

September 14, 2025



The Sought and Found Now Seek and Find

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: Wounds That Heal

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

"Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem" (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, 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. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. 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.

Today's Focus: The Sought and Found Now Seek and Find

Wandering around physically lost can lead to winding up in bad places. Jesus' wounding words this week teach that wandering around spiritually lost puts you in the worst place of all. Fortunately, Jesus does not leave us in our lostness. He relentlessly seeks us. He involves the rest of the Christian community in seeking the lost and rejoicing over the found.



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 unto Me, Ye Weary

CW 706 sts. 1-2



1 "Come un - to me, ye wea - ry, and I will give you rest."
2 "Come un - to me, ye wan - d'rers, and I will give you light."



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, which comes to hearts op - pressed!
O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, which comes to cheer the night!



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, of par - don, grace, and peace,
Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, and we had lost our way,



of joy that has no end - ing, of love that can - not cease.
but thou hast brought us glad - ness and songs at break of day.

Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and 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

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

CW 1993 #399 v.1

1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!

He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,

Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin

And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!

Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!

Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son

And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'To God Be the Glory'. It consists of eight staves of music, each with a corresponding line of lyrics. The music is written in a single melodic line on a treble clef staff. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 3/4. The lyrics are: '1 To God be the glo - ry; great things he has done!', 'He so loved the world that he gave us his Son,', 'Who yield - ed his life an a - tone - ment for sin', 'And o - pened the life - gate that all may go in.', 'Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear his voice!', 'Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the peo - ple re - joice!', 'Oh, come to the Fa - ther through Je - sus the Son', and 'And give him the glo - ry— great things he has done!'.

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

Lord, we pray that your mercy and grace may always go before and follow after us that, loving you with undivided hearts, we may be ready for every good and useful work; 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

Hosea 3

¹The LORD said to me, "Go, show your love to your wife again, though she is loved by another man and is an adulteress. Love her as the LORD loves the Israelites, though they turn to other gods and love the sacred raisin cakes."

²So I bought her for fifteen shekels of silver and about a homer and a lethek of barley. ³Then I told her, "You are to live with me many days; you must not be a prostitute or be intimate with any man, and I will behave the same way toward you."

⁴For the Israelites will live many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or sacred stones, without ephod or household gods. ⁵Afterward the Israelites will return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They will come trembling to the LORD and to his blessings in the last days.

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 2:5–11

⁵If anyone has caused grief, he has not so much grieved me as he has grieved all of you to some extent—not to put it too severely. ⁶The punishment inflicted on him by the majority is sufficient. ⁷Now instead, you ought to forgive and comfort him, so that he will not be overwhelmed by excessive sorrow. ⁸I urge you, therefore, to reaffirm your love for him. ⁹Another reason I wrote you was to see if you would stand the test and be obedient in everything. ¹⁰Anyone you forgive, I also forgive. And what I have forgiven—if there was anything to forgive—I have forgiven in the sight of Christ for your sake, ¹¹in order that Satan might not outwit us. For we are not unaware of his schemes.

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.

Jesus Sinners Does Receive

CW 654 sts. 1–3, 7

1 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive; oh, may all this
2 We de - serve but grief and shame, yet his words, rich
3 Sheep that from the fold did stray are not by the
7 Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive, e - ven I have



say - ing pon - der who in sin's de - lu - sions live
 grace re - veal - ing, par - don, peace, and life pro - claim;
 Lord for - sak - en; wea - ry souls who lost their way
 been for - giv - en. And when I this earth must leave,



and from God and heav - en wan - der. Here is hope for
 here their ills have per - fect heal - ing who with hum - ble
 are by Christ, the Shep - herd, tak - en in his arms that
 I shall find an o - pen heav - en. Dy - ing, still to



all who grieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 hearts be - lieve: Je - sus sin - ners does re - ceive.
 they may live: 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

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

Luke 15:1–10

¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus.

²But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³Then Jesus told them this parable: ⁴“Suppose one of you has a hundred sheep and loses one of them. Doesn’t he leave the ninety-nine in the open country and

go after the lost sheep until he finds it? ⁵And when he finds it, he joyfully puts it on his shoulders ⁶and goes home. Then he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' ⁷I tell you that in the same way there will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.

⁸"Or suppose a woman has ten silver coins and loses one. Doesn't she light a lamp, sweep the house and search carefully until she finds it? ⁹And when she finds it, she calls her friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost coin.' ¹⁰In the same way, I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

The Sought and Found Now Seek and Find

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What happens when we lose something? (*one of two things*)
2. What is the 1st of 2 things about Jesus' words here that wound us?
3. What is the 2nd of 2 things about Jesus' words here that wound us?
4. In what way does the Pharisees' criticism of Jesus turn out to be a wonderful summary of the gospel?
5. How much is a penny worth? How much are you worth?
6. You are precious to the Lord and so is your _____.

7. What is Living Hope's core value statement for outreach?
8. Jesus invites us not only into the urgency of his seek and find mission but also the _____ of it.
9. What amazing joy will we experience in heaven one day?

Discussion questions:

(for Theology on Tap)

1. A common reason people may drift away from church is that they perceive the people in the church are hypocrites (saying one thing but doing another). How does this sermon help address that concern?
2. Jesus told both stories about looking for just ONE lost sheep, ONE lost coin. What significance can you find in the fact he used the number 1?
3. Living Hope's core value statement for outreach is that we are "focused on those who are not here yet." What happens when we filter ministry decisions through that lens? What difficulties might come up when that is our focus? Brainstorm some practical ways we can make that value statement a reality.
4. Look at the sermon hymn we sang – Jesus sinners does receive. Pick out some lines of that hymn which tie in well to this sermon text.

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!

New Member Welcome

Derek + Bristol Kilberg (Eleanor + Hattie)

Prayer of the Church

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Kyrie is the Greek word for Lord. The expression "Lord, have mercy" is one of the oldest worship responses in the Christian church.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

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.

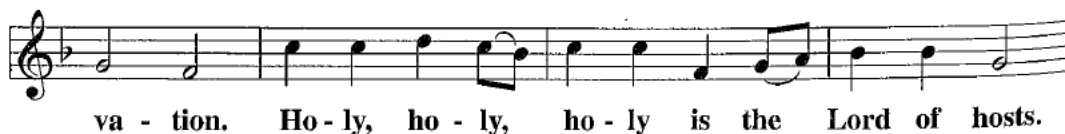
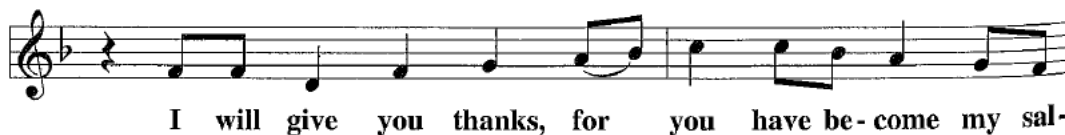
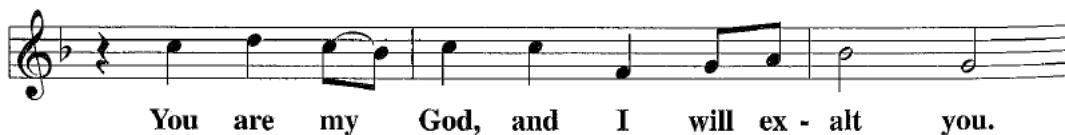
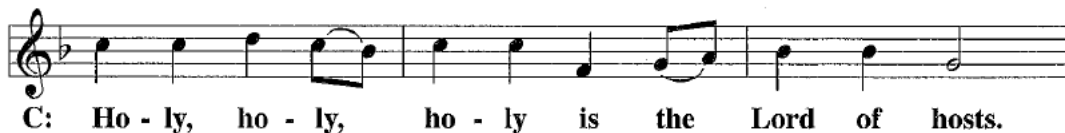
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



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.

Song of Simeon

After distribution

Recording by Tracy Fedke

Lord, let your ser - vant de - part in peace

ac - cord - ing to your word.

For my eyes have seen your sal - va -

tion, which you have pre - pared be - fore the

face of all peo - ple, a light to

light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your

peo - ple Is - ra - el.

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.

Jesus, Strong and Kind

By City Alight



1. Je - sus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
2. Je - sus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
3. Je - sus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
4. Je - sus said if I am lost, He will come to me.



No one else can sat - is - fy. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him. For the
And He showed me on that cross He will come to me.

Chorus



Lord is good and faith - ful. He will keep us day and night. We can



al - ways run to Je - sus. Je - sus, strong and kind.

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current 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: Can't Serve Two Masters

Thank you to today's musicians and vocalists!

Emily Knutson; piano — David Dyer; guitar — Mark Hennings; piano

Outreach Brainstorm Session—Today after worship

The second of our follow-up events to our Everyone Outreach workshop, back in May, will be held today 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 assess our outreach efforts pertaining to some of the following topics:

- Outreach focus in worship
- Evangelism
- Youth and children's ministry
- Facility

Previous attendance at the Everyone Outreach workshop or previous meetings 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—Off for today

Due to our congregational outreach meeting today, Sunday School and Sunday study will be off this week and resume next week.

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 at 6:30pm (ON BREAK)
- Book of Concord Discussion—Saturdays at 8am (online group) (ON BREAK)
- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am.

Theology on Tap—Tuesday September 16 @ 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 Men's Group—Next session: Monday, September 22 @ 7:00AM

The new Living Hope 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

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.

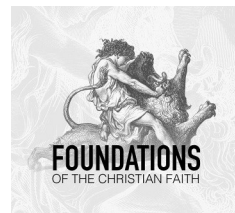
Foundations Bible Study

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.

There are both in-person or online classes available!

Next in person classes start up on Saturdays at 11:00am at church.

Next online class starts up on Thursdays at 8:00pm. Message pastor for a class link.



Food Drive for Homeless Neighbors in Hamilton County

The Hamilton County School District is completely out of food for their homeless families until the end of September. This is an amazing opportunity for Living Hope to help out our community. Here is the list of needed items:

6 Most Needed

Ramen

Chef Boyardee

Apple sauce pouches

Goldfish

Peanut butter crackers

Granola bars

Mac-n-Cheese

Pasta

Tomato sauce

Cans of soup

Canned veggies

Canned beans

Rice

Peanut butter

Jelly

Cereal

Pudding and Jell-O mixes

Juice

(Other healthy snacks)

Please bring these items to church on Sunday, or arrange a drop-off with Jennifer Melso. 423-250-4943. Wallace A Smith Elementary School is collecting these items. Thank you so much!

Members' Minute

Birthday Blessings:

Mersades Schmidt 9/14

Anniversary Blessings:

Ringgold and Jenny Hynson 9/14

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—Mayer
Snack Provider— Cundiff
Ushers—Ludwig, Smith
Acolyte—Natalie Melso

Service Teams — Next week Sep 21

Sunday Setup Team—Marshall
Snack Provider—Amerson, Turner
Ushers—Marshall, Spann
Acolyte—Benjamin Schulz

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WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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