



# 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., 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 Rally Sunday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

September 14, 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:** Diem Gronewold **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Marion Eden **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Andrew & Ashely Gronewold family **Ushers:** Marvin & Joan Klatt **Counters:** Karen Bremmer & Janet Ferguson **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## Introduction to the Day

*The grumbling of the religious leaders in today's gospel is actually our holy hope: This Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. That our God seeks and saves the lost is not only a holy hope, it is our only hope. As the writer of 1 Timothy reminds us, "The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Thanks be to God.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, our maker, our helper, and our keeper.

**C** Amen

**P** Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

**P** Merciful and loving God,

**C** we are your stiff-necked people. We trample on the needy. We grumble about your grace to others. We turn away from the poor. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins. Rejoice over us as ones who were lost and have been found. Amen.

**P** Even when we are faithless, God remains faithful. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners. You who were lost have been found. In the name of ☩ Jesus, your sins are forgiven!

**C** Amen

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## CHILDREN LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LOWER LEVEL

## GATHERING HYMN

"This Little Light of Mine"

ELW 677

## 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, overflowing with mercy and compassion, you lead back to yourself all those who go astray. Preserve your people in your loving care, that we may reject whatever is contrary to you and may follow all things that sustain our life in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING Exodus 32:7-14

*While Moses is on Mount Sinai, the people grow restless and make a golden calf to worship. Today's reading shows Moses as the mediator between an angry God and a sinful people. Moses reminds God that the Israelites are God's own people, and boldly asks for mercy for them.*

**L** A reading from Exodus, the thirty-second chapter

**L** The LORD said to Moses, "Go down at once! Your people, whom you brought up out of the land of Egypt, have acted perversely; they have been quick to turn aside from the way that I commanded them; they have cast for themselves an image of a calf and have worshiped it and sacrificed to it and said, 'These are your gods, O Israel, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt!' " The LORD said to Moses, "I have seen this people, how stiff-necked they are. Now let me alone so that my wrath may burn hot against them and I may consume them, and of you I will make a great nation."

But Moses implored the LORD his God and said, "O LORD, why does your wrath burn hot against your people, whom you brought out of the land of Egypt with great power and with a mighty hand? Why should the Egyptians say, 'It was with evil intent that he brought them out to kill them in the mountains and to consume them from the face of the earth'? Turn from your fierce wrath; change your mind and do not bring disaster on your people. Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, your servants, how you swore to them by your own self, saying to them, 'I will multiply your descendants like the stars of heaven, and all this land that I have promised I will give to your descendants, and they shall inherit it forever.' " And the LORD changed his mind about the disaster that he planned to bring on his people.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 51:1-10

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.
- C** **Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**
- L** For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.
- C** **Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**
- L** Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother's womb.
- C** **Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**
- L** Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.
- C** **Let me hear joy and gladness; that the body you have broken may rejoice.**
- L** Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.
- C** **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

## SECOND READING

## 1 Timothy 1:12-17

*The letters to Timothy and Titus are called the pastoral epistles because they contain advice especially intended for leaders in the church. Here the mercy shown to Paul, who once persecuted the church, is cited as evidence that even the most unworthy may become witnesses to the grace of God.*

- L** A reading from 1st Timothy, the first chapter
- L** I am grateful to Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because he considered me faithful and appointed me to his service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and a man of violence. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance: that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the foremost. But for that very reason I received mercy, so that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display the utmost patience as an example to those who would come to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL****Luke 15:1-10**

*Jesus tells two stories that suggest a curious connection between the lost being found and sinners repenting. God takes the initiative to find sinners, each of whom is so precious to God that their recovery brings joy in heaven.*

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

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

**P** Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “Which one of you, having a hundred sheep and losing one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the one that is lost until he finds it? And when he has found it, he lays it on his shoulders and rejoices. And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and neighbors, saying to them, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found my lost sheep.’ Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who need no repentance.

“Or what woman having ten silver coins, if she loses one of them, does not light a lamp, sweep the house, and search carefully until she finds it? And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, ‘Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.’ Just so, I tell you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord

**G** **Praise to you, O Christ**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON****REFLECTION SONG****“Jesus Loves Me”****ELW 595**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**APOSTLES’ CREED****ELW PAGE 105**

*(Please be seated.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** Gracious God, we come to you in prayer for the church, the world, and all in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

**A** Merciful God, pour out your grace upon your church. Forgive us for the times when we have been unfaithful, and renew our commitment to your gospel of love. Empower us to live as a community of mercy. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, we ask forgiveness for the ways we have neglected and harmed this earth and its creatures. Confirm our commitment to care for all you have made, and grant us wisdom and strength to take action toward restoring your creation to its fullness. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, govern all who hold positions of power and authority. Instruct them to make just decisions that serve the common good. Make them instruments of your mercy in the world, working to heal divisions and promote peace. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, we lift up all who suffer. Bring healing, comfort, and peace to those who are sick, grieving, or in pain (*especially*). Give us compassionate hearts to accompany those who are hurting and courage to work for justice and mercy. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, 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*. God of grace,.

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Merciful God, bind us together as a community of forgiveness and love. Supply us with humility to seek forgiveness when we have wronged one another and generosity to extend mercy when we have been wronged. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**P** We entrust these prayers to you, O God, in the name of Jesus Christ, our redeemer and friend.

**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** Lord of the harvest, we return to you a portion of what you have given to us. Turn us to set our hope not on the uncertainty of riches, but on you, who richly provides for us. Multiply what we have gathered to bless all who are suffering and in need, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C** **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

**ELW Page 152**

**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:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

**ELW PAGE 153**

## 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 154

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Jesus welcomes sinners and eats with them. Come to this meal of mercy.

*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** O God, through this meal you have strengthened us and appointed us to be your servants. Send us to do good and to share our possessions with all in need. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**C** Amen

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

**P** The God of righteousness, who gives justice to the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry, who sets the prisoners free, ✠ bless you now and forever.

**C** Amen.

SENDING SONG

“Lead Me, Guide Me”

ELW 768

### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

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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.

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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".

## **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., Fri. 6:00-11:00 AM*

### St. John's Website

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

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

### **Sunday, September 14, 2025**

**9a** Worship (Rally Sunday)

**10a** Stewardship/Outreach Committee meeting

**10a** Memorial/Finance Committee meeting

**10a** Confirmation Class meeting

**6p** 4-H Meeting

### **Tuesday, September 16, 2025**

**10a** Women's Gathering meeting at Route 20

### **Wednesday, September 17, 2025**

**7p** Church Council meeting

### **Thursday, September 18, 2025**

**3:15p** Healthy Wolves backpack packing

### **Saturday, September 20, 2025**

**8a** Grace Meal prep

Sunday, September 14, 2025

Exodus 32:7-14 Psalm 51:1-10

1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-10

**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.

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!

## ***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, October 5<sup>th</sup>. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

\*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.

\*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. The next one will be on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at The Candlelight at Lake Carroll Golf Course. Please sign up in the lobby by October 4<sup>th</sup>! Car pooling will be set up!

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Mark you calendars for this year's vaccine clinic at St. John's. FHN will be at St. John's on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup> from 10AM to Noon. Adults under 65 can receive a \$50 Fluzone trivalent vaccine and those 65 and over can get a \$100 Fluzone high-dose vaccine. There will be no out-of-pocket expense if you are covered by Medicare Part B or a Medicare HMO accepted by FHN. Be sure to bring your card with you! Immunizations may be paid for by cash or check and you can use your receipt for reimbursement from your health-insurance carrier. No other insurance coverage can be accepted at this clinic. Per government regulations, no MEDICAID cards can be accepted at these clinics. Everyone must present a photo ID to receive an immunization. For more information, call FHN Community Services at 815-599-7437.

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Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Sept. 21	Terry & Joyce Kempel	Donnie & Michelle Miller family	Jim Heimerdinger
Acolytes		Tech Support	
George Snetcher		Colton Gronewold Kooper Kampmeier	



### *Happy Birthday!*

*Jacob Albright   Judy Robinson   Zachary Brinkmeier   Jayden Downs  
Allie Baumgartner   Beth Schneider   Brenda Smargiassi   Jenaro Ramos*

### **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.