible: join a new social group to establish a relationship with someone new. Our goal with this isn't to make people come to church, but to get used to meeting new people, and developing relationships with the community and the people around us. Obviously 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!

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.



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
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Sep 10)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Sep 30 at 7pm

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

Living Hope Men's Group—Monday August 31 @ 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—Monday August 31 @ 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)

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:

Jean Bogue 8/30

Eliza Dyer 8/30

Eliana Frederickson 8/30

Elie Ludwig 8/31

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Diane Grimm — Undergoing a biopsy surgery on Monday August 31

Brent Hansen — Son of Bruce and Rita Hansen who is back in the hospital with continued severe digestive issues. Hoping to come home this week.

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Frizzell, Turman

Snack Provide—Amerson, Mayer

Ushers—Flater, Hansen

Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz

Service Teams — Next week Sep 6

Ushers—Gorman, Hansen

Acolyte—Ember Turner

Pastor Eric Melso

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www.livinghopechatt.com



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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HOPE FOR EVERYDAY