



# 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](mailto:prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com)

## Church office hours:

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

## Parish Administrator

DJ Scott

[prshadmin@gmail.com](mailto: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"



## All Saints Sunday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

November 2, 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:** Diem Gronewold **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Tracy Downs **Assisting Minister:** Karen Bremmer **Greeter:** Randy & Kris Liebenstein **Ushers:** Kathy Williams **Counters:** Lynda Palmer & Ron Bremmer **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## Introduction to the Day

*In holy baptism God makes saints out of sinners. In holy communion God forgives the sins of all the saints. In worship today we give thanks for all the saints “who from their labors rest.” In the same breath we petition our God for the strength to hear and to heed the admonitions of Jesus in today’s gospel. Sealed by the Spirit and sustained by the Savior’s body and blood, we live with joy as God gives us breath, to the praise of God’s glory.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C** Amen

**P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

**P** Faithful God,

**C** you have shown us the ways of your heart, yet we stray from your paths. We are stuck in sinful systems of oppression and do not embrace the freedom of your faithful promises. We ignore our neighbors. We exploit the earth. We reject your abundance, trusting our impulses instead of your steadfast love. Repair our relationships, restore what we have broken, renew our hearts, and bring us to new life. Amen.

**P** Hear the good news: God the Faithful One loves you, ☩ in Christ Jesus your sins are forgiven, and by the power of the Holy Spirit you are set free.

**C** Amen

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

### CHILDREN LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LOWER LEVEL

## GATHERING HYMN

“For All the Saints” (vs. 1, 2, 6 & 7) ELW 422

## 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, you have knit your people together in one communion in the mystical body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant us grace to follow your blessed saints in lives of faith and commitment, and to know the inexpressible joys you have prepared for those who love you, 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

**Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18**

*The book of Daniel was written in the second century BCE, when the Syrian king Antiochus Epiphanes was severely persecuting the Jews. Daniel's vision of the four beasts proclaims that human kings will come and go, but the kingdom will ultimately belong to God and to God's people.*

**L** A reading from Daniel, the seventh chapter

**L** In the first year of King Belshazzar of Babylon, Daniel had a dream and visions of his head as he lay in bed. Then he wrote down the dream: I, Daniel, saw in my vision by night the four winds of heaven stirring up the great sea, and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another.

As for me, Daniel, my spirit was troubled within me, and the visions of my head terrified me. I approached one of the attendants to ask him the truth concerning all this. So he said that he would disclose to me the interpretation of the matter: "As for these four great beasts, four kings shall arise out of the earth. But the holy ones of the Most High shall receive the kingdom and possess the kingdom forever—forever and ever."

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 149

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Hallelujah! Sing to the LORD a new song, God's praise in the assembly of the faithful.
- C** **Let Israel rejoice in their maker; let the children of Zion be joyful in their ruler.**
- L** Let them praise their maker's name with dancing; let them sing praise with tambourine and harp.
- C** **For the LORD takes pleasure in the people and adorns the poor with victory.**
- L** Let the faithful rejoice in triumph; let them sing for joy on their beds.
- C** **Let the praises of God be in their throat and a two-edged sword in their hand,**
- L** to wreak vengeance on the nations and punishment on the peoples,
- C** **to bind their kings in chains and their nobles with links of iron,**
- L** to inflict on them the judgment decreed; this is glory for all God's faithful ones. Hallelujah!

## SECOND READING

## Ephesians 1:11-23

*After giving thanks for the faith of the Ephesians, the writer of this letter prays that they might understand the wisdom, hope, and power of God that is embodied in Jesus Christ.*

- L** A reading from Ephesians, the first chapter
- L** In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory. I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, and for this reason I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers, that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and revelation as you come to know him, so that, with the eyes of your heart enlightened, you may perceive what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance among the saints, and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion and above every name that is named, not only in this

age but also in the age to come. And he has put all things under his feet and has made him the head over all things for the church, which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

*(Please stand as you are able)*

### GOSPEL

**Luke 6:20-31**

*In echoes of the prophet Isaiah and Mary's song of praise, Jesus reveals surprising things about who enjoys blessing and who endures woe. He invites his disciples to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the sixth chapter

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

**P** Then [Jesus] looked up at his disciples and said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. "Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you will be filled. "Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. "Blessed are you when people hate you and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven, for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets. "But woe to you who are rich, for you have received your consolation. "Woe to you who are full now, for you will be hungry. "Woe to you who are laughing now, for you will mourn and weep. "Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.

"But I say to you who are listening: Love your enemies; do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you; pray for those who mistreat you. If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. Give to everyone who asks of you, and if anyone takes away what is yours, do not ask for it back again. Do to others as you would have them do to you."

**L** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** Praise to you, O Christ

*(Please be seated)*

### SERMON

## REFLECTION SONG

**"Just a Closer Walk With Thee"**

ELW 697

## ALL SAINTS COMMEMORATION

SEE INSERT

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## APOSTLES' CREED

ELW PAGE 105

*(Please be seated.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** Gathered with one voice, we offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(A brief silence.)*

**A** God of all that is, delight in the praises of your people and revive the spirit of your church. Move through us with boldness so that we proclaim the gospel of Christ throughout the world. Renew and revive pastors, deacons, and lay leaders. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of the beginning, give us the courage to advocate for environmental policy that will ensure a viable future for generations to come. Restore desolate places to health and flourishing. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of all our days, guide the leaders of governments, nations, municipalities, and all those seeking office. Accompany election officials and volunteers. Dismantle injustice and oppression wherever it is found. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of comfort in troubled times, we pray for those in need of protection and care (*especially*). Trusting that you are constant in mercy, protect those who seek safety and solace. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of what is yet to come, encourage and inspire those who give their time, talent, and treasure in service to your church. By their commitment, further the work of ministry in this place and uplift your gospel. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of all in need, 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, Mary Mullen, and Connie Melville*. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of time and space, we give thanks for the faithful departed. Sustain us in hope of our eternal unity in Christ. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**P** We offer these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your grace and unyielding love; 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.

## OFFERING

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**A** God of healing and hope, you bless those who are hungry, promising to fill them with good things. Fulfill that promise through us and these your gifts. Nourish us with the abundance of your feast and unite us into the blessed body of Jesus Christ our Savior, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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** There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

*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** God of field and flower, wheat and grape, you have nourished us with the bread of heaven that gives life to the world. Strengthened by the body and blood of your Son, send us out to gather your good gifts for all who hunger and thirst, and embolden us to love and serve in Christ's name

**C** Amen

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BLESSING

**P** The love of God the Sovereign strengthen you, God the Son save you, and God the Holy Spirit anoint you for the work ahead. The holy Trinity bless you ☩ and grant you a faithful and courageous heart now and forever.

**C** Amen.

SENDING SONG      “For All Your Saints, O Lord” (vs. 1, 3, & 5)      ELW 427

### DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Share the harvest.

**C** Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

Congratulations to Janet Ferguson for being selected as the Stephenson County Homemaker of the year! It was announced at the annual meeting on Saturday of the Stephenson County Home Extension. She is very deserving of the award has been active for many years of at the Home Extension, our church activities, and the community. Congratulations, Janet!

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## 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.

## **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

*Wed., Thurs., Fri. 6:00-11:00 AM*

### St. John's Website

[www.stjohnspearlcity.org](http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org)

## **This Week at St. John's**

### **Sunday, November 2, 2025**

**9a** Worship (All Saints Sunday)

**10a** Grace Meal Committee meeting

**10a** Property Committee meeting

**10a** Confirmation class

**11:30a** Eating out together at Imperial Palace

### **Monday, November 3, 2025**

**5:30p** Girl Scout meeting

**7p** 4-H meeting

### **Tuesday, November 4, 2025**

**9a** Dominoes in Luther Hall

### **Wednesday, November 5, 2025**

**7:30** Men's Breakfast

**6p** Bible Study

### **Thursday, November 6, 2025**

**3:15p** Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, November 9, 2025

Job 19:23-27a Psalm 17:1-9

2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17 Luke 20:27-38

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**Confirmation:** We continue to meet on the first and third Sunday of each month right after the church service upstairs in the Youth Room. The study of the Apostles' Creed continues through the 2025-26 confirmation year as well as the understanding of the bible and church service. Please remind your child to bring their bible with them to each meeting. If your child will not be attending the confirmation meeting, please let me know by text as I do not look at my emails on Saturday evening or Sunday morning. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Kuhlemeier.

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**Sunday School:** We are meeting every Sunday this year and it seems to have been working well. Using the new curriculum from Spark House has given us the opportunity to include many volunteer teachers that can access the online program. The children engage in bible stories, activities, games, and crafts. We invite any child between the age of 3 through 5<sup>th</sup> grade. We can always use extra teachers so if you feel the calling to help out speak with Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher, or Shawn Kuhlemeier.

## ***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 2<sup>nd</sup>. 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 18<sup>th</sup> 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". There will not be Sit N Sew following the bible study in November.

\*We will be decorating the church for Advent after the worship service on Sunday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 16<sup>th</sup> in Luther Hall. Thank you to Lynda Palmer for helping Kris prepare the ornaments for painting.

\*On Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 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.

\*Thank you Jerilyn Strohecker for providing the beautiful altar flowers for the Reformation and All Saints services and the carnations in memory of our loved ones. Such a nice gift for our congregation!

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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 about 9-11 AM. If you could help any day, please let Janet Ferguson know.

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**Beginning Wednesday, September 24<sup>th</sup> through November 12<sup>th</sup>, 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.**

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Check out the White Pines show still available this fall. "Scrooge the Comedy" on December 10<sup>th</sup>. **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.

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Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. Cards and dominoes are still on for the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1PM as well. The next date is Thursday, November 13<sup>th</sup>.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Nov. 9	Jim & Judy Robinson	DJ Scott	Karen Bremmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Diem Gronewold		Jonah Schubert	



### *Happy Birthday!*

*Lucy Voss   Dianne Handsaker   Allison Palmer   Adrienne Henze*  
*Travis Schiess   Rollin Nelson   Charlee Mae Ditzler   Levi Sheffey*  
*Laura (Melville) Skoog   Mandy McWorthy   Regan Mitchell*  
*Weldon Snetcher   Todd Kuhlmeier   Sandy Scott*

### **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 16<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday November 13<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 16<sup>th</sup>. 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!**

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