



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 6:00-11:00 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

August 24, 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:** Carlito Ramos **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Lori Kempel **Assisting Minister:** Kathy Hillmer **Greeter:** Tracy Downs family **Ushers:** Jerilyn Strohecker **Counters:** Kathy Albrecht & Karen Bremmer **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

Remember the sabbath day. Call the sabbath a delight. This is the Lord's day, and the Lord will do for us what the Lord does: feed us, forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at all the wonderful things God is doing.

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

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. O God, mighty and immortal, you know that as fragile creatures surrounded by great dangers, we cannot by ourselves stand upright. Give us strength of mind and body, so that even when we suffer because of human sin, we may rise victorious through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:9b-14

God promises those who have returned from exile that where justice and mercy prevail, the ruins will be rebuilt and light will rise in the darkness. It is a day for new beginnings.

L A reading from Isaiah, the fifty-eighth chapter.

L If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The LORD will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in. If you refrain from trampling the Sabbath, from pursuing your own interests on my holy day; if you call the Sabbath a delight and the holy day of the LORD honorable; if you honor it, not going your own ways, serving your own interests or pursuing your own affairs; then you shall take delight in the LORD, and I will make you ride upon the heights of the earth; I will feed you with the heritage of your ancestor Jacob, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103:1-8

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Bless the LORD, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless God's holy name.
- C** **Bless the LORD, O my soul, and forget not all God's benefits—**
- L** who forgives all your sins and heals all your diseases;
- C** **who redeems your life from the grave and crowns you with steadfast love and mercy;**
- L** who satisfies your desires with good things so that your youth is renewed like an eagle's.
- C** **O LORD, you provide vindication and justice for all who are oppressed.**
- L** You made known your ways to Moses and your works to the children of Israel.
- C** **LORD, you are full of compassion and mercy, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12:18-29

Using images of Moses, the writer presents a striking vision of the new covenant of God made possible in Christ. There is no longer fear; only awe in the new promise in Christ into which we are invited.

- L** A reading from Hebrews, the twelfth chapter
- L** You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, "If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death." Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, "I tremble with fear.") But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.
- See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking, for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth, but now he has promised, "Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven." This phrase, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us show gratitude, by which we may offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe, for indeed our God is a consuming fire.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 13:10-17

Jesus heals a woman on the sabbath, offering her a new beginning for her life. When challenged by a narrow reading of the sabbath command, Jesus responds by expanding “sabbath work” to include setting people free from bondage.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

P Now [Jesus] was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, “Woman, you are set free from your ailment.” When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God. But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the Sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, “There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured and not on the Sabbath day.” But the Lord answered him and said, “You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the Sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger and lead it to water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the Sabbath day?” When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame, and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things being done by him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”

ELW 656

(Please stand as you are able.)

APOSTLES’ CREED

ELW PAGE 105

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Let us pray for the church, the creation, and the whole people of God, for God is near.

(A brief silence.)

A You call your church to proclaim liberation and freedom to all. Give wisdom to bishops, synod councils and staff, and congregation leaders as they pursue a more just and equitable church and society. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You inspire all creation to sing and bless your holy name. Send healing rains to parched places and relief to flooded lands. Lead us to enact policies to rebuild ruined ecosystems and habitats. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You work vindication and justice for all who are oppressed. Strengthen the resolve of world leaders and local officials in the way of love and mercy, so that all persons may experience abundant life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You satisfy your people with good things. In your steadfast love, receive the cries of all who are bent over under the weight of addiction, isolation, and mental or physical illness (*especially*). Manifest your healing presence in their midst. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You call us to delight in the sabbath. Invigorate worship planners and leaders with creativity to aid this assembly in fresh and faithful prayer and praise. Enable all who gather here to be nourished and renewed. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A You ask us to reach out to all. Remember all who are confined to their homes and 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, Donna Freedlund, and Ron & Connie Melville*. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A With (*Bartholomew and*) all your apostles, prophets, and saints, we give thanks and bless your holy name. As they now rest from their labors, guide us by the witness of their lives to pursue your reign, which can never be shaken. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Confident in God's presence and promise, we entrust our prayers to the one who always receives them; through Jesus Christ, our wisdom and companion.

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 "God Be With You Till We Meet Again" ELW 536

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Live by the Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright
2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg For-
tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

Sunday, September 14th is Rally Sunday! We are asking everyone (kids and adults) to wear their favorite school t-shirt. It could be a high school, college, or any kind of school t-shirt as we kick off the beginning of Sunday School at St. John's!



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.

The Chancel Choir will be starting up in September! If you enjoy hearing the choir singing and think you would like to join, come and join the group! The first rehearsal date is Sunday, September 21st at 8:15 AM and the first time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, September 28th. They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 28th. You don't have to be a great singer, you just have to want to have some fun singing and enjoy praising Our Lord in song! If you have any questions, talk to Kathy Hillmer!

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. 6:00-11:00 AM

St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, August 24, 2025

9a Worship

10:15a Bible Study

Monday, August 25, 2025

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Wednesday, August 27, 2025

6:30p Bible Study

Thursday, August 28, 2025

1p Cards & Dominoes in Luther Hall

Sunday, August 31, 2025

Proverbs 25:6-7 Psalm 112

Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Luke 14:1, 7-14

Confirmation: Now that school has resumed we will be starting our confirmation year. Our first meeting will be an informational gathering only which will be on Sunday, September 14, 2025 right after the church service. This meeting will take place upstairs in the Youth Room. Please bring your calendars so that you can sign up for the first four months of the year for Acolyting as well as the whole year for Sunday School Helper and Technology. This is also Rally Sunday so wear your school T-Shirt. (High school, college, trade school, any school you support) . Our first class meeting will be on Sunday, October 5, 2025 after the church service in the upstairs Youth Room. I will supply some treats and drinks. We will be studying the Apostles' Creed, Bible, and Church Service during our 2025-26 confirmation year. We have two students, Lucy Voss and Kolton Kampmeier, being confirmed on Sunday, October 26 during the church service. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Shawn Kuhlemeier.

Pastor Len will be hosting another bible study on Sunday, August 24th at 10:15 AM and the topic will be Living Faith in Daily Life. There will also be another bible study on Wednesday, August 27th at 6:30 PM. The topic on the 27th will be the book of Revelation. Even if you haven't been to the previous bible studies, come to these and bring your bibles. Each bible study will last about an hour!

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 will not meet on Sunday, September 7th. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*The Women's Gathering and Pearl City Methodist church hosted a lunch on Thursday, August 14th for the Pearl City School teachers and staff. Thank you to Theresa Albers for donating salsa, Carla Personette for baking cookies, and Carla, Jan Voss, DJ Scott, and Karen Bremmer for setting and serving the meal. God's blessings on the teachers and staff as the school year begins.

*Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. Please sign up by September 5th on the bulletin board in the lobby to eat out on Sunday, September 7th at 11:30 AM at Route 20 restaurant. Invite others. We will have seating in the room to the right. We will plan to eat out on the first Sunday every month at different places.

*The 36th Annual Convention of the Women of the NI Synod will be on Saturday, September 20th at First Lutheran in Rockford from 9 AM to 3 PM. The theme is "Rescue, Redeem, Restore". Register by August 20th for \$50. Forms are on the lobby bulletin board and \$25 scholarships are available.

*Women's Gathering will be printing the September 2025-August 2026 booklet the first week of September. Please let Karen Bremmer know if you have changes to your phone number.

*The Women's Gathering Bible Study on Tuesday, September 16th will be at Route 20 at 10AM. Coffee and iced tea will be served (Women's Gathering will pay) at 10 and the bible study will begin at 10:15. Order off the menu for lunch at 11:15. Please sign up on the bulletin board by September 14th. Car pooling will be available. Invite others.

Check out the two White Pines shows available this fall. "Getting Better With Age" on October 8th and "Scrooge the Comedy" on December 10th. **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.

Sunday School: We have exciting news, we will have Sunday School every Sunday starting September 14, 2025 (Rally Sunday). That being said, this can only happen if we have enough volunteers to teach and we are making that an easy task as we have a written curriculum that is ready to use for all. We will have an orientation meeting for teachers on Sunday, September 21, 2025 right after the church service in the downstairs meeting room. If you would like to help out/volunteer, please contact Shawn Kuhlemeier, Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher, or Grace Heimerdinger. We look forward to seeing all the kids from last year as well as all the new kids that wish to join us. We begin our year with the Children's Message and Sunday School topic of "Let the Children Come". Remember to wear your special T-Shirts!!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
August 31	Rollin & Judy Nelson	Sara & Arianna Schoenhard family	Ron Bremmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
George Snetcher		Welden Snetcher Lucy Voss	



Happy Birthday!

*Marlee McPeck Jean Lutz Garrett Boop
Mark Lawler Chris Kempel Jenna Robinson*

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you!! to everyone who helped with the August Grace Meal: Theresa Albers, Kathy & Larry Albrecht, Maryann & Larry Buettner, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Gertrude Heimerdinger, Gwen Heimerdinger, Jim Heimerdinger, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, and Marge Roiland. We served a total of 240 meals, 36 deliveries, and 204 curbside pickups.

The September Grace Meal will be on September 21st. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday September 18th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 21st. The menu for the September Grace Meal will be meatloaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas & carrots, Jell-O fruit cup.

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!

Beginning on Rally Day (September 14th) Pastor Len and the Christian Education committee would like to offer Sunday School every Sunday instead of just the 1st and 3rd 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 Kuhlemeier.