



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• **March 2025 Newsletter** •

Sunday Worship and Children's Church (K-6): 9am

229 S. First St, PO Box 234
Pearl City, IL 61062
815-443-2215

Pastor Len Hoffmann
Email: prshadmin@gmail.com
www.stjohnspearlcity.org

Lent – A Time for Introspection

On March 5 at 7:00 pm worship we enter the season of Lent. We hear the words on Ash Wednesday that we are entering a time of fasting, prayer and works of love – the disciplines of Lent.

Fasting – Often we think of giving up things for lent. It often is things that we otherwise would like to have like chocolate, or desserts, or maybe even fried foods. However, maybe we might want to consider giving up things that may be more challenging, something that may require God's help. How about giving up not coming to worship? Could you commit to worshipping each of the Sundays of Lent through Holy Week through Easter? How about fasting from becoming disagreeable and choosing to listen to with an open mind to a differing opinion. Fill in the blank fasting from _____ and living into _____.

Prayer – Prayer is something that Paul reminds us to do without ceasing, and we know God knows our needs before we pray. However, how about going through Lent and trying to pray the Lord's Prayer and not just reciting it. You might want to dust off your Small Catechism and review what Luther has to say as he provides an explanation to each petition. Can't find a Small Catechism? There is one in the back of the ELW, or you will find one online by Googling "Martin Luther's Small Catechism. Think about what it says about forgiving our sins – a Lenten focus.

Works of Love – This might be in some ways the easiest discipline. St. John's offers many ways to do works of love – Grace Meals, Healthy Wolves Backpack Program, Pearl City Food Pantry, ELCA World Hunger, Lutheran Disaster Response, Lutheran World Relief, Caring H.E.A.R.T.s.

All these disciplines lead us to **introspection. We look inside ourselves to see what God is changing or needs to change in us.** How do we see our neighbors who may not be like us? How do we view each other even when we hold different opinions from us? How do we listen to each other out of care and concern for the welfare of the whole community? How do we have meaningful conversations that lead to reconciliation and heal the hurt that we feel inside?

Let's let Lent be a time for introspection, communication, reconciliation, and healing. Indeed, this is what Jesus offers us through his suffering, death, and resurrection as we again journey with him toward renewal and new life. God's gift of Grace.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

Sunday School continues the first and third Sunday of each month. This year we will be hearing more stories from the Old Testament and some from the New Testament. Each class includes stories from the Bible plus a craft or game for the kids. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with Morgan Scharping or Theresa Snetcher.



The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of paper towels, Kleenex, cans of fruit, cans of soup, chewy granola bars, Jello & pudding, cans of tuna/chicken, hamburger helper, and crackers. 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!

The Grace Meal committee is always looking for people to help prepare and serve the monthly meals! If you think that this is something you could commit to, find the sign-up sheet in Luther Hall and put yourself down for the month(s) you think you can help out! You don't have to know any recipes—just be able to help prepare and serve. Thanks.



Don't forget that everyone is welcome to come to dominoes on the first Tuesday of every month from 9AM to Noon. The next one will be March 4th, **and we will be serving chili and cornbread after dominoes on March 4th!** Invite others! Cards and dominoes are played on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00-3:30 PM as well. The next dates are March 13th and 27th!

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 are 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.



All kids in grades K-5 are invited to a new community program called **Kids Klub!** It is a monthly adventure supported by Pearl City area churches and offers a safe and supportive environment where children will enjoy bible stories, crafts, games, and snacks. It will meet for the next time at St. John's on March 19th from 3:15-5:00 PM. It will continue to meet on the third Wednesday of each month. For more information or to register your child, contact Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or call 815-291-6261.

It is not too late to join the Chancel Choir this year! If you enjoy hearing the choir singing and think you would like to join, come and join the group! The next rehearsal date is Sunday, March 9th at 8:15 AM and the next time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, March 16th! They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 16th! You don't have to be a great singer, you just have to want to have some fun singing and enjoy praising Our Lord in song!



I am excited to be your interim and transitional pastor for the next couple of months. I want to learn of your ministry past and present and your aspirations for the future. I will be with you on Sundays and Wednesdays and will work from home one day a week. I can be reached at prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com or by phone or text at 815-975-4740.



Pastor Len

Confirmation News. . .

Confirmation: Confirmation continues on the first and third Sunday of the month. We are almost done with our study of the Lord's Prayer and will continue with the learning about the church service and understanding as well as using the bible. Sunday, March 2nd, there will **NOT** be a confirmation class as I will be out of town. Please remember to always bring your bible to confirmation class and don't leave it on a shelf until our next meeting, **LOOK THROUGH IT!** If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Shawn Kuhlemeier



| Date | Acolytes | Tech Support |
|-----------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| March 2 | Cara Brinkmeier Carlito Ramos | Clayton Downs George Snetcher |
| March 9 | George Snetcher Hudson Voss | Clayton Downs George Snetcher |
| March 16 | Cara Brinkmeier Jonah Schubert | Clayton Downs George Snetcher |
| March 23 | George Snetcher Welden Snetcher | Clayton Downs George Snetcher |
| March 30 | Carlito Ramos | Clayton Downs George Snetcher |

If you can not help when you are scheduled, please email the church office of who your replacement is. Thank you!
(prshadmin@gmail.com)

Duties of the Church for March 2025

| Date | Greeters | Ushers | Lector | Worship Assistant |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| March 2 | Mike & Lynda Palmer | Tracy Downs family | April Eberle | Ethan Bremmer |
| March 5 Ash Wed. | Joel & Lori Kempel | Theresa Snetcher family | Lori Kempel | Kathy Hillmer |
| March 9 | Bob & Marge Roiland | Brian Brudi | Leann Heimerdinger | Karen Bremmer |
| March 16 | Lee & Stacey Block | Ken & Kathy Hillmer | Dennis Downs | Theresa Albers |
| March 23 | Theresa Snetcher family | Rusty & Kris Liebenstein | Jane Boop | Shawn Kuhlemeier |
| March 30 | DJ Scott | Dennis Downs family | Joel Kempel | Kris Eden |

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Chris Kempel & Kris Liebenstein

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are March 5th and April 2nd. They are meeting at The Beltline Restaurant in Freeport at 7:30 AM. See you there!



Grace Meal News. . .

A special Thank You to everyone who helped with the February Grace Meal: Cara Brinkmeier, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Grace Heimerdinger, Jim Heimerdinger, Lois Hunsaker, Marge Roiland, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, and Kathy Williams. We prepared a total of 221 meals, 32 deliveries and 189 curbside pick-ups.

The March Grace Meal will be on Sunday, March 16th. Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 16th. Reservations are due in the church office by Thursday, March 13th. The menu for the March Grace Meal will be Lasagna, Salad, Bread, and Cake. This meal is possible with a grant from the Pearl City Lions Club and Community donations.

Do you have an account with Thrivent? Maybe an investment account? Maybe an insurance account? If so, would you be willing to apply for a Thrivent "seed money" card to help with the Grace Meal. Contact DJ Scott or Marge Roiland on how to do that and find out what months we need funds. If you are a member of Thrivent this comes at no cost to you.

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.



Have you ever wondered what goes on at the Church Council meetings each month? All the papers and forms discussed at each month's meeting are posted on the bulletin board right outside of Luther Hall! Check it out and ask questions if you have them.

Worship Services. . .

Worship services will continue to be held at St. John's in our sanctuary and live on Facebook. You are welcome to stop at the church on Friday or Saturday before worship and pick up a bulletin. The worship service online will be a complete service. The upcoming bulletin and the past three weeks of bulletins and announcements are now online at <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/bulletins-sermons>.

If you have a Facebook Account: You will be accessing the church's Facebook at St. John's Lutheran Church. (You will see the 125th Anniversary Quilt.) **If you Don't have a Facebook Account:** You may access the livestream via the St. John's website at www.StJohnsPearlCity.org. On the top right of the website has our Facebook page icon and you may click on it there.

Church Giving. . .

The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. St. John's is able to continue in the mission of the Church because of your faithfulness and financial commitment. While you may be joining us from worship at home, you can give online here: <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/giving> Other easy ways to give can also be found on our website by clicking on the GIVING tab.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Financial Committee Report . . .

As we go through the rest of the year, be aware that even though we may still only have an interim pastor, our expenses will probably be going up due to the extra time our new interim pastor will be putting in with us.

Income vs Expense Comparison by Month

| Current Fund | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|--------------|--------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|--------|
| Income | 15,326 | | | | | | | | | | | | 15,326 |
| Expense | 9,514 | | | | | | | | | | | | 9,514 |
| Difference | 5,812 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 5,812 |

| Improvement Fund | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | June | July | Aug | Sept | Oct | Nov | Dec | Total |
|------------------|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|------|-----|------|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| Income | 3,685 | | | | | | | | | | | | 3,685 |
| Expense | 0 | | | | | | | | | | | | 0 |
| Difference | 3,685 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3,685 |

Thank you to Carla Personette, Nancy Boop, Nancy Trampel, Joan Klatt, Doris Kness and Kathy Albrecht who helped me with the Food Pantry the month of February. Also a big thank you to all who help by donating food and/or funds to keep this ministry available for others. Forty-four bags of groceries went to help sixteen families feed their families this month. The next month we will be staffing the Pantry will be May. If you have two hours on the second and fourth Saturday of the month and would like to help-or just see what is involved, contact Doris Kness or Janet Ferguson for information.



Our Friends at Home . .

No one likes to be inside all the time. However we have many friends and members who are unable to attend services or activities with us. Please take a few moments to remember them by sending a small note, or a phone call. Let them know we are thinking of them. It only takes a few moments to brighten up someone's day. Contact the office at 815-443-2215 or email at prshadmin@gmail.com for address info.

| | | | | |
|--------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Richard Brinkmeier | Tom Purple | Connie Melville | Mary Ellen Aurand | Ron Melville |
| Janis Kampmeier | Lori Miller | Carol Garnhart | Shirley Goldsmith | Verda Werkheiser |
| Louise Cuccico | Carol Byers | | | |

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 25-30 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. If you would like to help back the backpacks, the group meets downstairs in the

Healthy Wolves room in the new basement every Thursday at 3:15 PM! **Items of particular need are individually wrapped full size bars of soap, or monetary donations?**



Women's Gathering Ministries . .

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard – bring BABY WIPES

Food Pantry donations: Shampoo, conditioner, deodorant

Starting the EMAIL Prayer Chain: To start the email prayer chain, contact Karen Bremmer at ([815 443 2478](tel:8154432478) or [815 821 4698](tel:8158214698)) or email at rkbremmer@gmail.com You may also contact the church office at [815 443-2215](tel:8154432215) (please leave a message as they are checked after hours, etc.) or email at prshadmin@gmail.com. . If you are not receiving the Prayer Chain email and would like to be included, please contact the church office.

*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, March 2nd 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, March 18th. The Board meeting will be at 8:30 AM and fellowship and coffee will be at 9:45. The bible study will start at 10 and will be led by Kathy Hillmer and the topic will be "Faith adventures: Peter and Cornelius". The co-hostesses are Lois Hunsaker and Joan Klatt. Sit & Sew will follow at 11 AM until 3 PM. You can help sew labels on lap quilts, and make a quilt tag or quilt for the HS graduates. Come for fellowship and stay as long as you wish. Chili will be served this day!

*Women's Gathering would like to invite everyone at St. John's and their friends to go out for lunch together on Sunday, March 2nd. We are planning to go to Route 20 at 11:30 AM. Please sign up on the lobby bulletin board.

*The lights and garland need to come down on Sunday, March 2nd following the worship service. Your help is appreciated!

*Women's Gathering will be serving the Community Lenten Lunch on Wednesday, March 26th at the Pearl City United Methodist Church in Pearl City from noon-1PM. Pastor Len Hoffmann will give the message. There will be a free-will donation for the soup/sandwich lunch.

*On Sunday, April 6th, St. John's members and friends can go out for lunch at Lake Carroll (Candlelight Inn) at 11:30 AM. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Also on this date, we will be showing the DVD "Jesus", a Branson Sight and Sound Production at 1:30 PM upstairs at St. John's. Members and friends are welcome to attend!

Council Corner: Hello from your Church Council.

We welcomed Pastor Len Hoffmann on February 16th. Pastor Len has graciously agreed to serve as our Interim Pastor until April 30th. We are grateful for his willingness to lead us during this time and look forward to his guidance. The Council will be discussing the possibility of renewing the Letter of Agreement with Pastor Len as we approach the end of April.

The Council and Call Committee will be working diligently together to facilitate a smooth and inclusive transition process as we search for our next pastor. A key part of this process is gathering input from our congregation. To that end, we will be organizing opportunities for both large and small group gatherings during March and April. These gatherings will provide a platform for everyone to share their concerns, hopes, and vision for the future of our church. More details about dates, times, and formats for these gatherings will be shared soon. We encourage everyone to participate and contribute to this important process.

Grace Heimerdinger-Baake—Council President

Every Wednesday at Noon during Lent, the Pearl City Methodist Church (411 S. Main Street in Pearl City) will be hosting Lenten Soup Lunches. There will be a brief message followed by a Lenten meal. Area churches that will sponsor the meal are: March 12th—Pearl City UMC, March 19th—Ebenezer/Salem UCC, March 26th—St. John's Lutheran of Pearl City, April 2nd—Yellow Creek Church of the Brethren, and April 9th—Zion Community Church. A good will offering will be taken!

Mark your calendar for the 2025 Family Fun Night! It is scheduled for Saturday, March 15th. We will eat at 5:30 PM and play cards and games through 8:00 PM. People will be asked to bring a dish to pass based on the first letter of their last name. **A-H should bring a casserole, I-P should bring a salad, and Q-Z should bring a dessert.** The Stewardship/Outreach committee will provide water, coffee, and lemonade for the evening. Everyone is welcome and be sure to invite community members as well!



The call committee met February 11th. Questions from the committee for a candidate that were previously agreed upon were reviewed. Also reviewed were questions the committee will ask a candidate's references. It was decided no revisions were necessary.

There have been no candidate names forwarded to St. John's. Please keep all call process candidates, churches going through the call process, synod leaders helping with the call process and seminarians in your prayers.

A dark blue rectangular box containing the text "Call Committee Update" in white, bold, sans-serif font, arranged in three lines.

**Call
Committee
Update**

March 2025

See an updated and complete calendar throughout the month at www.stjohnspearlcity.org

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|--|---|--|---|---|----------------------------------|---|
| March 2 9a Worship & Sunday School 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property Meeting 10a Prayer Shawl Outreach 10a Social Ministry meeting | 3 7p 4-H Meeting | 4 9a Dominoes | 5 7:30a Men's Breakfast 7p Ash Wednesday service | 6 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach Meeting 10a Memorial/Finance Meeting 6p 4-H Meeting | 10 4:30p PC Lions dinner & meeting 6p Girl Scout meeting 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting | 11 | 12 10a Worship & Music committee meeting 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing | 13 1p Cards & Dominoes 6p Girl Scout Meeting | 14 | 15 9a Grace Meal prep 5:30p Family Fun Night |
| 16 9a Worship & Sunday School 10:15a Confirmation Class 10:30a Grace Meal | 17 | 18 8:30a Women's Gathering Board meeting 9:45a Women's Gathering meeting 11a Sit & Sew | 19 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC 3:15p Kids Klub ministry 7p Church Council Meeting | 20 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing | 21 | 22 |
| 23 9a Worship | 24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE | 25 | 26 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC (SJ hosts) 6p Historical Society meeting & speaker | 27 1p Cards & Dominoes 6p Girl Scout Meeting | 28 | 29 9a 4-H YQCA training in Luther Hall |
| 30 9a Worship | 31 6p Girl Scout meeting | April 1 9a Dominoes | 2 7:30a Men's Breakfast 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC | 3 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing | 4 5p Wedding rehearsal | 5 9a Pitts/Lott Wedding |

March Birthdays

| | | | | | |
|----|---------------------|----|---------------------------|----|--------------------------|
| 1 | Kris Liebenstein | 15 | Blake Voss | 22 | Eli Bremmer |
| 2 | Becky Potter | | Stacey Knoup | 26 | Doug Klatt |
| | Kathy Williams | 16 | Kathy Albrecht | 27 | Randy Faust |
| 4 | Deb Bremmer | | Nancy Boop | 29 | Kegan DeZell |
| | Calvin Kloften | 17 | Melissa (Albrecht) Shatek | 31 | Twila Simler |
| 6 | Alayna Palmer | 18 | Vince Edler | | Nolan Heimerdinger-Baake |
| 7 | Hailey Heimerdinger | | Rick Ferguson | | |
| 9 | Jack Kempel | | Darla Hasselman | | |
| | Kirk Knoup | 19 | Kamryn Heimerdinger-Baake | | |
| 13 | Hannah Little | 20 | Adam Block | | |
| | Danielle Kempel | 21 | Robbie Shores | | |
| 14 | Jacob Lieb | | Cheyenne Handsaker | | |