



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• **August 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



Well, it's August. We are collecting school supplies which means that the start of school is just a few weeks away. After that a couple of weeks later the start of Sunday School and Rally Day.

Our theme for this fall is "Let the Children Come." Jesus invites all of our parents to let your children come to worship and Sunday School.

Our special committee for children, youth and families have been planning with the Christian Education Committee for a great year of Bible Stories and children's messages.

It all begins on Rally Day September 14th. Please bring your children as worship begins with the children's message followed by about 35 minutes of Sunday School. The children will then return during the Greeting of Peace to join in coming forward with their parents for either a blessing or the reception of Holy Communion. We will be offering planning materials for each week for each teacher.

Since our goal is to have Sunday School every Sunday, we are looking for two or three teachers who would take one Sunday a month to lead the Bible Story time. We are also looking for those who might be willing to substitute on occasion. If you are willing to help, please contact D.J. at the church office and he will put you in touch with the other teachers.

I am personally excited about our fall plans, so Let the Children Come!

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 hand soap, dish soap, toilet paper, mouthwash, deodorant (men & women), razors (men & women), cans of fruit and veggies. 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 August 5th! 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 August 14th and 28th!

Pastor Len will be on vacation from August 1st through 15th. The Women's group will be running worship on August 3rd and Pastor Jen Beamsley will lead worship on August 10th. She is the Assistant to the Bishop for Transitional Ministry. If you are in need of Pastoral Care while Pastor Len is on vacation, Pastor Robin Luckey will be available. Her email address is lordoflovegalenapastor@gmail.com and her phone number is 509-768-6841.



Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study on Sunday, August 24th at 10:15 AM and the topic will be Living Faith in Daily Life. He will also be hosting another bible study on Wednesday, August 27rd at 6:30 PM and the topic will be the Book of Revelation. 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
August 3 Outdoor Service	None Outdoor Service	None Outdoor Service
August 10	Kolton Kampmeier	Welden Snetcher
August 17	Jonah Schubert	Welden Snetcher Lucy Voss
August 24	Carlito Ramos	Welden Snetcher Lucy Voss
August 31	George Snetcher	Welden Snetcher Lucy Voss

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 August 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
August 3 Outdoor Service	Janet Ferguson	Theresa Snetcher family	Kris Eden	Kathy Hillmer
August 10	Ken & Kathy Hillmer	Jim & Judy Robinson	Theresa Albers	Theresa Albers
August 17	Joel & Lori Kempel	Chad & Jordy McPeck family	Morgan Scharping	Shawn Kuhlmeier
August 24	Tracy Downs family	Jerilyn Strohecker	Lori Kempel	Kathy Hillmer
August 31	Rollin & Judy Nelson	Sara & Arianna Schoenhard family	Ron Bremmer	Kim Williams

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Kathy Albrecht & Karen Bremmer

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are August 6th and September 3rd! 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 July Grace Meal: Bonnie Dittmar, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Gertrude Heimerdinger, Jim Heimerdinger, Grace Heimerdinger and Kids, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, and DJ Scott. We served a total of 252 meals, 37 deliveries, and 215 curbside pickups.

The August Grace Meal will be on August 17th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday August 14th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 17th. The Menu for the August Grace Meal will be lasagna, cole slaw, Italian bread, and brownie.

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!



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.

The area churches will be serving a lunch to the teachers and staff at Pearl City School on Thursday, August 14th. If you are able to help serve the meal that day and/or could make something for the meal, contact Karen Bremmer.



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	12,340							73,449
Expense	9,514	11,273	12,712	11,745	12,181	15,275							72,700
Difference	5,812	-1,083	-3,283	838	1,400	-2,935	0	0	0	0	0	0	749

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	2,075							12,174
Expense	0	550	591	0	0	0							1,141
Difference	3,685	2,240	789	990	1,254	2,075	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,033

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.



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	Donna Freedlund

Church Council MEETING

The Congregational Council met on Wednesday, July 16th. As we prepare for Rally Sunday on September 14th, plans are underway to strengthen our children and youth programming this fall. Sunday School will shift to meeting every Sunday, pending sufficient volunteer support. Children will begin in worship, leave after the children's sermon for Sunday School, and return following the offering. We are currently seeking volunteers who are willing to teach a few Sundays throughout the year. In addition, a youth focus group for students in 6th–

12th grade and their parents will be held on Sunday, September 21st, from 5:30–7:00 PM. The goal of this gathering is to hear ideas and shape future youth programming, including potential offerings like a post-confirmation Bible study, service trips, and lock-ins. Pastor Len's Bible study has also been going well, with consistent attendance and meaningful discussion. Looking ahead, Council will review the Safe Church Policy at our next meeting in August. We are encouraged by the momentum building as we approach a new program year and welcome the continued support and input of the congregation.

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!



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 skbremmer@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 will not meet on Sunday, August 3rd because of the Outdoor Worship service. It will continue on Sunday, September 7th. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*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 deadline to sign up is Sunday, August 3rd.



The Social Ministry group is looking for someone to take over the Card Sending Ministry to members of the church. The supplies and stamps are paid for by the committee, but they need someone willing to take the time to send the cards out. A list of people who receive cards and guidelines for sending cards would be shared with whomever volunteers for this program. If you are interested in doing this, contact the church office or Kathy Albrecht.

Have you sent any pictures of your Flat Jesus in action? We are still looking for as many pictures as we can of Flat Jesus showing up in our daily lives. Check out the pictures already posted on the windows for some ideas. Some other ideas for your Flat Jesus include doing yardwork, helping in the garden, cooking or baking, playing a game, going for a bike or car ride, building with Legos, playing with your favorite toy, or watching a movie or TV show.



Tim Kruse, a former member of St. John's and son of Joan Stewart, recently received an Edward R. Murrow Award. Tim is a TV Newscast Director at Channel 12 in Milwaukee. He and his entire crew received this award for a broadcast of "Police Shooting During RNC" that aired July 2024. Tim wrote on his Facebook page where he announced the award, "It takes a village to produce a newscast each and every day, and I am truly grateful to work with an excellent crew of skillful and talented individuals who work both in front of and behind the camera. I can't do my job without them."

Edward R. Murrow Awards honor outstanding achievements in broadcast and digital journalism. They recognize local and national news stories that uphold the Radio Television Digital News Association (RTDNA) Code of Ethics, demonstrate technical expertise, and exemplify the importance of journalism as a service to the community. Region 4 is comprised of Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin. The RTDNA Edward R. Murrow Awards are among the most prestigious in broadcast and digital news. Congratulations to Tim and his WISN crew!



The social ministry committee started their school supply collection on July 13th, and it will continue through August 10th. The items being collected are: Markers, glue, pencils, crayons, erasers, rulers, Clorox wipes, wireless computer mice, earbuds, notebooks, 2-pocket folders, highlighters, index cards, sticky notes, scissors, pencil cases, etc. There is 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.

If you are interested in giving electronically instead of using envelopes, please contact the office and find out how easy it is to do that. You can have your weekly/monthly giving directly withdrawn from your bank account and put in the church bank account. You are still able to designate your giving the same way you are able to do when using your envelopes. You also can still give for special items (Grace Meal, school supplies, community Christmas meal, etc.) using envelopes in the church or by check. If this is something that interests you, contact the office!



August 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 3 8a Grace Meal meeting 9:30a Outdoor Worship Service 11a Property meeting	4	5 9a Dominoes	6 7:30a Men's Breakfast	7	8	9
10 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting 10a Memorial/Finance meeting 10a Helping Hands meeting 6p 4-H Meeting	11 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	12 6p Women's Gathering Annual Meeting & Ladies Night Out	13 10a Worship & Music Committee meeting	14 1p Cards & Dominoes	15	16 8a Grace Meal prep
17 9a Worship (backpacking blessing) 10a Youth/YA Committee meeting 10:30a Grace Meal	18	19	20 7p Church Council meeting	21	22	23
24 9a Worship 10:15a Bible Study	25 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	26	27 6:30p Bible Study	28 1p Cards & Dominoes	29	30
31 9a Worship	Sept. 1	2 9a Dominoes	3 7:30a Men's Breakfast	4	5	6

August Birthdays

1	Courtney Finn	14	Wade Sheffey	30	Mark Lawler
	Jae Sugroue	17	Jacob Kempel		Chris Kempel
2	Rich Kliman		Lucas Kempel		Jenna Robinson
4	Arianna Schoenhard	18	Kali (Albers) Montgomery	31	Peyton LaVanway
6	Andrea Baumgartner		Linda Albright		
	Crew Kempel	19	Logan Kempel		
	Iris Maria Poldre	20	Brianne Freedlund		
9	MaryAnn Kliman	23	Jay Butson		
11	Joel Kempel	25	Marlee McPeck		
12	Karen Bremmer		Jean Lutz		
	Jessica Ferguson	28	Garrett Boop		
13	Karen Henze				