



What Makes Christians *Different*

Christians Are Planted by the Word

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, August 9, 2026

Welcome to Worship

God's grace welcomes you, and so do we — the pastor and members of Peace! Jesus Christ is the only Savior of all people. By his perfect life, innocent death and triumphant resurrection, Jesus saves all sinners. We learn these truths from the Bible — God's complete plan for our salvation and his guidebook for our lives. Peace greets you with a warm welcome. We look forward to seeing you again soon!

About Our Service

The gospel (or good news) is not just information about what Jesus did to save sinners. It is also the power God uses to work faith in our hearts, transform our lives, and give us lasting peace. Therefore, Lutheran Worship places the gospel in central focus in an order of service called the liturgy. In the message and meal (Holy Communion), in specially selected Scripture readings, and in carefully crafted songs, prayers, and creeds, the liturgy proclaims the good news about Jesus from start to finish. Lutheran worship is also designed to include the participation of the entire assembly (including children). For your ease and convenience, the order of service is printed out on the following pages. If a song is not found in this service folder, it can be found in the red or blue hymnals located on the chair in front of you.

Current Worship Series: What Makes Christians Different?

The Bible says Christians are different. Christians are people who believe in Jesus as their Savior. But they often look the same as those who do not believe in Jesus. How are Christians different? The answer is often something internal, attitudes or perspectives that come only from the work of the Holy Spirit in Word and sacrament. Ultimately, Christians are people who run to Christ for forgiveness because they have failed to live perfect lives. As we receive the mercy of Christ, it moves us to strive with all our being to do all the things that Jesus says Christians do, things that make Christians different.

July 19 – Christians Find Rest in Jesus

July 26 - Christians Live as Wheat Among Weeds

August 9 - Christians Are Planted by the Word

August 16 - Christians Seek Spiritual Wealth

August 23 - Christians Trust God to Provide

Today's Focus: *Christians Are Planted by the Word*

Planting seed by hand can be extraordinary. In your hand, the seed looks lifeless and insignificant. You put the seed into the soil, and suddenly, all by itself, the seed germinates and sprouts and reaches to the sun. Except when it doesn't! Plant multiple seeds, and often only some will grow.

The Bible describes Christians as planted by the Word. Why do some people grow in faith, and not others? What makes Christians different? The Bible describes the supernatural process by which God calls people to faith through the gospel. He promises that his Word always accomplishes his purpose. It is powerful all on its own, without our help. As we grow in faith, we give God thanks for the miracle of his work in our lives.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Speak, O Lord



1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food
2 Teach us, Lord, full o - be - di - ence, ho - ly rev - er - ence,
3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights



of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it
true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the



deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,
at - ti - tudes in the ra - di - ance of your pu - ri - ty.
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.



that the light of Christ might be seen to - day in our acts of
Cause our faith to rise, cause our eyes to see your ma - jes - tic
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll



love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -
love and au - thor - i - ty. Words of pow'r that can
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your



fill in us all your pur - pos - es for your glo - ry.
nev - er fail, let their truth pre - vail o - ver un - be - lief.
Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

Please stand

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Confession and Absolution

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

**We have done those things that we should not have done,
and we have not done those things that we should have done.**

Have mercy on us, Lord!

**Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,
according to your promises in Christ Jesus.**

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I say to you what God says. Your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

You are at peace with God now and forever.
Amen.

The name of the triune God and the sign of the cross remind worshipers of their baptisms.

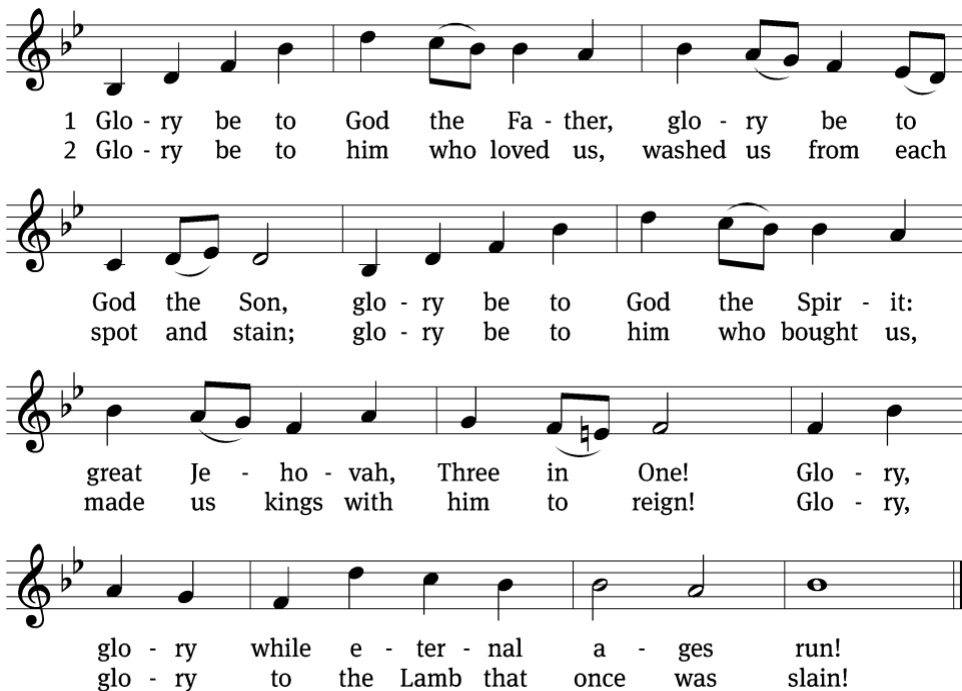
Psalm 32:1-2

The use of the keys of absolution is that special right which Christ gave to his church on earth: to proclaim the forgiveness of sins through Jesus. See John 20:21-23.

Glory Be to God the Father

Gloria

Jesus said that
the angels in
heaven rejoice
over one sinner
who repents. In
response to the
repentance
expressed
through
confession and
absolution, the
church sings as
the angels sang
on Christmas
night: "glory be
to God on
high."



1 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to
2 Glo - ry be to him who loved us, washed us from each
God the Son, glo - ry be to God the Spir - it:
spot and stain; glo - ry be to him who bought us,
great Je - ho - vah, Three in One! Glo - ry,
made us kings with him to reign! Glo - ry,
glo - ry while e - ter - nal a - ges run!
glo - ry to the Lamb that once was slain!

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889
Tune: Walter G. Whinfield, 1865–1919
Text and tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Blessed Lord, since you have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them that we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Isaiah 55:6–11

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found;
call on him while he is near.

⁷Let the wicked forsake their ways
and the unrighteous their thoughts.

Let them turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will freely pardon.

⁸“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the LORD.

⁹“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

¹⁰As the rain and the snow
come down from heaven,
and do not return to it
without watering the earth
and making it bud and flourish,
so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater,
“so is my word that goes out from my mouth:
It will not return to me empty,
but will accomplish what I desire
and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.

God’s Word
produces the
fruit that God
desires.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Gospel Acclamation

Isaiah 55:11

For centuries
in preparation
for hearing
the Gospel,
Christians
have sung or
spoken
“Alleluia!” and
a Scripture
verse
reinforcing
the theme of
the day.

After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.



Alleluia. My word will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it. Alleluia.



Gospel

Matthew 13:1–9, 18–23

Jesus pictures
ministry as a
planter
scattering
seed.

¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. ²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables, saying: “A farmer went out to sow his seed. ⁴As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path, and the birds came and ate it up. ⁵Some fell on rocky places, where it did not have much soil. It sprang up quickly, because the soil was shallow. ⁶But when the sun came up, the plants were scorched, and they withered because they had no root. ⁷Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up and choked the plants. ⁸Still other seed fell on good soil, where it produced a crop—a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown. ⁹Whoever has ears, let them hear.”

¹⁸“Listen then to what the parable of the sower means: ¹⁹When anyone hears the message about the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what was sown in their heart. This is the seed sown along the path. ²⁰The seed falling on rocky ground refers to someone who hears the word and at once receives it with joy. ²¹But since they have no root, they last only a short time. When trouble or persecution comes because of the word, they quickly fall away. ²²The seed falling among the thorns refers to someone who hears the word, but the worries of this

life and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, making it unfruitful.
²³But the seed falling on good soil refers to someone who hears the word and understands it. This is the one who produces a crop, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was sown.”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Almighty God, Your Word Is Cast



- 1 Al - might - y God, your Word is cast like seed in - to the ground;
- 2 Let not the foe of Christ and man this ho - ly seed re - move,
- 3 Let not the world's de - ceit - ful cares the ris - ing plant de - stroy,
- 4 When - e'er the pre - cious seed is sown, life - giv - ing grace be - stow



now let the dew of heav'n de - scend and right-eous fruits a - bound.
but give it root in ev - 'ry heart to bring forth fruits of love.
but let it yield a hun - dred - fold the fruits of peace and joy.
that all whose souls the truth re - ceive its sav - ing pow'r may know.

Text: John Cawood, 1775–1852, abr., alt.

Tune: The CL Psalmes of David, Edinburgh, 1615

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon Reading

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

We sow the
seed of God's
Word, but
only he can
make it grow.

⁵What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe—as the Lord has assigned to each his task. ⁶I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow. ⁷So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow. ⁸The one who plants and the one who waters have one purpose, and they will each be rewarded according to their own labor. ⁹For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building.

¹⁰By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Sermon

1 Corinthians 3:5–11

Please stand

Apostle's Creed

Credo

Public
confession is
faith's response
to God's saving
Word. Christians
composed the
Apostle's Creed
in the fourth
century to
defend the
Bible's teachings
that both Jesus
Christ and the
Holy Spirit are
true God, equal
to the Father in
one eternal,
undivided
Trinity.

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

The members of Peace have joined together in the grace of giving (2 Corinthians 8:7) to do the Lord's work of sharing the message of Jesus. Visitors need not feel obligated. You are our guests!

Members and visitors, kindly fill out one of our Connection Cards. You may place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher.

Prayer of the Church

Please stand. The pastor will speak the prayer of the church and the congregation will join to say the Lord's prayer.

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.

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.**



Numbers 6:22-27

Hymn

God's Word Is Our Great Heritage



God's Word is our great her - i - tage and shall be ours for -
ev - er; to spread its light from age to age shall be our
chief en - deav - or. Thro' life it guides our way, in death it
is our stay. Lord, grant, while worlds en - dure, we keep its
teach - ings pure through - out all gen - er - a - tions.

The musical score is written on five staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes. The first line ends with a dash, indicating it continues on the next line. The second line also ends with a dash. The third line ends with a period. The fourth line ends with a period. The fifth line ends with a double bar line.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Ole G. Belsheim, alt.

Tune: Friedrich O. Reuter, 1863–1924

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

Foundations of Faith Class

Foundations is for everyone: people interested in becoming members, those looking to build their faith, or the curious observer who wants to study the Bible without feeling obligated to join a church. This study is Bible-based and discussion-centered. Classes can be arranged to fit personal schedules.



To get plugged in or to request more information, contact Pastor Welch (pastor@peacehoughton.org) or scan the QR code. Childcare is available upon request.

Online Offering Option

If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.



Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Snacks
August 9	Cody	Cody	Mary Ann	Karin
August 16	Steve	Scott	Mary Ann	Amy Spahn
August 23	Steve	Steve	Mary Ann	Heather
August 30	Cody	Cody	Mary Ann	Sarah

Volunteers Needed

The church needs help with weekly cleaning and mowing. If you are interested in signing up to help or learning more about the required duties, please see the blue table in the entryway.

Congregational Meeting Today after Worship

A congregational meeting will be held on **today immediately following the worship service**. During this meeting, the Church Council will provide updates on several important ministry initiatives, and the congregation will have the opportunity to vote on the following items:

1. **Building Committee Recommendation:** The Building Committee will present its recommendation for an architectural firm and request approval to enter into an agreement for the initial architectural services.
2. **Membership Update & Member Directory:** The Council will provide an update on the congregation's membership and the member directory.
3. **Shepherding Ministry Plan:** The congregation will hear about a new plan for providing intentional spiritual care to our members.
4. **Three-Year Building Fund Drive:** The Council will present the proposed three-year fundraising plan for the upcoming building project.
5. **Introduction of Our Administrative Assistant:** We will officially introduce our new administrative assistant, who will become an important part of the ministry at Peace.

Please plan to stay after worship as we continue working together to support the mission and ministry of Peace.



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Pastor Welch's Email: pastor@peacehoughton.org

Peacehoughton.org

Our mission is to spread the gospel of Christ, to gather college students and the local community into a family of believers, and to share the message of hope and the promise of salvation through grace.