



God's Word Divides

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, August 24, 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: Wounds that Heal

August 24: God's Word Divides

August 31: The Door Is Very Narrow

September 7: Those Who Exalt Themselves Will Be Humbled

September 14: Count the Cost

September 21: The Found are Left; the Lost are Found

September 28: No One Can Serve Two Masters

October 5: What Helps In Life Fails in Death

October 12: Increased Faith Increases Duty

Series Theme: *Wounds that Heal*

Not all wounds are bad. A skilled surgeon takes a deadly sharp scalpel and cuts through flesh and muscle. The result of that wound: not harm, but healing. In the same way, we often say that words cut us to the heart. Words can wound. Sometimes, however, those painful words provide the very healing we need.

“Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem” (Luke 13:22). Jesus knows that when he gets to Jerusalem, he is going to die. So, with a sense of extreme urgency, Jesus shares truths we need to hear, even though it hurts to hear them. In this series, we might not like everything that Jesus says. Yet, to ignore what Jesus teaches is to court eternal death. Hard as it may be, let us listen and take all that Jesus says to heart. For while Jesus speaks words that wound us, his intent is to heal our very soul.

Today’s Focus: *God’s Word Divides*

We often divide humanity into groupings that are not really significant: this ethnic group versus that one, men versus women, wealthy versus poor. Yet, every ethnic group is under God’s law. That law equally convicts men and women of sin. Because of sin, both the wealthy and poor will die. Only through faith in Christ is sin forgiven and the sting of death removed. God’s Word creates that saving faith, but not in everyone who hears it. Fallen mankind retains the awful power to reject the Word and God’s gift of faith. Therefore, God’s Word produces the only people distinction that matters—believers and unbelievers. We desire to live in peace with other people. But Jesus teaches, this side of heaven, that desire is a pipe dream. Those who embrace the gospel in faith will inevitably face hostility. Following Jesus will come at a price. Yet he promises that our perseverance will be rewarded.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, August 24, 2025

God's people long to gather together for strength from God and for mutual encouragement. This alternate beginning for worship is intended to prepare God's people to witness the Sacrament of Baptism and contemplate its continued blessings.

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

Invocation

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

Baptism Gathering Rite

**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.**

John 3:5,6

I tell you the truth, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless he is born
of water and the Spirit.
Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit.

Psalms 51:5

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

1 Corinthians
6:11

**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.**

**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.**

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.**

God saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit and united us to the death and resurrection of Jesus. Every day God forgives your sins, removes your guilt, and strengthens you to defeat Satan's power. His promise is for you and your children, and he will never forsake you. Your sins are forgiven. You are clothed with Christ. You are at peace with God now and forever. 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 T 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.

**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.**



The Sacrament of Holy Baptism

Our Savior Jesus Christ commanded Baptism when he said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Scripture makes plain the need for Baptism. As children of Adam, we belong to a fallen race. From our parents we inherit a sinful nature, and we would be lost forever unless delivered by our Lord Jesus Christ. He willingly took on himself the curse of sin, and by his death on the cross he redeemed us and all people. It is the Father’s will that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and he will raise them up at the Last Day.

Christ’s almighty Word gives Baptism its power to save. Jesus promises in the last chapter of Mark, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” The apostle Peter declares, “Baptism now saves you.” Scripture also teaches that the power and promise of Baptism are intended for young and old alike. On the day of Pentecost, the apostle testified, “The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.” By water and the Spirit, we are born again and are united with Christ and his people as members of the Church.

Let us pray.

Holding firmly to your command and promise, we ask that you would look with favor on Joaquín Solórzano. Through this water of Baptism, drown in him all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil he may do. Set him apart from the unbelieving world, and hold him safe and secure in the holy ark of the Church. Keep him always fervent in spirit and joyful in hope so that he may honor your holy name and at last receive, together with all your people, the promised inheritance of eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Joaquín Luis-Ricardo Solórzano, 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 T 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.

The Word

First Reading

Jeremiah 23:23–29

²³“Am I only a God nearby,”
declares the LORD,
“and not a God far away?”
²⁴Who can hide in secret places
so that I cannot see them?”
declares the LORD.
“Do not I fill heaven and earth?”
declares the LORD.



The Word of
the Lord
divides what is
true from
what is false.

²⁵“I have heard what the prophets say who prophesy lies in my name. They say, ‘I had a dream! I had a dream!’ ²⁶How long will this continue in the hearts of these lying prophets, who prophesy the delusions of their own minds? ²⁷They think the dreams they tell one another will make my people forget my name, just as their ancestors forgot my name through Baal worship. ²⁸Let the prophet who has a dream recount the dream, but let the one who has my word speak it faithfully. For what has straw to do with grain?” declares the LORD. ²⁹“Is not my word like fire,” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer that breaks a rock in pieces?”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:1–13

The Hebrews who converted to Christianity were often divided from their friends and separated from their livelihood. How would they persevere? By fixing their eyes on Jesus.

¹Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ²fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. ³Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. ⁵And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says,

“My son, do not make light of the Lord’s discipline,
 and do not lose heart when he rebukes you,
⁶because the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
 and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.”

⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? ⁸If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all. ⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much

more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live! ¹⁰They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, in order that we may share in his holiness. ¹¹No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

¹²Therefore, strengthen your feeble arms and weak knees. ¹³"Make level paths for your feet," so that the lame may not be disabled, but rather healed.

heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. ³⁴For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Thy Strong Word sts. 1-4



1 Thy strong word did cleave the dark - ness; at thy
 2 Lo, on those who dwelt in dark - ness, dark as
 3 Thy strong Word be - speaks us right - eous; bright with
 4 From the cross thy wis - dom shin - ing break - eth



speak - ing it was done. For cre - at - ed light we
 night and deep as death, broke the light of thy sal -
 thine own ho - li - ness, glo - rious now, we press toward
 forth in con - qu'ring might; from the cross for - ev - er



thank thee while thine or - dered sea - sons run.
 va - tion, breathed thine own life - giv - ing breath.
 glo - ry, and our lives our hopes con - fess.
 beam - eth all thy bright re - deem - ing light.

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to
 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia! Praise to

thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,
 thee who light dost send! Al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!
 al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia with - out end!

Text: Martin H. Franzmann, 1907–1976

Tune: Thomas J. Williams, 1869–1944

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Gospel

Luke 12:49–53

Jesus was fully aware that his work would cause division that often cut close to home.

⁴⁹“I have come to bring fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! ⁵⁰But I have a baptism to undergo, and what constraint I am under until it is completed! ⁵¹Do you think I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, but division. ⁵²From now on there will be five in one family divided against each other, three against two and two against three. ⁵³They will be divided, father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

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 + give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

Fight the Good Fight



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

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.

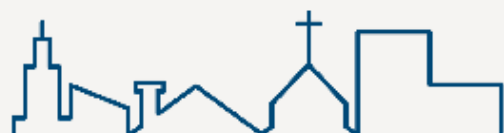
Everyone Outreach

Peace is participating in an exciting new program called Everyone Outreach. The program will help us build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is encouraged and equipped to reach the lost in our community. Everyone Outreach kicks off with an interactive 2-day workshop on September 6-7 at Peace. Each participant will leave the workshop with sustainable ways to personally help build our congregation's outreach culture. **Register for the workshop by signing up at the table in the entryway at church.**

We encourage every member of our congregation to attend the workshop and participate. In fact, the more members that attend, the more likely it is that our culture shift towards more effective outreach will be successful!

Welcome Back, Students!

Whether you have been attending Peace for years or this is your first time, we are so happy you are here! Our church was literally built to serve students like you. We host free dinners and Bible studies every week at 6:00 as well as several events throughout the semester. Please take a half-sheet from the back of the sanctuary and fill out your information, and we will keep you updated on all things campus ministry throughout the year. God bless your school year!



EVERYONE OUTREACH

BUILDING A CONGREGATIONAL OUTREACH CULTURE

Everyone Outreach is designed to help our congregation build a culture of outreach so that every ministry and every member is thinking about and participating in outreach.

DATES:	September 6-7
TIMES:	September 6: 9:00am-1:30pm & September 7: 9:00-10:00am
LOCATION:	Peace Fellowship Hall
CONTACT:	Pastor@peacehoughton.org 906-231-6835

WHAT TO EXPECT

Everyone Outreach is designed to reveal the unconscious and invisible thought habits we hold and provide participants with unique insights to help begin the journey of transformation.



EXERCISES

Memorable activities designed to help participants' discover and consider their thought habits.



GROUNDED IN GOD'S WORD

Each culture concept explored in the workshop is supported by the transforming power of scripture.



READY TO GO

Participants will leave the workshop with sustainable ways that they can personally help build the congregation's outreach culture.



DISCUSSIONS

Thought-provoking discussions and questions to help participants think differently about resources, roles and mindsets.



ENGAGEMENT & SUPPORT

A system designed to provide ongoing engagement and implementation of the program beyond the workshop.

Learn more at
everyoneoutreach.com



WELS
Lutheran Church in America



Scan to find out more.





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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.