



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:

Tues., Wed., Fri. 6-11 AM

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"



Fifth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Holy Communion—Chancel Choir Sings

Recognition of Pearl City graduating Seniors

May 18, 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 & Diem Gronewold
Organist: Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Lynda Palmer **Assisting Minister:** Joel Kempel
Greeter: Josh & Alison Hille family **Ushers:** Larry & Kathy Albrecht **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

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

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 “Here I Am Lord” **ELW 574**
(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 Lord God, you teach us that without love, our actions gain nothing. Pour into our hearts your most excellent gift of love, that, made alive by your Spirit, we may know goodness and peace, through 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

BLESSING FOR COMPLETED HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION QUILTS

P May God’s grace be upon these quilts...
Warming, comforting, enfolding and embracing.
May it become a safe haven....a sacred place of security and well being...
Sustaining and embracing good times as well as difficult ones.
May the ones who receives these quilts be cradled in hope, kept in joy,
graced with peace and wrapped in love. In Jesus name we pray,

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 11:1-18

In defense of his earlier baptism of non-Jewish believers, Peter demonstrates to the members of the Jerusalem church that God’s intention to love Gentiles as well as Jews is revealed in Jesus’ testimony. In this way the mission to the Gentiles is officially authorized.

L A reading from Acts, the eleventh chapter

L Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, “Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?” Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, “I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, ‘Get up, Peter; kill and eat.’ But I replied, ‘By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.’ But a second time the voice answered from heaven, ‘What God has made clean, you must not call profane.’ This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man’s house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, ‘Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.’ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, ‘John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.’ If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?” When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, “Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 148

L Let us say the Psalm responsively

L Hallelujah! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise God in the heights.

C Praise the LORD, all you angels; sing praise, all you hosts of heaven.

L Praise the LORD, sun and moon; sing praise, all you shining stars.

C Praise the LORD, heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens.

L Let them praise the name of the LORD, who commanded, and they were created,

C who made them stand fast forever and ever, giving them a law that shall not pass away

L Praise the LORD from the earth, you sea monsters and all deeps;

C fire and hail, snow and fog, tempestuous wind, doing God’s will;

L mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars;

C wild beasts and all cattle, creeping things and flying birds;

- L** sovereigns of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the world;
- C** **young men and maidens, old and young together.**
- L** Let them praise the name of the LORD, whose name only is exalted, whose splendor is over earth and heaven.
- C** **The LORD has raised up strength for the people and praise for all faithful servants, the children of Israel, a people who are near the LORD. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING Revelation 21:1-6

John's vision shows us that in the resurrection the new age has dawned; God dwells with us already. Yet we wait for the time when the tears that cloud our vision will be wiped away. Then we will see the new heaven, new earth, and new Jerusalem.

- L** A reading from Revelations, the twenty-first chapter
- L** I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life."
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL John 13:31-35

After washing the disciples' feet, predicting his betrayal, and then revealing his betrayer, Jesus speaks of his glorification on the cross. This deep complicated love of Jesus, even to death on the cross, will be the distinctive mark of Jesus' community.

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**
- P** When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little

longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, ‘Where I am going, you cannot come.’ I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“God Is There”

CHANCEL CHOIR

(Please stand as you are able.)

NICENE CREED

ELW PAGE 104

RECOGNITION OF HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES & PRESENTATION OF PRAYER QUILTS

The graduates: Ethan Bremmer, Myles Freedlund, Paige Hille, Jorja Johnson

P You are all unique creations, blessed by God with life, called, in love, to grow and to share your gifts with others. We come together today to celebrate your accomplishments, to reflect on who you are for us, and to share our dreams for your future. May your graduation day be filled with happiness and joy.

The graduates will share a few words of her/his goals. Each graduate will be presented with a Prayer Quilt from the St. John’s Prayer Shawl Ministry. The following will be said to each graduate.

P This quilt was made with prayers for your wellness in Body, Mind and Spirit. As you wear this quilt may you feel the warm embrace of our heavenly Father.

The graduates will then face the congregation:

P May God continue to bless you and challenge you.

G May you always be surrounded by people who support and love you.

P May you grow more fully into the women and men that God wants you to be, and that the world so desperately needs.

G We ask this today, in hope and expectation that God will continue the great things already begun in you. Amen

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

(A brief silence.)

A Fill the church with the spirit of your redeeming love. Make us steadfast in our proclamation of your grace for all people without exceptions, especially those often overlooked in our communities. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Awaken joy in the beauty and abundance of your creation. Show us the wonder of your presence from the smallest flower to the tallest tree. Recommit us to preservation of wild places. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Instruct all world leaders to protect the most vulnerable among us. Guide those in power toward equitable and just economic policies, so that all might have sufficient resources to live safely and with dignity. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Pour out your love on all in need of care: those mourning losses, enduring trauma, experiencing broken relationships, yearning for companionship, or facing illness (*especially*). Wipe away every tear. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Abide with all who are victims of racism, especially people who are doubly marginalized because of gender, sexuality, or ability. Destroy all forms of systemic oppression, and renew our commitment to healing the wounds of our collective body in this community and beyond. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Remember your faithful. 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 give thanks for all the saints whose lives bear witness to your redeeming love. Guide us by their example, until we join them in your eternal home. 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

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW 768

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

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor
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Tues., Wed., Fri. 6-11AM

St. John's Website
www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, May 18, 2025

9a Worship

10:30a Grace Meal

4p Luther Hall rented

Monday, May 19, 2025

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

9:45a Women's Gathering meeting at Rt. 20

Wednesday, May 21, 2025

7p Church Council meeting

Thursday, May 22, 2025

1p Cards & Dominoes in Luther Hall

6p Girl Scout meeting

Sunday, May 25, 2025

Acts 16:9-15 Psalm 67

Revelations 21:10, 22-22:5 John 14:23-29

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, June 1st 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.

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

Since Federal HIPAA Laws require hospitals to keep patient information private, pastors no longer have access to patient information. So if you would like a pastoral visit while hospitalized, please contact Pastor Len directly at 815-975-4740 by phone or text, or email at prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
May 25	Jerilyn Strohecker	Jayson & Kim Williams family	Stacey Block
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Hudson Voss		Kolton Kampmeier Welden Snetcher	

Happy Birthday!

*Colt Kempel Tate Williams Jim Heimerdinger Kim Williams
Noah Shatek Tara Allind Carmen Bremmer Georgie Yarbrough*

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 & Cassidy 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 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, 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.