

October 18, 2026



It's Time to Give to God What is God's

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 Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, "The End Is Near." For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ's first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It's the beginning of the end.

Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ's finished work for us.

Our preparation for the end is not about trying to predict signs or earn God's favor. Instead, it is about remaining rooted in Jesus: hearing the Word, receiving the sacraments, and trusting the promises of forgiveness. These are God's ways of keeping us ready.

"The Beginning of the End" reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ's return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Today's Focus: A King You Can Trust

Politics seems to be such a defining part of many people's lives. Opinions are strong and often polarizing. You have probably found yourself wondering, "Who is right? Whose side is Jesus on?" Today, in Matthew 22, we will hear from Jesus about what a Christian's relationship with their politics and their government should look like. With their hope and trust focused on Jesus Christ, their perfect and loving Savior and the only king you can truly trust.



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](https://www.facebook.com/livinghopechatt)

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Son of God, Eternal Savior

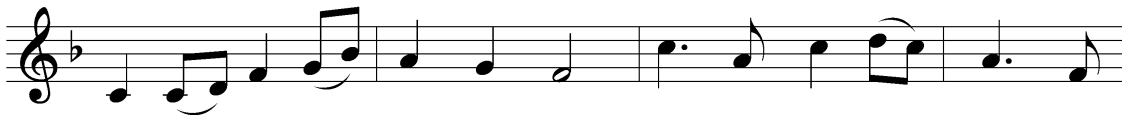
CW 729



1 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and
2 Bind us all as one to - geth - er in your Church's
3 As you, Lord, have lived for oth - ers, so may we for
4 Son of God, e - ter - nal Sav - ior, source of life and



truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us,
sa - cred fold, weak and health - y, poor and wealth - y,
oth - ers live. Free - ly have your gifts been grant - ed;
truth and grace, Word made flesh, whose birth a - mong us



hal - lows all our hu - man race, you our head, who, throned in
sad and joy - ful, young and old. Is there want or pain or
free - ly may your ser - vants give. Yours the gold and yours the
hal - lows all our hu - man race, by your pray - ing, by your



glo - ry, for your own will ev - er plead: fill us with your
sor - row? Make us all the bur - den share. Are there spir - its
sil - ver, yours the wealth of land and sea; we but stew - ards
will - ing that your peo - ple should be one, grant, O grant our



love and pit - y, heal our wrongs and help our need.
crushed and bro - ken? Teach us, Lord, to soothe their care.
of your boun - ty held in sol - emn trust will be.
hope's fru - i - tion: here on earth your will be done.

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

Beloved in the Lord, let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

**C: Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful,
and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good.

For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity.

But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray:

Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son as the atoning sacrifice for sin. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Oh, That I Had a Thousand Voices

CW 484 sts. 1, 3



1 Oh, that I had a thou-sand voic - es to praise my
3 I praise you, Sav - ior, whose com - pas - sion has brought you



God with thou-sand tongues! My heart, which in the Lord re -
down to ran - som me. Your pit - ying heart sought my sal -



joic - es, would then pro-claim in grate-ful songs to all, wher
va - tion; you bore the cross tri - um-phand - ly, brought me from



ev - er I might be, what great things God has done for me.
bond-age full re - lease, made me your own, and gave me peace.

Text: Johann Mentzer, 1658–1734, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Johann B. König, 1691–1758

Text: © 1941 Concordia Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 730027

Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

O Lord our God, so govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world that your church may worship you in peace and joy; 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

Daniel 1:3–21

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility—
⁴young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way. ⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel, ¹⁰but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

¹¹Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see." ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king's service. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanterers in his whole kingdom.

²¹And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

Epistle Reading

Romans 13:1–7

¹Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God's servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God's servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God's servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

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.

Before You, Lord, We Bow

CW 775



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
2 The na - tion you have blessed may well your love de - clare, from
3 May ev - 'ry moun - tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
4 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice, your great Re - deem - er own; be -
5 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may our na - tive land from



rules the world be - low in bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
foes and fears at rest, pro - tect - ed by your care. For this bright
in your Word's pure light and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship him a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to you, our King!
day, for this fair land—gifts of your hand—our thanks we pay.
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'ns high King, sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Text and tune: Public domain

Please Stand

Sermon Reading

Matthew 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The gospel of the Lord

Praise be to Christ!

Please be seated

Sermon title

Questions to consider while hearing the sermon:

1. Why might it be surprising to hear what Jesus says here in Matthew?
2. Why did the Pharisees think they could “trap” Jesus?
3. The Pharisees thought that if Jesus agreed to pay the tax he would be _____. If he disagreed then _____ might arrest him.

4. Why do earthly governments often let people down?
5. Why is it hard for us to submit to authority?
6. What is Jesus's answer to untrustworthy governments?
7. Why did God establish government?
8. What was at the heart of the Pharisee's misunderstanding?
9. How did Jesus "give to God what is God's"?
10. What should we give to God?

Discussion questions:

1. We have a long history of not trusting authority. Where in our culture do you see people struggle with trusting and submitting to authority.
2. Christ is the perfect king. What makes his kingdom different from the kingdoms of the world?
3. What aspects of "giving to Caesar what is Caesar's" do you find particularly challenging? How does Christ's reign as perfect king resolve these challenges?
4. Where do you see people confusing "what is God's" with "what is Caesar's" today
5. A friend says to you, "I don't know how you can tell me that the Jesus says we should submit to the government. Jesus would never agree with what the government has been doing." How would you respond?
6. How would you describe "giving to God what is God's" in your own words?

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 mostly quarter and half notes. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across 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

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!

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.**

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 $\dagger$ give you peace.
Amen.

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

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly

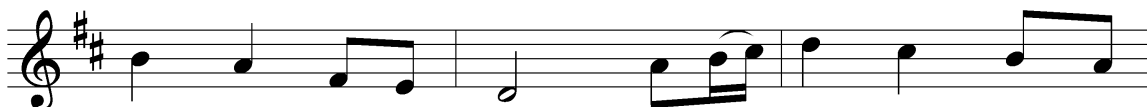
CW 748



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly give to God our all, our
 2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, by the gift of Christ, his
 3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice for the sake of Christ, your



best: ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough, hon - est, with a
 Son, what great good - ness he has shown us, what high
 Son; lo, our hope a - bides now on - ly in the



liv - ing love im - pressed. All our du - ty, all our
 mar - vels he has done! Let us to him prompt - ly,
 right - eous - ness he won. Bless and save us, help and



striv - ing, all our time to him be - long; praise him,
 free - ly, yield our bod - ies and our souls, thank - ful
 guide us, watch to com - fort and re - store, till in



then, with true de - vo - tion, come be - fore him with a song.
 that his love pro - tects us, that his wis - dom all con - trols.
 heav'n we rest re - joic - ing, prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Text: Henry Bateman, 1802–1872

Tune: Repository of Sacred Music, Part Second, Harrisburg, 1813, ed. John Wyeth

Text and tune: Public domain

Acknowledgments

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Services

Current worship series - The Beginning of the End. “The Beginning of the End” reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ’s return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

Next week: It’s Time to Stay Steadfast

Thank you to those serving in worship today!

Pastor Eric Melso; presiding—Vicar Michael Zimpelmann; preaching
Gretchen Bassett; piano – David Dyer; guitar

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.

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

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.

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!

Message pastor for a class link.

Living Hope Small Groups

- Men's Group—Mondays every other week at 7am. (next meeting Mon. Oct 28)
- Women's Group — Mondays every other week at 6:45pm (next meeting Mon Oct 28)
- Theology on Tap—weekly on Tuesday evenings at 7pm
- Hands of Hope—every other Thursday at 10am. (next meeting on Thurs Oct 22)
- The Common Table—once a month on a Wednesday (next meeting Wed Oct 21)
- Life on Mission—next session at church on Wednesday Oct 28 at 7pm

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

Theology on Tap—Tuesday October 20 @ 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

New Small Group—The Common Table - Wednesday October 21 @ 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

Service Group—"Hands of Hope" - Thursday October 22 @ 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)

Oktoberfest—Save the Date—October 24

Oktoberfest will be Saturday October 24th from 2-5pm. 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).

Members' MinuteBirthday Blessings:

Bruce Hansen 10/18

Jennifer Melso 10/19

Teresa Appugliese 10/22

Becky Schmeckpeper 10/22

Julian Chu 10/23

Pam Gaulke 10/23

We pray for the following members, family, and friends

Clay Smith – Thanksgiving for a successful surgery and prayers for a smooth and comfortable recovery.

Service Teams — This week

Sunday Setup Team—Smith

Snack Provider—Frederickson, Amerson

Ushers—Flater, Schulz

Acolyte—Ember Turner

Service Teams — Next week Oct 25

Sunday Setup Team—Mayer

Snack Provider—Appugliese, Bouge, Bunting

Ushers—Frizzell, Gorman

Acolyte—Ben Schulz



LIVING HOPE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HOPE FOR EVERYDAY

Pastor Eric Melso

pastormelso@livinghopechatt.com

www.livinghopechatt.com

