



# 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

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

September 28, 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:** Cara Brinkmeier **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Andrew Gronewold **Assisting Minister:** Joel Kempel **Greeter:** Lee Frey **Ushers:** Linda Brinkmeier **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

*Consideration of and care for those in need (especially those “at our gate,” visible to us, of whom we are aware) is an essential component of good stewardship. It is in the sharing of wealth that we avoid the snare of wealth. It is the one whom death could not hold—who comes to us risen from the dead—who can free us from the death grip of greed.*

## 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

“Morning Has Broken”

ELW 556

## 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, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING **Amos 6:1a, 4-7**

*The prophet Amos announces that Israel's great wealth is a cause not for rejoicing but rather sorrow, because God's people have forgotten how to share their wealth with the poor. The wealthy will be the first to go into exile when judgment comes.*

**L** A reading from Amos, the sixth chapter.

**L** Woe to those who are at ease in Zion and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria. Woe to those who lie on beds of ivory and lounge on their couches and eat lambs from the flock and calves from the stall, who sing idle songs to the sound of the harp and like David improvise on instruments of music, who drink wine from bowls and anoint themselves with the finest oils but are not grieved over the ruin of Joseph! Therefore they shall now be the first to go into exile, and the revelry of the loungers shall pass away.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM **Psalms 146**

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** Hallelujah! Praise the LORD, O my soul!

**C** I will praise the LORD as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

**L** Put not your trust in rulers, in mortals in whom there is no help.

**C** When they breathe their last, they return to earth, and in that day their thoughts perish.

**L** Happy are they who have the God of Jacob for their help, whose hope is in the LORD their God;

- C** who made heaven and earth, the seas, and all that is in them; who keeps promises forever;
- L** who gives justice to those who are oppressed, and food to those who hunger. The LORD sets the captive free.
- C** The LORD opens the eyes of the blind; the LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.
- L** The LORD cares for the stranger; the LORD sustains the orphan and widow, but frustrates the way of the wicked.
- C** The LORD shall reign forever, your God, O Zion, throughout all generations. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

### 1 Timothy 6:6-19

*Timothy is reminded of the confession he made at his baptism and of its implications for daily life. His priorities will be different from those of people who merely want to be rich.*

**L** A reading from 1st Timothy, the sixth chapter

**L** Of course, there is great gain in godliness combined with contentment, for we brought nothing into the world, so that we can take nothing out of it, but if we have food and clothing, we will be content with these. But those who want to be rich fall into temptation and are trapped by many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, and in their eagerness to be rich some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pains.

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time—he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honor and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches but rather on God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL****Luke 16:19-31**

*Jesus tells a parable in which the poor one is “lifted up” and the rich one is “sent away empty.” Jesus makes it clear that this ethic of merciful reversal is not new but is as old as Moses and the prophets.*

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

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

**P** [Jesus said:] “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

**L** The Gospel of the Lord

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

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON****REFLECTION SONG****“One Day at a Time”****Chancel Choir**

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

*(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** We pray for the church, that it would remain faithful to the gospel, always striving to serve the needs of those who are oppressed and rejecting the complacency that comes from wealth. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for creation, that the nations work together to protect and restore the earth, preserving the beauty of the planet for future generations and honoring the gift of your creation. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for those in positions of authority, that they govern with justice and compassion, recognizing the dignity of all people and working to promote peace and prosperity for all. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for people in any need (*especially*). Give them your assurance and courage when the path forward is not clear. Liberate us from all that binds us, lift us up when we are bowed down, and show us your love. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for this congregation, that we would be strengthened to build a world where all can thrive. Incite us to advocate for fair wages and just policies, and guide us in building a community of mutual support. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** We pray for 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** We remember in thanksgiving the faithful departed. Inspire us by their example to love and serve our neighbors, and bring us to eternal life. 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 (SUNG)

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 (SUNG)

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

“God Be With You”

ELW 536

### 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 40 backpacks each week.** The cost of supplies runs about \$8.00 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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Mark your 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.

## 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 28, 2025

9a Worship

10a Christian Education meeting

### Wednesday, October 1, 2025

7:30a Men's Breakfast at The Beltline Café

6p Bible Study

### Thursday, September 25, 2025

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, October 5, 2025

Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Psalm 37:1-9

2 Timothy 1:1-14 Luke 17:5-10

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**Confirmation:** Confirmation will begin on Sunday, October 5<sup>th</sup> with our first meeting of the confirmation year. Each family should have received an email with all dates and information for the year except Acolyting which will be finished as we get closer to the summer in 2026. If you did not receive the email, please let me know so that I may get you that information. Our study this year is the Apostles Creed, the Bible, and the church service. Please remember to bring your Bible with you to each meeting and try to be on time so we may finish in a timely manner. We will continue to meet the first and third Sunday of each month right after the church service upstairs in the Youth Room. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Kuhlemeier.

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**Sunday School:** Sunday School has official started and we are meeting every Sunday this year with a new curriculum from Spark House. Each week the children will be learning stories from the bible which will include stories, activities, crafts, and bible verses. It looks to be a fun filled year with wonderful lessons. We invite any child to Sunday School ranging from 3 year olds to 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We are still in need of some volunteers to teach a lesson for a Sunday of your choice. If you feel the calling to help us out, please speak with Shawn Kuhlemeier, Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher, or Grace Heimerdinger-Baake.

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The Healthy Wolves Backpack ministry would like to thank the congregation and community for their unending support of this ministry. Food backpacks are handed out weekly through the school year to those in need and encompasses preschool-12. Snacks are also given to teachers to hand out to those students who can't afford to bring food for snack time. Your generosity ensures no child is hungry in school and at home on weekends. May God bless you!

## ***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 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 NW Conference WELCA 2025 Fall Gathering will be at First Lutheran Church in Freeport on FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24<sup>th</sup>. Continental breakfast and registration at 8:30 a.m. The program will be from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. The program is Walking the Ancient Path. First Lutheran will be sponsoring this program so no registration fee (free will offering). Open to all women of the ELCA and guests. Return flyer form (on bulletin board) by October 16<sup>th</sup>. Also, there will be lunch at Big O's. if you want lunch (pay on your own.)

\*The next bible study will be on Tuesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:45 a.m. - refreshments (served by Kathy Hillmer and Doris Kness) 10 a.m. - bible study led by Kathy Hillmer - A change in the bible study "Where two or three are gathered: Flourishing in relationships. Relationships that sustain us" 11 a.m. - ? Sit N Sew - bring a sack lunch and a paint shirt - we will be working on painting Christmas ornaments. Invite others.

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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. It's not too late to join. Just let Pastor Len or DJ know you are coming so we can have materials ready for you.**

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The Kids Klub is back at St. John's! This monthly adventure is designed for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and is sponsored by Pearl City area churches. It offers a safe and supportive environment where children can explore, make new friends, and learn valuable skills. It will start Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> from 3:15-5:00 PM and continue the third Wednesday of each month. To register contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or 815-291-6261!

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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 next rehearsal date is Sunday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:15 AM and the next time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, October 19<sup>th</sup>. They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 19<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!

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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 the Lake Carroll Golf Course. Please sign up in the lobby by October 4<sup>th</sup>! Car pooling will be set up!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Oct. 5	Larry & Kathy Albrecht	Jane Boop	Ethan Bremmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Kolton Kampmeier		Diem Gronewold	



### *Happy Birthday!*

*Zachariah Wichman   Katie Butson   Nancy Trampel  
 Bob Roiland   Chad McPeck   Andrew Gronewold  
 Michele Schiess   Jeff Boop   Samuel Kempel*

## **Grace Meal News. . .**

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the September Grace Meal: Kooper Kampmeier, Kolton Kampmeier, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Grace Heimerdinger, Jim Heimerdinger, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Doris Kness, Deb Mather, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, Steve Roiland, and Marge Roiland. We served a total of 262 meals, 37 deliveries, and 225 curbside pickups.

The October Grace Meal will be on October 19<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday October 16<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The menu for the October Grace Meal will be pork chops, baked beans, applesauce Jell-O salad, and carrot cake.

**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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Check out the two White Pines shows available this fall. "Getting Better With Age" on October 8<sup>th</sup> (deadline is September 21<sup>st</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.