



# 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., Tues., Fri 6:00-11:00 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

August 31, 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:** George Snetcher **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Ron Bremmer **Assisting Minister:** Kim Williams **Greeter:** Rollin & Judy Nelson **Ushers:** Sara & Arianna Schoenhard family **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

*Invited and inviting—that is the nature of the church. By God’s grace in holy baptism we have a place at Christ’s banquet table. When, by the power of that same Spirit, humility and mutual love continue among us, the church can be more inviting still.*

## 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, you resist those who are proud and give grace to those who are humble. Give us the humility of your Son, that we may embody the generosity of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING Proverbs 25:6-7a

*The book of Proverbs is part of a collection of writings known as wisdom literature. Wisdom literature gave directions to Israel's leaders and people for the conduct of daily life. Today's reading is about humility.*

**L** A reading from Proverbs, the twenty-fifth chapter

**L** Do not put yourself forward in the king's presence or stand in the place of the great, for it is better to be told, "Come up here," than to be put lower in the presence of a noble.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 112

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** Hallelujah! Happy are they who fear the LORD and have great delight in God's commandments

**C** Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

**L** Wealth and riches will be in their house, and their righteousness will last forever.

**C** Light shines in the darkness for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full of compassion.

- L** It is good for them to be generous in lending and to manage their affairs with justice.
- C** **For they will never be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlasting remembrance.**
- L** They will not be afraid of any evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting in the LORD.
- C** **Their heart is established and will not shrink, until they see their desire upon their enemies.**
- L** They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands fast forever; they will hold up their head with honor.
- C** **The wicked will see it and be angry; they will gnash their teeth and pine away; the desires of the wicked will perish.**

## SECOND READING

## Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

*The conclusion of the letter to the Hebrews contains suggestions for the conduct of a holy life, all of which are shaped by God's love toward us in Jesus Christ.*

- L** A reading from Hebrews, the thirteenth chapter
  - L** Let mutual affection continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them, those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honor by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled, for God will judge the sexually immoral and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have, for he himself has said, "I will never leave you or forsake you." So we can say with confidence, "The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?"
- Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

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

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 14:1, 7-14**

*Jesus observes guests jockeying for position at the table. He uses the opportunity to teach his hearers to choose humility rather than self-exaltation. Jesus also makes an appeal for hosts to imitate God's gracious hospitality to those in need.*

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

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

**P** On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the Sabbath, they were watching him closely. When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honor, he told them a parable. "When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honor, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host, and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, 'Give this person your place,' and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

He said also to the one who had invited him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers and sisters or your relatives or rich neighbors, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated)*

## **SERMON**

**REFLECTION SONG**

**"As the Grains of Wheat"**

**WOV 705**

*(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** For the promise of a time when we will “hunger and thirst not more”.

**C We wait, we watch.**

**A** For the fast God chooses, “to loose the bonds of injustice. . . and to share your bread with the hungry”.

**C We work, we walk**

**A** For the new Creation that unites us, one to another.

**C We look, we long.**

**A** For “the message of reconciliation” entrusted to us.

**C We labor, we love**

**A** For “the dawn from on high” that “gives light to those who sit in darkness and guides our feet into the way of peace”.

**C We hunger, we hope.**

**A** For the “righteous branch,” who will “execute justice and righteousness in the land”.

**C We praise, we proclaim.**

**A** For the well-being of creation, we pray. Sustain farm workers and all who labor in fields and vineyards to grow the food we eat. Revive plains and pastures, and provide for the cattle and creatures who rely on the land for their sustenance. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** For the hospitality ministries of this congregation, we pray. Give ushers and greeters a spirit of welcome for visitors, and bless the work of those who feed and nourish us. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** For those unable to be with us today, we pray. 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** For all the saints who from their labors rest, we give thanks. With them, we offer our sacrifice of praise to you, O God, the same yesterday and today and forever. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** In the name of God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, three in one and one with us.

**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.

**G** 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.

**G** 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

“What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine”

WOV 780

### 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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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!



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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.

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 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:15 AM and the first time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, September 28<sup>th</sup>. They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 28<sup>th</sup>. 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. 6:30-11:30 AM*

### St. John's Website

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

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

### **Sunday, August 31, 2025**

**9a** Worship

### **Tuesday, September 2, 2025**

**9a** Dominoes in Luther Hall

### **Wednesday, September 3, 2025**

**7:30a** Men's Breakfast at The Beltline in Freeport

Sunday, September 7, 2025

Deuteronomy 30:15-20 Psalm 1

Philemon 1-21 Luke 14:25-33

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**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.

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**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!!

## ***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 7<sup>th</sup>. 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*The 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Women of the NI Synod will be on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup> at First Lutheran in Rockford from 9 AM to 3 PM. The theme is "Rescue, Redeem, Restore". Register by August 20<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup>. Car pooling will be available. Invite others.

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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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**Beginning Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> through November 12<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study every Wednesday at 6PM. The focus of the bible study will be the Gospel of Matthew. Matthew was a tax collector turned apostle and evangelist who tells the message of Jesus to his community and ours. We need to order participants' books so please register for the class by signing up in Luther Hall or emailing DJ or Pastor Len. We look forward to preparing for the coming church year where Matthew will be the primary source for our Gospel.**

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\*Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. Please sign up by September 5<sup>th</sup> on the bulletin board in the lobby to eat out on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

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The Pearl City United Methodist Church is having a pasta lunch on Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 AM to 1:30 PM. There is no charge for the lunch and all in the Pearl City community are welcome to come!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Sept. 7	Ron & Karen Bremmer	Brandon & Morgan Scharping family	Kim Williams
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Jonah Schubert		Colton Gronewold Kooper Kampmeier	

### *Happy Birthday!*

*Peyton LaVanway Russell Liebenstein Eleanor Heimerdinger Mike DeZell  
Ken Hillmer Scott Sheffey Darlene Hershey Chad Bremmer Katelyn Little*

### **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 21<sup>st</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday September 18<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 21<sup>st</sup>. 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!**

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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 Kuhlemeier.