



# 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 6:30-11:30 AM

## 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"



## Peter and Paul Apostles

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

June 29, 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:** Jonah Schubert **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Marion Eden **Assisting Minister:** Kris Eden **Greeter:** Jane Boop  
**Ushers:** Jenaro Ramos & Jean Lutz 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

*Today we celebrate two great figures of the early church, Peter and Paul, who represent the spread of the gospel to both Jews and Gentiles and, according to tradition, were martyred on this date. The witness of Peter and Paul inspires us as we seek ways to faithfully proclaim the gospel in our contemporary context.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

## 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

“Give Me Jesus”

WOV 777

## GREETING

**P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**G** And also with you

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray. Almighty God, we praise you that your blessed apostles Peter and Paul glorified you by their martyrdoms. Grant that your church throughout the world may always be instructed by their teaching and example, be knit together in unity by your Spirit, and ever stand firm upon the one foundation who is Jesus Christ our Lord, for he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

(Please be seated)

## FIRST READING                      Acts 12:1-11

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

**L** About that time King Herod laid violent hands upon some who belonged to the church. He had James, the brother of John, killed with the sword. After he saw that it pleased the Jews, he proceeded to arrest Peter also. (This was during the festival of Unleavened Bread.) When he had seized him, he put him in prison and handed him over to four squads of soldiers to guard him, intending to bring him out to the people after the Passover. While Peter was kept in prison, the church prayed fervently to God for him. The very night before Herod was going to bring him out, Peter, bound with two chains, was sleeping between two soldiers, while guards in front of the door were keeping watch over the prison. Suddenly an angel of the Lord appeared and a light shone in the cell. He tapped Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his wrists. The angel said to him, "Fasten your belt and put on your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." Peter went out and followed him; he did not realize that what was happening with the angel's help was real; he thought he was seeing a vision. After they had passed the first and the second guard, they came before the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went outside and walked along a lane, when suddenly the angel left him. Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hands of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

### Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** On the holy mountain stands the city God has founded;
- C** **the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob.**
- L** Glorious things are spoken of you, O city of our God.
- C** **Of the city it shall be said, “Everyone was born in Zion, and the Most High shall sustain the city.”**
- L** Enrolling the nations, the LORD records: “These also were born there.”
- C** **The singers and the dancers will say, “All my fresh springs are in you.”**

## SECOND READING

### 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18

- L** A reading from 2nd Timothy, the fourth chapter.
- L** As for me, I am already being poured out as a libation, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. From now on there is reserved for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will give me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have longed for his appearing.  
But the Lord stood by me and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it. So I was rescued from the lion’s mouth. The Lord will rescue me from every evil attack and save me for his heavenly kingdom. To him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## GOSPEL

### John 21:15-19

- P** The Holy Gospel according to St. John.
- C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P** 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.

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

## SERMON

### REFLECTION SONG

“Lead Me Guide Me”

W&P 84

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### 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. As you raised up apostles like Peter and Paul, raise us up to share your life-giving gospel. Enrich the proclamation of bishops, pastors, deacons, and all the baptized. God of grace,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for the earth. As you rescued Paul from the lion’s mouth, rescue your creation from harm. Sustain fragile ecosystems; watch over dwindling numbers of insects, birds, and fish; and open our hearts to regard this earth as a gift. God of grace,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for the nations. As you bid Peter to feed your sheep, bid our leaders to feed all in need and work for their good. Make peace in places of conflict (*especially*), and bring justice to each community. God of grace,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for all who suffer. As you stood by Paul and gave him strength, stand by all who know loneliness, and give strength to all who know persecution. Comfort those in grief and heal those who are sick (*especially*). Channel our restlessness into your work in the world. God of grace,

**C** Hear our prayer.

**A** We pray for this assembly. As you freed Peter from prison, free us from lethargy and fear. Loose the chains of timidity and doubt, and teach us to pray fervently. Strengthen the ministry of prison chaplains and ministries, and accompany all who are incarcerated and their families. 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 give thanks for all who rest in your eternal mercy. As you reserved a crown of righteousness for Paul, reserve for us a place in your heavenly kingdom, and bring us to life that knows no end. 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 the great shepherd of your flock, our Savior Jesus Christ; who after his resurrection sent forth the apostles to preach the gospel and teach all nations, and promised to be with them, even to the end of the age. And so, with the glorious company of the apostles, with the choirs of angels and all 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 "On Our Way Rejoicing"

ELW 537

### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

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## 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.

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**Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study on Wednesday, July 23rd at 6:30 PM and the topic will be the Book of Revelation. He will also be hosting another bible study on Sunday, July 27th at 10:15 AM and the topic will be Living Faith in Daily Life. Come either day or both and bring your bibles. Each bible study will last about an hour!**

## **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. 6:30-11:30 AM*

### **St. John's Website**

[www.stjohnspearlcity.org](http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org)

## **This Week at St. John's**

### **Sunday, June 29, 2025**

**9a** Worship

### **Tuesday, July 1, 2025**

**9a** Dominoes in Luther Hall

### **Wednesday, July 2, 2025**

**7:30a** Men's Breakfast at the Beltline Cafe

Sunday, July 6, 2025

Isaiah 66:10-14 Psalm 66:1-9

Galatians 6:[1-6] 7-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

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**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!!**

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**Sunday School** We will be on hiatus through the summer months but will meet up again on Sunday, September 14<sup>th</sup> which is Rally Sunday. If you have any questions, please contact Morgan Scharping or Theresa Snetcher.

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**Confirmation** There will be an informational meeting on Sunday, September 14, 2025 right after the church service. This is Rally Sunday and we would like to see everyone at worship that day! As always, if you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact Shawn Kuhlemeier.

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All children ages 2-12 are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School at Zion Church, happening July 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>. Each evening begins with a meal at 5:30 PM, followed by programming from 6:00-8:00 PM. Registration forms are on the table in the Narthex! They could also use volunteers to help!!

## ***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 6<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 summer bible study/breakfast is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 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 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<sup>th</sup>: 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.

\*I would like to thank our Women's Gathering Board (Kathy Hillmer, Doris Kness, Lynda Palmer, Janet Ferguson, Kris Eden and guest, Marilyn Smital) for having a good meeting on Tuesday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. A lot of decisions were made. They are willing to stay as officers, but if someone would like to be on the board, please let me know before August 12<sup>th</sup>. We would love to add more board members. ——Karen Bremmer, President

\*There will be Ladies Night Out and Annual Meeting entitled "Baskets of Sunshine" on Tuesday, August 12<sup>th</sup> at 6PM at St. John's. The program will include Deb Mather sharing her basket weaving talents. Dinner will include chicken or ham salad croissants, chips, fruit, strawberry, Key Lime, or Lemon Meringue pie, and coffee and water. The cost is \$10—please give to Lynda Palmer or put in the security box outside the office. Be sure to sign up on the sheet in the lobby as well.

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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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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 12<sup>th</sup> and July 26<sup>th</sup> 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
July 6	Stuart & Shawn Kuhlemeier	Bob & Darla Hasselman	Chris Kempel
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Welden Snetcher		Eli Bremmer Jonah Schubert	



### *Happy Birthday!*

*Deb Winning Sandy Faust Brianna Stager  
Avery Scharping Cole Miller*

### **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.**

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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.