



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"



Second Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Holy Communion

April 27, 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:** George Snetcher & Kooper Kampmeier **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Ethan Bremmer **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Doris Kness **Ushers:** Chad & Deb Bremmer family **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

In spite of all we have heard and all we have seen, it is often hard to believe. Because it is hard to believe, we will invest ourselves in the Easter mystery for fifty days (a week of weeks). Because it is hard to believe, John the evangelist will provide sign after sign celebrating Jesus' victory over death. Because it is hard to believe, the risen Jesus will return to us again and again in the mystery of holy communion, inviting us to touch and taste his presence, and offering us his peace.

PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

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.

P 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.

GATHERING HYMN “Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds” ELW 367
(During the hymn, please bring your Good Gifts donations to the containers in front)

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 And also with you

THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW Page 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you

P O God of life, you reach out to us amid our fears with the wounded hands of your risen Son. By your Spirit’s breath revive our faith in your mercy, and strengthen us to be the body of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 5:27-32

Peter has been arrested for proclaiming the good news of Jesus’ death and resurrection. His response to the charges of the high priest summarizes the early church’s proclamation of forgiveness of sin through repentance.

L A reading from Acts, the fifth chapter

L When they had brought [the apostles,] they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, “We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man’s blood on us.” But Peter and the apostles answered, “We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Savior that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 150

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Hallelujah! Praise God in the holy temple; praise God in the mighty firmament.
- C** **Praise God for mighty acts; praise God for exceeding greatness.**
- L** Praise God with trumpet sound; praise God with lyre and harp.
- C** **Praise God with tambourine and dance; praise God with strings and pipe.**
- L** Praise God with resounding cymbals; praise God with loud clanging cymbals.
- C** **Let everything that has breath praise the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

Revelation 1:4-8

The book of Revelation recounts a mystical vision of the risen Christ experienced by a Christian prophet named John. Here he describes Christ as a timeless redeemer, the beginning, present, and end of all time.

- L** A reading from Revelations, the first chapter

L John to the seven churches that are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds; every eye will see him, even those who pierced him; and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail. So it is to be. Amen. "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

- L** The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

John 20:19-31

The unprecedented events of the day of resurrection continue as the risen Jesus appears to his fearful disciples. A week later, after Thomas worships Jesus, Jesus pronounces that the blessings of the resurrection are also for those who “have not seen and yet believe.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the twentieth chapter

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

P When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.” But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.”

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

ELW 779

(Please stand as you are able.)

NICENE CREED

ELW PAGE 104

(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 Inspire the church with the breath of your Holy Spirit, that we sing the good news of the resurrection. Inspire deacons and pastors, lay leaders and bishops to boldly proclaim your love for all people. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Preserve the earth as a safe home for all creatures. Restore habitats contaminated by pollution or overuse, strengthen efforts to shape more sustainable communities, and make us mindful of the impacts of our daily lives on the well-being of creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Kindle in the nations a spirit of cooperation and mutual care. Raise up creative and courageous leaders committed to shaping just solutions to complex challenges in our local and global communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Embrace all who carry wounds, that they might know your compassion. Draw near to those with chronic pain or anxiety, and all for whom death is near. Comfort individuals and communities suffering in any way (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Transform our fear into curiosity and love, especially across differences in race, religion, sexuality, gender identity, and economic situation. Unravel stereotypes that lead to discrimination, and destroy oppressive systems that marginalize vulnerable communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A 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*. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A We remember the faithful departed from all times and places. Confident that you are the Alpha and Omega, we pray for your wisdom and guidance until our earthly pilgrimage is complete. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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.

“LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL”

ELW #184

OFFERING

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C 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:

“HOLY, HOLY, HOLY”

ELW PAGE 153

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 Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us. And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power to share with us the great and promised feast.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as victorious Lord of all. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW PAGE 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table of grace. Receive the gift of new life.

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. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C **Amen**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✠ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Thine Is the Glory”

ELW 376

DISMISSAL

A Alleluia! Christ is risen.

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

A Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C **Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!**

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

Pastor Len and Cathy would like to thank everyone who helped make Holy Week smooth and special. Thanks to Karen Bremmer and Kathy Hillmer for their special music all week. Also, thanks to Sandy Scott, Kathy Hillmer, and the entire Chancel Choir for all the special music all week. A big thanks to the Worship Committee and Sacristans for their hard work decorating the altar and planning the services. Thanks also to DJ Scott for all the bulletins and inserts and to Randy & Sandy Faust for stapling them all together!

St. John's will be hosting Baccalaureate on Sunday, May 4th at 6PM. All community churches will be asked to help with the service and reception. A reception of cookies and punch will be served following the service in Luther Hall. If you are able to help, please contact someone in the Women's Gathering group.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor

Pastor Len Hoffmann

815-975-4740

prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com

Parish Administrator:

DJ Scott

E-mail: prshadmin@gmail.com

Church Office

815-443-2215

Box 234

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 27, 2025

9a Worship

10:30a Grace Meal

Monday, April 28, 2025

6p Girl Scout meeting

Wednesday, April 30, 2025

6:30p Call Committee meeting

Thursday, May 1, 2025

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, May 4, 2025

Acts 9:1-20 Psalm 30

Revelations 5:11-14 John 21:1-19

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.

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.

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!

*Quilts for the 2025 graduates will be given on Sunday, May 18th. A reception will follow worship in Luther Hall.

Confirmation will meet only once this month as graduation is on the third Sunday of the month. This will also be our last meeting until our informational meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2025 right after the church service. We will meet on Sunday, June 22 to clean, dry, weigh and package the cap project so that we can finally get our bench. We will begin our quest right after the church service and hopefully get it all done and ready to be transported to Indiana. I will be serving pizza for lunch and we will have a snack for the afternoon. I encourage anyone to join us as the more the merrier. You will begin to see signs at church and announcements throughout the next six weeks so that we can get the job done. Many hands make light work!!!!
As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Shawn Kuhlemeier.

Sunday School will continue through the month of May meeting the first and third Sunday as always. We will be on hiatus through the summer months but will meet up again on Sunday, September 14th which is Rally Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Scharping or Theresa Snetcher.

St John's Church will be manning the Pearl City Food Pantry the month of July. If anyone could spend a couple of hours on a Saturday morning please contact Doris Kness or Janet Ferguson. July 12th and July 26th are the days that the patrons come to get their groceries. More help is needed on those two dates. Thank You.

A big 'thank you' for all the cards and well wishes for my 85th birthday. My children are sneaky as they surprised me with the card shower and the cupcakes for fellowship after Sunday service. What a great way to celebrate my birthday! Thanks everyone.
Janet Ferguson

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
May 4	Marvin & Joan Klatt	Randy & Sandy Faust	Stacey Block
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Lucy Voss		Kolten Kampmeier Welden Snetcher	



Happy Birthday!

Brandon Scharping Taylor Brudi Laine Shatek Robert Winning

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.

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, 2 groups of 10 chicks, 1 rooster for chicks, 7 honeybee hives, 4 food packages for vulnerable & orphaned children for one month, vaccinations for a child, 10 water filters, 2 piglets, and 1 mosquito net.

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.