



exactly
what i need

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, March 1, 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: Exactly What I Need

I didn't know I needed that" is a common expression of surprise and realization. It suggests that something, whether it's a piece of information, a lesson learned, or a newfound understanding, has come to light and is now recognized as being essential or valuable, even if it wasn't previously apparent.

Lent is the season of the Church Year when I recognize my greatest needs. During Lent, I realize that in Christ all my greatest needs are met. God knows what I need even when I don't have any idea. The Holy Spirit makes it clear, week after week, that if I lack Christ, I have nothing. But if I have Christ, I have exactly what I need.

Lent Worship Series Schedule: Exactly What I Need

Ash Wednesday (February 18): Forgiveness

February 22: A Champion

March 1: Faith

March 8: Water

March 15: Sight

March 22: Life



Today's Focus: *Faith*

I recognize that I need to be saved. When Jesus said, "No one can enter the kingdom of God," that included me. I do not deserve God's blessing. But long ago, God declared that I would be blessed by a descendant of Abraham who turned out to be Jesus. The blessing is salvation. I receive that salvation by faith in Jesus as my Savior. The good news is that faith is also God's gift, imparted to me through the gospel.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Zack Sickmann

Pastor of Peace: Pastor Welch



THE SERVICE

Hymn

Before the Throne of God Above



1 Be - fore the throne of God a - bove I have a
2 When Sa - tan tempts me to de - spair and tells me
3 Be - hold him there, the ris - en Lamb, my per - fect,



strong and per - fect plea; a great High Priest whose name is
of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see him
spot - less right - eous - ness, the great un - change - a - ble I



Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
there who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
AM, the King of glo - ry and of grace. At one with



grav - en on his hands, my name is writ - ten on his
sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
him, I can - not die; my soul is pur - chased by his



heart. I know that while in heav'n he stands no tongue can
free; for God the just is sat - is - fied to look on
blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ my



bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
him and par - don me, to look on him and par - don me.
Sav - ior and my God, with Christ my Sav - ior and my God.

Please stand.

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

When God's children rebel against him and wander from his ways, he desires that they return to him for pardon and peace through his Son. The courts of heaven resound with joy when a single wayward child returns home.

There is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.

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

Luke 15:10

Children of God, the time to turn to our Father for forgiveness is now. God made Christ our sin that we might become his righteousness. He implores us to be reconciled to him, promising:

**In the time of my favor I heard you,
and in the day of salvation I helped you.**

2 Corinthians
5:21-6:2

Response

Today Your Mercy Calls Us st. 1

To - day our Fa - ther calls us, his Ho - ly Spir - it waits;
his bless - ed an - gels gath - er a - round the heav'n - ly gates.
No ques - tion will be asked us how of - ten we have come;
al - though we oft have wan - dered, it is our Fa - ther's home.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.
**Merciful Father in heaven,
I am altogether sinful from birth.
In countless ways I have sinned against you
and do not deserve to be called your child.
But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray:
Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love.
Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

Silence for reflection

Our Father assures all who approach his throne of grace that none will be turned away. He swore through his prophets of long ago:

**"I will forgive their wickedness
and will remember their sins no more.**

Jeremiah 31:34

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.

God's promise of forgiveness was fulfilled through the life, death, and resurrection of his Son Jesus Christ. As our great high priest, he was tempted as we are, yet was without sin. In his death on the cross, he redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us. Since there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, 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.**



To - day your gate is o - pen, and all who en - ter in
shall find a Fa - ther's wel - come and par - don for their sin.
The past shall be for - got - ten, a pres - ent joy be giv'n,
a fu - ture grace be prom - ised, a glo - rious crown in heav'n.

6

Lord, Have Mercy

Kyrie

In peace let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For minds set on heavenly things, for hearts that long for heavenly glory, and for the will to bear our earthly crosses, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy

For the gifts of humility and repentance, for faith that finds security in Christ and does not use God's patience as an excuse for sin, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For hearts set free from the condemnation of the law, for minds governed by the Spirit and not the flesh, and for lives devoted to what pleases God, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For perspective to see that gain is loss apart from Christ and loss is gain in Christ and for perseverance to press on to take hold of our heavenly prize, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

O all-em-brac-ing Mer-cy, O ev-er-o-pen Door,
what should we do with-out you when heart and eye run o'er?
When all things seem a-gainst us, to drive us to de-spair,
we know one gate is o-pen, one ear will hear our prayer.

Having received the gift of the Lord's forgiveness, we now make our requests on the basis of his mercy.

Throughout the service, titles like "Kyrie refer to the Latin names for the ancient text of the church's liturgy.



The Word

Prayer

Almighty God, you see that we have no power to defend ourselves. Guard and keep us both outwardly and inwardly from all adversities that may happen to the body and all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

First Reading

Genesis 12:1–8

¹The LORD had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.

²“I will make you into a great nation,
and I will bless you;

I will make your name great,
and you will be a blessing.

³I will bless those who bless you,
and whoever curses you I will curse;
and all peoples on earth
will be blessed through you.”

⁴So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he set out from Harran. ⁵He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there.

⁶Abram traveled through the land as far as the site of the great tree of Moreh at Shechem. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷The LORD appeared to Abram and said, “To your offspring I will give this land.” So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.

⁸From there he went on toward the hills east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. There he built an altar to the LORD and called on the name of the LORD.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord gave
Abram the gift
of faith to
believe the
promise that
one of his
descendants
would be a gift
for the whole
world.

Children's Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 4:1–5,13–17

¹What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, discovered in this matter? ²If, in fact, Abraham was justified by works, he had something to boast about—but not before God. ³What does Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was credited to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to the one who works, wages are not credited as a gift but as an obligation. ⁵However, to the one who does not work but trusts God who justifies the ungodly, their faith is credited as righteousness.

¹³It was not through the law that Abraham and his offspring received the promise that he would be heir of the world, but through the righteousness that comes by faith. ¹⁴For if those who depend on the law are heirs, faith means nothing and the promise is worthless, ¹⁵because the law brings wrath. And where there is no law there is no transgression.

¹⁶Therefore, the promise comes by faith, so that it may be by grace and may be guaranteed to all Abraham’s offspring—not only to those who are of the law but also to those who have the faith of Abraham. He is the father of us all. ¹⁷As it is written: “I have made you a father of many nations.” He is our father in the sight of God, in whom he believed—the God who gives life to the dead and calls into being things that were not.

Abraham is an example of how salvation is received as a gift through faith.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

Gospel Acclamation

John 3:16



Refrain



Glo - ry to you, Lord Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Normally, we prepare to hear the words and works of Jesus by standing and singing “Alleluia” – praise the Lord.

During Lent, “alleluias” are omitted.

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Refrain

Gospel

John 3:1–17

By sharing the
good news of
God's love for
the world,
Jesus gave the
gift of faith.

¹Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴“How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

⁹“How can this be?” Nicodemus asked.

¹⁰“You are Israel’s teacher,” said Jesus, “and do you not understand these things? ¹¹Very truly I tell you, we speak of what we know, and we testify to what we have seen, but still you people do not accept our testimony. ¹²I have spoken to you of earthly things and you do not believe; how then will you believe if I speak of heavenly things? ¹³No one has ever gone into heaven except the one who came from heaven—the Son of Man. ¹⁴Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the wilderness, so the Son of Man must be lifted up, ¹⁵that everyone who believes may have eternal life in him.”

¹⁶For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Please be seated.

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World So That He Gave



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ is the sol - id rock of faith, who was made
3 God would not have the sin - ner die; his Son with
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives the



Son the lost to save that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death. All who con - fide in
sav - ing grace is nigh. His Spir - it in the
sins that you have done. You're jus - ti - fied by



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
him a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
Word de - clares that we in Christ are heav - en's heirs.
Je - sus' blood; bap - tized, you are a child of God.

5 If you are sick, if death is near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus saves my soul from death;
this is the anchor of my faith!

6 Glory to God the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessèd Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Text: Heiliges Lippen- und Hertzens-Opfer, Stettin, c. 1778; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923; alt.

Tune: George J. Elvey, 1816–1893

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Genesis 12:1–8

Nicene Creed

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.

**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

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

1 Cor. 11:28

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

Psalms 32:5

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

1 Cor. 11:29

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

1 Cor. 10:16

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



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

Angus Dei



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.**

Numbers 6:22-27

Hymn

402 My Faith Looks Up to Thee



- 1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
- 2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart;
- 3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
- 4 When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; take all my
my zeal in - spire! As thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide. Bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll, blest Sav - ior, then, in love, fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; O bear me safe a - bove, a ran-somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808-1887
Tune: Lowell Mason, 1792-1872
Text and tune: Public domain

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

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.



Midweek Lenten Services and Dinner

During the season of Lent, we will hold midweek Lenten services every Wednesday from February 18 to March 25. Dinners will be served at 5:00, and the services will start at 6:00.

If you are interested in helping to serve a meal, please see the sign-up sheet on the table in the entryway.

Sunday Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Piano	Snacks	Children's Ministry
March 1	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	x	Sarah Robb	Grace
March 4 (Midweek)	Cody	Scott	Mary Ann	x		NA
March 8	Cesar	Craig	Mary Ann	x	Lesley/Janet	help needed
March 11 (Midweek)	Cody	Steve	Zack	x		NA
March 15	Steve	Cody	Nate	x	Gabriela	help needed
March 18 (Midweek)	Cody	Scott	Zack	x		NA
March 29	Cesar	Craig	Nate	x	Amy Hughes	help needed



PEACE

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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.