



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"



Time After Pentecost

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

October 5, 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:** Kooper Kampmeier **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Karen Bremmer **Assisting Minister:** Andrew Gronewold
Greeter: Larry & Kathy Albrecht **Ushers:** Jane Boop **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

A little faith goes a long way is Jesus' point in the gospel. A mustard seed's-worth of faith has miraculous potential. The patience, tenacity, and endurance required for the life of faith are the blessings received in holy baptism, holy communion, and the word read and proclaimed in this assembly. Anticipate them. Receive them with thanksgiving.

PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

Leann Heimerdinger

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

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”

ELW 836

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G And also with you

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Benevolent, merciful God: When we are empty, fill us. When we are weak in faith, strengthen us. When we are cold in love, warm us, that with fervor we may love our neighbors and serve them for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4

Injustice and violence in the time leading up to the Babylonian exile move this prophet to lament: How can a good and all-powerful God see evil in the world and seemingly remain indifferent? God answers by proclaiming that the righteous will live by faith.

L A reading from Habakkuk, the first chapter.

L The oracle that the prophet Habakkuk saw. O LORD, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not listen? Or cry to you “Violence!” and you will not save? Why do you make me see wrongdoing and look at trouble? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law becomes slack, and justice never prevails. The wicked surround the righteous; therefore judgment comes forth perverted. I will stand at my watchpost and station myself on the rampart; I will keep watch to see what he will say to me and what he will answer concerning my complaint. Then the LORD answered me and said: Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so that a runner may read it. For there is still a vision for the appointed time; it speaks of the end and does not lie. If it seems to tarry, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay. Look at the proud! Their spirit is not right in them, but the righteous live by their faithfulness.

L The word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 37:1-9

L Let us say the Psalm responsively

L Do not be provoked by evildoers; do not be jealous of those who do wrong.

G For they shall soon wither like the grass, and like the green grass fade away.

- L** Put your trust in the LORD and do good; dwell in the land and find safe pasture.
- C** **Take delight in the LORD, who shall give you your heart's desire.**
- L** Commit your way to the LORD; put your trust in the LORD, and see what God will do.
- C** **The LORD will make your vindication as clear as the light and the justice of your case like the noonday sun.**
- L** Be still before the LORD and wait patiently. Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in evil schemes.
- C** **Refrain from anger, leaverage alone; do not be provoked; it leads only to evil.**
- L** For evildoers shall be cut off, but those who hope in the LORD shall possess the land.

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:1-14

This letter written to Timothy is a personal message of encouragement. In the face of hardship and persecution, Timothy is reminded that his faith is a gift of God. He is encouraged to exercise that faith with the help of the Holy Spirit.

L A reading from 2nd Timothy, the first chapter

L Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, for the sake of the promise of life that is in Christ Jesus, To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

I am grateful to God—whom I worship with a clear conscience, as my ancestors did—when I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. Recalling your tears, I long to see you so that I may be filled with joy. I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you. For this reason I remind you to rekindle the gift of God that is within you through the laying on of my hands, for God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather a spirit of power and of love and of self-discipline.

Do not be ashamed, then, of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel, in the power of God, who saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace, and this grace was given to us in Christ Jesus before the ages began, but it has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior Jesus Christ, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. For this gospel I was appointed a herald and an apostle and a teacher, and for this reason I suffer as I do. But I am not ashamed, for I know the one in whom I have put my trust, and I am sure that he is able to guard until that day the deposit I have entrusted to him. Hold to the

standard of sound teaching that you have heard from me, in the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. Guard the good deposit entrusted to you, with the help of the Holy Spirit living in us.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 17:5-10

On the way to Jerusalem, Jesus instructs his followers about the power of faith and the duties of discipleship. He calls his disciples to adopt the attitude of servants whose actions are responses to their identity rather than works seeking reward.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P The apostles said to the Lord, “Increase our faith!” The Lord replied, “If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea,’ and it would obey you. “Who among you would say to your slave who has just come in from plowing or tending sheep in the field, ‘Come here at once and take your place at the table’? Would you not rather say to him, ‘Prepare supper for me; put on your apron and serve me while I eat and drink; later you may eat and drink’? Do you thank the slave for doing what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were ordered to do, say, ‘We are worthless slaves; we have done only what we ought to have done!’ ”

L The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG “My Faith Looks Up to Thee” (vs. 1, 2, 4) ELW 759

(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 O God of the church, you give the church a treasure in Jesus Christ. Draw us into the gift of faith passed down from generation to generation. Remind your people that faith the size of a mustard seed is enough. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of creation, you nourish the earth with grace and mercy. Bring favorable weather during the harvest season and sustain all creation along with all who labor in the field. Ensure the welfare of animal companions whose presence offers comfort, safety, and joy. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of nations and communities, you govern and guard the world. Give leaders and people in authority a spirit of making just and righteous laws. Bring peace to countries affected by war and violence (*especially*). God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of those in need, you care for those who are sick, oppressed, bereaved, lonely, and poor. Come to the help of all in need (*especially*). Help us to trust that you will come to us at the right time. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of this congregation, you nurture our faith. Thank you for those of all ages who teach, lead, and learn in this congregation and beyond. Give growth to the seeds of faith watered by faithful examples of baptismal living. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of those not present, 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 Connie Melville*. God of grace,

C **receive our prayer.**

A O God of ages past, thank you for the witness of those who have died in faith (*especially*). May the faith of those who now rest in your merciful arms, like Lois and Eunice, shape our faith in your Son, Jesus Christ. 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

“Great Is Thy Faithfulness”

ELW 733

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.

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 5, 2025

9a Worship

10a Grace Meal & Property committee meetings

10a Prayer Shawl ministry

10a Confirmation Class

11:30a Lunch Out Together at Candlelight

Monday, October 6, 2025

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

7p 4-H meeting

Tuesday, October 7, 2025

9a Dominoes in Luther Hall (Chili served at noon)

Wednesday, October 8, 2025

6p Bible Study

Thursday, October 9, 2025

10a School Evacuation Drill

1p Cards and dominoes in Luther Hall

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, October 12, 2025

2 Kings 5:1-3, 7-15c Psalm 111

2 Timothy 2:8-15 Luke 17:11-19

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.

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, 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 paint shirt - we will be working on painting Christmas ornaments. 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 will start Wednesday, October 15th 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!

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

THANK YOU to so many members who helped plan, prepare, and serve the luncheon served in Luther Hall following Mark Melville's funeral. THANK YOU to those who donated food and to those who donated money to off-set the costs. It is appreciated.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Oct. 12	Lois Hunsaker	Lee & Stacey Block	Theresa Snetcher
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Kolton Kampmeier		Diem Gronewold	



Happy Birthday!

Tricia Goldsmith Jane Boop Mel Voss Robert Potter Joan Stewart
Stephanie (Ersen) Schubert Janis Kampmeier Robert Steele Devon Kempel
Jerilyn Stroecker Ella Williams Gilbert Hershey Judy Nelson

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!

On Tuesday, October 7th, dominoes will be played in Luther Hall from 9AM to Noon. Chili will be served at noon. All are welcome. On Thursday, October 9th, cards and dominoes will be played in Luther Hall from 1-4 PM. Invite others!