



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• **September 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

Sunday, September 14 is the beginning of our Christian Education Year, as we rally together to begin our faith formation with classes for children, youth and adult.



Wear your favorite T-Shirt and join us in celebrating the kick-off of our education month.

Sunday School will be held each Sunday for our children, which will begin with a Children's Message in the Sanctuary and then will continue with classroom activities until the Greeting of Peace when children will join their families in time for communion. Children are invited to commune with the permission of their parents or will receive a blessing.

Curriculum orientation for new teachers will be on September 21st after worship. This meeting will include orientation to the SS room, key for supply closet, what is in the supply closet, what is the curriculum and how do I access the information, can I add some games, crafts, information on my own? Where are the kids' bibles?

We are still looking for a couple of teachers so we will be able to maintain a weekly continuity for our children as they learn about what God is up to in their lives.

Confirmation Classes will begin with an orientation session for parents and students after worship on Sunday, September 14th. We ask all parents and students of grades 6 through 9 to be present to receive important information.

There will be a meeting with youth 6th to 12th graders on September 21, 2025, at 5:30 pm for pizza and to gather interest regarding youth activities.

Adults, you won't be left out. On eight Wednesday evenings, beginning on September 24 through November 12 at 6 pm, there will be a study/discussion of the book of Matthew. Matthew will be the main source of our Gospel readings beginning in Advent this year. It will be great background and preparation for worship in the coming church year.

We look forward to everyone participating in growth in faith and life by participating in Christian Education this year.

Blessings as you grow in faith and community!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

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!!



The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of toilet paper, laundry soap, dish soap, small bottles of mouthwash, Ramen noodles, and cans of fruit. 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 September 2nd! 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 September 11th and 25th!

Beginning Wednesday, September 24th through November 12th, 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.



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: 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.



Date	Acolytes	Tech Support
Sept. 7	Jonah Schubert	Colton Gronwold Kooper Kampmeier
Sept. 14	Diem Gronewold	Colton Gronwold Kooper Kampmeier
Sept. 21	George Snetcher	Colton Gronwold Kooper Kampmeier
Sept. 28	Cara Brinkmeier	Colton Gronwold Kooper Kampmeier
Oct. 5		

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 September 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
Sept. 7	Ron & Karen Bremmer	Brandon & Morgan Scharping family	Kim Williams	Lori Kempel
Sept. 14	Andrew & Ashley Gronewold family	Marvin & Joan Klatt	Marion Eden	Shawn Kuhlemeier
Sept. 21	Terry & Joyce Kempel	Donnie & Michelle Miller family	Jim Heimerdinger	Karen Bremmer
Sept. 28	Lee Frey	Linda Brinkmeier	Andrew Gronewold	Joel Kempel
Oct. 5	Larry & Kathy Albrecht	Jane Boop	Ethan Bremmer	Andrew Gronewold

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Karen Bremmer and Janet Ferguson

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are September 3rd and October 1st! 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 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!



A big thank you to Brian Brudi for mowing, spraying, and fertilizing the lawn at the church all summer and to Theresa Albers for keeping the flowers and plants around the church grounds weeded and watered. Their volunteer work not only saves the church money, but makes the grounds around the building more beautiful!! Thanks Brian and Theresa!



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.

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	14,642						88,091
Expense	9,514	11,273	12,712	11,745	12,181	15,275	11,537						84,237
Difference	5,812	-1,083	-3,283	838	1,400	-2,935	3,105	0	0	0	0	0	3,854

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	1,230						13,404
Expense	0	550	591	0	0	0	8,800						9,941
Difference	3,685	2,240	789	990	1,254	2,075	-7,570	0	0	0	0	0	3,463

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, August 20th. As energy builds for a new program year, the Council approved revisions to the Safe Church Policy to strengthen protections for children and youth. Going forward, all individuals working with anyone under age 18—including Sunday School and Confirmation volunteers—will need to complete a background check before serving. This step reflects our ongoing commitment to fostering a community of trust and safety for all.

With Rally Sunday set for September 14th, we are excited for what's ahead. Thank you to all who make ministry with children and youth possible—we couldn't do it without you!

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 products—Kleenex, paper towels, toilet tissue

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 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.

*Thank you to everyone who attended our Women's Gathering Ladies Night Out on August 12th. Deb Mather gave a wonderful program on making and showing her baskets. Kathy Hillmer did a beautiful job with the decorations and sharing music and sunflower information and the board members (Kris Eden, Janet Ferguson, Lynda Palmer, Kathy Hillmer, and Karen Bremmer) for preparing and serving the dinner. It was a fun night and we appreciate all who were at the Ladies Night Out!

*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.

*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 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.

Thank you to everyone who donated to the school supply collection. The supplies were delivered to Pearl City School on August 11. We also received monetary donations of \$105.00. We are ordering additional items for the school with the monetary donations. Thank you once again to everyone who supported this project. The Harvest Home collection will be our next project which will start on October 19th.



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.



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 25-30 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. If you would like to help back the backpacks, the group meets downstairs in the Healthy Wolves room in the new basement every Thursday at 3:15 PM! **Items of particular need are individually wrapped full size bars of soap, or monetary donations?**

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 of by check. If this is something that interests you, contact the office!



The Pearl City United Methodist Church is having a pasta lunch on Sunday, September 7th 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!

September 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
August 31 9a Worship	Sept. 1 7p 4-H Meeting	2 9a Dominoes	3 7:30a Men's Breakfast	4	5	6
7 9a Worship 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property meeting 10a Prayer Shawl ministry 11:30a Lunch Together @ Rt. 20	8 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting 6p Girl Scout meeting	9	10	11 1p Cards & Dominoes	12	13
14 9a Worship (Rally Sunday) 10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting 10a Memorial/Finance meeting 10a Helping Hands meeting 10a Confirmation meeting 6p 4-H Meeting	15	16 10a Women's Gathering meeting at Route 20	17 7p Church Council meeting	18	19	20 8a Grace Meal prep
21 9a Worship 10:15a SS teacher meeting 10:30a Grace Meal 5:30p Youth & Parent meeting	22 6p Girl Scout meeting	23	24 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	25 1p Cards & Dominoes	26	27
28 9a Worship 10a Christian Education meeting	29	30	Oct. 1 7:30a Men's Breakfast	2	3	4

September Birthdays

1	Russel Liebenstein	14	Jacob Albright	23	Kara (Hillmer) Hofmaster
	Eleanor Heimerdinger	15	Judy Robinson		Terry Kempel
2	Mike DeZell	16	Zachary Brinkmeier		Eliyana Marroquin
3	Ken Hillmer		Jayden Downs	26	Carrie Hass
	Scott Sheffey	17	Allie Baumgartner	27	Janette (Scott) Lucas
5	Darlene Hershey		Beth Schneider	28	Zachariah Wichman
6	Chad Bremmer	19	Brenda Smargiassi		
7	Katelyn Little		Jenaro Ramos		
8	D. J. Scott	21	Leann Heimerdinger		
	Angie Niehaus		Ann DeZell		
	Kyle Niehaus	22	Shawn Kuhlemeier		
11	Lynette Moore		Graham Schubert		
12	Kooper Kampmeier		Cassie (Aurand) Garnhart		