

# IDENTITY

revealed

*Jesus Is the Lamb of God*

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, January 18, 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.

## **Series Explanation: Epiphany Moments**

“Epiphany” comes from a Greek word that means “reveal.” It is the season when you see Jesus begin his public ministry, revealing the reason the Son of God came to earth. During Epiphany, you will come to understand that when the true identity of Jesus is revealed, you realize your own true identity as well.

## **Worship Series Schedule: Identity Revealed**

January 11: Jesus Is the Christ, the Anointed One

### **January 18: Jesus Is the Lamb of God**

January 25: Jesus Is the Christ, the One Who Calls

February 1: Jesus Calls You Blessed

February 8: Jesus Calls You Salt and Light

February 15: Jesus is the Son of God in Glory

### **Today's Focus: Jesus Is the Lamb of God**

For centuries Israel offered sacrifices to God for sin. Over and over, a substitute shed its blood to earn forgiveness. Then Jesus appeared, the Lamb of God who would take away the sins of the world. He died as the substitute for sinful mankind. Connected to him by faith, you have new perspective and new motivation for living a Christian life.

### **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Nate Crowder

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



# THE ORDER OF SERVICE

*For Sunday, January 18, 2026*

## Hymn

*I Run to Christ*

1 I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a ref - uge  
2 I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul re -  
3 I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure es -

sure. "Be - lieve in me," his voice I hear; his words and  
freshed. "Come un - to me," he calls thro' strife; fa - tigue gives  
cape. "De - liv - er me," I cry to him; temp - ta - tion

wounds se - cure. I run to Christ when torn by grief and  
way to rest. I run to Christ when vexed by hell and  
yields to grace. I run to Christ when plagued by shame and

find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he  
find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the  
find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he

gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.  
Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.  
pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

Text: Chris Anderson, b. 1971

Tune: Greg Habegger, b. 1973

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*Please stand.*

## **Invocation**

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

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

## **Confession**

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

1 John 1:8-9

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

**Holy God, gracious Father,**

**I am sinful by nature  
and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.**

**I have not loved you with my whole heart;**

**I have not loved others as I should.**

**I deserve your punishment both now and forever.**

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins**

**with his innocent suffering and death.**

**Trusting in him, I pray: God, have mercy on me, a sinner.**

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

## **Absolution**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

By Jesus' command and 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.

**Amen.**

See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God!

1 John 3:1

**And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!**

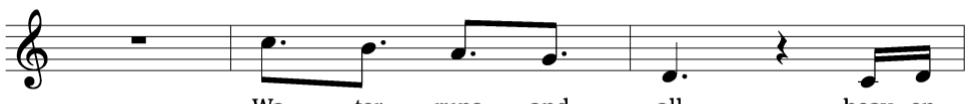
This song of praise takes us through the Epiphany season. Stanza 1: the Baptism of Jesus (Epiphany 1); stanza 2: the Wedding at Cana (Epiphany 2); stanza 3: Transfiguration (Last Sunday of Epiphany); refrain: the Season of Epiphany.

## Hymn of Praise

*Christ Begins*



1 We stand and we watch on the bank, wide-eyed.  
2 Mar - y's whis - per - ing, but it's not the time.  
3 See the sun out - shined on the hill and hide.  
4 We stand, gath - ered round on the moun - tain-side.



Wa - ter runs and all heav - en  
Yet six jars are filled with the  
Clothes like light - ning white,  
Watch the clos - ing clouds heav - en  
hide him



o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
fin - est wine. Tell me, who is this by our side?  
o - pens wide, and a voice like thun - der re - plies.  
from our eyes; with a voice u - nit - ed we cry:

*Refrain*



Here's my Proph - et, my Priest, my King, a



light in the dark, Christ steps in; here's my Sav - ior, my



God, my King, the time has come, Christ be - gins.

Please be seated.

## Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, you gave your one and only Son to be the light of the world. Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and believed to the ends of the earth; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



## The Word

### Reading

*Isaiah 49:1–6*

<sup>1</sup>Listen to me, you islands;  
    hear this, you distant nations:  
Before I was born the LORD called me;  
    from my mother's womb he has spoken my name.  
<sup>2</sup>He made my mouth like a sharpened sword,  
    in the shadow of his hand he hid me;  
he made me into a polished arrow  
    and concealed me in his quiver.  
<sup>3</sup>He said to me, "You are my servant,  
    Israel, in whom I will display my splendor."  
<sup>4</sup>But I said, "I have labored in vain;  
    I have spent my strength for nothing at all.  
Yet what is due me is in the LORD's hand,  
    and my reward is with my God."  
<sup>5</sup>And now the LORD says—  
    he who formed me in the womb to be his servant  
to bring Jacob back to him  
    and gather Israel to himself,  
for I am honored in the eyes of the LORD  
    and my God has been my strength—  
<sup>6</sup>he says:

God would display his splendor by the suffering of the Servant of the Lord.

“It is too small a thing for you to be my servant  
to restore the tribes of Jacob  
and bring back those of Israel I have kept.  
I will also make you a light for the Gentiles,  
that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth.”

The Word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## Children's Lesson

*Please stand.*

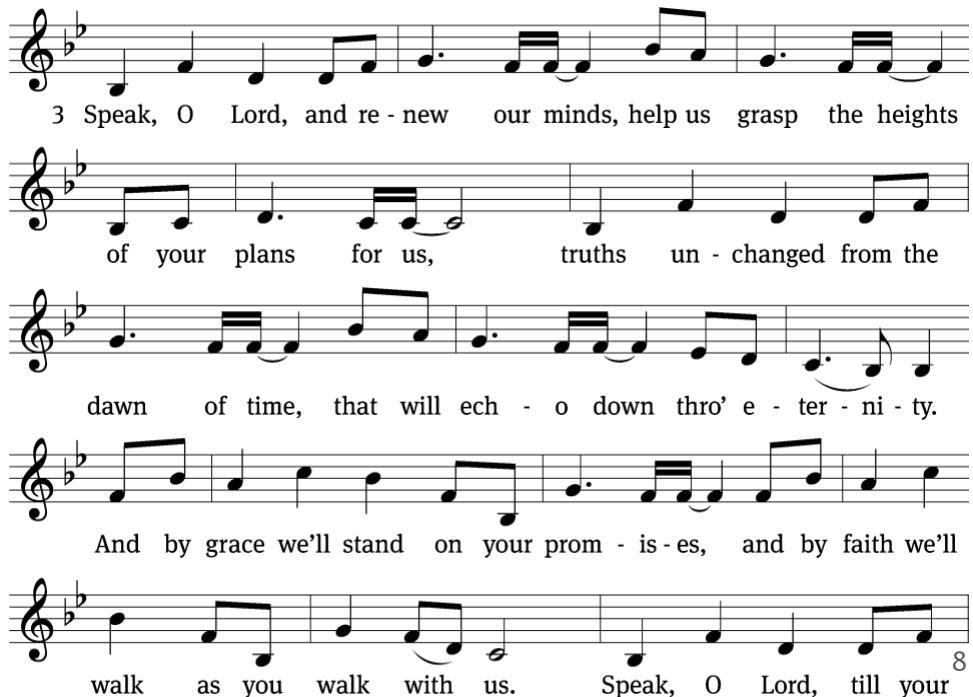
1 John 2:2

## Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia. Jesus Christ is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. Alleluia.

*Speak, O Lord st. 3*

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



3 Speak, O Lord, and re - new our minds, help us grasp the heights  
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the  
dawn of time, that will ech - o down thro' e - ter - ni - ty.  
And by grace we'll stand on your prom - is - es, and by faith we'll  
walk as you walk with us. Speak, O Lord, till your

8



Church is built, and the earth is filled with your glo - ry.

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

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

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## Gospel

*John 1:29–41*

<sup>29</sup>The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world! <sup>30</sup>This is the one I meant when I said, ‘A man who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.’ <sup>31</sup>I myself did not know him, but the reason I came baptizing with water was that he might be revealed to Israel.”

<sup>32</sup>Then John gave this testimony: “I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove and remain on him. <sup>33</sup>And I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water told me, ‘The man on whom you see the Spirit come down and remain is the one who will baptize with the Holy Spirit.’ <sup>34</sup>I have seen and I testify that this is God’s Chosen One.”

<sup>35</sup>The next day John was there again with two of his disciples. <sup>36</sup>When he saw Jesus passing by, he said, “Look, the Lamb of God!”

<sup>37</sup>When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

<sup>38</sup>Turning around, Jesus saw them following and asked, “What do you want?”

They said, “Rabbi” (which means “Teacher”), “where are you staying?”

<sup>39</sup>“Come,” he replied, “and you will see.”

So they went and saw where he was staying, and they spent that day with him. It was about four in the afternoon.

<sup>40</sup>Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother, was one of the two who heard what John had said and who had followed Jesus. <sup>41</sup>The first thing Andrew did was to find his brother Simon and tell him, “We have found the Messiah” (that is, the Christ).

As the last and greatest of the prophets, John beautifully summarizes God’s plan of salvation by pointing to Jesus and calling him the Lamb of God.

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

Please be seated.

## Hymn of the Day

*Lamb of God*

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love they cru - ci - fied, they laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died: the hum - ble King they named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

sod, and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
rod, and to be called a lamb of God.

*Refrain*

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the  
ho - ly Lamb of God! O wash me in his pre- cious  
blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958

Tune: Twila Paris, b. 1958

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## Reading

*Colossians 2:6–15*

<sup>6</sup>So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, <sup>7</sup>rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

<sup>8</sup>See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.

<sup>9</sup>For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, <sup>10</sup>and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. <sup>11</sup>In him you were also circumcised with a circumcision not performed by human hands. Your whole self ruled by the flesh was put off when you were circumcised by Christ, <sup>12</sup>having been buried with him in baptism, in which you were also raised with him through your faith in the working of God, who raised him from the dead.

<sup>13</sup>When you were dead in your sins and in the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins, <sup>14</sup>having canceled the charge of our legal indebtedness, which stood against us and condemned us; he has taken it away, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup>And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.

The Lamb of God was flesh and blood so he could be sacrificed to win forgiveness of all our sins.

## Sermon

*Colossians 2:6–15*

Public confession is faith's response to God's saving Word. Christians composed the Nicene 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.

## Nicene Creed

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is,  
seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one being with the Father.**

**Through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven,  
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary,  
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate.  
He suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures.  
He ascended into heaven**

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,  
who in unity with the Father and the Son  
is worshiped and glorified,  
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead  
and the life of the world to come. 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.**

## The Sacrament

We believe what God's Word says. God's Word clearly teaches that along with the bread and wine we receive Christ's body and blood for the forgiveness of sins (Matt. 26:26,28; Mk. 14:22,24; Lk. 22:19-22). God's Word also tells us that those who take Communion together are to:

1. Recognize that Christ's true body and blood are miraculously present in the Sacrament (1 Cor. 10:16; 11:29),
2. Examine their hearts (1 Cor. 11:28), and
3. Be united in faith with the congregation with which they commune (1 Cor. 10:17).

Therefore we ask that those who have not had the opportunity to understand our Scriptural confession would speak with the pastor before participating in the Lord's Supper this morning. If you would like to come forward to receive a blessing, simply cross your arms as the pastor approaches. It is our sincere desire to share in the blessings of the Lord's Supper with you according to the pattern Jesus himself has given in his Word.



## Introduction to the Lord's Supper

1 Cor. 11:28

Everyone ought to examine their hearts before partaking of the Lord's Supper.

Psalm 32:5

**I confessed my transgressions to the Lord and he forgave the guilt of my sin.**

1 Cor. 11:29

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

1 Cor. 10:16

**The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.**

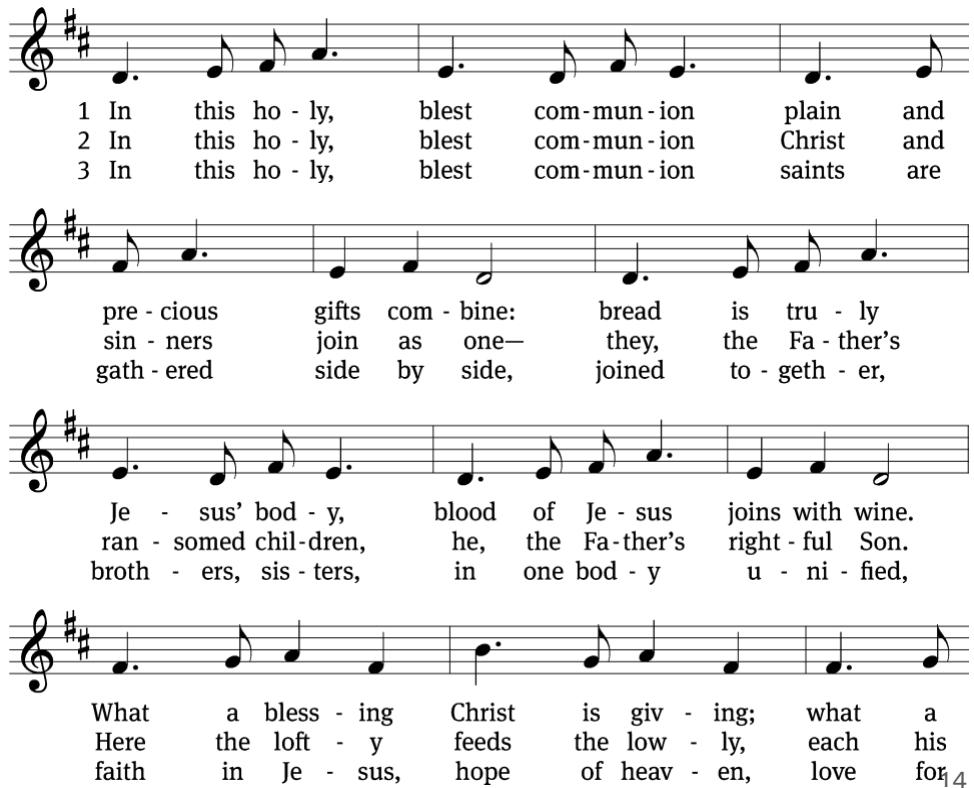
Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.

1 Cor. 10:17

**Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.**

### Hymn

*In This Holy, Blest Communion*



1 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion plain and  
2 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion Christ and  
3 In this ho - ly, blest com - mun - ion saints are

pre - cious gifts com - bine: bread is tru - ly  
sin - ners join as one— they, the Fa - ther's  
gath - ered side by side, joined to - geth - er,

Je - sus' bod - y, blood of Je - sus joins with wine.  
ran - somed chil - dren, he, the Fa - ther's right - ful Son.  
broth - ers, sis - ters, in one bod - y u - ni - fied,

What a bless - ing Christ is giv - ing; what a  
Here the loft - y feeds the low - ly, each his  
faith in Je - sus, hope of heav - en, love for 4

lov-ing, gra-cious host, in his sup- per  
high-ly cher-ished guest; here the guilt- y  
oth-ers all in-creased by the full- ness  
  
well pro-vid-ing what his peo-ple need the most!  
taste for-give-ness, here the wea-ry find their rest.  
of the ban-quet, by the rich-ness of the feast.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Welsh

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Tune: Public domain

## Words of Institution

*The pastor speaks the words of institution according to the words of 1 Corinthians 11.*

### Lamb of God

1 Lamb of God, pure and ho- ly, who on the cross did suf- fer,  
ev- er pa-tient and low- ly, your-self to scorn did of- fer.  
  
All sin you car-ried for us, else had de-spair reigned o'er us:  
have mer- cy on us, O Je- sus! O Je- sus!

John the  
Baptist  
declared Jesus  
to be God's  
Lamb, who  
was offered as  
a sacrifice for  
sin once for  
all.

## **Distribution**

*Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.*

## **Closing Prayer**

Hear the prayer of your people, O Lord, that the lips which have praised you here may glorify you in the world, that the eyes which have seen the coming of your Son may long for his coming again, and that all who have received in his true body and blood the pledge of your forgiveness may be restored to live a new and holy life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

## **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.**

## Hymn

*May the Peace of God*

1 May the peace of God our heav'n-ly Fa - ther,  
2 May this peace which pass - es un - der - stand - ing,  
and the grace of Christ the ris - en Son,  
and this grace which makes us what we are,  
and the fel - low - ship of God the Spir - it  
and this fel - low - ship of his com - mun - ion  
keep our hearts and minds with - in his love.  
make us one in spir - it and in heart.

*Refrain*

And to him be praise for his glo - rious reign  
from the depths of earth to the heights of heav'n.  
We de - clare the name of the Lamb once slain -  
Christ e - ter - nal, the King of kings.

# Announcements

## Foundations of Faith

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](mailto:pastor@peacehoughton.org)). 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.



## Upcoming Events

There is a full schedule of events for both members and students alike. You can find the schedule on the table in the fellowship hall, on the app/website, or by scanning the QR code. Here are some upcoming events to keep in mind:

- 1) **Joint Campus Ministry Retreat – January 30-31**
- 2) **All-nighter Statue Competition – February 4**

## Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
January 18	Steve	Craig	Nate	x	Kristie Vlahos	Liesel
January 25	Cody	Steve	Zack	x	Gabriela	Ivy
February 1	Steve	Cody	Nate	x	Mary Ann	Liesel
February 8	Cesar	Scott	Zack	x	Karin	help needed
February 15	Steve	Steve	Nate	x	Amy Spahn	help needed

## **Pastor out of Town**

I will be traveling to Chicago to attend the WELS Lutheran Leadership Conference. I will be out of town from Monday to Thursday. You can reach me by phone or email.

## **Wednesday Dinner Help**

Every Wednesday, the students meet for dinner and a Bible study. Please consider helping to provide a meal. The sign-up sheet is in the entryway on the blue table. It is not expected that you would pay for the meal, unless you want to. If you do purchase items for a meal, submit a receipt to Pastor Welch, and Peace will reimburse you. Reach out to Pastor Welch with any questions you may have. Thank you!



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**[Peacehoughton.org](http://Peacehoughton.org)**