



# 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., Thur. 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:

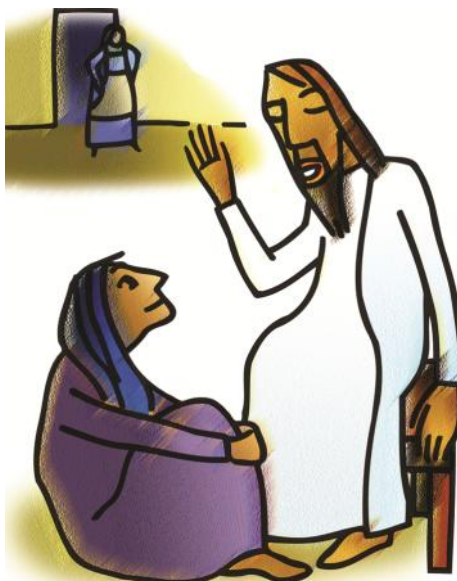
815-443-2215

## Building Hours:

The building will only be open  
when the office is open

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"



## Time After Pentecost

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

July 20, 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:** Kolton Kampmeier **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Kathy Hillmer **Assisting Minister:** Andrew Gronewold  
**Greeter:** Chad & Deb Bremmer **Ushers:** Dennis Downs **Counters:** Joan Klatt & Kathy Albrecht **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## Introduction to the Day

*Perhaps the church, at its best, is “all ears.” God urges the faithful, again and again, to “listen up!”—to heed the word that gives life. So it was with Abraham and Sarah, Mary and Martha, and the early church at Colossae. So it is today as we join the assembly to hear the word of God, the word of life.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

### SYNOD ASSEMBLY REPORT

Grace & Gertrude Heimerdinger

### 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

“How Majestic Is Your Name” (twice)

W&P 66

## 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** Let us pray. Eternal God, you draw near to us in Christ, and you make yourself our guest. Amid the cares of our lives, make us attentive to your presence, that we may treasure your word above all else, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

(Please be seated)

## FIRST READING

Genesis 18:1-10a

*The LORD visits Abraham and Sarah to tell them that the long-awaited promise of the birth of a child will be fulfilled for them in their old age.*

**L** A reading from Genesis, the eighteenth chapter

**L** The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, "My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said." And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate. They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 15

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** LORD, who may dwell in your tabernacle? Who may abide upon your holy hill?
- C** **Those who lead a blameless life and do what is right, who speak the truth from their heart;**
- L** they do not slander with the tongue, they do no evil to their friends; they do not cast discredit upon a neighbor.
- C** **In their sight the wicked are rejected, but they honor those who fear the LORD. They have sworn upon their health and do not take back their word.**
- L** They do not give their money in hope of gain, nor do they take bribes against the innocent. Those who do these things shall never be overthrown.

## SECOND READING

## Colossians 1:15-28

*This letter offers a mystical teaching, that the great mystery of God is “Christ in you.” Because Christ is present in the church, Christians share in his life, suffering, and glory.*

- L** A reading from Colossians, the first chapter
- L** [Christ Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.  
And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him, provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a minister of this gospel.  
I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its minister according to God’s commission that was given to me for you, to

make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## GOSPEL

**Luke 10:38-42**

*During his visit to the home of Mary and Martha, Jesus reminds Martha that her concern for her many tasks distracts from the one thing that precedes all else: abiding in the presence of God.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

**P** Now as [Jesus and his disciples] went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me." But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

**C** Praise to you, O Christ

## SERMON

**REFLECTION SONG**

**"Give Me Jesus" (vs. 1, 3, and 5)**

**ELW 770**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**APOSTLES' CREED**

**ELW PAGE 105**

*(Please be seated.)*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A** In solidarity with all creation, we join our voice to the voice of the whole church and pray for the needs of the world.

*(A brief silence.)*

**A** Inspire your church, like Sarah and Mary, to listen with eager longing for your words of life. Equip biblical interpreters and teachers with faithful discernment, that your word may be more fully known. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Every creature under heaven has been promised the hope of the gospel. From that promise, generate in humankind an eagerness to protect and care for creation. Bring healing to the earth with your words of life. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Peel away the distractions, worries, and fears of all who govern the nations of the world. May your word of love and life dispel all other voices. Provide gracious hospitality in places where hostile forces hold sway. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Speak your word of comfort to any who suffer pain, illness, grief, depression, or despair (*especially*). Bring honor to any who experience slander and evil intent or are discredited by others. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** Enliven and uphold all siblings in Christ who strive to provide hospitality and safe spaces where everyone, without exception, can receive and be transformed by your word of life. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

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

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**A** For Abraham, Sarah, Hagar, Mary, Martha, and all the saints who attended to your word, we give thanks. Open our ears to your voice until that day when we realize the promise of the gospel with all creation. God of grace,

**C** **Hear our prayer.**

**P** Trusting in your lovingkindness, we place our prayer and hope in you, in the name of Jesus Christ.

**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

“O Savior, Precious Savior”

ELW 820

### 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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**Don't forget that our annual Outdoor Worship Service will be on Sunday, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Pearl City Park District shelter by the tennis courts. Refreshments will be served at 9:30 AM and the service will begin at 10:00 AM. Dan Brinkmeier's band "The Risches" will be providing special music for the day! Be sure to bring your lawn chairs!**

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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.

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

### St. John's Website

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

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

### **Sunday, July 20, 2025**

**9a** Worship

**10:30a** Grace Meal

### **Wednesday, July 23, 2025**

**6:30p** Bible Study

**7p** Church Council meeting

### **Thursday, July 24, 2025**

**1p** Cards & Dominoes in Luther Hall

### **Friday, July 25, 2025**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

Sunday, July 27, 2025

Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138

Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19] Luke 11:1-13

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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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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.

## ***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, August 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10 AM in Luther Hall. Start a shawl/ quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

\*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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Check out the two White Pines shows available this fall. "Getting Better With Age" on October 8<sup>th</sup> and "Scrooge the Comedy" on December 10<sup>th</sup>. **Both shows have limited tickets available** and a deadline about a week before each show. Get signed up in the lobby and turn your money in at the office or in the security box by the office door.

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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!**

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The social ministry committee will be starting their school supply collection on July 13<sup>th</sup>, and it will continue through August 10<sup>th</sup>. 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.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
July 27	Sara & Arianna Schoenhard and family	Stuart & Shawn Kuhlmeier	Ron DePrisco
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Carlito Ramos		Jonah Schubert	



*Happy Birthday!*

*Cody Pitts Cara Brinkmeier Ryan Potter Reese Montgomery*

## **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 Cathy 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 20<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday July 17<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 20<sup>th</sup>. The menu for the July Grace Meal will be a brat with bun, chips, baked beans, fruit cup and a chocolate chip 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. If you think you can help prepare or serve a meal talk to Kris Eden, Marge Roiland, or Lois Hunsaker!**

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Beginning on Rally Day (September 14<sup>th</sup>) Pastor Len and the Christian Education committee would like to offer Sunday School every Sunday instead of just the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month. In order to make that happen, we will need more volunteers to help teach Sunday School. The hope is to get a total of four or five interested volunteers so that each could commit to one Sunday per month. Those volunteers will be given materials to teach and could ask questions before teaching. If this is something you would like to do to help out, please reach out to the office or talk to Shawn Kuhlmeier.