

September 6, 2026



A Church Willing to Say Hard Things

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: An Intervention Worth Having

Nobody likes confrontation. We'd rather keep the peace, avoid awkward conversations, and let things slide. But sometimes love means stepping in. In Galatians 2, Paul confronts Peter because something bigger than hurt feelings was at stake: the gospel itself. Salvation isn't Jesus plus our performance. It's Christ alone, received by faith. That truth is worth defending, and people we love are worth fighting for. And the greatest intervention wasn't one Paul had with Peter. It was the one God had for us. When we were headed down a path we couldn't escape, God stepped in through Jesus. God intervened to save us.



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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O Lord, My Rock and My Redeemer

CW 539



1 O Lord, my rock and my Re-deem - er, great-est trea - sure
2 O Lord, my rock and my Re-deem - er, strong de - fend - er
3 O Lord, my rock and my Re-deem - er, gra-cious Sav - ior



of my long-ing soul, my God, like you there is no
of my wea - ry heart, my sword to fight the cruel de -
of my ru - ined life, my guilt and cross laid on your



oth - er, true de - light is found in you a - lone.
ceiv - er, and my shield a - gainst his hate - ful darts,
shoul - ders, in my place you suf - fered, bled, and died.



Your grace, a well too deep to fath - om, your love ex -
my song when en - e - mies sur-round me, my hope when
You rose, the grave and death are con-quer-ed; you broke my



ceeds the heav - ens' reach, your truth, a fount of per - fect
tides of sor - row rise, my joy when tri - als are a -
bonds of sin and shame. O Lord, my rock and my Re -



wis - dom, my high - est good and my un - end - ing need.
bound - ing, your faith - ful - ness, my ref - uge in the night.
deem - er, may all my days bring glo - ry to your name.

Text: Nathan Stiff, b. 1985

Tune: Nathan Stiff, b. 1985

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The name of the Triune God and sign of the cross remind worshippers 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.

Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin.

For faithless worrying and selfish pride,

For sins of habit and sins of choice,

For the evil I have done and the good I have failed to do,

You should cast me away from your presence forever.

O Lord, I am sorry for my sins. Forgive me, for Jesus’ sake.

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.

Today Your Mercy Calls Us

CW 916 sts. 1-2



1 To - day your mer - cy calls us to wash a - way our sin.
2 To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in



How - ev - er great our tres - pass, what - ev - er we have been,
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.



how - ev - er long from mer - cy our hearts have turned a - way,
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,



your pre - cious blood can wash us and make us clean to - day.
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

Text: Oswald Allen, 1816-1878, alt.

Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812-after 1857

Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

O Lord Jesus Christ, preserve the congregation of believers with your never-failing mercy. Help us avoid whatever is wicked and harmful, and guide us in the way that leads to our salvation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading

Ezekiel 33:7–11

⁷“Son of man, I have made you a watchman for the people of Israel; so hear the word I speak and give them warning from me. ⁸When I say to the wicked, ‘You wicked person, you will surely die,’ and you do not speak out to dissuade them from their ways, that wicked person will die for their sin, and I will hold you accountable for their blood. ⁹But if you do warn the wicked person to turn from their ways and they do not do so, they will die for their sin, though you yourself will be saved.

¹⁰“Son of man, say to the Israelites, ‘This is what you are saying: “Our offenses and sins weigh us down, and we are wasting away because of them. How then can we live?” ’ ¹¹Say to them, ‘As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, people of Israel?’

Psalm

Psalm 32:1-2, 5-7

Blessed is the one whose transgressions are forgiven,
whose sins are covered.

Blessed is the one whose sin the Lord does not count against them
and in whose spirit is no deceit.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

And you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Therefore let all the faithful pray to you while you may be found;
surely the rising of the mighty waters will not reach them.

You are my hiding place; you will protect me from trouble
and surround me with songs of deliverance. Amen.

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 18:15–20

¹⁵“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. ¹⁶But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ ¹⁷If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.

¹⁸“Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.

¹⁹“Again, truly I tell you that if two of you on earth agree about anything they ask for, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

The gospel of the Lord
Praise be to Christ!

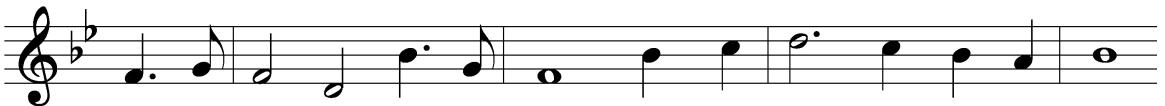
Please be seated

Children's Message

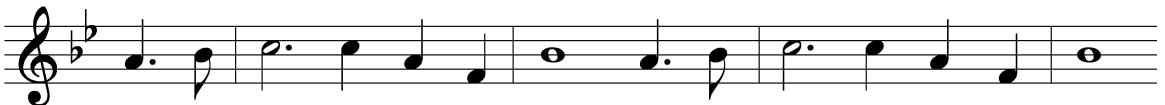
Children are invited to come forward into the front for the children's message. They will be given a special message designed just for them that ties in with the sermon.

Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me

CW 839



- 1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
- 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
- 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring, sim - ply to thy cross I cling;
- 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
na - ked, come to thee for dress, help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure: cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778, alt.
Tune: Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872
Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

Galatians 2:11–16

¹¹When Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. ¹²For before certain men came from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles. But when they arrived, he began to draw back and separate himself from the Gentiles because he was afraid of those who belonged to the circumcision group. ¹³The other Jews joined him in his hypocrisy, so that by their hypocrisy even Barnabas was led astray.

¹⁴When I saw that they were not acting in line with the truth of the gospel, I said to Cephas in front of them all, “You are a Jew, yet you live like a Gentile and not like a Jew. How is it, then, that you force Gentiles to follow Jewish customs?

¹⁵“We who are Jews by birth and not sinful Gentiles ¹⁶know that a person is not justified by the works of the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by the works of the law, because by the works of the law no one will be justified.

An Intervention Worth Having

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. What is the point of the Dignity Index?
2. How would you describe the manner in which Paul confronts Cephas/Peter?
3. What is an “intervention”?
4. An intervention is worth having, first of all, for the sake of...
5. What was so wrong with Peter’s actions?
6. An intervention is also worth having for the sake of...

7. Why is the article of “justification” so important?
8. *Why* is having an intervention to correct someone so difficult for us?
9. In what ways has God himself held an intervention for us?
10. Who will be able to best lovingly intervene and correct the people in your life?

Discussion questions:

1. Look up the Dignity Index (<https://www.dignity.us/index>). What do you like about it? What do you not really like about it? How do you think it might help solve conflict?
2. Have you ever had to have an intervention with someone, a “come to Jesus” moment to center them back where they need to be? Has anyone ever done something like that for you? If you’re willing, share that experience.
3. Paul was pretty harsh and firm with Peter. Think of some situations where a similar response might be needed for the sake of someone in error or for the sake of the gospel itself.
4. Think about the sermon’s emphasis on treating people with dignity even when correcting them. How can we be both uncompromising about biblical truth and genuinely loving toward the person we are correcting? What would that look like?
5. Who has earned the right to speak hard truths into your life? What makes it easier to receive correction from some people than from others?
6. What makes Christ’s intervention on the cross different from the interventions we have with one another?

Please Stand

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

CW 617

The musical score is written on three staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, using half and quarter notes. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all

crea-tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly host;

praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637–1711

Tune: Trente quatre Pseaumes de David, Geneva, 1551, ed. Louis Bourgeois

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

Living in a world where people believe that the universe was formed through chance and accident, what do you believe?

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

Living in a world where people are confronted with the guilt and punishment of sin, what do you believe Jesus did for you?

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.

Living in a world where people are without hope and certainty, what do you believe?

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!

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

Prayer of the Church

Eternal Lord, give us peace as we ponder the good news that you forgive our sins in Christ. Lead us to see clearly the path you have laid out for us.

Work in us so that we believe and live the Word we have heard today.

Provide courage and compassion to all who preach and teach your Word. Fill them with a love like yours as they proclaim your grace to us and all people.

Move us to love all ministers of the Word wherever they serve.

Guard and guide the families of our congregation. Lead husbands and wives to love each other with commitment, respect, and patience. Help parents to grasp the eternal value of keeping their children close to Jesus all their lives. Grant joy to those who are single, and make them a blessing to others.

Protect us from the temptations that surround us; give us pure hearts and minds.

Provide wisdom and insight to those who make laws and set policies. Give us respect for those who protect us from crime. Lead us to value the rights of our fellow citizens and to defend those who cannot defend themselves.

Bless our land with peace and prosperity so that the gospel may be proclaimed to all.

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 you.

Extend your healing power to those who are sick and suffering in body or mind. Give patience and compassion to all who care for the sick and dying.

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

Hear us, Lord, as we pray in silence.

Silent prayer

Gracious God, you govern and direct all things and you love all people. Hear our prayers, spoken and silent, 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.

His Mercy Is More

CW 579



1 What love could re - mem - ber no wrongs we have done?
2 What pa - tience would wait as we con - stant - ly roam,
3 What rich - es of kind - ness he lav - ished on us;



Om - ni - scient, all - know - ing, he counts not their sum;
what Fa - ther so ten - der is call - ing us home!
his blood was the pay - ment, his life was the cost.



thrown in - to a sea with - out bot - tom or shore,
He wel - comes the weak - est, the vil - est, the poor;
We stood 'neath a debt we could nev - er af - ford;



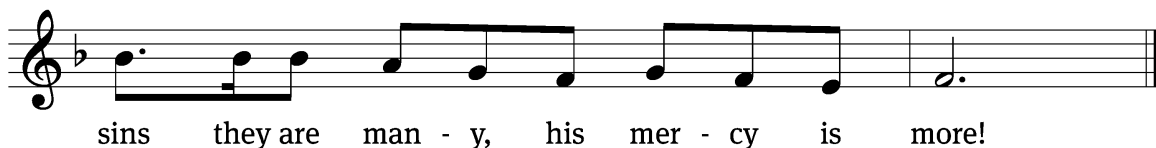
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.
our sins they are man - y, his mer - cy is more.



Refrain
Praise the Lord! His mer - cy is more!



Strong - er than dark - ness, new ev - 'ry morn; our



The refrain for stanza 3 is sung three times (twice, with no break between, then a final time).

Text: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983 Tune: Matt Boswell, b. 1979; Matt Papa, b. 1983

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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 With the Word On Its Lips

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

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

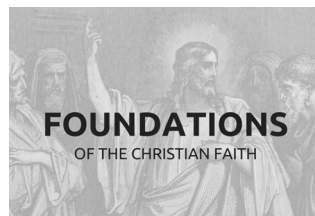
We're keeping this "challenge" as simple as possible: join a new social group to establish a relationship with someone new. Our goal with this isn't to make people come to church, but to get used to meeting new people, and developing relationships with the community and the people around us. Obviously 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 14)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Sep 14)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Sep 10)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Sep 16)
- 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 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

Service Group—Hands of Hope - Thursday September 10 @ 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)

New Small Group—The Common Table - Wednesday September 16 @ 7:00PM

This new small group is community service focused and all about learning to love our neighbors well. The group will explore what it means to be good neighbors and how our church can serve our community well. We'll discuss real needs, wrestle with what truly helps, and work together to plan meaningful community service projects. Come with your questions and ideas and leave better equipped to serve wisely and love your neighbors well. Everyone is welcome! The group will meet at church. Questions? Contact Sarah Dyer at 618-604-0779

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

Birthday Blessings:

Jordyn Muleller 9/7

Sam Hynson 9/8

Carole Rice 9/8

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Diane Grimm — awaiting biopsy results



Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Smith

Snack Provider— Bassett, Dyer

Ushers—Gorman, Hansen

Acolyte—Ember Turner

Service Teams — Next week Sep 13

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer

Snack Provider—Cundiff, Chandler

Ushers—Ludwig, Smith

Acolyte—Eliza Dyer

Pastor Eric Mello

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