



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• **July 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 and Disciples of St. John's,

I pray that you will have a safe, restful and celebration this Independence Day weekend as we celebrate the freedom we all cherish and that is guaranteed by the constitution and the Bill of Rights.

As some of you know the council has established a special committee that has been asked to help us focus on our ministry to children, youth, young adults and young families.

One of the topics that we have been discussing is how we might include younger children in Holy Communion. To begin this conversation, I have provided some guidance on this topic from our ELCA statement titled "The Use of the Means of Grace." Although this statement talks about all the Means of Grace, Word, Baptism and Holy Communion, I have below quoted a section just on the topic:

Admission to the Sacrament is by invitation of the Lord, presented through the Church to those who are baptized.

When adults and older children are baptized, they may be communed for the first time in the service in which they are baptized. Baptismal preparation and continuing instruction for Holy Communion.

Customs vary on the age and circumstances for admission to the Lord's Supper. The age for communing children continues to be discussed and reviewed in our congregations. When "A Report on the Study of Confirmation and First Communion" was adopted, a majority of congregations now in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America separated confirmation and reception of Holy Communion and began inviting children to commune in the fifth grade. Since that time a number of congregations have continued to lower the age of communion, especially for school age children. Although A Statement on Communion Practices precluded the communion of infants, members and congregations have become aware of this practice in some congregations of this church, in historical studies of the early centuries of the Church, in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, and in broader ecumenical discussion.

Baptized children begin to commune on a regular basis at a time determined through mutual conversation that includes the pastor, the child, and the parents or sponsors involved, within the accepted practice s of the congregation. Ordinarily this beginning will occur only when children can eat and drink and can start to respond to the gift of Christ in the Supper.

At this time, we have younger children communing because they were received in a previous congregation to the Lord's Table. Others have been prepared though preparation by a previous pastor. I believe that it would be good practice to follow the above guideline and have parents and child(ren) meet with the pastor to determine through study and conversation a child's readiness for communion. All of us receive communion by faith and not by understanding the mystery of Christ's body and blood comes to us in, with and under the bread and wine. So, if there are parents who desire to explore communion for their children, I invite you to make an appointment and visit with me.

We will continue to explore how to best serve the spiritual and faith formation needs of our children.

Sincerely in Christ,

Pastor Len

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

Sunday School 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 deodorant, hand soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toilet paper, and mouthwash. 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, talk to Marge Roiland, Lois Hunsaker, or Kris Eden! We meet the first Sunday of the month to discuss the upcoming meals! 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 July 1st. 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 July 10th and 24th!

Anyone interested in being part of a Gourmet Food Club, contact Ron DePrisco at 815-297-7724.

There has been a change of address for Janis Kampmeier. If you are sending her anything or planning on visiting her at Liberty Village, her new room number is 101B. I'm sure she would appreciate a card or a visit!

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!



2 SHOWS AT WHITE PINES – OREGON, IL

Please sign-up on lobby bulletin board and pay Women's Gathering by September 7. (Cannot cancel after September 7).

Getting Better with Age \$62.50 Includes buffet, dessert, tea & coffee, gratuity.

October 8th – Doors open at 11:20 a.m.

This talented group of four, laugh and sing their way through the travails of growing older gracefully. There's humor, audience participation and music – just like real life! Sketches, scenes from favorite television shows, and musical numbers abound. Join us as we keep smiling, keep aging.

Please sign-up on lobby bulletin board and pay Women's Gathering by November 9. (Cannot cancel after November 9).

Scrooge the Comedy \$65.00 Includes buffet, dessert, tea & coffee, gratuity.

December 10th – Doors open at 11:20 a.m.

Don't miss "Scrooge the Comedy", a White Pines tradition for over 30 years. This zany, audience participation comedy (starring the curmudgeonly Ebenezer Scrooge & his sidekick Narrator) is based on a loosely-adapted version of Charles Dickens' timeless classic, "*A Christmas Carole*". The other infamous characters of this well-known tale are found in willing audience members. Each performance is different since you never know who will end up on stage. Many of our guests consider it a Christmas tradition and return year after year. The Pines has taken this well-known drama and turned it into a side-splitting comedy for all ages including senior bus groups, families, and company Christmas parties. The performances are family friendly.

Confirmation News. . .

Confirmation will continue in the Fall as we are off for the Summer. Our informational meeting will be on Sunday, September 14, 2025 upstairs in the Youth Room right after the church service. I would like to thank the Confirmation kids that participated in the caps/lids program on Sunday, June 22nd. We did not finish but got at least a third of the way done. It was unbearably hot but Lucy, Diem, Holden, Kolton, Kooper, and Welden persevered through the heat. It was a tough one but we stayed hydrated and worked through the sweat and heat.

Lucy Voss and Kolton Kampmeier will be making their confirmation this coming October. Watch for more information as we getting closer to that service.



Date	Acolytes	Tech Support
July 6	Welden Snetcher	Eli Bremmer Jonah Schubert
July 13	Welden Snetcher	Eli Bremmer Jonah Schubert
July 20	Kolton Kampmeier	Eli Bremmer Jonah Schubert
July 27	Carlito Ramos	Eli Bremmer Jonah Schubert
Aug. 3 Outdoor Service	None Outdoor Service	None Outdoor Service

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 July 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
July 6	Stuart & Shawn Kuhlemeier	Bob & Darla Hasselman	Chris Kempel	Ben Bremmer
July 13	Randy & Sandy Faust	Marion & Kris Eden	Joan Stewart	Karen Bremmer
July 20	Chad & Deb Bremmer	Fred & Earlene Domberger	Kathy Hillmer	Andrew Gronewold
July 27	Sara & Arianna Schoenhard and family	Stuart & Shawn Kuhlemeier	Lynda Palmer	Tracy Downs
Aug. 3 Outdoor	Janet Ferguson	Theresa Snetcher family	Kris Eden	Kathy Hillmer

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Joan Klatt and Kathy Albrecht

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are July 2nd and August 6th! They are meeting at The Beltline Cafe in Freeport at 7:30 AM. See you there!



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.



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.

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.



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	12,583	13,581								61,109
Expense	9,514	11,273	12,712	11,745	12,181								57,425
Difference	5,812	-1,083	-3,283	838	1,400	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,684

Improvement Fund	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	3,685	2,790	1,380	990	1,254								10,099
Expense	0	550	591	0	0								1,141
Difference	3,685	2,240	789	990	1,254	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8,958

Thank you to Carla Personette, Nancy Boop, Nancy Trampel, Joan Klatt, Doris Kness and Kathy Albrecht who helped 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	Ron Fluegel	Connie Melville	Mary Ellen Aurand	Ron Melville
Janis Kampmeier	Lori Miller	Carol Garnhart	Shirley Goldsmith	Verda Werkheiser
Louise Cuccico	Carol Byers	Gina Boop	Jerry Harnish	

Congratulations to family members of St. John's members on their graduations:

*Ellie Maaske (granddaughter of Lee Maaske Frey) graduated from the University of Wisconsin Platteville with a Bachelor's Degree in Forensic Investigation. She will continue her education in pursuit of a Master's Degree.

*Lucas Maaske (grandson of Lee Maaske Frey) graduated from North Central College with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy. He will be working at Jaco Rehab on the island of Oahu in Hawaii.



All children ages 2–12 are invited to join us for Vacation Bible School at Zion Community Church, happening July 13th–17th. 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 adult volunteers to help!!



Women's Gathering Ministries . .

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard – bring BABY WIPES

Food Pantry donations: paper towels, toilet paper, foil, cleaning supplies and laundry detergent and dish soap.

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, 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 next meeting is a summer bible study/breakfast on Wednesday, July 16th. It will be at Karen Bremmer's home (313 Walgren Rd. in Pearl City) beginning at 9:00 AM The bible study will begin at 10:00 and will be led by Karen Bremmer. There is a sign up sheet in the lobby for those interested in attending.

*Thank you...

...To Doris Kness, Janet Ferguson and Theresa Albers for providing cookies and Women's Gathering for punch for the Baccalaureate service and DJ for doing the bulletins at St. John's on May 4th.

...to Kathy Hillmer, Lois Hunsaker, Janet Ferguson, Doris Kness, Theresa Albers and Karen Bremmer for setting up and serving the Baccalaureate reception.

...to the Women's Gathering for providing and serving the graduation reception (3 cakes and punch) on May 18th for our four high school graduates.

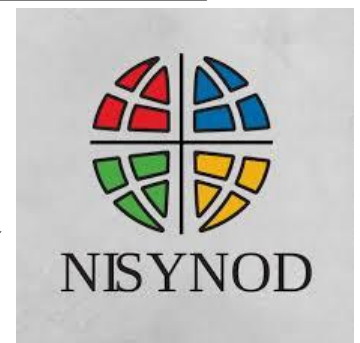
...to the Women's Gathering Prayer Shawl Committee for making and presenting the graduates four beautiful quilts during worship on May 18th. We especially thank Lynda Palmer.

*Thank you to the following women for their work in the WELCA room in the lower level on Tuesday, June 17th: 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 17th. 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 12th. 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 12th 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.

The 2025 Synod Assembly was held June 13th and 14th at Augustana College. Actions taken included the blessing of the new synod paraments (a thanks to the 38 congregations who pieced together quilt blocks), heard from Deacon Jessica Noonan from LEAD Connects about learning from our neighbors, passed the Fiscal Year 2027 Northern Illinois Synod Budget, passed the 2026 Rostered Minister Compensation Guidelines, elected several members to serve on the Synod Council and synod committees, heard from Bishop Fidler about discovering our why, heard from Ms. Becca Payne and Mrs. Rahel Mwitula Williams from the ELCA, blessed those who will be voting member at the 2025 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, celebrated our Rostered Minister ordination anniversaries (including Pastor Len celebrating 50 years) and remembered our Rostered Ministers who died in the last year.



Two resolutions that were passed by the assembly included R-1: Resolution for National Day of Remembrance for Indian Boarding School and R-2: Northern Illinois Synod to Be a Reconciling in Christ Synod.

Thank you to Gertrude Heimerdinger and Grace Heimerdinger-Baake for attending the assembly and representing St. John's. Thanks also to Leann Heimerdinger for attending and voting as a member of the Synod council.

The social ministry committee would like to thank everyone for their generous contributions to the ELCA Good Gifts project. Our goal was set at \$1245, but we received \$2526.97 in contributions. We doubled the amount we purchased in each category and put the leftover amount in the “most needed” category. Thank you once again to everyone that supported this very important project. Here is a breakdown of what was purchased with the donations:

- (2) Herds of goats: \$300.00 each for a total of \$600.00
- (4 groups of 10 chicks): \$10 each for a total of \$40.00
- (2) roosters: \$15.00 each for a total of \$30.00
- (14) Honeybee hives: \$20 each for a total of \$280.00
- (8) Food for orphaned and vulnerable children for one month: \$25.00 each for a total of \$200.00
- (20) Vaccinations for a child: \$30.00 each for a total of \$600.00
- (20) Water filters: \$30.00 each for a total of \$600.00
- (4) Piglets: \$30.00 each for a total of \$120.00
- (2) Mosquito nets: \$10.00 each for a total of \$20.00
- Give where most needed: \$36.97

ELCA
GOOD
GIFTS

Thank you to this committee for all your support and help. This committee would not be successful without you. Also, thank you for your generous donations. If you have any questions, see Kathy Albrecht.



The social ministry committee will be starting their school supply collection on July 13th, and it will continue through August 10th. The items we will be collecting are: Markers, glue, pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, Clorox wipes, wireless computer mice, earbuds, 2 -pocket folders, notebooks, highlighters, index cards, sticky notes, scissors, pencil cases, etc. There will be a collection bin in the narthex. Monetary donations will also be accepted. Please make your check out to St. John's and indicate on your check or envelope that it is for the school supply collection.

July 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
June 29 9a Worship	30	July 1 9a Dominoes	2 7:30a Men's Breakfast	3	4	5
6 9a Worship 10a Property Meeting 10a Prayer Shawl Outreach 10a Grace Meal meeting	7	8	9	10 1p Cards & Dominoes	11	12
13 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach Meeting 10a Memorial/Finance Meeting 5:30p VBS at Zion CC 6p 4-H Meeting	14 5:30p VBS at Zion CC 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	15 5:30p VBS at Zion CC	16 9a Women's Gathering breakfast 5:30p VBS at Zion CC 7p Church Council meeting	17 5:30p VBS at Zion CC	18	19 8a Grace Meal prep
20 9a Worship 10:30a Grace Meal	21	22	23 6:30p Bible Study	24 1p Cards & Dominoes	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26
27 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study	28	29	30	31	1	2

July Birthdays

3	Cole Miller	12	Tina Boop	27	Ron DePrisco
6	Brenda Hass		Kenner Brinkmeier	28	Stacey Block
	Donnie Miller	13	Kolby Kempel	29	Baylee Schimetz
	Shane Becker	14	Lynda Palmer	31	Brandon Hille
7	Chet Brinkmeier	15	Brayden Heimerdinger		
	Colton Gronewold	16	Brock Kloften		
8	Shyanna Ditzler	17	Amy Roling		
	Peyton Brudi	18	Marvin Klatt		
9	Bob Hasselman	23	Cody Pitts		
10	Benjamin Bremmer		Cara Brinkmeier		
	Benjamin Miller	24	Ryan Potter		
	Alex Hansen		Reese Montgomery		