



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• May 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

Dear Friends in Christ,

I just occurred to me recently that the Mission Statement of the congregation – Ever Loving, Caring Always makes the acronym ELCA. So, what is the ELCA that we are a member of as individuals, And as a Congregation?

According to our congregation we are an interdependent part of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and of the Northern Illinois Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. Interdependent means that each part has specific responsibilities ELCA, Synod, Congregation, but are interconnected in mission and purpose. But how does that work?

The ELCA is comprised of approximately 8,500 congregations gathered into 65 synods. It is funded through congregational offerings which are distributed to the ELCA by its 65 synods. Every synod passes on between 45 and 55 cents of every dollar that each synod receives from its congregations is sent to the ELCA for its mission on behalf of the entire church. The ELCA also receives individual gifts from members as well as estate gifts. The ELCA supports these areas of ministry nationally and internationally.

- *More than 270 agencies and institutions that are the second largest provider of human services of any non-governmental social services agency (Lutheran Services in America)

- *A church body that maintains 27 church-related colleges and universities, enrolling more than 53,000 students each year

- *A church that provides eight seminaries across the country for the training of pastors and other church workers

- *Helps to support 400 missionaries in 45 countries around the world

- *Reaches thousands of men, women, and children by providing more than \$12 million annually in hunger funds, both internationally and at home.

- *The Northern Illinois Synod serves the congregations and members of the northcentral and northwestern parts of Illinois. The synod is comprised of 137 individual congregations with a total combined membership of more than 50,000 people. The Northern Illinois Synod supports and enables the following areas of ministry: **Candidacy** (preparing and approving candidates for rostered ministry in the ELCA. The bishop also nominates candidates for ministries in the synod). **Congregational Life** (supporting congregational ministries, including the annual Congregational Resourcing Event and a subcommittee for Youth Ministry). **Global Mission**. **Ministry Support** (provides resources, support, and continuing education within our synod, in cooperation with other synods, agencies, and institutions within the ELCA and the Church for lay and rostered leaders). **Outreach** (Assists congregations to learn, think and live Jesus' life, death and resurrection to build faithful and vital Christian communities). **Social Ministry** works to inspire and encourage the people of the congregations and communities of the Northern Illinois Synod to care for those in need, serve our neighbors, seek justice and righteousness for all people). **Women of the ELCA**.

St. John's Lutheran Church Ever Loving, Ever Caring. We are the ELCA in Pearl City.

Thank you for your ministry.

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

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.



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!

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 May 6th. 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 May 8th and 22nd!

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.



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!

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.

Thank you to the members of the Chancel Choir for their faithful singing this year! Also, a BIG thank you to Sandy Scott for being our accompanist this year! I hope we have more singers join us next Fall. I appreciate your willingness to use your talent to praise the Lord!

Kathy Hillmer



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!

Confirmation News. . .

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	Acolytes	Tech Support
May 4	Lucy Voss	Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher
May 11	Kooper Kampmeier	Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher
May 18	Lucy Voss Diem Gronewold	Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher
May 25	Hudson Voss	Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher
June 1	Hudson Voss	Marlee McPeck Hudson Voss

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 May 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
May 4	Marvin & Joan Klatt	Randy & Sandy Faust	Marion Eden	Theresa Albers
May 11	Linda Brinkmeier	Jay & Brianne Freedlund family	Deb Bremmer	Tracy Downs
May 18	Josh & Alison Hille	Larry & Kathy Albrecht	Lynda Palmer	Joel Kempel
May 25	Jerilyn Strohecker	Jayson & Kim Williams family	Stacey Block	Lincoln Voss
June 1	Bonnie Dittmar	Doris Kness	Andrew Gronewold	

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Cindy Heimerdinger and Mike Palmer

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are May 7th and June 4th! They are meeting at The Beltline Restaurant in Freeport at 7:30 AM. See you there!



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

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	10,190	9,429										34,945
Expense	9,514	11,273	12,712										33,499
Difference	5,812	-1,083	-3,283	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1,446

Improvement Fund	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	3,685	2,790	1,380										7,855
Expense	0	550	591										1,141
Difference	3,685	2,240	789	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,714

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 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.



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
Janis Kampmeier
Louise Cuccico

Ron Fluegel
Lori Miller
Carol Byers

Connie Melville
Carol Garnhart
Gina Boop

Mary Ellen Aurand
Shirley Goldsmith

Ron Melville
Verda Werkheiser



On May 26th, the Lena American Legion Auxiliary will be hosting at Memorial Day Breakfast at the Lena American Legion Home from 7:00 AM to 9:30 AM. It will include scrambled eggs, French toast, biscuits & gravy, sausage, ham, coffee cake, fresh fruit, juice, milk, and coffee. The cost is \$10 for those 10 and over and \$5 for those under 10. All proceeds will help support their projects for the veterans and the community.

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



Call Committee Update

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.

Women's Gathering Ministries . .

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard – bring BABY WIPES

Food Pantry donations: Mayonnaise and salad dressing

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, 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.

Council Corner: The Congregational Council met on Wednesday, April 23rd. During this meeting, the council reflected on the *Holy Conversations* held on March 30th and April 6th. These discussions were meaningful and offered valuable insights into the dynamics and interactions within our congregation.

Council would like to remind all members that if a concern arises, we encourage you to address it directly with the individual or pastor involved. If the issue remains unresolved, please bring it to the attention of a council member. As part of our continued growth and commitment, the council officially adopted five Core Values at our April 6th meeting:

Scripture Alone – Preaching, Teaching, and Learning in the Word of God.

Worship and Prayer – Celebrating and receiving God's Grace. Individually and together, lifting our praises and petitions to God.

Commitment to Community – Caring about and addressing the needs of others, locally and globally, and offering hope to people who need hope.

Fellowship – Extending welcome and hospitality to all.

Excellence – Maintaining the highest standards in ministry as we carry out God's Mission.

In response to insights from the Holy Conversations, the council has formed an ad-hoc committee to explore ministry opportunities for children, youth, and young adults at St. John's. Committee members will include council representatives Grace Heimerdinger-Baake and Brandon Scharping, along with Christian Education and Stewardship & Outreach members. We are also seeking a congregational member with children under 18 to join us in this important work.

Finally, we are pleased to announce that Pastor Len Hoffmann's Letter of Agreement has been extended through the remainder of the interim period, until our next pastor is called.

Grace Heimerdinger-Baake—Council President



BACCALAUREATE

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.

Dear St John's Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers, emails, and cards following my recent back surgery. Thank you to Pastor Len for coming to give me communion. I appreciate everything! I have to be patient as this is a slow recovery, but I will be back to worship as soon as I am able to move around better. God bless you! —Joan Stewart



Sometime during the month of May, we will be placing the orders for the giving envelopes for the next year.

If you currently receive giving envelopes and no longer wish to use them to give to the church, please let DJ know so he can drop you from the list. If you are not receiving envelopes but would like to start receiving them, please let DJ know and he will add you to the list.

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

**ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS**

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.

May 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
April 27 9a Worship 10:30a Grace Meal	28 6p Girl Scout meeting	29	30	May 1 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	2	3
4 9a Worship & Sunday School 10a Property Meeting 10a Prayer Shawl Outreach 10a Grace Meal meeting 10:15a Confirmation Class 12p Lunch at The Legends 6p Baccalaureate at St. John's	5 7p 4-H meeting	6 9a Dominoes 6p Girl Scout Awards Banquet	7 7:30a Men's Breakfast	8 1p Cards & Dominoes 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing 6p Girl Scout Meeting	9	10
11 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach Meeting 10a Memorial/Finance Meeting 10a Christian Education Meeting 10a Helping Hands meeting 6p 4-H Meeting	12 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	13	14 10a Worship & Music committee meeting	15 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	16	17 8a Grace Meal prep
18 9a Worship & Sunday School 10:30a Grace Meal 4p Luther Hall rented	19	20 9:45a Women's Gathering meeting	21 7p Church Council meeting	22 1p Cards & Dominoes 6p Girl Scout Meeting	23	24
25 9a Worship	26	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28	29	30	31

May Birthdays

4	Kendra Hillmer	16	Khristine Block	30	Theresa Albers
5	Chris Knoup	18	Colt Kempel		Jennifer Elliot
7	Mikayla Palmer	19	Tate Williams	31	Fred Mather
	Mary Ellen Aurand	20	Jim Heimerdinger		Earlene Domberger
8	Adam Ditzler	21	Kim Williams		Kay DePrisco
	Erica (Albrecht) Schubert		Noah Shatek		
	Brinkley Knoup	23	Tara Allind		
9	Lindsay Hass	24	Carmen Bremmer		
10	Brogan Mitchell		Georgie Yarbrough		
11	Marge Roiland	27	Heidi Erbsen-Poldre		
12	Alison Hille		Coe Kempel		
	Jim Robinson		Devin Schiess		
13	Ashley Gronewold	29	Ross Bremmer		