



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., Tues., 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"



Reformation Sunday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Affirmation of Baptism

October 26, 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:** Hudson Voss & Kooper Kampmeier
Organist: Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Dennis Downs **Assisting Minister:** Lincoln Voss
Greeter: Chris Kempel **Ushers:** Jayson & Kim Williams family **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

Rooted in the past and growing into the future, the church must always be reformed in order to live out the love of Christ in an ever-changing world. We celebrate the good news of God's grace, that Jesus Christ sets us free every day to do this life-transforming work. Trusting in the freedom given to us in baptism, we pray for the church, that Christians will unite more fully in worship and mission.

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. Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The renewed covenant will not be breakable, but like the old covenant it will expect the people to live upright lives. To know the LORD means that one will defend the cause of the poor and needy (Jer. 22:16). The renewed covenant is possible only because the LORD will forgive iniquity and not remember sin. Our hope lies in a God who forgets.

L A reading from Jeremiah, the thirty-first chapter

L The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 46

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.
- C** **Therefore we will not fear, though the earth be moved, and though the mountains shake in the depths of the sea;**
- L** though its waters rage and foam, and though the mountains tremble with its tumult.
- C** **There is a river whose streams make glad the city of God, the holy habitation of the Most High.**
- L** God is in the midst of the city; it shall not be shaken; God shall help it at the break of day.
- C** **The nations rage, and the kingdoms shake; God speaks, and the earth melts away.**
- L** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.
- C** **Come now, regard the works of the LORD, what desolations God has brought upon the earth;**
- L** behold the one who makes war to cease in all the world; who breaks the bow, and shatters the spear, and burns the shields with fire.
- C** **“Be still, then, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations; I will be exalted in the earth.”**
- L** The LORD of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.

SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

Paul's words stand at the heart of the preaching of Martin Luther and other Reformation leaders. No human beings make themselves right with God through works of the law. We are brought into a right relationship with God through the divine activity centered in Christ's death. This act is a gift of grace that liberates us from sin and empowers our faith in Jesus Christ.

- L** A reading from Romans, the third chapter
- L** Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.
- But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement

by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

Jesus speaks of truth and freedom as spiritual realities known through his word. He reveals the truth that sets people free from sin.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?”

Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

SEE INSERT

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

“Here I Am Lord”

WOV 752

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 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.

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor

Pastor Len Hoffmann

815-975-4740

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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., Tues. , Fri. 6:00-11:00 AM

St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, October 26, 2025

9a Worship (Confirmation Sunday)

10a Christian Education meeting

Monday, October 27, 2025

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, October 28, 2025

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

6p Bible Study

Thursday, October 30, 2025

6p Cub Scout meeting

Sunday, November 2, 2025

Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Psalm 149

Ephesians 1:11-23 Luke 6:20-31

The Healthy Wolves backpack ministry is very thankful for your continuing financial support. Without you, we would not be able to supply weekend meals for those in need. The number of students needing help is twice the amount of last school year. You are indeed a blessing to our community.

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!

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 next bible study will be on Tuesday, November 18th at 9:45 a.m. - refreshments (served by Carla Personette and Joyce Kempel) 10 a.m. - bible study led by Karen Bremmer on "In God's Grace: What fig trees teach us about Advent". Sit N Sew will follow at 11AM.

*We will be decorating the church for Advent after the worship service on Sunday, November 23rd. Many hands will help make the work light!!

*Thank you to Kris Eden for the ceramic ornaments for the Women's Gathering dinner on Tuesday, December 16th in Luther Hall. Thank you to Lynda Palmer for helping Kris prepare the ornaments for painting.

*Women's Gathering will be hosting a Confirmation reception following the service on October 26th for our Confirmands Lucy Voss and Kolton Kampemier.

*On Tuesday, December 16th, we will be hosting our Christmas dinner (potluck) in Luther Hall. "Winter Wonderland" will be a fund evening with Christmas bingo and white elephant gift exchange. A sign-up sheet will be on the lobby bulletin board. All women are welcome.

*There is a program "A Visit with Corrie" (portraying Corrie Ten Boom) at Trinity Lutheran in Mt. Morris on Saturday, November 1st at 1PM. The flyer is on the bulletin board. Free admission and a reception following the performance. Donations are accepted.

Join us next Sunday as we recognize our members and friends who have passed away in the past year. If you have a family member or friend who has passed away in the past year but is not a member, please let DJ know by Tuesday, October 28th so they can be recognized at next week's All Saints Sunday service.

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.

St. John's is manning the Food Pantry in November. We stock the shelves on the first and third Sunday and help people getting items on the second and fourth Sunday. The times are 9-11 AM. If you could help any day, please let Janet Ferguson know.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Nov. 2	Rusty & Kris Liebenstein	Kathy Williams	Tracy Downs
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Diem Gronewold		Jonah Schubert	



Happy Birthday!

*Kathy Hillmer Jaden Robinson Linda Brinkmeier
Autumn Gray Lois Hunsaker David Heimerdinger*

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the October Grace Meal: Pearl Valley Rangers 4-H Club and parents, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Jim Heimerdinger, Lois Hunsaker, Joan Klatt, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, DJ Scott, Marilyn Smital, and Marge Roiland. We served a total of 269 meals, 38 deliveries, and 231 curbside pickups.

A big thank you to David Williams for supplying the grills, and Randy Faust, Rollin Nelson and Marion Eden for cooking and helping with the pork chops. A Great Job!!

The November Grace Meal will be on November 16th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday November 13th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 16th. The Menu for the November Grace Meal will be Turkey, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, cranberry, and a pumpkin dessert.

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!

JOIN US IN LUTHER HALL AFTER
WORSHIP TODAY FOR A RECEPTION IN
HONOR OF OUR TWO CONFIRMANDS!



THANK YOU TO THE WOMEN'S
GATHERING GROUP FOR PROVIDING
THE FOOD AND DRINKS FOR THIS
RECEPTION!