



**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

***Christians Answer Doubt with Faith***

**PEACE**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan  
Sunday, June 7, 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!

## **Today's Focus: *Blessings Are Cursed; Curses Are Blessed***

"This is good. That is bad." We often think life is that simple. We believe we can assess a situation accurately determine if it is positive or negative. It's hubris. As Jesus gathered followers, he taught them that his kingdom runs exactly opposite to the principles and priorities of the world. Therefore, much that we think is good is bad, and vice-versa.

If we want to accurately see the world, we need to have this epiphany. That which the world considers a blessing can often be a curse. Things like success and wealth and health can lead us away from our God. We become so enamored with those blessings that we forget about the Blessor. Conversely, there are hidden blessings in what we would normally consider curses. When we fail, when we suffer, and when things don't go our way, it forces us to put our trust in God and for our souls to be satisfied in him. The reality is that perceived blessings can be cursed and perceived curses can be used for our blessing.

## **Service Participants:**

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

# THE ORDER OF SERVICE



## Hymn

*Immovable Our Hope Remains*



1 Im - mov - a - ble our hope re - mains,      though shift - ing sands be -  
2 This is e - ter - nal life: to know      the liv - ing God and  
3 The Lord ac - quits, who can con - demn?      Though Sa - tan's ac - cu -  
4 Built in - to Christ, se - cure we stand,      for with his Spir - it



fore us lie;      the One who washed a - way our stains      shall  
Christ, the Son.      The Sav - ior will not let us go un -  
sa - tions fly,      his pow'r can nev - er reach our names,      to  
we've been sealed;      by grace we'll see the prom - ised land      where



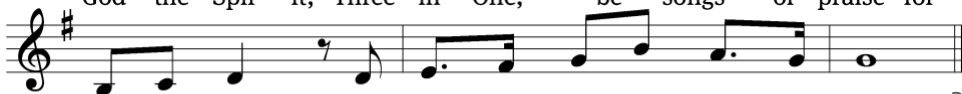
bear us safe - ly to the skies.      The floods may rise, the  
til his sav - ing work is done.      Our debt was great, as  
blot them from the Book of Life.      The Son has sure - ly  
ev - 'ry sor - row shall be healed.      To God who gave his



winds may beat,      tor - ren - tial rains de - scend,      yet  
was our need,      but now the price is paid.      Who  
made us free,      his Word for - ev - er stands,      and  
on - ly Son,      to Je - sus Christ, our Lord      to



God his own will not for - get;      he'll love and keep us  
can be - hold Im - man - uel bleed      and doubt his will - ing -  
all our joy is know - ing we      are grav - en on his  
God the Spir - it, Three in One,      be songs of praise for -



till the end.      You'll love and keep us till the end.      3  
ness to save?      We trust your will - ing - ness to save.  
wound - ed hands.      We're grav - en on your wound - ed hands.  
ev - er - more.      We'll sing your praise for - ev - er - more.

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

Please stand

## Invocation

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

## Confession and Absolution

1 John 1:8

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

1 John 1:9

**If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just  
and will forgive us our sins  
and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

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.

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*

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved.

Therefore, it is by Christ's command and with his authority that I say to you what God says to you: In the name of Jesus † your sins are forgiven.

1 John 3:1

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us that we should be called the children of God.

**And that is what we are! Thanks be to God!**

# Glory to God



1 Your Word a - lone is sol - id ground,  
4 By grace a - lone we have been saved;



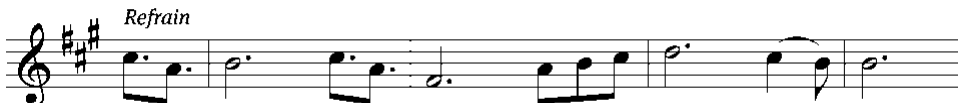
the might - y rock on which we build.  
all that we are has come from you.



In ev - 'ry line the truth is found,  
Hearts that were once by sin en - slaved



and ev - 'ry page with glo - ry filled.  
now by your pow'r have been made new.



*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.

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."

Text: Bob Kauflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

Tune: Bob Kauflin, b. 1955; Tim Chester, b. 1967

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## Prayer

Almighty and most merciful God, preserve us from all harm and danger that we, being ready in both body and soul, may cheerfully accomplish what you want done; 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

## The Word

### First Reading

1 Kings 19:9–18

A blessed life  
is not  
connected to  
outward  
circumstances  
like health or  
wealth.  
Rather, the  
one who is  
blessed is the  
one who has  
been given  
the gift of  
faith, whose  
trust is in the  
Lord.

<sup>9</sup>There he went into a cave and spent the night.

And the word of the LORD came to him: “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>10</sup>He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>11</sup>The LORD said, “Go out and stand on the mountain in the presence of the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.”

Then a great and powerful wind tore the mountains apart and shattered the rocks before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind. After the wind there was an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

<sup>12</sup>After the earthquake came a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire. And after the fire came a gentle whisper. <sup>13</sup>When Elijah heard it, he pulled his cloak over his face and went out and stood at the mouth of the cave.

Then a voice said to him, “What are you doing here, Elijah?”

<sup>14</sup>He replied, “I have been very zealous for the LORD God Almighty. The Israelites have rejected your covenant, torn down your altars, and put your prophets to death with the sword. I am the only one left, and now they are trying to kill me too.”

<sup>15</sup>The LORD said to him, “Go back the way you came, and go to the Desert of Damascus. When you get there, anoint Hazael king over Aram. <sup>16</sup>Also, anoint Jehu son of Nimshi king over Israel, and anoint Elisha son of

Shaphat from Abel Meholah to succeed you as prophet. <sup>17</sup>Jehu will put to death any who escape the sword of Hazael, and Elisha will put to death any who escape the sword of Jehu. <sup>18</sup>Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel—all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.”

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Children’s Lesson

### Second Reading

*Romans 8:31–39*

<sup>31</sup>What, then, shall we say in response to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? <sup>32</sup>He who did not spare his own Son, but gave him up for us all—how will he not also, along with him, graciously give us all things? <sup>33</sup>Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. <sup>34</sup>Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us. <sup>35</sup>Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? <sup>36</sup>As it is written:

“For your sake we face death all day long;  
we are considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”

<sup>37</sup>No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. <sup>38</sup>For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, <sup>39</sup>neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

In all times,  
good or bad,  
God carries  
out his perfect  
plan for our  
glory and  
salvation.

# Gospel Acclamation

Hebrews 11:1

Alleluia. Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 1

For centuries in preparation for hearing the Gospel, Christians have sung or spoken "Alleluia!" and a Scripture verse reinforcing the theme of the day.

1 Speak, O Lord, as we come to you to re - ceive the food  
of your ho - ly Word; take your truth, plant it  
deep in us, shape and fash - ion us in your like - ness,  
that the light of Christ might be seen to-day in our acts of  
love and our deeds of faith. Speak, O Lord, and ful -  
fill in us all your pur - pos-es for your glo - ry.

## Gospel

Matthew 14:22–33

<sup>22</sup>Immediately Jesus made the disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowd. <sup>23</sup>After he had dismissed them, he went up on a mountainside by himself to pray. Later that night, he was there alone, <sup>24</sup>and the boat was already a considerable distance from land, buffeted by the waves because the wind was against it.

<sup>25</sup>Shortly before dawn Jesus went out to them, walking on the lake.

<sup>26</sup>When the disciples saw him walking on the lake, they were terrified. “It’s a ghost,” they said, and cried out in fear.

<sup>27</sup>But Jesus immediately said to them: “Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.”

<sup>28</sup>“Lord, if it’s you,” Peter replied, “tell me to come to you on the water.”

<sup>29</sup>“Come,” he said.

Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. <sup>30</sup>But when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, “Lord, save me!”

<sup>31</sup>Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him. “You of little faith,” he said, “why did you doubt?”

<sup>32</sup>And when they climbed into the boat, the wind died down. <sup>33</sup>Then those who were in the boat worshiped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”

In the account of Peter walking on water, we see how quickly doubts arise and how graciously Jesus answers them.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ!**

# Hymn of the Day

*Be Still, My Soul*



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; bear pa-tient-  
2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take to guide the  
3 Be still, my soul; when dear-est friends de - part and all is  
4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on when we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; leave to your God to or - der  
fu - ture as he has the past; your hope, your con - fi - dence, let  
dark - ened in the vale of tears, then you will bet - ter know his  
be for - ev - er with the Lord, when dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; in ev - 'ry change he faith - ful will re -  
noth - ing shake; all now mys - te - rious shall be bright at  
love, his heart, who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your  
fear are gone, sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly friend  
last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know  
fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay  
stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.  
his voice who ruled them while he lived be - low.  
from his own full - ness all he takes a - way.  
all safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

Text: Catharina A. von Schlegel, 1697–1752, abr.; tr. Jane L Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.

Tune: Jean Sibelius, 1865–1957, adapt.

Text and tune: Public domain

*Please stand*

**Nicene Creed**

*Credo*

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.**

Psalm 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.

**Because there is one loaf, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one loaf.**

1 Cor. 10:17

## 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

John the Baptist declared Jesus to be God's Lamb, who was offered as a sacrifice for sin once for all.

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!

## Distribution

*Please be seated after the song. Communicants will come forward at the usher's direction after the song.*

## Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;

*Psalms 118:1*

**His mercy endures forever.**

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. **Amen.**

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

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

*Numbers 6:22-27*

The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace. **Amen.**

# Hymn

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

*4th stanza repeat italics*



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.

# Announcements

## 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](mailto: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.



## Volunteer Schedule

Date	Usher	Counter	Computer	Snacks
June 7	Steve	Craig	Mary Ann	Kristie Vlahos
June 14	Cody	Steve	Mary Ann	Karin
June 21	Steve	Cody	Mary Ann	Amy Spahn
June 28		Scott	Mary Ann	Heather

## Congregational Meeting Next Sunday

On June 14, there will be a congregational meeting immediately after worship. There are three major items to discuss and vote on. 1) The building project update/the hiring of an architectural firm, 2) the 2026-2027 budget, and 3) the new administrative assistant position. All congregational meetings are important, but this one on June 14 is one you do not want to miss. What we decide in this meeting will influence the work of our church for many years to come.

## **New Administrative Assistant Position**

As mentioned above, Peace is looking to hire an administrative assistant. This position is pending the approval of the budget at the congregational meeting on June 14. More details about this position will come later, but for now, you can know that this person will be responsible for many of the day-to-day tasks that help our church run effectively. If you are interested in learning more, please speak to pastor Welch.

## **New June Bible Study Format**

Currently, all adults are invited to join our Sunday morning Bible study at 9:00 AM.

**Special June Women's Fellowship Hour:** Beginning June 7 through June 28, we're introducing a new Women's Fellowship Hour that will temporarily replace our regular Sunday Bible study format.

**Women and Children:** Join us at the parsonage for a short devotion, snacks, and meaningful fellowship while the children play. This special time is designed for all women in our congregation—whether you have children or not, you're welcome! Just walk past the campus house and follow the path to the parsonage.

**Men:** During the Women's Fellowship Hour, men will gather in the fellowship hall for a men's Bible study.

This four-week program offers a wonderful opportunity to strengthen our friendships while providing focused fellowship time for both men and women. Mark your calendars and plan to join us!

## **June Newsletter**

The Newsletters are available for pickup at the back of the sanctuary.





# 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](mailto:pastor@peacehoughton.org)

**[Peacehoughton.org](http://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.