



For
I am the **LORD,**
I do not
change.

Malachi 3:6, NKJV

TRANSFIGURATION

Living Hope Lutheran January 25, 2026

LIVING HOPE LUTHERAN

A Congregation of the Church of the Lutheran Confession

3100 East Calumet Street • Appleton, Wisconsin •

appletonlutheran.com



Divine Worship. . . . 2pm

Bible Study/Sunday School. . . . 3pm

Andrew A. Schaller, Vacancy Pastor

Cell: (605) 880-7886

TRANSFIGURATION

January 25, 2026

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP:

PSALM: 148 (LSB);

PRAYERS: Before Worship (Inside Cover, LSB);

HYMNS: LSB 647 LSB 908 LSB 912

OPENING PRAYER

OPENING HYMN: LSB647 *“Lord Jesus Christ, the Church’s Head”*

DIVINE SERVICE

(Setting 3, LSB Pg 184)

Pastor: In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness. Our help is in the name of the Lord,

Congregation: who made heaven and earth.

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

C: and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

P: O almighty God, merciful Father

C: I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

C: ♪ Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

**C: ♪ Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

C: ♪ Glory be to God on high and on earth peace, goodwill toward men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we worship Thee, we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory. O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord. Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P: The Lord be with you.

C: ♪ And with thy spirit.

Pastor: Let us pray...

C: ♪ Amen.

OT LESSON:

EXODUS 3:1-6

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned."

⁴ When the Lord saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, “Moses, Moses!” And he said, “Here I am.” ⁵ Then he said, “Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground.” ⁶ And he said, “I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.” And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. *

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE:

2 CORINTHIANS 3:12-18

¹² Since we have such a hope, we are very bold, ¹³ not like Moses, who would put a veil over his face so that the Israelites might not gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. ¹⁴ But their minds were hardened. For to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away. ¹⁵ Yes, to this day whenever Moses is read a veil lies over their hearts. ¹⁶ But when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷ Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸ And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit. *

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

C: 🎵 Alleluia. Alleluia. Alleluia.

P: The Gospel Reading is taken from the Gospel according John, from the 5th Chapter we read verses 39-47.

C: 🎵 Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

GOSPEL:

JOHN 5:39-47

³⁹ You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, ⁴⁰ yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ⁴¹ I do not receive glory from people. ⁴² But I know that you do not have the love of God within you. ⁴³ I have come in my Father's name, and you do not receive me. If another comes in his own name, you will receive him. ⁴⁴ How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God? ⁴⁵ Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father. There is one who accuses you: Moses, on whom you have set your hope. ⁴⁶ For if you believed Moses, you would believe me; for he wrote of me. ⁴⁷ But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words?" *

P: So far the Gospel Reading.

C: ♪ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

CONFESSION OF FAITH:

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.

HYMN: LSB 908 - *"Lord, Open Now My Heart to Hear"*

THE SERMON:

MALACHI 3:6-10

⁶ "For I *am* the LORD, I do not change; Therefore you are not consumed, O sons of Jacob. ⁷ Yet from the days of your fathers You have gone away from My ordinances And have not kept *them*. Return to Me, and I will return to you," Says the LORD of hosts. "But you said, 'In what way shall we return?'

⁸ “Will a man rob God? Yet you have robbed Me! But you say, ‘In what way have we robbed You?’ In tithes and offerings. ⁹ You are cursed with a curse, For you have robbed Me, *Even* this whole nation. ¹⁰ Bring all the tithes into the storehouse, That there may be food in My house, And try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts, “If I will not open for you the windows of heaven And pour out for you *such* blessing That *there will not be room* enough to *receive it*.

SOME THINGS SEEM NEVER TO CHANGE

Like: Human sin and God’s mercy and faithfulness

THE OFFERTORY

♪ Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

THE OFFERINGS OF THANKFUL HEARTS

We express our thanksgiving for what the Savior Jesus has done for us by supporting His Work with our time, talents and gifts. Should you wish to leave a gift, there are offering plates in the rear of the sanctuary. As our gifts are brought forward to His Altar, we sing His Praise.

PRAYER(S)

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, Hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; Give us this day our daily bread; And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BENEDICTION:

C: ♪ Amen, Amen, Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: LSB 912 - “Christ Is Our Cornerstone”

We welcome all of our guests and visitors this morning. We are glad that you have come to worship with us and hope that you will return again. If you have any questions or are interested in learning more about the Scriptures, please speak with the pastor on the way out.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 25, 2026

THIS WEEK

Wednesday: Confirmation Class 4:30pm

Sunday: Worship 2pm, Bible Study Sunday School 3pm.

HOLY COMMUNION

Living Hope's Council determined that Holy Communion would be offered on the 1st and 2nd Sunday of each month during the vacancy. If any member should desire private communion, they need only speak with Pastor Schaller who would be happy to provide it.

CONFIRMATION CLASS

Confirmation Class will continue resume this Wednesday January 28th as well as February 4th at 4:30pm.

CHURCH ROOF REPLACEMENT

Due to the snow and cold weather, the roof replacement has been rescheduled for the spring. The tentative start date is now April 2, 2026.

MINUTES OF THE LIVING HOPE ANNUAL MEETING

(January 18, 2026)

President Oster called the meeting to order the morning of January 18, 2026. Eight voters and Pastor Schaller were present.

Reports:

- ✓ *Mr. Johannes read the minutes from the November 11, 2025, Quarterly Voters Meeting. Mr. Youngerberg moved to accept the minutes as read. The voters supported and approved the motion.*
- ✓ *Mr. Dumke presented the Treasurer's report for the 4th quarter and year of 2025.*
- ✓ *Mr. King presented the Financial Secretary's Report for the 4th quarter and year of 2025. Offering statements have been emailed and/or printed and in mailboxes at church. Student Aid fund has been reallocated based on member updates.*

President Oster thanked the men for their reports.

Pastor's Report: *Pastor Schaller updated the voters on current classes and outreach to newer members and those that were having classes previously with Pastor Ude. He has also been updating the website with the weekly bulletin and FDL's service link.*

Committee Updates: *School Exploration: no updates at this time*

Building and Grounds: Roof replacement and Carpet cleaning has been postponed until spring. The Door knobs for the front and back door have been replaced.

Outreach: No update at this time.

Unfinished Business:

Housing and Insurance allowance: The council recommended that we increase our housing allowance the last \$200 to be up to date in preparation for a new pastor. A motion was made and approved by the voters to increase the housing allowance by that amount (\$1,550 per month to \$1,750).

New Business

Mr. Dumke presented the proposed budget for 2026. He mentioned that the number are a bit skewed since we currently don't have a full-time pastor. The voters moved to approve and accepted the proposed budget. Mr. Dumke was thanked for his work on this.

CBP Estimate. The council recommended that we set our CBP estimate the same as last year at \$5,500 as we did meet that amount as of the end of June. Motion was made to keep it at \$5,500 and was approved. Pastor Schaller will send this estimate to the CLC.

Lent Schedule. In the event we do not have a full-time pastor for lent the midweek and holy week services were discussed. Coordinating with Pastor Schaller the following was decided: Ash Wednesday service on Thursday night at 6:30PM. No midweek lent services (Pastor Schaller noted that he would be participating in a pulpit exchange for midweek Lenten services) Good Friday Evening service at 6:30 PM (FDL has Maundy Thursday evening service and Good Friday afternoon service) Easter would be at normal time (2PM) with brunch possibly before.

Council Election

The nomination list for the open council position due to the end of Mr. Kings' term was Mark King, Craig Youngerberg, James Harper, Dan Barthels. No further names were put forth. After two rounds of voting, Mr. King was reelected for another three-year term.

Other:

Items on hold during vacancy: Little Free Library, Depression Seminar, CDF Seminar

Reminder:

Mr. Dumke moved to adjourn the meeting. The voters supported and approved the motion. The Voters meeting of Living Hope Lutheran Church adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by,
Michael Johannes
Living Hope Lutheran Church

CLC Mission Prayer List – January 2026

Togo (West Africa) – Three students at Mount Horeb Lutheran graduated on December 6. Missionary Evensen and Missionary Ohlmann were in attendance. Head Pastor Kossi Blewu will soon resume his Gospel outreach radio program in Assahoun, a town about 30 minutes from the seminary. One of the graduates will be called to start a congregation there, since people have been calling to attend our services after hearing Pastor Blewu.

Myanmar (South Asia) – Pastor Kham reported that the military junta continues to conduct nightly raids on homes and soccer fields to conscript young men into the army forcefully. They have also started conscripting older men into the military. Previously, families could pay ransoms for their release, but the junta no longer accepts bribes due to its urgent need for soldiers. The orphan boys cared for by Pastor Kham and his wife are in hiding, as military checkpoints are everywhere, even near schools. Please pray for peace, justice, and relief for all affected by this conflict.

Tanzania (East Africa) — Six seminary students graduated on November 30. Twelve students are enrolled for the new year. Pastor Emerita Paul Nolting spent two weeks in Tanzania in January as a guest lecturer at the seminary. He will also attend the TCLC pastoral conference. Ask the Lord to bless the seminary students as they grow in grace and in the knowledge of Scripture, equipping them to be effective ministers of the Gospel.

Kenya (East Africa) – Missionary Naumann traveled to Kenya to attend the KCLC conference, where pastors and church leaders gathered near Moi's Bridge to continue organizational efforts and study God's word for growth and mutual encouragement in the Gospel ministry. Pray for the KCLC's growth, unity, and effective spread of the Gospel as they establish new congregations.

Uganda (East Africa) – A meeting of CCCRU pastors and church leaders in January was postponed due to security concerns ahead of the January 15 national elections. Five congregations are being served by five pastors and two evangelists. The Hope Centre children's home in Iganga houses 34 children. The pastors and their families struggle at times with medical issues and a lack of resources. Ask our Lord to give them good health, daily bread, and zeal for spreading the true Word of God. Ask our Lord to provide for the daily needs of pastors as they struggle to serve the Lord and their families with little financial support from the impoverished congregation members.

DR Congo-CCLC (Central Africa) – Pastor Yumba, who serves the CCLC, reports that the seminary students of Holy Trinity Lutheran Seminary have completed their vicarages. Final exams, graduation, and ordination are scheduled for April or May, when Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann are expected to visit. Thank the Lord for the diligent study and faithful teaching of God's Word over the past several years at the Holy Trinity Seminary. Ask for the Lord's continued blessings on the students as they finish their vicarage assignments. Pray that the Lord will bring peace and an end to the greed and violence that have been such a terrible part of the DR Congo's history.

DR Congo-ECLSAFA (Central Africa) – Pastor Jacques Pondi Lumiangu in Kinshasa has scheduled several outreach seminars in early 2026. The congregation is also facing challenges with renting their church building and is unable to fully support Pastor Pondi Lumiangu, so he is facing financial challenges as well. Missionaries Evensen and Ohlmann plan to visit in April. Pray for the outreach work of the ECLSAFA Congo and that God would abundantly provide for their needs.

Missionary Peter Evensen (Togo, West Africa) – Since the Mt. Horeb Seminary graduation in early December, Missionary Evensen has been working to edit and improve the French translations of the curriculum for the next cohort of students. He will join Missionary Ohlmann on a visit to the DR Congo in late April. Pray for his continued health as his right knee, which was operated on over a year ago, has started to bother him again, and for the Lord's continued blessing on Missionary Evensen's work to prepare faithful preachers and teachers of God's saving word.

Missionary Bruce Naumann (Tanzania, Kenya, Uganda-East Africa) – Missionary Naumann and Paula were able to return to the U.S. for the month of December and were blessed to spend time with family. Missionary Naumann returned to Tanzania in early January and spent a couple of weeks in Kenya. Paula will return to Tanzania later in January. You may see the latest news and photos of their work and daily lives at clc-tz.blogspot.com

Missionary Todd Ohlmann – Over the next few months, Missionary Ohlmann is scheduled to visit Pakistan, the Philippines, Nigeria, DR Congo, and Zambia. Pray for God's blessing on the necessary arrangements for these trips, and for his wife, Beth, as she continues to care for her elderly father, who is on hospice care and is longing for his heavenly home. You can read reports and see pictures here: missionaryohlmann.blogspot.com

CLC CALL NEWS

Messiah Lutheran Church of Eau Claire, Wisconsin has called Pastor Jonah Albrecht who serves Redemption Ev. Lutheran Church in Lynnwood WA (Seattle) and Ascension Lutheran in Tacoma, WA • Pastor Emeritus John Schierenbeck has returned the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor of Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane WA. • Pastor Johnathan Schnose of Bethel Ev. Lutheran Church, Morris, MN, has been called by Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church in Spokane, WA. • Mr. Peter Reim has returned the call to serve as Vacancy Pastor of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Red Wing, MN. • Teacher Claire Abbas of Berea Lutheran School in Inver Grove Heights, MN has been called to serve Redeemer Lutheran School in Cheyenne, WY. • Living Hope Lutheran in Appleton, WI, has called Pastor Paul Agenten who currently serves Calvary Lutheran (Marquette) and St. Peter Lutheran (Stambaugh). • Pastor John Hein of Grace Lutheran Church in Fridley MN, has announced his retirement as of January 31, 2026. He has also resigned from the CLC Board of Regents.

Missions/Cooperative Budget Plan Pledge 2025-26

The Cooperative Budget Plan (CBP) is a pledge established by the Voters of Living Hope to participate in the work of the Church of the Lutheran Confession. This fiscal year runs from July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026.

Amount Pledged 2025	Received as of 12/31/25	Amount Remaining	Approximate per Sunday (26)
\$5,500.00	\$2,487.25	\$3,012.75	\$115.87

Living Hope General Budget 2026

The Voters of Luther Memorial established the General Fund Budget at the Annual Meeting on January 18, 2026. All Budgetary offerings are applied to this budget. This fiscal year runs from January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2026.

General Budget	Received as of 1/18/26	Amount Remaining	Remaining Amount (50 Sundays)
\$101,679.00	\$	\$	\$

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BIBLE READING DEVOTIONS FOR JANUARY 26-31, 2026

Monday – Matthew 8:1-4 Jesus' surpassing glory is revealed not only in His power to heal the leper that comes to Him. It is also displayed in His merciful willingness to help the afflicted man with no crowd around him.

Tuesday – Matthew 8:5-13 Jesus has not come for Jews alone, but reaches out to a Roman centurion as well. Indeed, many will come from the east and the west (v11) to join the patriarchs in the kingdom of heaven.

Wednesday – Romans 12:16b-21 In order to show our Savior's glory in our daily walk, Paul's advice is couched in the negative: "Do not ..." take on airs or take revenge, but provide as God provides, even for an enemy.

Thursday – Psalm 33:1-9 God's people rejoice to glorify Him with singing and instruments, for His mighty and merciful Word is seen in His creation of the world, its heights and depths, and all of its inhabitants!

Friday – Psalm 33:10-22 After creating the world, the Lord still knows what is going on, is mightier than all its kings with all their armies, and watches over those who wait for His mercy (v18). May Your mercy be on us.

Saturday Psalm 15 By ourselves, none of us could stand before God in His sanctuary, but there is One who walked righteously and spoke truth and did it all in our name, that we might stand with Him.



These devotions are produced by Pastor/Professor Emeritus Paul Schaller and sent out on a weekly basis. Graphics in the bulletin are taken from Church Art Online via a regular legal subscription.