



The Door Is Very Narrow

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, August 31, 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: *The Door Is Very Narrow*

When it comes to the uncomfortable topic of who goes to heaven and who goes to hell, it is natural to want to avoid the issue. One way we do that is to direct our attention to more theoretical questions. “What is heaven like?” “How old will we be there?” Today someone asks, “Lord, are only a few going to be saved?” Jesus brushes all such questions aside. Instead, he answers the question we should be asking. “How might I be saved?” Jesus explains there is only one way—entering through a very narrow door. Jesus’ words cut deep! For he teaches that it is very easy to develop a false sense of security about our standing before God based on some superficial familiarity we have with him. Jesus warns that many who think they are on the path to heaven will end up shut out. These wounding words of Jesus provide healing, pushing us toward that narrow door: faith in him.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE FOR

Sunday, August 31, 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 Ruby Gronevelt. Through this water of Baptism, drown in her all sin inherited from Adam and any other evil she may do. Set her apart from the unbelieving world, and hold her safe and secure in the holy ark of the Church. Keep her 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.

Ruby Annette Gronevelt, 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

Isaiah 66:18–24

¹⁸“And I, because of what they have planned and done, am about to come and gather the people of all nations and languages, and they will come and see my glory.

¹⁹“I will set a sign among them, and I will send some of those who survive to the nations—to Tarshish, to the Libyans and Lydians (famous as archers), to Tubal and Greece, and to the distant islands that have not heard of my fame or seen my glory. They will proclaim my glory among the nations. ²⁰And they will bring all your people, from all the nations, to my

Many of those closest to God’s saving acts will reject them and perish. Meanwhile, many who seemed to be far from the kingdom will hear of God’s grace, believe, and be saved.

holy mountain in Jerusalem as an offering to the LORD—on horses, in chariots and wagons, and on mules and camels,” says the LORD. “They will bring them, as the Israelites bring their grain offerings, to the temple of the LORD in ceremonially clean vessels. ²¹And I will select some of them also to be priests and Levites,” says the LORD.

²²“As the new heavens and the new earth that I make will endure before me,” declares the LORD, “so will your name and descendants endure.

²³From one New Moon to another and from one Sabbath to another, all mankind will come and bow down before me,” says the LORD. ²⁴“And they will go out and look on the dead bodies of those who rebelled against me; the worms that eat them will not die, the fire that burns them will not be quenched, and they will be loathsome to all mankind.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Second Reading

Hebrews 12:18–24

Entering the narrow door into eternal life has nothing to do with keeping the Law of Moses. It has everything to do with Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant, who paid for our sin with his blood.

¹⁸You have not come to a mountain that can be touched and that is burning with fire; to darkness, gloom and storm; ¹⁹to a trumpet blast or to such a voice speaking words that those who heard it begged that no further word be spoken to them, ²⁰because they could not bear what was commanded: “If even an animal touches the mountain, it must be stoned to death.” ²¹The sight was so terrifying that Moses said, “I am trembling with fear.”

²²But you have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, ²³to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the Judge of all, to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, ²⁴to Jesus the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day

Christ, the Sure and Steady Anchor



1 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor in the
 2 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor while the
 3 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor through the
 4 Christ, the sure and stead - y an - chor as we



fu - ry of the storm— when the winds of doubt blow
 tem - pest ra - ges on— when temp - ta - tion claims the
 floods of un - be - lief— hope - less, some - how, O my
 face the wave of death— when these trials give way to



through me and my sails have all been torn,
 bat - tle and it seems the night has won,
 soul now, lift your eyes to Cal - va - ry.
 glo - ry and we draw our fi - nal breath,



in the suf - f'ring, in the sor - row, when my
 deep - er still then goes the an - chor, though I
 This my bal - last of as - sur - ance, see his
 we will cross that great ho - ri - zon, clouds be -
 Christ, the shore of our sal - va - tion, ev - er



sink - ing hopes are few, I will hold fast to the
 just - ly stand ac - cused; I will hold fast to the
 love for - ev - er proved; I will hold fast to the
 hind and life se - cure, and the calm will be the
 faith - ful, ev - er true— we will hold fast to the



an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.
 bet - ter, for the storms that we en - dure.
 an - chor; it shall nev - er be re - moved.

4th stanza repeat italics

Gospel

Luke 13:22–30

Jesus urges,
“Make every
effort to enter
through the
narrow door.”

²²Then Jesus went through the towns and villages, teaching as he made his way to Jerusalem. ²³Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?”

He said to them, ²⁴“Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to. ²⁵Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, ‘Sir, open the door for us.’

“But he will answer, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from.’

²⁶“Then you will say, ‘We ate and drank with you, and you taught in our streets.’

²⁷“But he will reply, ‘I don’t know you or where you come from. Away from me, all you evildoers!’

²⁸“There will be weeping there, and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, but you yourselves thrown out. ²⁹People will come from east and west and north and south, and will take their places at the feast in the kingdom of God. ³⁰Indeed there are those who are last who will be first, and first who will be last.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Luke 13:22–30

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.

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.**

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.**

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.

Blessing

Ephesians 3:20-21

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!

Numbers 6:22

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 T give you peace.

Amen.

Hymn

By Grace I'm Saved



- 1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; my soul, be -
- 2 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, came down to
- 3 By grace! O mark this word of prom - ise when you are
- 4 By grace to tim - id hearts that trem - ble, in trib - u -
- 5 By grace! On this I'll rest when dy - ing; in Je - sus'



lieve and doubt it not. Why wa - ver at this word of
earth to bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own
by your sins op - pressed, when Sa - tan plagues your trou - bled
la - tion's fur - nace tried, by grace, de - spite all fear and
prom - ise I re - joice, for though I know my heart's con -



prom - ise? Has Scrip - ture ev - er false-hood taught? So then this
mer - it that Je - sus died, your soul to win? No, it was
con-science, and when your heart is seek - ing rest. What rea - son
trou - ble, the Fa - ther's heart is o - pen wide. Where could I
di - tion, I al - so know my Sav - ior's voice. My heart is



word must true re - main: by grace you, too, shall heav'n ob - tain.
grace, and grace a - lone, that brought him from his heav'n - ly throne.
can - not com - pre-hend God by his grace to you did send.
help and strength se - cure if grace were not my an - chor sure?
glad, all grief has flown since I am saved by grace a - lone.

Text: Christian L. Scheidt, 1709–1761, abr.; tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.

Tune: Cornelius H. Dretzel, 1697–1775

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

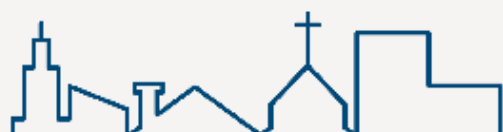
If you would like to give an online offering today, please scan the QR code. All online donations are safe and go directly to Peace.



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!



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.



GROUNDING 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



Scan to find out more.



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.