



Give to God What is God's

PEACE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Houghton, Michigan
Sunday, October 18, 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.

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. Parents are welcome to accompany their child up front for this message, if their child is bashful. 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. The parent's room is located down the hall and to your right just past the restrooms.

Service Participants:

Livestream/Music: Nate Crowder
Pastor of Peace: Tommy Welch

Current Worship Series: The Beginning of the End

The cartoon character holds a sign saying, “The End Is Near.” For Christians, this is not a message of fear. Instead, it is a message of watchful hope. Scripture teaches that the End Times began with Christ’s first coming, especially his death and resurrection. Christ will come again on judgment day. Now we live in that in-between time, when salvation has been won, but full glory is still to come. It’s the beginning of the end. Jesus himself makes clear that no one knows the day or hour of his return. This uncertainty is not meant to trouble us, but to keep us spiritually awake. Each day becomes an opportunity to live in repentance and faith, turning from sin and trusting fully in Christ’s finished work for us. “The Beginning of the End” reminds us that history is moving toward our own death and toward Christ’s return. For believers, that end is truly a beginning.

October 4: God is Patient

October 11: Guest Preacher: Nathan Strutz

October 18: Give to God What is God’s

October 25: Reformation

November 1: Focus on the Future (All Saints’ Day)

November 8: Watch for the Final Events

November 15: Put Your Affairs in Order

November 22: Hope for the Best

Today’s Focus: Give to God What is God’s

In the 250th anniversary year of the signing of the Declaration of the Independence of the United States of America, Americans are realizing that our freedoms are not guaranteed forever. What can we do with the limited time we have left to preach the gospel and administer the sacraments without governmental interference? We can do exactly what Jesus advised, giving to God what is God’s. We can thank Jesus for fulfilling all righteousness for us, leaving us free to serve our neighbors. God does not need our good works, but our neighbors do. God’s Word informs our choice of political activities as we seek to be faithful to our calling as Christian citizens.



THE ORDER OF SERVICE

Hymn

Before You, Lord, We Bow



1 Be - fore you, Lord, we bow, our God who reigns a - bove and
2 The na - tion you have blessed may well your love de - clare, from
3 May ev - 'ry moun-tain height, each vale and for - est green, shine
4 Earth, hear your mak - er's voice, your great Re - deem - er own; be -
5 And when in pow'r he comes, oh, may our na - tive land from



rules the world be - low in bound-less pow'r and love. Our thanks we
foes and fears at rest, pro - tect - ed by your care. For this bright
in your Word's pure light and its rich fruits be seen! May ev - 'ry
lieve, o - bey, re - joice, and wor - ship him a - lone. Cast down your
all its rend - ing tombs send forth a glo - rious band, a count - less



bring in joy and praise, our hearts we raise to you, our King!
day, for this fair land—gifts of your hand—our thanks we pay.
tongue be tuned to praise and join to raise a grate - ful song.
pride, your sin de - plore, and bow be - fore the Cru - ci - fied.
throng, with joy to sing to heav'ns high King, sal - va - tion's song!

Text: Francis Scott Key, 1779–1843, alt.

Tune: John Darwall, 1731–1789

Text and tune: Public domain

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

Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered.
Blessed are they whose sin the Lord does not count against them.

Psalm 32:1-2

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Almighty and merciful Father,

we have strayed from your ways like lost sheep.

We have followed what we have devised and desired in our hearts.

We have offended you and sinned against your holy law.

We have done those things that we should not have done,

and we have not done those things that we should have done.

Have mercy on us, Lord!

Spare us, forgive us, and restore us,

according to your promises in Christ Jesus.

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.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Absolution

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. 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.

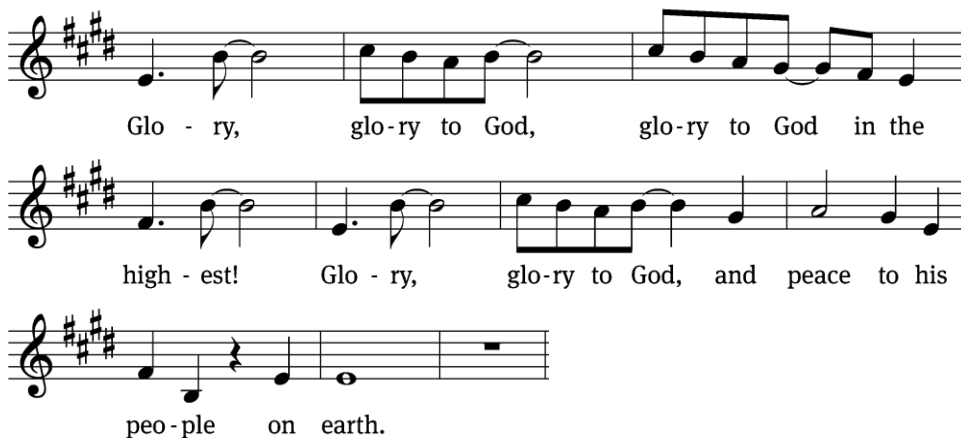
You are at peace with God now and forever.

Amen.

Glory to God in the Highest

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."

The choir will introduce the refrain, and then the congregation will sing it a second time and after each verse.



Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. **Refrain**

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us, have mercy on us.
You are seated at the right hand of the Father;
receive our prayer, receive our prayer. **Refrain**

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit in the glory of God the Father. **Refrain**

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Prayer of the Day

O Lord, our God, govern the nations on earth and direct the affairs of this world so that your Church may worship you in peace and joy; 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

Daniel 1:3–21

³Then the king ordered Ashpenaz, chief of his court officials, to bring into the king's service some of the Israelites from the royal family and the nobility— ⁴young men without any physical defect, handsome, showing aptitude for every kind of learning, well informed, quick to understand, and qualified to serve in the king's palace. He was to teach them the language and literature of the Babylonians. ⁵The king assigned them a daily amount of food and wine from the king's table. They were to be trained for three years, and after that they were to enter the king's service.

⁶Among those who were chosen were some from Judah: Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. ⁷The chief official gave them new names: to Daniel, the name Belteshazzar; to Hananiah, Shadrach; to Mishael, Meshach; and to Azariah, Abednego.

⁸But Daniel resolved not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.

⁹Now God had caused the official to show favor and compassion to Daniel,

¹⁰but the official told Daniel, "I am afraid of my lord the king, who has assigned your food and drink. Why should he see you looking worse than the other young men your age? The king would then have my head because of you."

¹¹Daniel then said to the guard whom the chief official had appointed over Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, ¹²"Please test your servants for ten days: Give us nothing but vegetables to eat and water to drink. ¹³Then compare our appearance with that of the young men who eat the royal

While in exile, God's people served their government but did not defile themselves for their government.

food, and treat your servants in accordance with what you see.” ¹⁴So he agreed to this and tested them for ten days.

¹⁵At the end of the ten days they looked healthier and better nourished than any of the young men who ate the royal food. ¹⁶So the guard took away their choice food and the wine they were to drink and gave them vegetables instead.

¹⁷To these four young men God gave knowledge and understanding of all kinds of literature and learning. And Daniel could understand visions and dreams of all kinds.

¹⁸At the end of the time set by the king to bring them into his service, the chief official presented them to Nebuchadnezzar. ¹⁹The king talked with them, and he found none equal to Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah; so they entered the king’s service. ²⁰In every matter of wisdom and understanding about which the king questioned them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and enchanters in his whole kingdom.

²¹And Daniel remained there until the first year of King Cyrus.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Lesson

Second Reading

Romans 13:1–7

Because the
authorities
that exist are
God’s
servants,
God’s people
honor them
and submit to
them.

¹Let everyone be subject to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. ²Consequently, whoever rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves. ³For rulers hold no terror for those who do right, but for those who do wrong. Do you want to be free from fear of the one in authority? Then do what is right and you will be commended. ⁴For the one in authority is God’s servant for your good. But if you do wrong, be afraid, for rulers do not bear the sword for no reason. They are God’s servants, agents of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer. ⁵Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also as a matter of conscience.

⁶This is also why you pay taxes, for the authorities are God’s servants, who give their full time to governing. ⁷Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honor, then honor.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Colossians 2:10

After an introduction, the congregation will join to sing the verse.



Alleluia. In Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority. Alleluia.



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 22:15–22

¹⁵Then the Pharisees went out and laid plans to trap him in his words. ¹⁶They sent their disciples to him along with the Herodians. “Teacher,” they said, “we know that you are a man of integrity and that you teach the way of God in accordance with the truth. You aren’t swayed by others, because you pay no attention to who they are. ¹⁷Tell us then, what is your opinion? Is it right to pay the imperial tax to Caesar or not?”

¹⁸But Jesus, knowing their evil intent, said, “You hypocrites, why are you trying to trap me? ¹⁹Show me the coin used for paying the tax.” They brought him a denarius, ²⁰and he asked them, “Whose image is this? And whose inscription?”

²¹“Caesar’s,” they replied.

Jesus avoids the trap of pitting service to God and service to earthly government against each other.

Then he said to them, “So give back to Caesar what is Caesar’s, and to God what is God’s.”

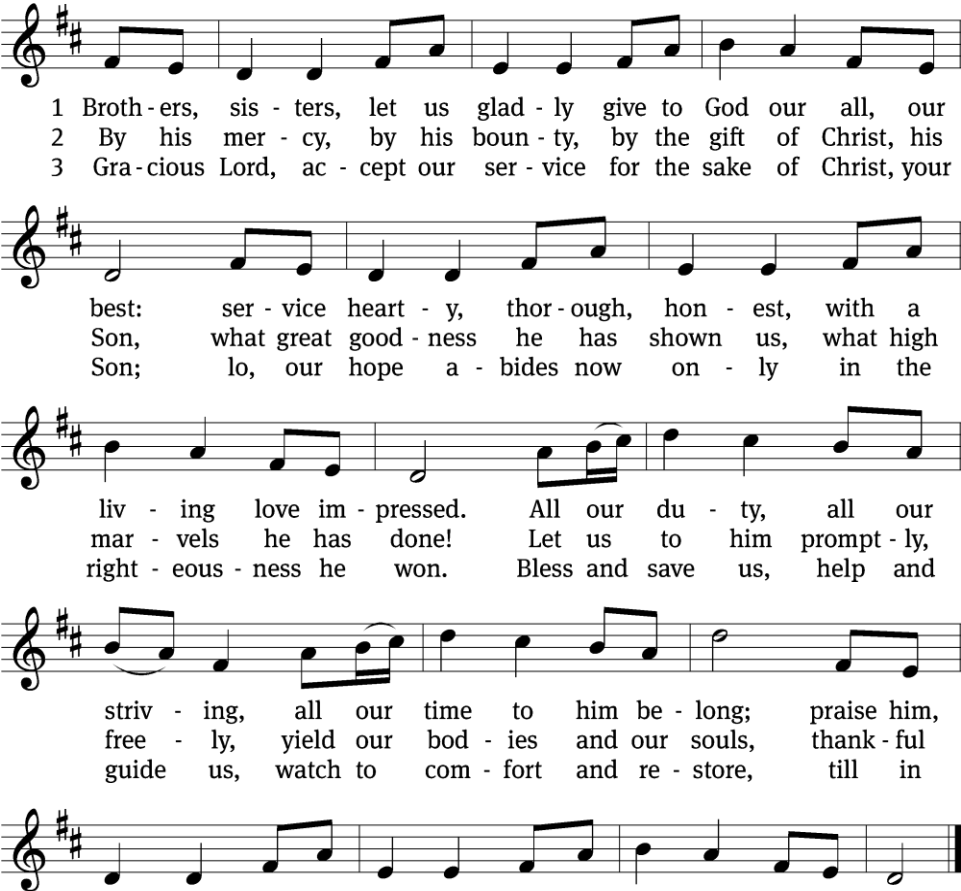
²²When they heard this, they were amazed. So they left him and went away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

Hymn of the Day

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly



1 Broth - ers, sis - ters, let us glad - ly give to God our all, our
2 By his mer - cy, by his boun - ty, by the gift of Christ, his
3 Gra - cious Lord, ac - cept our ser - vice for the sake of Christ, your

best: ser - vice heart - y, thor - ough, hon - est, with a
Son, what great good - ness he has shown us, what high
Son; lo, our hope a - bides now on - ly in the

liv - ing love im - pressed. All our du - ty, all our
mar - vels he has done! Let us to him prompt - ly,
right - eous - ness he won. Bless and save us, help and

striv - ing, all our time to him be - long; praise him,
free - ly, yield our bod - ies and our souls, thank - ful
guide us, watch to com - fort and re - store, till in

then, with true de - vo - tion, come be - fore him with a song.
that his love pro - tects us, that his wis - dom all con - trols.
heav'n we rest re - joic - ing, prais - ing you for - ev - er - more.

Sermon

Matthew 22:15-22

Please stand

Nicene Creed

Credo

**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.**

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.

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.

Psalms 32:5

Everyone ought to recognize the true body and blood of the Lord in this Supper.

The bread that we break and the cup that we bless are a participation in the body and blood of Christ.

1 Cor. 11:29

Those partaking of the Lord's Supper are to be united in fellowship as one body.

1 Cor. 10:16

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

1 Cor. 10:17

Holy, Holy, Holy

Sanctus

Tune: ELLACOMBE

1 Sing, "Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of hosts on high,
2 Ho - san - na in the high - est! How blest is Christ our King,
your ev - er - last - ing glo - ry fills earth and sea and sky."
who died as our Re - deem - er, e - ter - nal life to bring!
Our voic - es cry, "Ho - san - na!" Lord, hear our hum - ble plea:
How blest are you, Lord Je - sus, now com - ing in God's name!
in mer - cy, come and save us; in love, come set us free.
"Ho - san - na in the high - est!" our grate - ful hearts pro - claim.

Sanctus means "holy." This canticle echoes the song that the seraphim (six-winged angels) sang before Isaiah. The angels sang the triple "holy," giving glory to our Triune God. The Sanctus has been used in celebration of the Lord's Supper since the second century.

Words of Institution

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat; this is my † body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, “Drink from it, all of you; this is my † blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **Amen.**

Lamb of God

Agnus Dei

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

Tune: SUANTRAI

1 O Lamb of God, once lift - ed high up - on a
2 O Lamb of God, your sac - ri - fice has can - celled
cross to bleed and die, in per - fect love you took our
sin, has paid its price; your per - fect love will nev - er
place— be - stow on us your sav - ing grace.
cease— have mer - cy, Lord, and grant us peace.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

Tune: Gaelic, 19th cent.

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Tune: Public domain

Distribution

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

Distribution Hymn

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways



- 1 Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his stat - ues still!
2 Or - der my foot - steps by your Word, and make my heart sin - cere;
3 As - sist my soul, too apt to stray, a strict - er watch to keep,
4 Make me to walk in your com - mands—'tis a de - light - ful road—



Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!
let sin have no do - min - ion, Lord, but keep my con - science clear.
and should I e'er for - get your way, re - store your wan - d'ring sheep.
nor let my head or heart or hands of - fend a - gainst my God.

Distribution Hymn

continued on next page

Distribution Hymn

Eternal Father, Strong to Save



1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm hath bound the
2 O Christ, the Lord of hill and plain o'er which our traf - fic
3 O Spir - it, whom the Fa - ther sent to spread a - broad the
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, our peo - ple shield in



rest - less wave, who bidd'st the might - y o - cean deep its
runs a - main, by moun - tain pass or val - ley low, wher -
fir - ma - ment, O Wind of heav - en, by thy might save
dan - ger's hour; from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: O hear us when we
ev - er, Lord, thy peo - ple go, pro - tect them by thy
all who dare the ea - gle's flight, and keep them by thy
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
guard - ing hand from ev - 'ry per - il on the land.
watch - ful care from ev - 'ry per - il in the air.
rise to thee glad praise from air and land and sea.

Closing Prayer

Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good;
His mercy endures forever.

Psalms 118:1

O God the Father, source of all goodness, in your loving-kindness you sent your Son to share our humanity. We thank you that through him you have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament. We also pray that you will not forsake us but will rule our hearts and minds by your Holy Spirit so that we willingly serve you day after day; 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.

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

Numbers 6:22-27

Hymn

God Bless Our Native Land



1 God bless our na - tive land; firm may she ev - er stand
2 For her our prayers shall rise to God a - bove the skies;



thro' storm and night! When the wild tem - pests rave, Rul - er of
on him we wait. Thou who art ev - er nigh, guard-ing with



wind and wave, do thou our coun - try save by thy great might.
watch - ful eye, to thee a - loud we cry: God save the state!

You're Invited

You are invited to join us after worship for snacks and refreshments in the fellowship hall. We'd love to get to know you. Join us!

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who gave up Saturday morning to help with our fall cleanup around the church property. We appreciate your time and hard work.

We'd also like to thank our musicians and small group choir for leading us in worship this morning. Thank you!

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. These meals are part of our Wednesday evening Bible study. Please consider providing a meal this semester. You can prepare it in advance and leave it for the students to serve on their own, or you can stay and serve the meal if you would like. Either is just fine. Sign up early to get your choice of days. You can sign up on the table in the entryway or speak to Judy Limpert, (507-273-5535) Peace's administrative assistant if you have any questions.

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.

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 Caroling



Serving Our Lord and Us Today

Usher Team 2 Steve Krug
Counter – Scott Miers
Livestream/Music – Nate Crowder
Snacks – Sarah Robb
Children’s Ministry – Help is needed!

*Thank
you*

Serving Our Lord and Us on Wednesday, October 21st

Student Dinner –Amy Spahn

Serving Our Lord and Us on Sunday, October 25th

Usher Team 3 – Cody Stopel, Ed Beiring, Ben Fischer, Scott Miers
Counter – Steve Krug
Livestream/Music – Zack Sickmann
Snacks – Heathe Platzke
Children’s Ministry – Fall Break No Sunday School



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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.