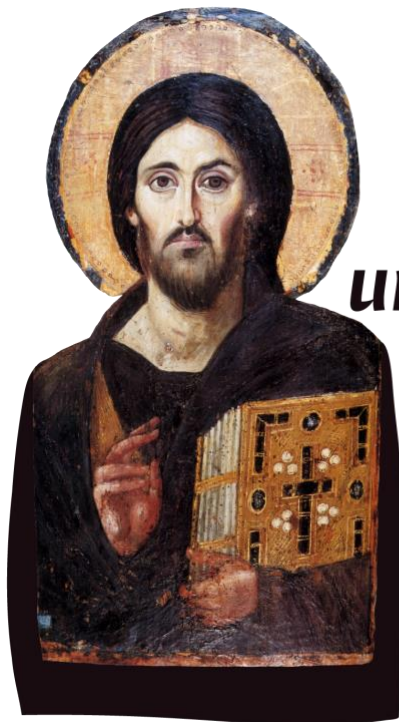




unexpected
TRUTHS

Cross Comes Before Crown

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, August 30, 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.

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!

Current Worship Series: Unexpected Truths

The opening lines of the United States Declaration of Independence boldly assert that certain truths are “self-evident”—truths accessible to human reason and widely recognized by observation of the world. Among these are that all people are created equal and possess unalienable rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. The founders appealed to principles they believed reasonable people could recognize simply by

reflecting on human nature and justice. These truths were meant to be obvious, clear to the mind, and persuasive in the public square.

Lutherans, however, note that the most important truths revealed in the Bible are not self-evident at all. In fact, they frequently appear surprising or even contrary to human expectations. Scripture teaches that humanity is not naturally good but deeply sinful. It declares that salvation cannot be achieved through human effort but comes entirely by God's grace. Most unexpected of all is the message that God brings forgiveness and eternal life through the suffering and death of Jesus Christ

Biblical truth is revealed by God rather than discovered by reason alone. While some truths may seem obvious to human judgment, the truths of the Bible are often unexpected.

August 30: Cross Comes Before Crown

September 6: I Am My Brother's Keeper

September 13: Forgiveness is for Me

September 20: Grace is Amazing

September 27: Real Repentance Looks Different

Today's Focus: Cross Comes Before Crown

Some churches teach that if a person follows God, God responds by granting prosperity and peace, as would only be expected. Today we see how that is nonsense. The Bible explains that if we are part of the Church of God, we will have bear crosses. Believers suffer in this world, sometimes just because they are believers.

Why bother? We carry our crosses in gratitude for Jesus carrying his cross, one too heavy for us because it was weighted down with our sin. We carry our crosses because we know that in those moments of struggle, we are forced to turn to Christ and rely on his strength. This is the unexpected path, the one Jesus himself walked: the cross comes before the crown.

Service Participants:

Computer Organ: Mary Ann Krug

Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Afflicted Saint, to Christ Draw Near sts. 1–2, Ref, 3–4



1 Af - flict - ed saint, to Christ draw near, your Sav - ior's
2 Your faith is weak, your foes are strong, and if the
3 Should per - se - cu - tion rage and flame, still trust in
4 When called to bear your weight - y cross, or sore af -



gra - cious prom - ise hear; his faith - ful Word you can be -
con - flict should be long, the Lord will make the tempt - er
your Re - deem - er's name. In fi - ery tri - als you shall
flic - tion, pain, or loss, or deep dis - tress, or pov - er -



lieve, that as your days your strength shall be. v. 2
flee, that as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*
see that as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*
ty, still as your days your strength shall be. *Refrain*



Refrain
So, sing with joy, af - flict - ed one; the bat - tle's fierce, but the



vic - t'ry's won! God shall sup - ply all that you need;



yes, as your days your strength shall be.

Text (sts. 1–4): John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.; (Ref): Constance Dever, b. 1960

Tune: Constance Dever, b. 1960

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Please stand

Invocation

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

Confession and Absolution

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

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

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.

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!

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

1 John 1:8

1 John 1:9

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.

1 John 3:1

Glory to God

Contrary to the directions below, the congregation will sing the first stanza and then immediately sing the refrain.

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."



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



the might - y rock are 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.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.



Glo - ri - a, glo - ri - a, glo - ry to God a - lone.

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

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

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Prayer

Almighty God, your Son willingly endured the agony and shame of the cross for our redemption. Grant us courage to take up our cross daily and follow him wherever he leads; 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

Jeremiah 15:15–21

¹⁵LORD, you understand;
remember me and care for me.
Avenge me on my persecutors.

You are long-suffering—do not take me away;
think of how I suffer reproach for your sake.

¹⁶When your words came, I ate them;
they were my joy and my heart's delight,
for I bear your name,
LORD God Almighty.

¹⁷I never sat in the company of revelers,
never made merry with them;
I sat alone because your hand was on me
and you had filled me with indignation.

¹⁸Why is my pain unending
and my wound grievous and incurable?
You are to me like a deceptive brook,
like a spring that fails.

¹⁹Therefore this is what the LORD says:

“If you repent, I will restore you
that you may serve me;
if you utter worthy, not worthless, words,
you will be my spokesman.
Let this people turn to you,

When
Jeremiah
complained
about carrying
his cross, the
Lord called on
him to repent
and promised
salvation.

but you must not turn to them.
²⁰I will make you a wall to this people,
 a fortified wall of bronze;
 they will fight against you
 but will not overcome you,
 for I am with you
 to rescue and save you,”
 declares the LORD.
^{21a}I will save you from the hands of the wicked
 and deliver you from the grasp of the cruel.”

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 8:18–25

No cross can
 compare with
 the crown of
 glory that is
 waiting.

¹⁸I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. ¹⁹For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

²²We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. ²³Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Mark 8:34

Alleluia. Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. Alleluia.

Speak, O Lord st. 1

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.

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

Gospel

Matthew 16:21–26

²¹From that time on Jesus began to explain to his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer many things at the hands of the elders, the chief priests and the teachers of the law, and that he must be killed and on the third day be raised to life.

Jesus calls his Church to walk in his path. First comes the cross, then comes the crown.

²²Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. “Never, Lord!” he said. “This shall never happen to you!”

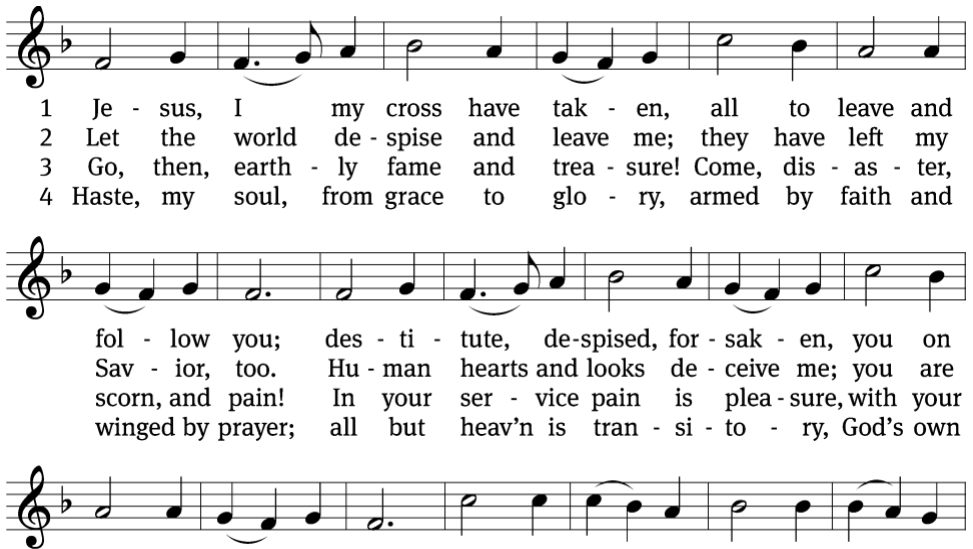
²³Jesus turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; you do not have in mind the concerns of God, but merely human concerns.”

²⁴Then Jesus said to his disciples, “Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will find it. ²⁶What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Jesus, I My Cross Have Taken



1 Je - sus, I my cross have tak - en, all to leave and
2 Let the world de - spise and leave me; they have left my
3 Go, then, earth - ly fame and trea - sure! Come, dis - as - ter,
4 Haste, my soul, from grace to glo - ry, armed by faith and

fol - low you; des - ti - tute, de-spised, for - sak - en, you on
Sav - ior, too. Hu - man hearts and looks de - ceive me; you are
scorn, and pain! In your ser - vice pain is plea - sure, with your
winged by prayer; all but heav'n is tran - si - to - ry, God's own

earth once suf - fered, too. Per - ish ev - 'ry fond am - bi - tion,
not, like them, un - true. And, since you have smiled up - on me,
fa - vor loss is gain. I have called you Ab - ba, Fa - ther;
hand shall guide you there. Soon shall end this earth - ly sto - ry,



all I've ev - er hoped or known; yet how rich is
God of wis - dom, love, and might, foes may hate and
you my all in all shall be. Storms may howl, and
swift shall pass the pil - grim days, hope soon change to



my con - di - tion, God and heav'n are still my own!
friends may shun me; show your face, and all is bright.
clouds may gath - er, all must work for good to me.
heav'n - ly glo - ry, faith to sight and prayer to praise.

Text: Henry Francis Lyte, 1793–1847, abr., alt.

Tune: Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–1887

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon

Matthew 16:21-26

Please stand

Confession of Faith

Apostle's 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.

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. 11

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.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you.

Numbers 6:22-27

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.**

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



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

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) 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	Livestream/Music	Snacks	Children's Ministry
August 30	Cody	Cody	Mary Ann	Sarah	NA
September 6	Steve	Scott	Judy	Lesley/Janet	Grace
September 13	Steve	Steve	Nate	Mary Ann	TBD
September 20	Cody	Cody	Judy	Amy Hughes	TBD
September 27	Steve	Scott		Kristie Vlahos	TBD

Welcome Back, Students!

We are so happy you are here! Nothing excites us more than the opportunity to serve you during your time at Michigan Tech. Peace's campus ministry existed long before the church did. The passion to help students spiritually grow during their college years rather than survive is in our DNA. It's what we have been doing for the past 58 years. So, if you or your child is new to Peace, **please be sure to introduce yourself to Pastor Welch and fill out a half sheet with your information.** These sheets will be handed out at the back of the sanctuary. Having your information helps us keep you in the loop about all things Peace Campus Ministry. We meet every Wednesday and host many other events throughout the semester.

Upcoming Events

The semester events are found below. 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.

Saturday, Sept 12:	Volleyball Welcome
Wednesday Sept 23:	Bonfire after Bible Study
Sunday, Oct 11:	Hike after church
Saturday Oct 17:	Make A Difference Day
Sunday Nov 1:	Baking for Bake Sale
Tuesday, Nov 3:	Bake Sale
Saturday, Nov 7:	Pickleball Tournament
Wednesday, Nov 18:	Thanksgiving Dinner
Saturday, Dec 5:	Christmas Canvassing and Dinner
Friday, Dec 11:	Christmas Corraling



Peace Signs Contract with Architectural Firm

God has been blessing the ministry at Peace, and we are growing. Our church has decided to move forward with a building project, and the first step is having initial conversations with an architect. A firm has been chosen, and the first meeting will be on September 8th. Stay tuned for more exciting details!



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Houghton, MI 49931

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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.