

September 20, 2026



A Church that Really Knows Jesus

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: Lay Claim to the Name

Who is God? And what can we expect from him when we have failed him? At Sinai, God revealed his own name and character: he is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, overflowing with love and faithfulness, yet also perfectly just. For sinners, that combination can seem impossible to reconcile. But at the cross, God's perfect love and perfect justice meet. In Jesus, God proves that he will always live up to his name. So, like Moses, we can boldly lay claim to the name of the Lord, trusting him to go with us, forgive us, and make us his own.



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!

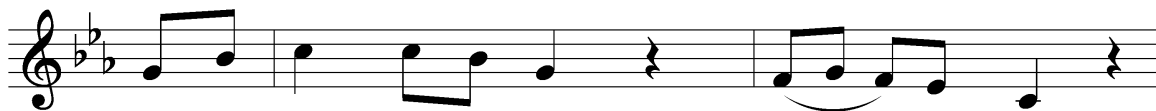


/livinghopechatt

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Ten Thousand Reasons

CW 607



Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul;



wor-ship his ho - ly name. Sing like nev - er be-fore,



O my soul; I'll wor - ship your ho - ly name.



1 The sun comes up, it's a new day dawn - ing; —
2 You're rich in love, and you're slow to an - ger. Your
3 And on that day when my strength is fail - ing, the



7 it's time to sing your — song a - gain. What - ev - er may
name — is — great, and your heart is kind. For all — your
end — draws — near, and my time has come; 7 still — my



pass, — and what - ev - er lies be - fore me,
good-ness, I will keep — on — sing - ing—
soul will sing your praise — un - end - ing—



let me be sing - ing when the eve - ning comes.
 ten thou - sand rea - sons for my heart to find.
 ten thou - sand years and then for - ev - er - more.

Text: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974

Tune: Jonas Myrin, b. 1982; Matt Redman, b. 1974

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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

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty God, merciful Father, I, a troubled and repentant sinner,

confess that I have sinned against you

in my thoughts, my words, and my actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I am distressed by the sins that trouble me and am deeply sorry for them.

Jesus’ death paid for the guilt of your sins and the sins of the whole world.

He said to his people, “If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven.”

Because of the promise of our Savior Jesus, I forgive you all your sins.

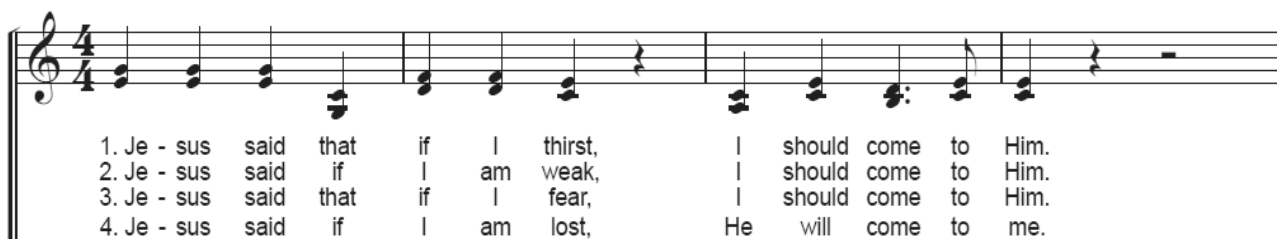
Be assured that you are a dear child of God and an heir of eternal life!

Amen.

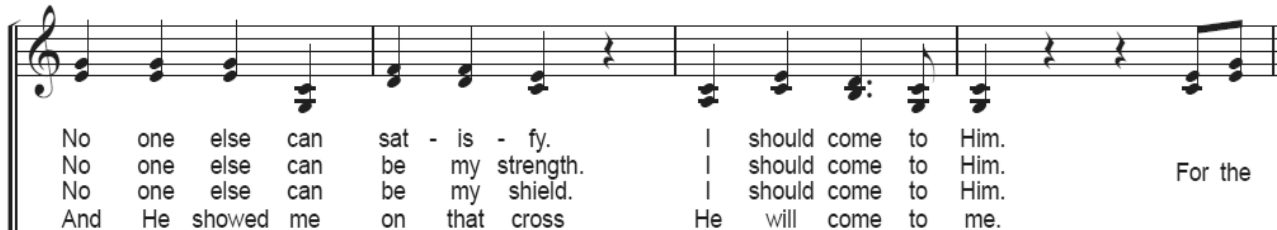
Jesus, Strong and Kind

By City Alight

Verse 1 + 2, Refrain, Verse 3, Refrain, Verse 4, Refrain



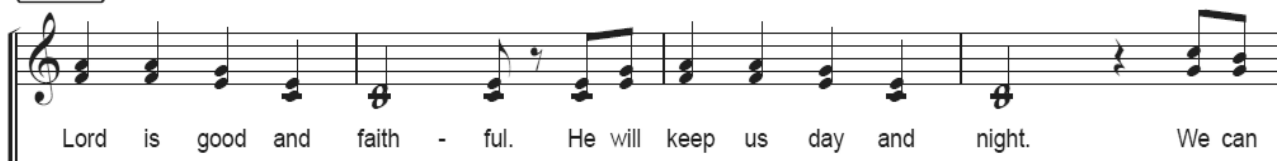
1. Je - sus said that if I thirst, I should come to Him.
2. Je - sus said if I am weak, I should come to Him.
3. Je - sus said that if I fear, I should come to Him.
4. Je - sus said if I am lost, He will come to me.



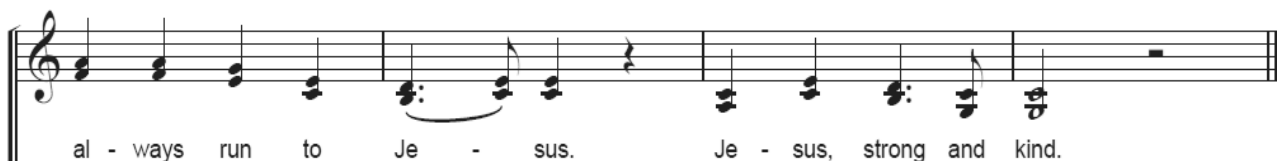
No one else can sat - is - fy. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my strength. I should come to Him.
No one else can be my shield. I should come to Him.
And He showed me on that cross He will come to me.

For the

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.

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, you call us to work in your kingdom and promise to reward us according to your grace. Help us to rid our minds of worldly expectations and rejoice that you freely pour out the blessings of salvation to all people; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Epistle Reading

Romans 10:5–13

⁵Moses writes this about the righteousness that is by the law: “The person who does these things will live by them.” ⁶But the righteousness that is by faith says: “Do not say in your heart, ‘Who will ascend into heaven?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ down) ⁷“or ‘Who will descend into the deep?’ ” (that is, to bring Christ up from the dead). ⁸But what does it say? “The word is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the message concerning faith that we proclaim: ⁹If you declare with your mouth, “Jesus is Lord,” and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved. ¹¹As Scripture says, “Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no difference between Jew and Gentile—the same Lord is Lord of all and richly blesses all who call on him, ¹³for, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.”

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

Matthew 16:13–20

¹³When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say the Son of Man is?”

¹⁴They replied, “Some say John the Baptist; others say Elijah; and still others, Jeremiah or one of the prophets.”

¹⁵“But what about you?” he asked. “Who do you say I am?”

¹⁶Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷Jesus replied, “Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by flesh and blood, but by my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven; whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.” ²⁰Then he ordered his disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

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.

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

Sermon Reading

Exodus 34:5-9

⁵Then the LORD came down in the cloud and stood there with him and proclaimed his name, the LORD. ⁶And he passed in front of Moses, proclaiming, “The LORD, the LORD, the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, ⁷maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin. Yet he does not leave the guilty unpunished; he punishes the children and their children for the sin of the parents to the third and fourth generation.”

⁸Moses bowed to the ground at once and worshiped. ⁹“Lord,” he said, “if I have found favor in your eyes, then let the Lord go with us. Although this is a stiff-necked people, forgive our wickedness and our sin, and take us as your inheritance.”

Lay Claim to the Name

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What makes Rembrandt’s painting of Moses unique?
2. What does God preach a short sermon on?
3. How often is Exodus 34:6-7 cross referenced in the Scriptures?
4. What part of the description of God’s name would the Israelites have clung to?
5. God could be described as the God of perfect love and perfect _____.
6. What part of God’s description of his name will modern readers most likely take issue with?

7. What are we all products of today?
8. What's really our problem with the second half of God's description of himself?
9. How do we approach our God of perfect love and perfect justice?
10. What 3 things does Moses ask God for?
11. What's the point of the story of the Saxon king?
12. Where do perfect love and justice collide?

Discussion questions:

For Theology on Tap

1. Name some ways the service them on the cover of this worship folder (A Church that Really Knows Jesus) ties in with God's message in Exodus 34:5-9.
2. Think of Moses' context. Why did he especially want to pray for those 3 things from God (mentioned above in #10)? Which of those 3 things resonate most with you right now?
3. How is the second half of verse 7 a warning for us to be aware of how we raise the next generation? What things do we need to be mindful of?
4. What does it mean to "lay claim to the name of the Lord"? How is that different from presuming upon God's grace? In what ways do you plan to "lay claim to the name of the Lord" this week?
5. When you fail God, what does your natural instinct tell you to do—and what does Exodus 34 tell you to do instead?

Please stand

Holy Is Your Name

CW 956 sts. 1, Ref, 5



1 My ——— soul is filled with joy as I
5 In your love you now ful - fill all you



sing to God, my Sav - ior. You have looked up - on your
prom - ised to your peo - ple. I will praise you, God, my



ser - vant, you have vis - it - ed your peo - ple.
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



peo - ple you have cho - sen, and ho - ly is your name!

Text: anonymous, alt.

Tune: Scottish

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.

Please be seated

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

Lisa Carstens

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, you speak to us in words of love and light and power. Fill us with peace today as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Guide our lives today as we see clearly the path you have laid out for us. Work in us today through your Spirit that our thoughts, words, and actions glorify you and serve our neighbor.

Fill us with the Word we have heard today and move us to believe and live it.

Forgive us for the times we hear your Word but fail to live it in our lives. Break down the apathy that lurks in us and leads us to ignore eternal realities. Convict us with your law and then fill us so full of your gospel that we overflow with zeal to do your will.

Give us thankful hearts to live and love with joy.

Give us passion to share the story of your love with our family and friends. Overcome unbelief and open the hearts of people everywhere to believe the good news that Jesus has forgiven their sins and opened the gates of heaven.

Fill us with joy over every sinner who repents and comes to trust in your grace.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Fill eager minds with wisdom to discover new ways to treat disease and illness. Give patience and compassion to those who care for the sick and dying.

Lift the eyes of the dying to your love in Christ.

Eternal Lord, you guide the world with your mighty power and love all people because your Son lived and died and rose again. Hear our prayers and answer them in your wisdom and grace.

In Jesus' name we pray. 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.

In Christ Alone

CW 510



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

Text: Keith Getty, b. 1974; Stuart Townend, b. 1963

Tune: Keith Getty, b. 1974; 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 that Takes Ownership

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; preaching—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; presiding
Gretchen Bassett; 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.

Fellowship Event—90's Night—Saturday September 26th @ 5:00-7:30PM

Food, Fun, Fellowship-90's Style! Join us for an evening remembering the 90's!

* 90's music

*Dance lessons and dance context

* 90' themed food

* 90's themed trivia

There's a sign up sheet in the lobby for bringing some snacks to pass.

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

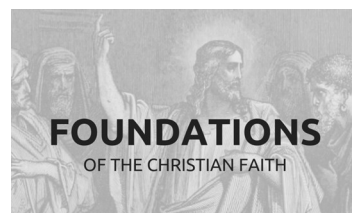
Summer/Fall Outreach Challenge

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. Sep 28)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Sep 28)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Sep 24)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Oct 21)
- 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>

Theology on Tap—Tuesday September 22 @ 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

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday September 24 @ 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)

Fall Church Work Day—Saturday October 10 @ 9:00AM—12:00PM

Join Us for Fall Church Work Day: Many Hands Make Light Work! Together, we will refresh and care for the space we call home. We have a variety of tasks lined up for all skill levels, including:

- Deep Cleaning: Giving our sanctuary, classrooms, and common areas a fresh, thorough clean.
- Painting: Touching up walls and refreshing well-loved spaces.
- Organizing & Moving: Rearranging furniture and clearing out spaces to keep our building functional and welcoming.

Whether you can stay for the whole morning or just an hour, your help makes a huge difference! Bonus: Stick around right after we finish at noon for a free pizza lunch to celebrate our hard work and enjoy some fellowship together. Bring a friend, wear comfortable clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty, and let's serve together!

Oktoberfest—Save the Date—October 24

Oktoberfest will be Saturday October 24th from 2-5pm. We are partnering up with City Auto across the street again. We were able to meet 100s of neighbors who came to this event last year and it's a great way to be a presence in our community! We hope you can get involved in some aspect of the event to make it a fun and welcoming atmosphere for our guests! Please contact our admin assistant, Melissa Turner, if you would like to find a way to serve! (adminassistant@livinghopechatt.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

Anniversary Blessings:

Dylan and Sarah Simpson 9/26

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Clay Smith — An upcoming back surgery.

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Simpson
Snack Provider—Chandler, Cundiff
Ushers—Flater, Schulz
Acolyte—Silas Dyer

Service Teams — Next week Sep 27

Sunday Setup Team—Thom
Snack Provider—Flater, Hansen
Ushers—Frizzell, Smith
Acolyte—Sam Hynson

Pastor Eric Melso

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pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com



WELS
Christ's Love, Our Calling.



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HOPE FOR EVERYDAY