



Reformation Sunday: Stay Steadfast

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, October 25, 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.

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: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

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. "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: Stay Steadfast

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: Stay Steadfast

"Jesus told his followers, "You will be hated by everyone because of me" (Matthew 10:22). So, the time between Christ's first and second coming is going to be perilous for believers. A good example: Martin Luther. All that priest wanted was to share the pure gospel with the world. For trying to do just that, both political and religious leaders wanted to end his life. The Festival of the Reformation emphasizes our unfailing reliance on the Word of God. We give unflinching testimony to that Word even in the face of persecution. Today we pray that the Lord would keep us steadfast in the faith."



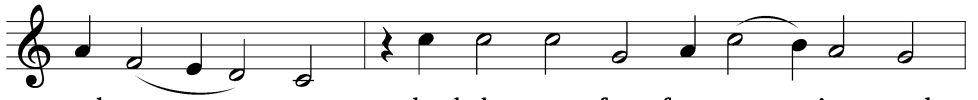
THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

A Mighty Fortress is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a trust - y shield
2 With might of ours can naught be done, soon were our loss
3 Though dev - ils all the world should fill, all ea - ger to
4 The Word they still shall let re - main nor an - y thanks



and weap - on; he helps us free from ev - 'ry need
ef - fect - ed; but for us fights the val - iant one
de - vour us, we trem - ble not, we fear no ill;
have for it; he's by our side up - on the plain



that has us now o'er - tak - en. The old
whom God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask,
they shall not o - ver - pow'r us. This world's
with his good gifts and Spir - it. And take



e - vil foe now means dead - ly woe;
"Who is this?" Je - sus Christ it is,
prince may still scowl fierce as he will,
they our life, goods, fame, child, and wife,



deep guile and great might are his dread arms in fight;
the al - might - y Lord, and there's no oth - er God;
he can harm us none. He's judged; the deed is done;
though all may be gone, our vic - to - ry is won;



on earth is not his e - qual.
he holds the field for - ev - er.
one lit - tle word can fell him.
the king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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.

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

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 in the Highest

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."

The choir will introduce the refrain, and then the congregation will sing it a second time and after each verse.

Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, glo-ry to God in the
high - est! Glo - ry, glo-ry to God, and peace to his
peo - ple on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer, receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. **Refrain**

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Prayer of the Day

Gracious Lord, our refuge and strength, pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your Word, protect and comfort them in all temptations, defend them against all their enemies, and bestow on the Church your saving peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated

The Word

First Reading

Daniel 6:10–12, 16–23

¹⁰Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before. ¹¹Then these men went as a group and found Daniel praying and asking God for help. ¹²So they went to the king and spoke to him about his royal decree: “Did you not publish a decree that



Loyalty and obedience to God will often be met by persecution from the world.

during the next thirty days anyone who prays to any god or human being except to you, Your Majesty, would be thrown into the lions' den?"

The king answered, "The decree stands—in accordance with the law of the Medes and Persians, which cannot be repealed."

¹⁶So the king gave the order, and they brought Daniel and threw him into the lions' den. The king said to Daniel, "May your God, whom you serve continually, rescue you!"

¹⁷A stone was brought and placed over the mouth of the den, and the king sealed it with his own signet ring and with the rings of his nobles, so that Daniel's situation might not be changed. ¹⁸Then the king returned to his palace and spent the night without eating and without any entertainment being brought to him. And he could not sleep.

¹⁹At the first light of dawn, the king got up and hurried to the lions' den. ²⁰When he came near the den, he called to Daniel in an anguished voice, "Daniel, servant of the living God, has your God, whom you serve continually, been able to rescue you from the lions?"

²¹Daniel answered, "May the king live forever! ²²My God sent his angel, and he shut the mouths of the lions. They have not hurt me, because I was found innocent in his sight. Nor have I ever done any wrong before you, Your Majesty."

²³The king was overjoyed and gave orders to lift Daniel out of the den. And when Daniel was lifted from the den, no wound was found on him, because he had trusted in his God.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

¹⁹Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. ²⁰Therefore no one will be declared righteous in God's

The central message of the Christian faith - law and gospel; sin and grace - is a truth worth holding to and dying for.

sight by the works of the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of our sin.

²¹But now apart from the law the righteousness of God has been made known, to which the Law and the Prophets testify. ²²This righteousness is given through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference between Jew and Gentile, ²³for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴and all are justified freely by his grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus. ²⁵God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through the shedding of his blood—to be received by faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his forbearance he had left the sins committed beforehand unpunished— ²⁶he did it to demonstrate his righteousness at the present time, so as to be just and the one who justifies those who have faith in Jesus.

²⁷Where, then, is boasting? It is excluded. Because of what law? The law that requires works? No, because of the law that requires faith. ²⁸For we maintain that a person is justified by faith apart from the works of the law.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10

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



Alleluia. Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom. Alleluia.



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

Gospel

Matthew 10:16-23

Jesus
promises that
his Church will
face
persecution
and that the
gospel will
spread
through it.

¹⁶"I am sending you out like sheep among wolves. Therefore be as shrewd as snakes and as innocent as doves. ¹⁷Be on your guard; you will be handed over to the local councils and be flogged in the synagogues. ¹⁸On my account you will be brought before governors and kings as witnesses to them and to the Gentiles. ¹⁹But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, ²⁰for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.

²¹"Brother will betray brother to death, and a father his child; children will rebel against their parents and have them put to death. ²²You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. ²³When you are persecuted in one place, flee to another. Truly I tell you, you will not finish going through the towns of Israel before the Son of Man comes.

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

Hymn of the Day

Reformation Song

1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,
2 Thro' faith a - lone we come to you;
3 In Christ a - lone we're jus - ti - fied;

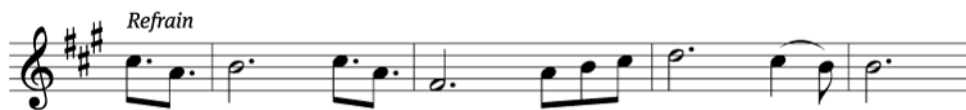
the might - y rock on which we build.
we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,
Sure that your prom - is - es are true,
Your law's de - mands are sat - is - fied;



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled. v. 2
we place our hope in Je - sus' name.
his per - fect work has set us free.



Refrain
Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

- 4 By grace alone we have been saved;
all that we are has come from you.
Hearts that were once by sin enslaved
now by your pow'r have been made new. (Refrain)

- 5 And on this Reformation Day
we join with saints of old to sing;
we lift our hearts as one in praise:
glory to Christ our gracious King. (Refrain)

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Sermon

Matthew 22:15-22

Please stand

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.

Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.**

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

Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

1 Lord, keep us stead - fast in your Word; curb those who
2 Lord Je - sus Christ, your pow'r make known, for you are
3 O Com - fort - er of price - less worth, send peace and

by de - ceit or sword would seek to o - ver - throw your
Lord of lords a - lone; de - fend your Chris - ten - dom that
u - ni - ty on earth; sup - port us in our fi - nal

Son and to de - stroy what he has done.
we may sing your praise e - ter - nal - ly.
strife and lead us out of death to life.

You're Invited

You are invited to join us after worship for snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We'd love to get to know you. Join us!

Wednesday Meals

We have a few slots still open for Wednesday dinners this semester. These meals are part of our Wednesday evening Bible study. Please consider providing a meal. 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. Either is just fine. Sign up early to get your choice of days. You can sign up on the table in the entryway or speak to Judy Limpert, (507-273-5535) if you have any questions.

Thanksgiving Dinner: Wednesday, November 18

On Wednesday, November 18th at 6:00 PM, Peace is hosting a Thanksgiving, potluck-style meal for students and members alike. Students and members can sign up to bring food for the meal. If you're interested in providing food, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway. Everyone is welcome to join us for good food and even better conversation.



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.



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.

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 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, Ed Beiring, Ben Fischer, Scott Miers
Counter – Steve Krug
Livestream/Music – Zack Sickmann
Snacks – Heathe Platzke



Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, October 28th

Student Dinner –Limpert

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, November 1st

Usher Team 1 Craig Hughes, Andy Hastreiter, Dan Salo
Counter – Cody Stopel
Livestream/Music – Judy Limpert
Snacks – Leslie Thyron / Janet Olson
Children's Ministry – Carolina Grady



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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.