



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

Church office hours:

Mon., Thurs., Fri 6:00-11:00 AM

Parish Administrator

DJ Scott

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 7, 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:** Jonah Schubert **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Kim Williams **Assisting Minister:** Lori Kempel **Greeter:** Ron & Karen Bremmer **Ushers:** Brandon & Morgan Scharping family **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

Called to contemplate the cost of discipleship, we might be helped by translating Paul's request to Philemon into our prayer of the day: Refresh my heart in Christ. Strengthened by the company and forgiveness of Christ in holy communion and recalling God's grace in remembrance of baptism, we can be strengthened in this hour to "choose life"—to choose life in God as our own.

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

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. Direct us, O Lord God, in all our doings with your continual help, that in all our works, begun, continued, and ended in you, we may glorify your holy name; and finally, by your mercy, bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Deuteronomy 30:15-20

Moses speaks to the Israelites, who are about to enter the land promised to their ancestors. In this passage, he lays out the stark choice before them: choose life by loving and obeying the LORD; or choose death by following other gods.

L A reading from Deuteronomy, the thirtieth chapter

L “See, I have set before you today life and prosperity, death and adversity. If you obey the commandments of the LORD your God that I am commanding you today, by loving the LORD your God, walking in his ways, and observing his commandments, decrees, and ordinances, then you shall live and become numerous, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to possess. But if your heart turns away and you do not hear but are led astray to bow down to other gods and serve them, I declare to you today that you shall certainly perish; you shall not live long in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to enter and possess. I call heaven and earth to witness against you today that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Choose life so that you and your descendants may live, loving the LORD your God, obeying him, and holding fast to him, for that means life to you and length of days, so that you may live in the land that the LORD swore to give to your ancestors, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 1

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!
- C** **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**
- L** They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.
- C** **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**
- L** Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.
- C** **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING

Philemon 1-21

Onesimus, a new Christian and a man enslaved by Philemon, has helped Paul, who is in prison. Paul writes this letter to his friend Philemon to encourage him to receive Onesimus, upon his return, as a sibling in Christ.

- L** A reading from Philemon, the first chapter
- L** Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother, To our beloved coworker Philemon, to our sister Apphia, to our fellow soldier Archippus, and to the church in your house: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank my God always when I mention you in my prayers, because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith toward the Lord Jesus. I pray that the partnership of your faith may become effective as you comprehend all the good that we share in Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother. For this reason, though I am more than bold enough in Christ to command you to do the right thing, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love—and I, Paul, do this as an old man and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me so that he might minister to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel, but I preferred to do nothing without your consent in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so

that you might have him back for the long term, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother—especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way or owes you anything, charge that to me. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I ask.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 14:25-33

Jesus speaks frankly about the costs of discipleship. Those who follow him should know from the outset that completing the course of discipleship will finally mean renouncing all other allegiances.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P Now large crowds were traveling with [Jesus], and he turned and said to them, “Whoever comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and even life itself, cannot be my disciple. Whoever does not carry the cross and follow me cannot be my disciple. For which of you, intending to build a tower, does not first sit down and estimate the cost, to see whether he has enough to complete it? Otherwise, when he has laid a foundation and is not able to finish, all who see it will begin to ridicule him, saying, ‘This fellow began to build and was not able to finish.’ Or what king, going out to wage war against another king, will not sit down first and consider whether he is able with ten thousand to oppose the one who comes against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then while the other is still far away, he sends a delegation and asks for the terms of peace. So therefore, none of you can become my disciple if you do not give up all your possessions.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“Break Now the Bread of Life”

ELW 515

(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 We pray for the church to follow in your ways, that it may be a witness to your love for all people. Help us choose all that is life-giving and confront the forces of death. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for creation, that it may be cherished and nurtured. Sustain farmlands, animals, and waters; restore places affected by calamities; and shield coastlands from rising seas. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for those in authority. Grant them wisdom to govern justly and compassion to care for the marginalized. Equip them for actions that further the common good. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for those who are sick, hungry, unhoused, or lonely (*especially*). May they find healing through your love and the care of those around them. Lead us to be your hands and feet in the world. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for this congregation, that we may be united in love and faith. Refresh our hearts in Christ, and deepen our support of one another. We pray that our sharing of faith may transform lives. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for those unable to be with us today. We 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 We thank you for those who have died and now dwell with the saints. Surround them with your divine mercy, that they find peace and rest in your loving embrace. 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

“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

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor

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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., Thurs. , Fri. 6:30-11:30 AM

St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, September 7, 2025

9a Worship

10a Grace Meal & Property meetings

10a Prayer Shawl ministry

11:30a Lunch Out Together at Rte. 20 Restaurant

Monday , September 8, 2025

6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting

6p Girl Scout meeting

Thursday, September 11 , 2025

1p Cards & dominoes in Luther Hall

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.

Sunday School: We have exciting news, we will have Sunday School every Sunday starting September 14, 2025 (Rally Sunday). That being said, this can only happen if we have enough volunteers to teach and we are making that an easy task as we have a written curriculum that is ready to use for all. We will have an orientation meeting for teachers on Sunday, September 21, 2025 right after the church service in the downstairs meeting room. If you would like to help out/volunteer, please contact Shawn Kuhlemeier, Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher, or Grace Heimerdinger.

We look forward to seeing all the kids from last year as well as all the new kids that wish to join us. We begin our year with the Children's Message and Sunday School topic of "Let the Children Come". Remember to wear your special T-Shirts!!

Women's Gathering News ...

*Women's Gathering has dish cloths for sale. They are \$1.50 each. Contact the church office or Lynda Palmer if you are interested.

*Prayer Shawl Outreach will not meet on Sunday, September 7th. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*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.

*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.

Check out the two White Pines shows available this fall. "Getting Better With Age" on October 8th and "Scrooge the Comedy" on December 10th. **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.

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.

*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 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!

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!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Sept. 14	Andrew & Ashley Gronewold family	Marvin & Joan Klatt	Marion Eden
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Diem Gronewold		Colton Gronewold Kooper Kampmeier	



Happy Birthday!

*DJ Scott Angie Niehaus Kyle Niehaus
Lynette Moore Kooper Kampmeier*

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!

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.