



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work.
Our hands.

Worship Services:

Sundays 9:00 am

Interim Pastor

Pastor Len Hoffmann

815-975-4740

prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com

Church office hours:

Mon., Wed., Fri. 7AM-noon

Parish Administrator

DJ Scott

prshadmin@gmail.com

Church Address:

PO Box 234 229 S First St

Pearl City, IL 61062

Church Phone:

815-443-2215

Building Hours:

The building will only be open
when the office is open

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"



Easter Sunday—Resurrection of Our Lord

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Holy Communion—Chancel Choir Sings

April 20, 2025

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Please join us for a time of fellowship after the worship service in Luther Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

Serving Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Len Hoffmann **Acolytes:** Koton Kampmeier & Welden Snetcher **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Assisting Minister:** Kim Williams **Greeter:** Marion & Kris Eden **Ushers:** Lois Hunsaker **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

WELCOME & EASTER MEDLEY BY KATHY HILLMER & KAREN BREMMER

Introduction to the Day

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death,” Paul writes. Today Christ is risen, and we gather together with astonishment and joy. Christ is risen, and we have been set free from the bonds of death. Christ is risen, and we are forgiven. Christ is risen, and with the women at the tomb and Peter, we are amazed. Let us rejoice: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P Alleluia! Christ is risen.

C **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

P In the name of ☩ the One who was, who is, and who is to come.

C **Amen**

P Baptized into Christ’s death and resurrection, and called to live the baptized life, let us give thanks for the gifts of baptism. Holy God, we give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that make a people your own, that restore to wholeness, and empower us to be witnesses in your name. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C **make us one as you are one.**

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that strengthen believers and give new life to beloved servants of your church; waters that extend your boundless love and cross barriers of our own making. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C **make us one as you are one.**

P We give you thanks for the waters of baptism, waters that open the hearts of believers and give a voice in the night to those in captivity; waters that set your people on a new path, rejoicing in the Spirit’s power. Baptized into you, O Living One,

C **make us one as you are one.**

P Grant us grace, love, and life, O Living One, that our every day is shaped by these waters that give us our very lives in you. We ask this in the name of Jesus, the Crucified and Risen One.

C **Amen.**



1 Je - sus Christ is ris'n to - day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 2 Hymns of praise then let us sing, Al - le - lu - ia!
 3 But the pains which he en - dured, Al - le - lu - ia!
 4 Sing we to our God a - bove, Al - le - lu - ia!



our tri - um - phant ho - ly day, Al - le - lu - ia!
 un - to Christ, our heav'n - ly king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 our sal - va - tion have pro - cured; Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise e - ter - nal as his love; Al - le - lu - ia!



who did once up - on the cross, Al - le - lu - ia!
 who en - dured the cross and grave, Al - le - lu - ia!
 now a - bove the sky he's king, Al - le - lu - ia!
 praise him, all you heav'n - ly host, Al - le - lu - ia!



suf - fer to re - deem our loss. Al - le - lu - ia!
 sin - ners to re - deem and save. Al - le - lu - ia!
 where the an - gels ev - er sing. Al - le - lu - ia!
 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. Al - le - lu - ia!

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.

All



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow - er and rich - es and wis - dom and



strength, and hon - or and bless-ing and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al - le - lu - ia.



2 Sing with all the peo - ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless-ing and hon - or and glo - ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Final refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God, for the Lamb who was slain



has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you

P O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

L A reading from Acts, the tenth chapter

L Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.
- C** Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."
- L** The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
- C** Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- L** The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- C** I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
- L** The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.
- C** Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- L** "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."
- C** I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.
- L** The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- C** By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- L** This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 24:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

P On the first day of the week, at early dawn, [the women] came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again.” Then they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“What a Great Morning”

Chancel Choir

(Please stand as you are able.)

NICENE CREED

C 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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic 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.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

A Kindle new life in your church. Encourage all who seek creative ways to share the good news of Christ's resurrection. Bless mission developers and new ministries, that their work plant seeds that flourish. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Nourish new life in all of creation. Shower forests and grasslands, deserts, and mountains with life-giving rains. Grant us delight in your glory that shows forth in all that grows this season. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Empower new life among the nations. As you raised Jesus from the dead, bring new hope for peace and reconciliation in places of war and strife. Raise up leaders who are steadfast in their commitment to justice and transformation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Bring new hope among all who are in need, especially neighbors without homes or food, and those whose housing or food supply is at risk. Bring healing to all who are fearful, ill, or grieving (*especially*). God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Awaken new life in this place. Open our hearts to ways you are calling us to be at work in the world and our community. Give us courage to boldly share your love for all people beyond our walls. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Comfort all who believe. Remember all who are confined to their homes or health care centers from our community and congregation. Today we pray for *Shirley Goldsmith, Carol Garnhart, Richard Brinkmeier, Lori Miller, Janis Kampmeier, Mary Ellen Aurand, Verda Werkheiser, Carol Byers, Gina Boop, Ron Fluegel, Louise Cuccio and Ron & Connie Melville*. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Trusting in the promises of the resurrection, we remember with thanksgiving our beloved dead. Sustain us with a living hope until we are reunited with them and all the saints at the heavenly banquet. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

C Amen.

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share signs of peace with one another.

OFFERING SONG “Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful”



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

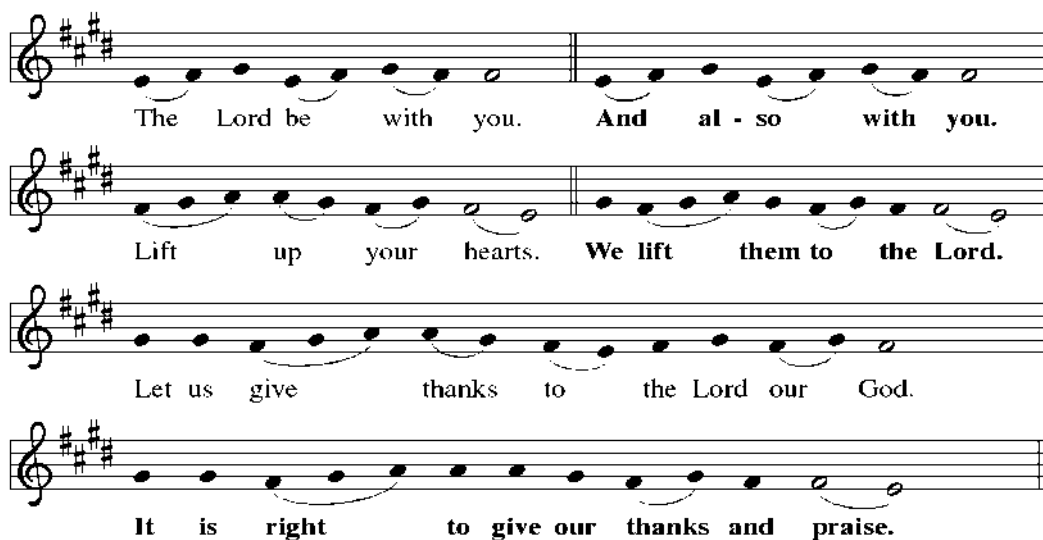
OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Blessed are you, O God, ruler of heaven and earth. Day by day you shower us with blessings. As you have raised us to new life in Christ, give us glad and generous hearts, ready to praise you and to respond to those in need, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

P Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

C 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion instruction – as we gather for Holy Communion, you will come down the center aisle, receive the bread and cup, and return by the side aisle. Wine is the dark liquid and grape juice is the light liquid in the center ring. If you wish to receive gluten free, it is available. Please ask. If you wish to only receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed. This is a time where all God’s people find unity.

RECEIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

P The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God’s grace.

C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. Life-giving God, in the mystery of Christ’s resurrection you send light to conquer darkness, water to give new life, and the bread of life to nourish your people. Send us forth as witnesses to your Son’s resurrection, that we may show your glory to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord.

C Amen

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P Almighty God, Father, ☩ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” (vs. 1, 4, 5)

ELW 377

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Share the good news!

C Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Church Office

815-443-2215

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229 S First St

Pearl City, IL 61062

Mon., Wed., Fri. 7AM-Noon

St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 20, 2025

9a Easter Sunday worship

Wednesday, April 23, 2025

7p Church Council meeting

Thursday, April 24, 2025

1p Cards & dominoes in Luther Hall

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

6p Girl Scout meeting

Friday, April 25, 2025

9a Grace Meal prep

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Saturday, April 26, 2025

8a Grace Meal prep

Sunday, April 27, 2025

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 5:27-32 Psalm 118:14-29

Revelations 1:4-8 John 20:19-31

Confirmation: There will not be a meeting on the third Sunday as it is Easter. But I encourage all our confirmands and their families to join us for the service on Easter morning. There is only one more meeting after our April meeting, which is May 4th as the third Sunday is HS graduation and we typically do not meet that day as some of the confirmands have siblings that might be graduating.

We will have two times that we will be meeting during the summer months, one being VBS and a day when we will be organizing/cleaning caps for our bench. I am looking at a day in June for the caps and it's looking like a day in July for VBS but I will let you know when we have those days finalized. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Blessings—Shawn Kuhlemeier

The social ministry committee will be having a collection for the ELCA Good Gifts project from April 27th through June 1st. Their goals for this project are:

- (1) Herd of goats: \$300
- (2) groups of 10 chicks: \$10 each for a total of \$20
- (1) Rooster for chicks: \$15
- (7) Honeybee hives: \$20 each for a total of \$140
- (4) Food for vulnerable & orphaned children for one month: \$25 each for a total of \$100
- (10) Vaccinations for a child: \$30 each for a total of \$300
- (10) Water filters: \$30 each for a total of \$300
- (2) Piglets: \$30 each for a total of \$60
- (1)Mosquito net: \$10

Total goals for the ELCA Good Gifts Project: \$1245

We will have collection bins at the front of the church for all the items that are listed.

Please consider giving to this important ministry to improve lives throughout the world.

PEARL CITY HEALTHY WOLVES FOOD PROGRAM

Provides backpacks filled with nutritious meals and snacks for school aged children K-12 for the weekend. **We are currently sending 20-25 backpacks each week.**

The cost of supplies runs about \$7.50 per backpack, per week. **Donations of financial support are needed.** Please contact Theresa Albers if you have any questions.

TO DONATE ONLINE: <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/giving> Scroll down to these instructions: **On-line Giving:** Click [here](#) to give now in the form of a credit or debit card to St. John's. This is a safe, secure and quick method to give to our ministries from anywhere at any time. On-line giving offers you the ability to do a onetime transaction or set-up a recurring transaction. This option allows members and non-members alike to give to the ministries of St. John's. You will be able to select "Healthy Wolves" for your gift designation.

The Grace Meal Committee is always looking for help preparing and serving the monthly meal. There is a sign-up sheet in Luther Hall for everyone interested in helping at the monthly meal. Sign up for the month(s) you could help!!

The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of dish soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toilet tissue, and Kleenex. Donations can be brought to Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10-11 AM. It is located at 316 W. Main Street in Lena. All donations are welcome!



Women's Gathering News ...

*Women's Gathering has dish cloths for sale. They are \$1.50 each. Contact the church office or Lynda Palmer if you are interested.

*Prayer Shawl Outreach on Sunday, May 4th at 10 AM in Luther Hall. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20th at Route 20 Bar & Grill.

Fellowship will begin at 9:45. The bible study will begin at 10 AM. Jerilyn Strohecker will be leading the bible study. Lunch will be ordered from the menu following the meeting.

*On Sunday, May 4th, St. John's members and friends are invited to go out for lunch at Legends, a new restaurant on route 26 north of Freeport, at noon. Please sign up on the bulletin board!

We are looking for one male, one female, and one youth member of the church to attend the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly scheduled for June 13th and 14th at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. Lodging, meals, and registration is paid for by the congregation. If you are interested in this opportunity to represent St. John's at this meeting or have questions about this, please contact the church office.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
April 27	Doris Kness	Chad & Deb Bremmer family	Ethan Bremmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
George Snetcher Kooper Kampmeier		Lincoln Voss Kooper Kampmeier	

Sunday School: We will be meeting the first and third Sundays in May and then we are off for the Summer and will continue again in September.

We will be having VBS this summer which will probably be in July at some point but we will let you know as soon as we know.

If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher or Shawn Kuhlemeier.

St John's Church will be manning the Pearl City Food Pantry the month of May. If anyone could spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning please contact Doris Kness or Janet Ferguson. May 10th and May 24th are the days that the patrons come to get their groceries. More help is needed on those two dates. Thank You.

News, Events and Happenings ...

Happy Birthday!

*Kelsey Butson Scott Heimerdinger Katie Stager
Garrett Handsaker Aaron Woker Carla Personette*



Grace Meal News:

A special Thank You to everyone who helped with the March Grace Meal: Elmer & Nora Heid – Pearl Valley Rangers, Theresa Albers, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Gertrude Heimerdinger, Grace Heimerdinger, Jim & Leann Heimerdinger, Kamryn Heimerdinger, Lois Hunsaker, Marge Roiland, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, and Kathy Williams. We prepared a total of 240 meals, 30 deliveries and 210 curbside pick-ups. A big thank you also to Chris Kempel for the very generous donation of eggs for the cakes in March!

The April Grace Meal will be a community Easter meal. It will be served on Sunday, April 27th instead of on Easter Sunday. Meals can be picked up at St. John's on April 27th between 11 a.m. and noon, or you can dine in Luther Hall at St. John's between 11 a.m. and 12.30 p.m. To reserve your meal(s) for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday, April 24th (815-443-2215). The meal consists of ham loaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas & carrots, applesauce, and cherry cobbler. The meal will be prepared and served as a joint effort of the area churches similar to the community Christmas meal. It is funded by donations from local businesses.

The Grace Meal committee would like to thank the congregation for stepping up and making financial donations to help this great ministry continue serving meals each month.

Thank you to the ladies who helped with the graduation quilts and projects on our Sit & Sew workday on April 2nd. Thank you to Lynda Palmer, Kris Eden, Janet Ferguson, Deb Mather, Marge Roiland, Marilyn Smital, Carla Personette, and Karen Bremmer!



Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month from 9AM-Noon. The next one is on Tuesday, May 6th. Also, we are still playing cards and dominoes on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1-3:30PM. The next date will be on Thursday, April 24th.

The Healthy Wolves committee would like to thank the people of St. John's for their generous support of this ministry. Without you and the support from the community, we would not be able to provide weekend meals for school children who are less fortunate. The committee works to make sure no child goes hungry. May you be held in God's hands and may you continue to receive God's blessings.