



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., Wed., 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"



Commitment Sunday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Collecting and blessing of Commitment Cards

October 19, 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:** Lucy Voss **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer
Lector: Lori Kempel **Assisting Minister:** DJ Scott **Greeter:** Dennis Downs family
Ushers: Jim & Leann Heimerdinger **Counters:** Janet Ferguson & Lynda Palmer
Sacristan: Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

*Pray always. Do not lose heart. This is Christ's encouragement in the gospel today.
Wrestle with the word. Remember your baptism again and again. Come regularly to
Christ's table. Persistence in our every encounter with the divine will be blessed.*

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

“Give Me Jesus” (verses 1, 3, 5)

ELW 770

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 Lord God, tireless guardian of your people, you are always ready to hear our cries. Teach us to rely day and night on your care. Inspire us to seek your enduring justice for all this suffering world, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Genesis 32:22-31

Returning to the home he had fled many years before after stealing his brother's birthright and his father's blessing, Jacob wrestles all night long with a divine adversary who ultimately blesses him and changes his name to "Israel," a name that means "he wrestles with God."

L A reading from Genesis, the thirty-second chapter.

L The same night [Jacob] got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket, and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, "Let me go, for the day is breaking." But Jacob said, "I will not let you go, unless you bless me." So he said to him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Jacob." Then the man said, "You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed." Then Jacob asked him, "Please tell me your name." But he said, "Why is it that you ask my name?" And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "For I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved." The sun rose upon him as he passed Peniel, limping because of his hip.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- C** **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**
- L** The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- C** **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- L** the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- C** **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
- L** The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
- C** **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 3:14—4:5

The writer of this letter continues his instruction of Timothy, his younger colleague in ministry, by emphasizing the importance of faithful teaching despite opposition.

- L** A reading from 2nd Timothy, the third chapter
- L** But as for you, continue in what you have learned and firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have known sacred writings that are able to instruct you for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that the person of God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.
- In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I solemnly urge you: proclaim the message; be persistent whether the time is favorable or unfavorable; convince, rebuke, and encourage with the utmost patience in teaching. For the time is coming when people will not put up with sound teaching, but, having their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own desires and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander away to myths. As for you, be sober in everything, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 18:1-8

Jesus tells a parable of an unjust judge who is worn down by a widow's pleas. Jesus is calling God's people to cry out for justice and deliverance. For if an unethical judge will ultimately grant the plea of a persistent widow, how much more will God respond to those who call.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

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

P Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Grant me justice against my accuser.' For a while he refused, but later he said to himself, 'Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.' " And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

L The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

"Saved By Grace"

Chancel Choir

(Please stand as you are able.)

APOSTLES' CREED

ELW PAGE 105

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Renewed in God's everlasting grace, let us pray for the church, the world, and all creation.

(A brief silence.)

A We pray for the church universal. O God, who unites the church across the globe, bring unity and peace to a world divided by hatred and opposition. Turn our hearts toward the gospel of Jesus Christ. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We pray for creation. O God, who made heaven and earth, draw us to the beauty of the whole creation. Turn us toward a right relationship with the entire cosmos. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all nations, states, cities, and towns. O God, you rule over all the earth. Grant our elected officials humility in their decision-making for the sake of the entire world. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit. O God, who heals and strengthens, our help comes from you in times of need. Support, comfort, and heal those who suffer (*especially*). God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for St. John's. O God, who guides this congregation, encourage us to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Nurture our relationships with the community, that we serve and advocate for those who come to us in need. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We pray for all. O God, who includes all, 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 Connie Melville*. God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

A We offer thanksgiving for the faithful departed. O God, whose promises never end, we thank you for all the saints who have shown us the way of your Son, Jesus Christ (*especially*). God of grace,

C receive our prayer.

P We offer our prayers, O God, trusting in your everlasting grace and mercy, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.

BLESSING OF COMMITMENT CARDS

P Gracious and loving God, giver of all that is good and true, beautiful and life-giving: These cards represent our stewardship of what you have given us, our love, and our thankfulness. These commitments are given in thanksgiving and response to what you have first given to us, that we may return these gifts to you. May they be the first fruits of what we have and not what we have left-over, as an offering of joy and peace. May we hold this image in our hearts and our minds so that as we watch our offerings each week come to your table, we can see our very selves being part of this offering as a living sacrifice to you. We pray this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

C Amen.

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

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

ELW 773

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do not lose heart.

C Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright
2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg For-
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 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.

Mark your 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.

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

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 19, 2025

9a Worship (Commitment Sunday)

10:15a Confirmation Class

10:30a Grace Meal

Monday, October 20, 2025

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

9:45a Women's Gathering meeting

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

Wednesday, October 22, 2025

6p Bible Study

Thursday, October 23, 2025

1p Cards & dominoes in Luther Hall

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, October 26, 2025

Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46

Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

Confirmation: Confirmation began 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.

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.

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, November 2nd. 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 paint shirt - we will be working on painting Christmas ornaments. Chili will be served. Invite others.

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. 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.

The Kids Klub is back at St. John's! This monthly adventure is designed for Kindergarten through 5th 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 continues Wednesday, November 19th 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!

Check out the White Pines show still available this fall. "Scrooge the Comedy" on December 10th. **This show has a limited number of tickets available** and a deadline about a week before the show. Get signed up in the lobby and turn your money in at the office or in the security box by the office door.

Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, November 4th. Cards and dominoes are still on for the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1PM as well. The next date is Thursday, October 23rd.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Oct. 26	Chris Kempel	Jayson & Kim Williams family	Dennis Downs
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Hudson Voss Kooper Kampmeier		Diem Gronewold	

Happy Birthday!

*Rob Knoup Deb Mather Theresa Snetcher Taylor Heimerdinger-Baake
James Richards Amber Baumgartner Rusty Block
Kelly Lawler Charlie Boop*

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-Baake, 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!

*Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. The next one will be on Sunday, November 2nd at 11:30 AM at the Imperial Palace in Freeport. Please sign up in the lobby by October 27th! Car pooling will be set up!