



Truth / Freedom
(Reformation Sunday)

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, October 26, 2025

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: Cause and Effect

October 19: Generosity / Gratitude

October 26: Truth / Freedom

November 2: Sainthood / Stamina

November 9: Grace / Joy

November 16: Judgment / Peace

November 23: Scripture / Anticipation

Series Theme: Cause and Effect

“Every why hath a wherefore.” That was Shakespeare’s poetic way of saying that very little happens by chance. Generally there is an agent behind an action. There is cause and effect. And to navigate life well, it is vital we understand both. If you want to effect a healthy heart, you need to know the causes of heart disease. Before a major purchase causes you to go into debt, you need to think about the effect it will have on your budget. If you want the peace of being close to God, you need to know what causes that effect. Again, to navigate life well, it is vital we understand cause and effect.

We are nearing the end of the Church Year. This past year, we have reviewed Jesus’ life and teaching. The Scripture readings in these final weeks recall some of the major themes that are woven throughout the Church Year. In this final series we will be looking at those themes with the understanding that “every why hath a wherefore.” We conclude the year by talking about cause and effect in God’s kingdom.

Today’s Focus: *Truth / Freedom*

Many people believe that freedom means being able to do whatever you want. Jesus teaches that is absolutely false. “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free” (John 8:31,32). Jesus says that living however you want does not make you free. In fact, if you take that attitude toward life you will end up a slave. You will only be free— spiritually, emotionally, eternally—“If you hold to my teaching” and therefore “know the truth.” Truth is the cause that effects freedom.

A key principle Martin Luther established through the Reformation is sola scriptura, Scripture alone. Who or what is the final arbiter of the truth that provides freedom? Scripture alone. Heirs of the Reformation still bind themselves to Scripture. Does restricting ourselves in this manner curtail freedom? Just the opposite is true. God’s truth brings freedom from slavery to sinful delusions and the burden of guilt. This week we celebrate this cause and effect—the truth sets us free!



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Hymn

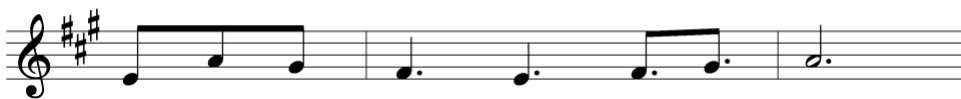
Reformation Song sts. 1-2, Ref, 3



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;



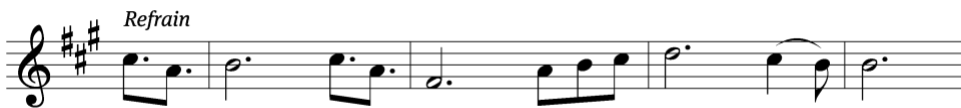
the might - y rock on which we build.
we have no mer - it we can claim.
his right - eous - ness is all our plea.



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.

Please stand

Invocation

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

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.**

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

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.

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 forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

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 to God

Reformation Song sts. Ref, 4-5

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."

4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;
5 And on this Ref - or - ma - tion Day

all that we are has come from you.
we join with saints of old to sing;

Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved
we lift our hearts as one in praise:

now by your pow'r have been made new.
glo - ry to Christ our gra - cious King.

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.

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.**

The Word



Jeremiah 31:31–34

First Reading

³¹“The days are coming,” declares the LORD,
“when I will make a new covenant
with the people of Israel
and with the people of Judah.

³²It will not be like the covenant
I made with their ancestors
when I took them by the hand
to lead them out of Egypt,
because they broke my covenant,
though I was a husband to them,”
declares the LORD.

³³“This is the covenant I will make with the people of Israel
after that time,” declares the LORD.

“I will put my law in their minds
and write it on their hearts.
I will be their God,
and they will be my people.

³⁴No longer will they teach their neighbor,
or say to one another, ‘Know the LORD,’
because they will all know me,
from the least of them to the greatest,”
declares the LORD.

“For I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.”

The truth of
God’s new
covenant of
grace
transforms
our hearts so
we freely and
gladly follow
God’s will.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Gospel Acclamation

Speak, O Lord sts. 2-3

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

true hu - mil - i - ty; test our thoughts and our
of your plans for us, truths un - changed from the

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.

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

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.

Gospel Reading

John 8:31–36

³¹To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. ³²Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

³³They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?”

³⁴Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin.

³⁵Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. ³⁶So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.

The truth of
the gospel
sets us free.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

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!

Second Reading

Galatians 5:1–6

¹It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law. ⁴You who are trying to be justified by the law have been alienated from Christ; you have fallen away from grace. ⁵For through the Spirit we eagerly await by faith the righteousness for which we hope. ⁶For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision has any value. The only thing that counts is faith expressing itself through love.

St. Paul encourages us to stand firm in the freedom that we receive in the truth about Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Galatians 5:1–6

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.

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.**

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!

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 pray 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

Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or
imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory
in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and
ever!

Ephesians 3:20-21

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

Numbers 6:22

The Lord look on you with favor and T give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

In Christ Alone



1 In Christ a - lone my hope is found; he is my
 2 In Christ a - lone, who took on flesh, full - ness of
 3 There in the ground his bod - y lay, light of the
 4 No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the



light, my strength, my song; this cor - ner - stone, this sol - id
 God in help - less babe; this gift of love and right - eous -
 world by dark - ness slain; then burst - ing forth in glo - rious
 pow'r of Christ in me; from life's first cry to fi - nal



ground, firm through the fierc - est drought and storm.
 ness, scorned by the ones he came to save.
 day, up from the grave he rose a - gain!
 breath, Je - sus com - mands my des - ti - ny.



What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are
 Till on that cross as Je - sus died, the wrath of
 And as he stands in vic - to - ry, sin's curse has
 No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man can ev - er



stilled, when striv - ings cease! My com - fort - er, my all in
 God was sat - is - fied; for ev - 'ry sin on him was
 lost its grip on me; for I am his and he is
 pluck me from his hand; till he re - turns or calls me



all; here in the love of Christ I stand.
 laid; here in the death of Christ I live.
 mine, bought with the pre - cious blood of Christ.
 home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand.

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). 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

The semester events are found below. For some of these, signing up is required since space is limited. To sign up, find the event on the Peace Lutheran Houghton app, or the website. The QR code will bring you to the event page on the website.

Saturday, Nov 1:	Pickleball tournament – sign up required
Saturday, Nov 8:	Laser tag – sign up required
Wednesday, Nov 19:	Thanksgiving dinner
Saturday, Dec 6:	Christmas canvassing and dinner



Council Meeting after Worship, November 9

After worship on November 2, the Council will meet for 30-45 minutes.

Sermon Discussion Guide

On the table by the entryway, you will find a stack of sermon discussion guides. These are intended for you and your family to take home as weekly devotional materials, allowing you to meditate on the sermon throughout the week. Take one with you as you exit today.

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!

Pastor Appreciation Month

Churches throughout our country have designated October as “Pastor Appreciation Month”. It is good for a congregation to remember, pray for, and encourage their pastor. Scripture gives us the encouragement “Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you “Hebrews 13:7a and “The elders (pastors) who lead well should be considered worthy of double honor especially the ones who work hard in word and doctrine.” ¹ Timothy 5:17

In answer to our church body’s call, Peace Lutheran has formed a Called Worker Care Committee (CWCC) to assist the congregation and its leadership in encouraging and supporting our pastor along with his family in their important work. In keeping with this mission of supporting and encouraging our pastor, the CWCC will be setting a basket out in the back of the church for our members to place notes, cards and/or gifts of encouragement to Pastor, Grace and children. Remember your prayers and words of encouragement mean very much to our pastor and his family.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
October 26	Cody	Steve	Nate	x	Sarah Robb	Grace
November 2	Steve	Cody	Nate	Zack	Lesley/Janet	Liesel
November 9	Cesar	Scott	Zack	x	Gabriela	
November 16	Steve	Craig	Nate	Zack	Mary Ann	Liesel
November 23	Cody	Steve	Zack	x	Amy Hughes	Ivy



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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.