



# 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](mailto:prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com)

## Church office hours:

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

## Parish Administrator

DJ Scott

[prshadmin@gmail.com](mailto: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"



## Third Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Holy Communion

May 4, 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:** Lucy Voss **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Marion Eden **Assisting Minister:** Theresa Albers **Greeter:** Marvin & Joan Klatt **Ushers:** Randy & Sandy Faust **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Mike Palmer **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## Introduction to the Day

*The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.*

## 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 “Alleluia! Sing To Jesus!” (vs. 1, 3, 5) ELW 392**  
*(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** Eternal and all-merciful God, with all the angels and all the saints we laud your majesty and might. By the resurrection of your Son, show yourself to us and inspire us to follow 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 9:1-6 [7-20]**

*Saul (later called Paul) was an ardent persecutor of all who followed the Way of Christ. This reading recounts the story of his transformation beginning with an encounter with Jesus Christ on the way to Damascus.*

**L** A reading from Acts, the ninth chapter

**L** Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?” He asked, “Who are you, Lord?” The reply came, “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.” [The men who were traveling with him stood speechless because they heard the voice but saw no one. Saul got up from the ground, and though his eyes were open, he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and

brought him into Damascus. For three days he was without sight, and neither ate nor drank.

Now there was a disciple in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord said to him in a vision, “Ananias.” He answered, “Here I am, Lord.” The Lord said to him, “Get up and go to the street called Straight, and at the house of Judas look for a man of Tarsus named Saul. At this moment he is praying, and he has seen in a vision a man named Ananias come in and lay his hands on him so that he might regain his sight.” But Ananias answered, “Lord, I have heard from many about this man, how much evil he has done to your saints in Jerusalem; and here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who invoke your name.” But the Lord said to him, “Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring my name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel; I myself will show him how much he must suffer for the sake of my name.” So Ananias went and entered the house. He laid his hands on Saul and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on your way here, has sent me so that you may regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” And immediately something like scales fell from his eyes, and his sight was restored. Then he got up and was baptized, and after taking some food, he regained his strength. For several days he was with the disciples in Damascus, and immediately he began to proclaim Jesus in the synagogues, saying, “He is the Son of God.”]

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 30

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** I will exalt you, O LORD, because you have lifted me up and have not let my enemies triumph over me.

**C** O LORD my God, I cried out to you, and you restored me to health.

**L** You brought me up, O LORD, from the dead; you restored my life as I was going down to the grave.

**C** Sing praise to the LORD, all you faithful; give thanks in holy remembrance.

**L** God’s wrath is short; God’s favor lasts a lifetime. Weeping spends the night, but joy comes in the morning.

**C** While I felt secure, I said, “I shall never be disturbed.

**L** You, LORD, with your favor, made me as strong as the mountains.” Then you hid your face, and I was filled with fear.

**C** I cried to you, O LORD; I pleaded with my Lord, saying,

**L** “What profit is there in my blood, if I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise you or declare your faithfulness?”

**C** **Hear, O LORD, and have mercy upon me; O LORD, be my helper.”**

**L** You have turned my wailing into dancing; you have put off my sackcloth and clothed me with joy.

**C** **Therefore my heart sings to you without ceasing; O LORD my God, I will give you thanks forever.**

## **SECOND READING** **Revelation 5:11-14**

*The vision of John recorded in Revelation offers a glimpse of cosmic worship around the throne. At its center is “the Lamb who was slain.”*

**L** A reading from Revelations, the fifth chapter

**L** Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!” Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing, “To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!” And the four living creatures said, “Amen!” And the elders fell down and worshiped.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## **CHILDREN’S MESSAGE** **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW Page 142**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **GOSPEL** **John 21:1-19**

*The risen Christ appears again to his disciples by the sea where they were first called. After echoes of the fishing and feeding miracles, he gives a final reminder of the cost of a disciple’s love and obedience.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

**P** After [he appeared to his followers in Jerusalem,] Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, “I am going fishing.” They said to him, “We will go with you.” They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, “Children, you have no fish, have you?” They answered him, “No.” He said to them, “Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.” So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, “It is the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the sea. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, “Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.” So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, “Come and have breakfast.” Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my lambs.” A second time he said to him, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Tend my sheep.” He said to him the third time, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, “Do you love me?” And he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.” (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, “Follow me.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated.)*

**SERMON**

**REFLECTION SONG “I Love To Tell the Story”**

**ELW 661**

*(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** Your love sustains the church and its ministries. By that love, equip youth directors, Sunday school teachers, and all who guide formation in the church to nurture vibrant, living faith among your people. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Your abundance is made known throughout creation. Preserve oceans and rivers, lakes and estuaries so that all creatures living in them might flourish. Make us wise stewards of our local watersheds. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Your wisdom guides all who strive for justice and peace. Strengthen the work of grassroots organizers, especially among communities on the frontlines of justice work. Amplify the voices of those most in need, that their leadership guides the way forward. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Your compassion surrounds all who are in need. We pray for all people experiencing poverty and food insecurity, and for all struggling with debt and economic uncertainty. Reassure all who experience hopelessness or need your tender care (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** You invite all people to your table of grace. Make this a community of radical hospitality where all feel loved and celebrated. Show us how to better welcome visitors and bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** Your love reaches all. 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 praise you for the witness of your saints of all times and places. May their lives of faith guide us in our own journeys with you, today and every day. 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 #182**

## 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**      “Lord, I Lift Your Name On High” (2 times)      **ELW 857**

### DISMISSAL

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

**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!

### 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, May 4, 2025

**9a** Worship & Sunday School

**10:15a** Grace Meal committee meeting

**10:15a** Property committee meeting

**10:15a** Prayer Shawl ministry

**10:15a** Confirmation Class

**12p** Lunch at The Legends

**6p** Baccalaureate service

#### Monday, May 5, 2025

**7p** 4-H meeting

#### Tuesday, May 6, 2025

**9a** Dominoes

**6p** Girl Scout Awards banquet

#### Wednesday, May 7, 2025

**7:30a** Men's Breakfast at The Beltline

#### Thursday, May 8, 2025

**1p** Cards and dominoes in Luther Hall

**3:15p** Healthy Wolves backpack packing

**6p** Girl Scout meeting

## ***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 4<sup>th</sup> 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 20<sup>th</sup> 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 4<sup>th</sup>, 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.

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During the monthly zoom meeting with the synod and other call committee chairs, it was made known there are 17 fulltime positions open in the synod and 5 part time positions. Several pastors will be retiring in the next few months so expect more congregations joining the call process. On the bright side, more pastors throughout the country have shown interest in moving to a new call. The synod is working very hard to bring these pastors to our synod. Several churches in our synod have had interviews with candidates so please do not give up hope. Please keep all candidates, churches going through the call process, and seminarians in our prayers.


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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 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

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**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.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
May 11	Linda Brinkmeier	Jay & Brianne Freedlund family	Deb Bremmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Kooper Kampmeier		Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher	

### *Happy Birthday!*

*Kendra Hillmer Chris Knoup Makayla Palmer Mary Ellen Aurand Adam Ditzler  
Erica (Albrecht) Schubert Brinkley Knoup Lindsay Hass Brogan Mitchell*

### **Grace Meal News. . .**

Thank You to everyone who helped with the Community Easter Meal!! Linda Albright, Grace and Kamryn Heimerdinger-Baake, Deb Bremmer, Pastor Roger Bronkema, Bonnie Dittmar, Tracy Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Pastor Wayne & Melissa Fischer, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Doris Kness, Joshua, Katrina & Kassidy Linnemann, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, Marilyn Smital, and Marge Roiland.

We served a total of 264 meals, 27 deliveries, 11 dine-ins and 226 curbside pickups. The meal was prepared and served as a joint effort of the area churches like the Community Christmas Meal. It was funded by local businesses and donations.

The May meal will be a St. John's Grace Meal on May 18<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday May 15<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 18<sup>th</sup>. The Menu for the May Grace Meal will be BBQ sandwich, 3 bean salad, potato chips and a Rice Krispy bar.

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The social ministry committee will be having a collection for the ELCA Good Gifts project from April 27<sup>th</sup> through June 1<sup>st</sup>. 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, 10 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.