



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., Tues., Fri 6:30-11:30 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"



Time After Pentecost

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Special Music by No Worries Band

June 22, 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:** Welden Snetcher **Organist:** none
Lector: DJ Scott **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Aaron Woker
Ushers: Theresa Snetcher family **Counters:** Mike Palmer & Joan Klatt **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

This Sunday's texts paint startling pictures of the horrific nature of sin. The church's repeated celebration of holy communion counters that tragic reality in a continued showing forth of the death of Jesus until he comes again. It is a dramatic declaration of "how much God has done for you."

PRESERVICE MUSIC

NO WORRIES BAND

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

P Baptized into Christ, let us confess our sin.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P Merciful God,

C you free us to love others, but we neglect our neighbors and follow our own way. You lead us by the Spirit of joy and peace, but we turn away from the abundant life you offer. You surround us with patience, kindness, and generosity, but we grow weary in doing what is right. In your mercy, forgive us. Do not give up on us. Heal us, break our bonds, and show us the path of life. Amen.

P You belong to Christ Jesus and you are God's children through faith. In the cross of ☩ Christ, and through the power of the Holy Spirit, your sins are forgiven. Clothed with Christ, you are a new creation.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness"

ELW 733

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you

P O Lord God, we bring before you the cries of a sorrowing world. In your mercy set us free from the chains that bind us, and defend us from everything that is evil, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 65:1-9

The prophet announces God's impatience. The people's self-absorption is idolatry, and images of practices that displease God fill this reading. Like a vintner who crushes the grape to release the wine, God will use Israel's exile to establish a new community of the faithful.

L A reading from Isaiah, the sixty-fifth chapter

L I was ready to be sought out by those who did not ask, to be found by those who did not seek me. I said, "Here I am, here I am," to a nation that did not call on my name. I held out my hands all day long to a rebellious people, who walk in a way that is not good, following their own devices; a people who provoke me to my face continually, sacrificing in gardens and offering incense on bricks; who sit inside tombs, and spend the night in secret places; who eat swine's flesh, with broth of abominable things in their vessels; who say, "Keep to yourself, do not come near me, for I am too holy for you." These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all day long. See, it is written before me: I will not keep silent, but I will repay; I will indeed repay into their laps their iniquities and their ancestors' iniquities together, says the LORD; because they offered incense on the mountains and reviled me on the hills, I will measure into their laps full payment for their actions. Thus says the LORD: As the wine is found in the cluster, and they say, "Do not destroy it, for there is a blessing in it," so I will do for my servants' sake, and not destroy them all. I will bring forth descendants from Jacob, and from Judah inheritors of my mountains; my chosen shall inherit it, and my servants shall settle there.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 22:19-28

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** But you, O LORD, be not far away; O my help, hasten to my aid.
- C** **Deliver me from the sword, my life from the power of the dog.**
- L** Save me from the lion's mouth! From the horns of wild bulls you have rescued me.
- C** **I will declare your name to my people; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you.**
- L** You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory. Stand in awe of the LORD, all you offspring of Israel.
- C** **For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD's face hidden from them but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**
- L** From you comes my praise in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.
- C** **The poor shall eat and be satisfied, Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**
- L** All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD; all the families of nations shall bow before God.
- C** **For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

SECOND READING

Galatians 3:23-29

For Paul, baptism is a powerful bond that unites people not only with God but with other believers. Those who call themselves children of God experience a transformation that removes prejudices of race, social class, or gender in favor of true unity in Christ.

- L** A reading from Galatians, the third chapter
- L** Now before faith came, we were imprisoned and guarded under the law until faith would be revealed. Therefore the law was our disciplinarian until Christ came, so that we might be justified by faith. But now that faith has come, we are no longer subject to a disciplinarian, for in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith. As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus. And if you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to the promise.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 8:26-39

Jesus' mission includes foreigners and his authority extends to the casting out of demons. Some who witness Jesus' work are seized with confusion and fear, but the man who was healed is commissioned to give testimony to God's mercy and power.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

P Then [Jesus and his disciples] arrived at the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, “What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me”—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, “What is your name?” He said, “Legion”; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, “Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.” So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG
(Please stand as you are able.)

“Here I Am Lord

ELW 574

APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW PAGE 105

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Drawn into the embrace of the holy Trinity, we lift our prayers for the wholeness of the church, the world, and all creation.

(A brief silence.)

A We pray for the church. Clothe us in Christ, shower us in mercy, send us in love. Strengthen the faith and witness of Christians across the planet and Christians in our community. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for creation. Deliver the earth from disaster, bring forth life amid uncertainty, inspire wonder at all you have made. Sustain all people who delight in the well-being of your creation: farmers, agricultural workers, gardeners, birdwatchers, conservationists, scientists, advocates, and policy makers. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for the nations. Pave a way to justice, drown the forces of oppression, bring peace on earth. Give leaders the will to turn from war and violence. When people must flee their homes, guide them to safety. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for people in need. Satisfy all who are poor, soothe those in pain, accompany all who are sick (*especially*). Give perseverance to each of us living with mental illness, and shield us from discrimination due to race, class, gender, or any other human distinction. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for this assembly. Listen to our cries, come to our aid, make us one. Weave among us the fabric of belonging so that we rejoice in each person gathered here, and enliven our proclamation of how much you have done for us. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We pray for 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, Jerry Harnish, Ron Fluegel, Louise Cuccio and Ron & Connie Melville*. God of grace,

C Hear our prayer.

A We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Keep them in your peace, comfort us in sorrow, raise us to new life. As we remember their faith and witness, may we trust your promise that we are yours forever. God of grace,

C **Hear our prayer.**

P Gather all our prayers in your mercy, O God, through Jesus Christ, our 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.

OFFERING

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A Creator God, in your wisdom you bring forth all that is good and the harvest is plentiful. Strengthen us at your table with these gifts of the earth and our labor, that we may work for the good of all; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy God, our Maker, Redeemer, and Healer, in the harmonious world of your creation, the plants and animals, the seas and stars were whole and well in your praise. When sin had scarred the world, you sent your Son to heal our ills and to form us again into one.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his acts of healing, his body given up, and his victory over death, we await that day when all the peoples of the earth will come to the river to enjoy the tree of life. Send your Spirit upon us and this meal: as grains scattered on the hillside become one bread, so let your Church be gathered from the ends of the earth, that all may be fed with the Bread of life, your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

ELW PAGE 145

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P The kingdom of God is set before you. Eat and rejoice.

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] Mothering God, you gathered us to your table and we drank deeply of your grace. Send us out by your Spirit to love our neighbors as ourselves and proclaim your love in Jesus' name.

[C] **Amen**

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

[P] The love of God abound in you; the grace of our Savior Jesus Christ fill your hearts; and the life of the Spirit ☩ bless you and give you peace.

[C] **Amen.**

SENDING SONG **“They Will Know We Are Christians By Our Love”**

DISMISSAL

[A] Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

[C] **Thanks be to God.**

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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

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., Tues. , Fri. 6:30-11:30 AM

St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, June 22, 2025

9a Worship

10a Confirmation Class Cap Cleaning

10:15a Bible Study (Living Faith in Daily Life)

Wednesday, June 25, 2025

JULY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

6:30p Bible Study (Book of Revelation)

Thursday, June 26, 2025

1p Cards and dominoes in Luther Hall

Sunday, June 29, 2025

Acts 12:1-11 Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 John 21:15-19

The Grace Meal Committee is always looking for help preparing and serving the monthly meal. There is a sign-up sheet in Luther Hall for everyone interested in helping at the monthly meal. Sign up for the month(s) you could help!!

Sunday School 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.

Confirmation There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2025 right after the church service. We will meet on Sunday, June 22nd 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.

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.

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, July 6th at 10 AM in Luther Hall. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*The summer bible study/breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16th at 9:30 AM at Karen Bremmer's house (313 W. Walgren in Pearl City). Karen will lead the bible study that day. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those attending.

*Thank you to Kathy Hillmer and Kris & Marion Eden for the beautiful Pentecost decorations and to DJ for taking down the the butterflies and the cross.


*Thank you to the following women for their work in the WELCA room in the lower level on Tuesday, June 17: Maryann Buettner, Marilyn Smital, Kris Eden, Jeri Strohecker, Janet Ferguson, Lynda Palmer and Karen Bremmer. A lot was completed organizing the room, but more has to be done. Another date this fall will be announced.

Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study on Sunday, June 22nd at 10:15 AM and the topic will be Living Faith in Daily Life. He will also be hosting another bible study on Wednesday, June 25th at 6:30 PM and the topic will be the Book of Revelation. Come either day or both and bring your bibles. Each bible study will last about an hour!

Do you have a family member (child, grandchild, relative of any kind) that recently graduated from high school, college, or a trade school that was not listed in the in the June newsletter? Send DJ that person's name, graduation date, and place of graduation. We would like to recognize them in the July newsletter. DJ needs the information by June 25th!!

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.

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.

| Date | Greeters | Ushers | Lector |
|----------------|-----------|---------------------------------|--|
| June 29 | Jane Boop | Jenaro Ramos & Jean Lutz family | Kris Eden |
| Acolytes | | Tech Support |  |
| Jonah Schubert | | Marlee McPeck | |

Happy Birthday!

*Megan (Lawler) Marroquin Amanda (Erbsen) Kloften Jacqueline Smith
Gwendolyn Scott Michelle Earlenbaugh Ainsley Sorgi*

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the June Grace Meal: Larry & MaryAnn Buettner, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, David Williams, Kathy Williams, DJ Scott, and Kathy Hoffmann. We served a total of 254 meals, 39 deliveries, and 215 curbside pickups.

A big thank you to David Williams for supplying the grills and charcoal and to David, Randy Faust and Larry Buettner for cooking and helping with the pork chops . A Great Job!!

The July meal will be on July 20th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday July 17th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 20th. The menu for the July Grace Meal will be a brat with bun, chips, baked beans, fruit cup and a cookie.

The Grace Meal Committee would like to thank the congregation for stepping up and making financial donations to help the great ministry continue serving meals each month.

The Social Ministry group wanted to give everyone the final totals for the ELCA Good Gifts project. Our goal for this project was \$1245.00. I am happy to report that we received \$2526.97, which was more than double of what we were hoping to receive. Therefore, we doubled the amount of what we bought in each category and put the leftover amount of \$36.97 in the "most needed" category.