

The Beginning of the End >



God is Patient

PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan

Sunday, October 4, 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: 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.

October 4: God is Patient

October 11: Guest Preacher: Nathan Strutz

October 18: Give to God What is God's

October 25: Reformation

November 1: Focus on the Future (All Saints' Day)

November 8: Watch for the Final Events

November 15: Put Your Affairs in Order

November 22: Hope for the Best

Today's Focus: *God is Patient*

When people misuse your patience or use it as a license to hurt you more, we can't help but feel slighted. Our patience wears thin. When people misuse God's patience, he continues to send his good gifts and ultimately his Son.

God is patient, even though he knows we might use it as a license to sin; yet, in his mercy, he calls us to repentance and gives the kingdom to those who recognize their sin and receive his forgiveness.

Children and Worship

What a blessing to have babies, toddlers, and preschoolers with us in worship! We welcome all ages! During the service we have a special message for young children. Parents are welcome to accompany their child up front for this message, if their child is bashful. We have reserved the back rows for families with small children. If your child becomes restless and you feel the need to leave the worship area, the service can be viewed in our parent's room. The parent's room is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Nate Crowder

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

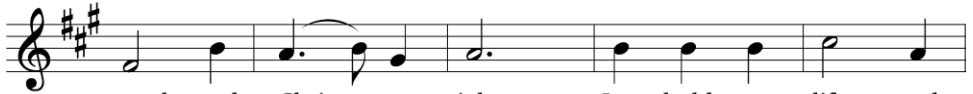
Hymn

Fight the Good Fight

The music will introduce the song by playing an entire stanza while the congregation listens. After a stanza is introduced, the congregation will join to sing.



1 Fight the good fight with all your might; Christ is your
2 Run the straight race through God's good grace; lift up your
3 Cast care a - side, lean on your guide; his bound-less
4 Faint not nor fear, his arms are near; he chang - es



strength and Christ your right. Lay hold on life, and
eyes and seek his face. Life with its way be -
mer - cy will pro - vide. Lean, and the trust - ing
not, and you are dear. On - ly be - lieve, and



it shall be your joy and crown e - ter - nal - ly.
fore us lies; Christ is the path and Christ the prize.
soul shall prove Christ is its life and Christ its love.
you will see that Christ is Lord e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811–1875, alt.

Tune: The Methodist Harmonist, New York, 1821

Text and tune: Public domain

Please stand

Invocation

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

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

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.

Psalm 32:1-2

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.**

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

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.

Glory to God

Gloria

Tune: ELLACOMBE

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 To God on high be glo - ry and peace to all the earth,
2 O Lamb of God ex - alt - ed, you take all sin a - way;

for God has shown his fa - vor in Je - sus' ho - ly birth!
ex - tend to us your mer - cy and hear us as we pray.

Al - might - y God and Fa - ther, our hum - ble thanks we bring;
With God the Ho - ly Spir - it at God the Fa - ther's throne

we wor - ship you, we bless you, Lord God, our heav'n - ly King.
you reign, O Christ, for - ev - er, for you are Lord a - lone!

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Gesangbuch der Herzogl. Hofkapelle, Württemberg, 1784

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Tune: Public domain

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, in your bountiful goodness, keep us safe from every evil of body and soul. Make us ready, with cheerful hearts, to do whatever pleases you; 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 5:1–7

¹I will sing for the one I love
a song about his vineyard:
My loved one had a vineyard
on a fertile hillside.
²He dug it up and cleared it of stones
and planted it with the choicest vines.
He built a watchtower in it
and cut out a winepress as well.
Then he looked for a crop of good grapes,
but it yielded only bad fruit.

³“Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah,
judge between me and my vineyard.

⁴What more could have been done for my vineyard
than I have done for it?
When I looked for good grapes,
why did it yield only bad?

⁵Now I will tell you
what I am going to do to my vineyard:
I will take away its hedge,
and it will be destroyed;
I will break down its wall,
and it will be trampled.
⁶I will make it a wasteland,
neither pruned nor cultivated,
and briers and thorns will grow there.
I will command the clouds
not to rain on it.”

⁷The vineyard of the LORD Almighty
is the nation of Israel,
and the people of Judah
are the vines he delighted in.
And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed;
for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

The Lord
pictures his
patient love in
a story about
the owner of a
vineyard.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Philippians 3:12–21

God prompts
us to respond
to his grace by
living
differently
from the
enemies of
the cross of
Christ.

¹²Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

¹⁵All of us, then, who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you.

¹⁶Only let us live up to what we have already attained.

¹⁷Join together in following my example, brothers and sisters, and just as you have us as a model, keep your eyes on those who live as we do. ¹⁸For, as I have often told you before and now tell you again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Ephesians 2:10

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. For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works. Alleluia.



Gospel

Matthew 21:33-43

³³“Listen to another parable: There was a landowner who planted a vineyard. He put a wall around it, dug a winepress in it and built a watchtower. Then he rented the vineyard to some farmers and moved to another place. ³⁴When the harvest time approached, he sent his servants to the tenants to collect his fruit.

³⁵“The tenants seized his servants; they beat one, killed another, and stoned a third. ³⁶Then he sent other servants to them, more than the first time, and the tenants treated them the same way. ³⁷Last of all, he sent his son to them. ‘They will respect my son,’ he said.

³⁸“But when the tenants saw the son, they said to each other, ‘This is the heir. Come, let’s kill him and take his inheritance.’ ³⁹So they took him and threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

⁴⁰“Therefore, when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those tenants?”

⁴¹“He will bring those wretches to a wretched end,” they replied, “and he will rent the vineyard to other tenants, who will give him his share of the crop at harvest time.”

⁴²Jesus said to them, “Have you never read in the Scriptures:

“The stone the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone;
the Lord has done this,
and it is marvelous in our eyes’?

⁴³“Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

Jesus tells the parable of the tenants to call leaders to repentance.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Christ the Vine



- 1 I long to serve my Sav - ior, to seek what's good and right,
- 2 There came, with grace un - spar - ing, a vine from heav'n a - bove,
- 3 And so I'll serve my Sav - ior with pow'r that he pro-vides,



to trust and nev - er wa - ver, to walk in truth and light.
its branch-es meant for bear - ing the fruits of self - less love.
for he, my blest Re - deem - er, with - in my soul a - bides.



But con - duct pure and ho - ly re - quires a pow'r not mine;
This vine is Christ who of - fered his life up - on a tree;
The fruit of self - less giv - ing will grow by God's de - sign



a branch is fruit - ful on - ly when an - chored in a vine.
for all my sin he suf - fered and made a branch of me.
as I, the branch, keep liv - ing by faith in Christ the vine.

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963

Tune: Irish

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Sermon

Matthew 21:33-43

Please stand

Nicene Creed

Credo

**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.**

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.

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

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

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

1 Cor. 11:28

Psalms 32:5

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

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

1 Cor. 11:29

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

1 Cor. 10:16

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

1 Cor. 10:17

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Tune: ELLACOMBE



1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,



your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!



Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!



in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Sanctus means "holy." This canticle echoes the song that the seraphim (six-winged angels) sang before Isaiah. The angels sang the triple "holy," giving glory to our Triune God. The Sanctus has been used in celebration of the Lord's Supper since the second century.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

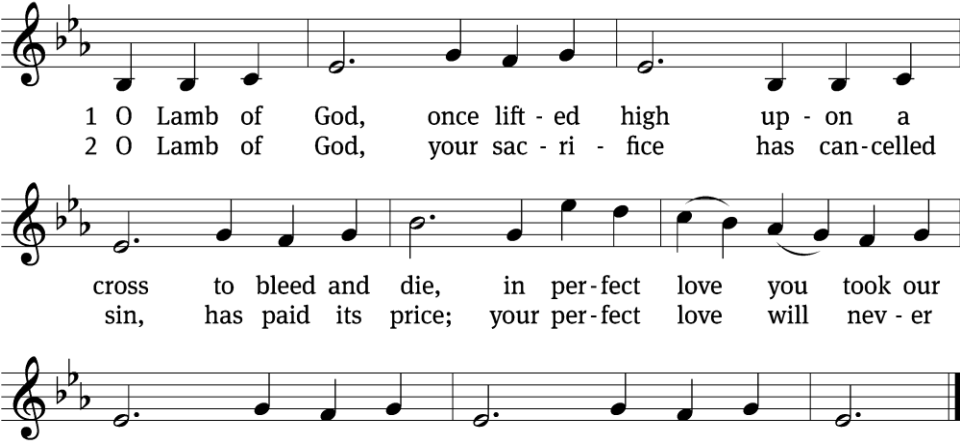
The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

Tune: SUANTRAI

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



1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled

cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you took our
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will nev - er

place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn

Take and Eat

Refrain



Take and eat, take and eat, this is my bod - y



giv - en up for you. Take and drink, take and drink,



this is my blood giv - en up for you.



- 1 I am the Word that spoke and light was made;
- 2 I am the way that leads the ex - ile home;
- 3 I am the Lamb that takes a - way your sin;
- 4 I am the cor - ner - stone that God has laid;



I am the seed that died to be re - born;
I am the truth that sets the cap - tive free;
I am the gate that guards you night and day;
a cho - sen stone and pre - cious in his eyes;



I am the bread that comes from heav'n a - bove;
I am the life that rais - es up the dead;
you are my flock: you know the shep - herd's voice;
You are God's dwell - ing - place, on me you rest;



Refrain

I am the vine that fills your cup with joy.
I am your peace, true peace my gift to you.
you are my own: your ran - som is my blood.
like liv - ing stones, a tem - ple for God's praise.

- 5 I am the light that came into the world;
I am the light that darkness cannot hide;
I am the Morning Star that never sets;
lift up your face, in you my light will shine. (Refrain)
- 6 I am the first and last, the Living One;
I am the Lord who died that you might live;
I am the bridegroom, this my wedding song;
you are my bride, come to the marriage feast. (Refrain)

Text (sts. 1–6): James Quinn, SJ, 1919–2010; (Ref): Michael Joncas, b. 1951

Tune: Michael Joncas, b. 1951

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Closing Prayer

Psalms 118:1

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

His mercy endures forever.

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

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

Jerusalem the Golden



- 1 Je - ru - sa - lem the gold - en, with milk and hon - ey blest—
- 2 O sweet and bless - ed coun - try, the home of God's e - lect!
- 3 The Christ is ev - er with them, the day-light is se - rene;



the sight of it re - fresh - es the wea - ry and op - pressed.
O sweet and bless - ed coun - try that ea - ger hearts ex - pect,
the pas - tures of the bless - ed are ev - er rich and green.



I know not, oh, I know not what joys a - wait us there,
where they who with their lead - er have con - quered in the fight
There is the throne of Da - vid, and there, from care re - leased,



what ra - dian - cy of glo - ry, what bliss be - yond com - pare:
for - ev - er and for - ev - er are clad in robes of white:
the shout of them that tri - umph, the song of them that feast.



to sing the hymn un - end - ing with all the mar - tyr throng,
in mer - cy, Je - sus, bring us to that dear land of rest
To God en - throned in glo - ry the Church's voic - es blend,



a - midst the halls of Zi - on re - sound - ing full with song.
where sings the host of heav - en your glo - rious name to bless.
the Lamb for - ev - er bless - ed, the Light that knows no end.

Text: Bernard of Cluny, 12th cent., abr.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.

Tune: Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

Text and tune: Public domain

Announcements

You're Invited!

You're invited to stay a few minutes after worship for snacks and refreshments. We would love to get to know you! Join us!

Voter's Meeting

We will hold our quarterly Voter's Meeting next **Sunday, October 11th** following the worship service. Everyone is encouraged to attend.

Fall Clean Up

On **Saturday, October 17th** starting at 9:00 AM, we will have a Fall Clean- Up Day! We will be working around the church property sprucing things up before winter. Come for all or part of the morning!



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.

You're Invited!

You're invited to stay a few minutes after worship for snacks and refreshments. We would love to get to know you!

Wednesday Meals

We have several slots still open for Wednesday dinners. Please consider providing a meal this semester. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. You can sign up on the table in the entryway or contact Judy Limpert at 507-273-5535 if you have any questions.

Upcoming Events

The semester events are found below. All these events are in addition to the weekly Wednesday dinner and Bible study. You can find more information about events on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Sunday, Oct 11:	Hike after church
Saturday Oct 17:	Make A Difference Day
Sunday Nov 1:	Baking for Bake Sale
Tuesday, Nov 3:	Bake Sale
Saturday, Nov 7:	Pickleball Tournament
Wednesday, Nov 18:	Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, Dec 5:	Christmas Canvassing and Dinner
Friday, Dec 11:	Christmas Caroling



Serving Our Lord and Us Today

Usher Team 3 – Cody Stopel, Scott Miers, Ben Fischer

Counter – Steve Krug

Livestream/Music – Nate Crowder

Snacks – Karin Cooper

Children's Ministry – Liesel Fiebke

Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, October 7th

Student Dinner – Gronevelt

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, October 11th

Usher Team 1 Craig Hughes, Andy Hastreiter, Dan Salo

Counter – Cody Stopel

Livestream/Music – Judy Limpert

Snacks – Amy Spahn

Children's Ministry – Kenzie Hnilicka



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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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.