



PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelism Sunday

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Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, October 11, 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!

We welcome Pastor Nathan Strutz as our guest preacher this morning and thank him for his message from God's Word. You can read his bio information at the end of the service folder.

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. 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, which is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Judy Limpert

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

Guest Preacher: Pastor Nathan Strutz

THE ORDER OF SERVICE



Baptism Gathering Rite

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

**Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.**

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

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born
of water and the Spirit.

John 3:5,6

Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Surely we were sinful at birth, sinful from the time our mothers conceived
us.

Psalm 51:5

**But we were washed, we were sanctified, we were justified in the
name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God.**

1 Cor 6:11

**My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.**

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.

As baptized children of God, we confess our sins.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.**

Eph. 5:25-27

Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 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.
Amen.

**All that I am and love most dearly—
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely,
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.**



Baptism of Josephine Jolie Beiring

In obedience to the command of our Lord and trusting in his promise, you have brought Josephine to be baptized. Jesus told us: “Let the little children

come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.” It is in baptism that God grants the new life of forgiveness, joy, and peace to little children. By the power of God’s Word, this gracious water of life washes away sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe.

Josephine Jolie Beiring, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Receive the sign of the cross on the head and heart † to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ has given you the new birth of water and the Spirit and has forgiven all your sins. May he strengthen you with his grace all the days of your life. Peace be with you.

Brothers and sisters in Christ: Our Lord commands that we teach his precious truths to all who are baptized. Christian love therefore urges all of us, especially parents and sponsors, to assist in whatever manner possible so that Josephine may remain a child of God until death.

If you are willing to carry out this responsibility, then answer: Yes, as God gives me strength.

Yes, as God gives me strength.

Let us pray: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Help us to regard our baptism as the robe of righteousness we are to wear all the days of our life. Look with special favor on Josephine and grant her a rich measure of your Spirit that she may grow in faith and godly living. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized, so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

Hymn

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
 2 Sin, dis - turb my soul no long - er: I am bap-tized
 3 Sa - tan, hear this proc - la - ma - tion: I am bap-tized
 4 Death, you can - not end my glad-ness: I am bap-tized
 5 There is noth - ing worth com - par - ing to this life - long



in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my
 in - to Christ! I have com - fort e - ven strong - er: Je - sus'
 in - to Christ! Drop your ug - ly ac - cu - sa - tion, I am
 in - to Christ! When I die, I leave all sad - ness to in -
 com - fort sure! O - pen - eyed my grave is star - ing: e - ven



full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?
 cleans-ing sac - ri - fice. Should a guilt - y con-science seize me
 not so soon en - ticed. Now that to the font I've trav - eled,
 her - it par - a - dise! Though I lie in dust and ash - es
 there I'll sleep se - cure. Though my flesh a - waits its rais - ing,



I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -
 since my bap - tism did re - lease me in a dear for -
 all your might has come un - rav - eled, and, a - gainst your
 faith's as - sur - ance bright - ly flash - es: Bap - tism has the
 still my soul con - tin - ues prais - ing: I am bap - tized



va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!
 giv - ing flood, sprink-ling me with Je - sus' blood?
 tyr - an - ny, God, my Lord, u - nites with me!
 strength di - vine to make life im - mor - tal mine.
 in - to Christ; I'm a child of par - a - dise!

The Word



First Reading

Isaiah 49:6-7

⁶ he says:

“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.”

⁷ This is what the LORD says—
the Redeemer and Holy One of Israel—
to him who was despised and abhorred by the nation,
to the servant of rulers:
“Kings will see you and stand up,
princes will see and bow down,
because of the LORD, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Second Reading

2 Corinthians 5:14-21

¹⁴ For Christ’s love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died. ¹⁵ And he died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for him who died for them and was raised again.

¹⁶ So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way, we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world

to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

2 Corinthians 5:21

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. God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. Alleluia.



Gospel

John 21:1-6

Afterward Jesus appeared again to his disciples, by the Sea of Galilee. It happened this way: ² Simon Peter, Thomas (also known as Didymus), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples were together. ³ "I'm going out to fish," Simon Peter told them, and they said, "We'll go with you." So they went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

⁴ Early in the morning, Jesus stood on the shore, but the disciples did not realize that it was Jesus.

⁵ He called out to them, “Friends, haven’t you any fish?”

“No,” they answered.

⁶ He said, “Throw your net on the right side of the boat and you will find some.” When they did, they were unable to haul the net in because of the large number of fish.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

O Christians, Haste



1 O Chris - tians, haste, your mis - sion high ful - fill - ing,
2 Be - hold how man - y thou - sands still are ly - ing
3 Pro - claim to ev - 'ry peo - ple, tongue, and na - tion
4 Send her - als forth to bear the mes - sage glo - rious,



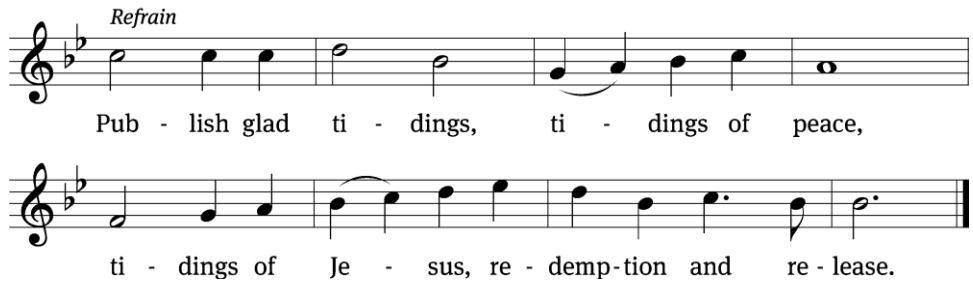
to tell to all the world that God is light,
bound in the drear - y pris - on - house of sin
that God, in whom they live and move, is love;
give of your wealth to speed them on their way;



that he who made all na - tions is not will - ing
with none to tell them of the Sav - ior's dy - ing
tell how he stooped to save his lost cre - a - tion
pour out your soul for them in prayer vic - to - rious;



one soul should per - ish, lost in shades of night.
or of the life he died for them to win.
and died on earth that they might live a - bove.
O Chris - tians, haste to bring the bright - er day!



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Sermon

John 21:1-6

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Apostle's Creed

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.

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

Reception of New Members



Friends in Christ,

After a review and instruction in the simple teachings of the Bible and our Lutheran church, you have requested to become members of this congregation. You have come to worship today to confess your unity with us and to take your place as a part of this faith community. I now ask you:

Do you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior? If so, answer: I do.
I do.

Do you believe that the teachings of the Evangelical Lutheran Church and this congregation, as you have come to know them, are faithful to the Word of God? If so, answer: I do.
I do.

Do you desire to remain faithful to the teachings of Christ, be diligent in the use of God's Word and sacraments, and lead a godly life as the Lord gives you strength? If so, answer: I do, and I ask God to help me.
I do, and I ask God to help me.

Is it your desire to join us in worship and mission and support this work with your prayers and gifts? If so, answer: It is, and I ask God to help me.
It is, and I ask God to help me.

With sincere joy we welcome you as members of Peace Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Brothers and sisters, as we welcome these new members to our Christian family, I encourage you in the name of Jesus to keep them in your minds, hold them in your hearts, and pray for them again and again. Show them the face of friendship and offer them a hand of support. Encourage them

with your “works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.”

The peace of Christ be with us all. Amen.

Gracious Father, we thank you for leading Ryan Kraus and Gavin Spaulding to desire to become members of our congregation and for giving them joy to confess their faith to us. Guide us with your wisdom as we worship and work together. Mold our minds and hearts in a single Christ-like will so that we may be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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!

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.

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

O Church, Arise

1 O Church, a - rise and put your ar - mor on; hear the
2 Our call to war—to love the cap - tive soul, but to
3 Come see the cross, where love and mer - cy meet, as the
4 So Spir - it come, put strength in ev - 'ry stride, give—

call of Christ our cap - tain.	For now the weak can say that
rage a-against the cap - tor;	and with the sword that makes the
Son of God is strick - en;	then see his foes lie crushed be -
grace for ev - 'ry hur - dle,	that we may run with faith to

they are strong in the strength that God has giv - en.
wound - ed whole we will fight with faith and val - or.
neath his feet, for the Con - quer - or has ris - en!
win the prize of a ser - vant good and faith - ful.

With shield of faith and belt of truth we'll stand a -
When faced with trials on ev - 'ry side, we know the
And as the stone is rolled a - way, and Christ e -
As saints of old still line the way, re - tell - ing

gainst the dev - il's lies; an ar - my bold whose bat - tle
out - come is se - cure, and Christ will have the prize for
merg - es from the grave, this vic - t'ry march con - tin - ues
tri - umphs of his grace, we hear their calls and hun - ger

cry is love, reach-ing out to those in dark - ness.
 which he died— an in - her - it - ance of na - tions.
 till the day ev - 'ry eye and heart shall see him.
 for the day when with Christ we stand in glo - ry.

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 Today

We will hold our quarterly Voter's Meeting today 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.

Wednesday Meals

We have several slots still open for Wednesday dinners. Sign up early to get your choice of times. You can sign up on the table in the entryway. Contact Judy Limpert, (507-273-5535) if you have any questions.



Upcoming Events

The semester events can be found by scanning the QR code. 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.

Serving Our Lord and Us Today

Usher Team 1 Craig Hughes, Andy Hastreiter, Dan Salo

Counter – Cody Stopel

Livestream/Music – Judy Limpert

Snacks – Amy Spahn

Children's Ministry – Kenzie Hnilicka

Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, October 14th

Student Dinner – Welch

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, October 18th

Usher Team 2 – Steve Krug

Counter – Scot Miers

Livestream/Music – Zack Sickmann

Snacks – Sarah Robb

Children's Ministry – **Help Needed**

Guest Preacher Nathan Strutz

Nathan Strutz was born in Freeport, Illinois. He was declared God's child at baptism at six days old. Nathan attended Lutheran school in Racine, WI, for grade school and Shoreland Lutheran High School. While in high school, the encouragement of parents, pastors, and teachers gave him the desire to study for the pastoral ministry. Nathan enrolled at Northwestern College in Watertown, WI, in 1989 and graduated in 1993.

While at the seminary in Mequon, WI, he met his future wife, Elizabeth Wierschke. They were married July 1, 1995. Nathan served his vicar year at St. Thomas in Phoenix, AZ. This year, the seeds of a Spanish-speaking congregation were sown, one that continues to this day. Nathan's first call was to a dual parish in Holmen and Galesville, WI. After a new site of the Galesville congregation was started in Arcadia, WI, Pastor Strutz continued serving the multi-site congregation in Galesville and Arcadia until 2010, when he accepted a call to Resurrection in Verona, WI. Resurrection was blessed to start a new congregation in Mt. Horeb, the first WELS church named Good News. Later, a church in Monroe, WI, merged with Resurrection in Verona to become a multi-site church. In 2022, Pastor Strutz accepted a call to serve at Tree of Life in Cary, North Carolina. A new mission in the Sandhills, NC was started. Given his experience in starting new churches, accepting the call to serve as mission counselor was not a difficult decision.

Pastor and Elizabeth are blessed with two sons, Caleb and Elijah. Caleb serves Jesus as a pastor in the Evangelical Lutheran Synod in Winter Haven, Florida. Caleb and his wife are blessed with four children. Elijah serves Jesus as an accountant in Milwaukee, WI. Elijah was married in July of 2026.



PEACE

LUTHERAN CHURCH

47745 Mill Rd.
Houghton, MI 49931

Office: 906-482-1602

Pastor Welch's Cell: 906-231-6835

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.