



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• **October 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



Reformation Sunday - Affirmation of Baptism

You have made public profession of your faith. Do you intend to continue in the covenant God made with you in holy baptism:

to live among God's faithful people,
to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's supper, to proclaim
the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all
people, following the example of Jesus, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth?

Each person responds:

I do, and I ask God to help and guide me.

On Reformation Sunday two of our young people will affirm the faith given them in baptism and confirm their commitment to continue to walk in the faith that was given to them by the Holy Spirit.

We will pray that the Holy Spirit will continue to guide their lives and will assist their growth in faith as they continue to live as followers of Jesus in the church and the world.

This day, we also celebrate the Festival of the Reformation with the thought that our young leaders will assist in the church's task of continuing re-formation. This task will certainly occupy the new presiding Bishop of the ELCA, Yehiel Curry, as he and all the synodical Bishops, and lay leaders help all of us face the challenges of the church in this world today, just as Luther faced the challenges of the church and the world in his time and place.

What challenges will we face as we as God's people in this place take up the re-formation changes that will be required of us? Is it possible that as we listen to our young people, they may lead us in this task of re-formation?

This may be most certainly true!

Pastor Len Hoffmann

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

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 5th 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.



The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of hand soap, body wash for men and women, shampoo, conditioner, laundry soap, and dish soap. 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 October 7th! 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 October 9th and 23rd!

Beginning Wednesday, September 24th through November 12th, Pastor Len began 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 make copies of pages, 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: Confirmation will begin on Sunday, October 5th 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.



Date	Acolytes	Tech Support
Oct. 5	Kolton Kampmeier	Diem Gronewold
Oct. 12	Kolton Kampmeier	Diem Gronewold
Oct. 19	Lucy Voss	Diem Gronewold
Oct. 26	Hudson Voss Kooper Kampmeier	Diem Gronewold
Nov. 2	Diem Gronewold	Jonah Schubert

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 October 2025

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
Oct. 5	Larry & Kathy Albrect	Jane Boop	Ethan Bremmer	Andrew Gronewold
Oct. 12	Lois Hunsaker	Lee & Stacey Block	Theresa Snetcher	Theresa Albers
Oct. 19	Dennis Downs family	Jim & Leann Heimerdinger	Lori Kempel	DJ Scott
Oct. 26	Chris Kempel	Jayson & Kim Williams family	Dennis Downs	Lincoln Voss
Nov. 2	Randy & Kris Liebenstein	Kathy Williams	Tracy Downs	

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Janet Ferguson and Lynda Palmer

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are October 1st and November 5th! 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 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 19th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday October 16th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 19th. 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!



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	12,196					100,287
Expense	9,514	11,273	12,712	11,745	12,181	15,275	11,537	10,899					95,136
Difference	5,812	-1,083	-3,283	838	1,400	-2,935	3,105	1,297	0	0	0	0	5,151

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	2,285					15,689
Expense	0	550	591	0	0	0	8,800	0					9,941
Difference	3,685	2,240	789	990	1,254	2,075	-7,570	2,285	0	0	0	0	5,748



Make plans to be with us on Sunday, October 26th as we celebrate two of our youth being confirmed. Lucy Voss and Kolton Kampmeier will be affirming their baptisms that day and giving their Faith Statements as well. A reception will follow in Luther Hall!

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



The Kids Klub is back!! Join us for a monthly adventure designed for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. The program is supported by Pearl City area churches, offers a safe and supportive environment where your child can explore, make new friends, and learn valuable life skills. From games and crafts to Bible study and snacks. Kids Klub has something for everyone. It is free of charge and open to all children in the community. The first meeting is October 15th from 3:15-5:00 PM at St. John's. For more information or to register your child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or at 815-291-6261.

The Chancel Choir started 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 12th at 8:15 AM and the first time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, October 19th. They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 19th. 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 invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. The next one will be on Sunday, October 5th at 11:30 AM at The Candlelight at the Lake Carroll Golf Course. Please sign up in the lobby by October 4th! Car pooling will be set up!

Women's Gathering Ministries . .

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard – bring BABY WIPES

Food Pantry donations: paper products—Aluminum foil, wax paper, plastic wrap

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 meet on Sunday, October 5th. 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 24th. 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 16th. 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 21st 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.

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!



Mark you calendars for this year's vaccine clinic at St. John's. FHN will be at St. John's on Sunday, October 19th 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.

On Sunday, November 2nd, we will be celebrating All Saints Sunday. We will be remembering the members and friends of members we have lost over the past year. We will be reaching out to the families of these members to join us on this special day. If you have someone you would like honored that day, please contact the office by October 24th.



The school supply collection concluded on August 10th with all items delivered to Pearl City School on August 11th. Supplies were purchased for the school with monetary donations, which were \$105.00. The Harvest Home collection for the Pearl City Food Pantry will start on October 19th. Grocery bags with a list of needed items will be handed out after worship on that day. Monetary donations will also be accepted for the Harvest Home collection and checks should be made out to St. John's Lutheran Church. This collection will conclude on November 16th when all the donations will be blessed during the service.



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. 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?**

October 2025

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
September 28 9a Worship 10a Christian Education meeting	29	30	October 1 7:30a Men's Breakfast 6p Bible Study	2 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	3	4
5 9a Worship 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property meeting 10a Prayer Shawl ministry 10a Confirmation Class 11:30a Lunch Together	6 5:30p Girl Scout meeting 7p 4-H meeting	7 9a Dominoes	8 6p Bible Study	9 10a School Evacuation Drill to St. John's 1p Cards & Dominoes 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	10	11
12 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting 10a Memorial/Finance meeting 10a Helping Hands meeting 12p Luther Hall reserved 6p 4-H Meeting	13 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	14	15 10a Worship & Music committee meeting 3:15 Kids Klub meeting 6p Bible Study 7p Church Council meeting	16 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	17	18 8a Grace Meal prep
19 9a Worship (Commitment Sunday) 10:15a Confirmation Class 10:30a Grace Meal	20 5:30p Girl Scout meeting	21 9:45a Women's Gathering meeting 5:30p Junior & Cadettes GS meeting	22 6p Bible Study	23 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing 1p Cards & Dominoes	24	25
26 9a Worship (Confirmation) 10a Christian Education meeting	27 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	28 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	29 6p Bible Study	30 6p Cub Scout Pack 27 meeting	31	Nov. 1

October Birthdays

1	Katie Butson	10	Jerilyn Strohecker	21	James Richards
	Nancy Trampel		Bob Steele	22	Amber Baumgartner
	Bob Roiland	11	Ella Williams	24	Rusty Block
2	Chad McPeck		Gilbert Hershey		Kelly Lawler
	Andrew Gronewold		Judy Nelson	25	Charlie Boop
3	Michele Schiess	12	Dinah Shores	26	Kathy Hillmer
4	Jeff Boop		Tyler Wichman	28	Jaden Robinson
	Samuel Kempel	14	Lori Kempel	30	Linda Brinkmeier
5	Tricia Goldsmith	15	Larry Albrecht		Autumn Gray
6	Jane Boop	16	Greta (Heimerdinger) Shimon		Lois Hunsaker
	Melvin Voss	18	Bob Ditzler	31	David Heimerdinger
	Robert Potter		Jordan Johnson		
8	Joan Stewart	20	Rob Knoup		
	Stephanie (Erbsen) Schubert	21	Deb Mather		
9	Janis Kampmeier		Theresa Snetcher		
	Devon Kempel		Taylor Heimerdinger-Baake		