



# 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:

Mon., Wed., 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"



## Time After Pentecost

Bishop Stacie Fidlar presiding

Harvest Home Collection Blessing

November 16, 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:** Bishop Stacie Fidler **Acolytes:** Welden Snetcher **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Theresa Snetcher **Assisting Minister:** Tracy Downs **Greeter:** Brian Brudi **Ushers:** Mike & Lynda Palmer **Counters:** Ron Bremmer & Lynda Palmer **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## Introduction to the Day

*The end is near. There is no doubt about it. The warnings are dire. The tone of today's texts is ominous. But the baptized know how to live in the meantime. The baptized are strengthened for the living of these days in word and sacrament. The baptized rally around the invitation of the apostle: "Do not be weary in doing what is right."*

## 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

"Beautiful Savior"

ELW 838

## 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 God, the protector of all who trust in you, without you nothing is strong, nothing is holy. Embrace us with your mercy, that with you as our ruler and guide, we may live through what is temporary without losing what is eternal, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING Malachi 4:1-2a

*Malachi, whose name means “my messenger,” warns that “the day is coming.” On that day, the evil will be destroyed like stubble in a fire, but the “sun of righteousness” will shine on those who honor God.*

**L** A reading from Malachi, the fourth chapter

**L** See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the LORD of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*While the items from the Harvest Home collection are brought forward, the congregation will sing “Give Thanks” Worship and Praise 41*

## BLESSING OF HARVEST HOME COLLECTION

**P** Loving God thank you for the many ways in which you provide for us: food, family, friendship, housing, health, happiness, and ways to use our time and talents. We lift to you too the ways in which we remain in need of these things. God of generosity,

**C** May your kingdom come.

**P** We pray for people in our community and beyond who are facing unemployment, ill-health, isolation or money worries at this time, and especially for those who are unable to afford enough to eat. We pray for supportive relationships, practical provision and real hope. God of compassion ,

**C** **May your kingdom come.**

**P** Thank you that you call us to play our part, working with you and with others to bring about change. We pray for political decision-makers and leaders: Give them courage and insight to develop policies and systems that support the flourishing of all, so that even in challenging times, no-one goes hungry and everyone has dignity. God of justice,

**C** **May your kingdom come.**

**P** Thank you for those who are serving and caring for others, in churches, in charities, and public services, in our neighborhoods, in our homes, in community food pantries, and in many other contexts. Would you give them strength, rest and perseverance. As they work to support others, we ask that they too would receive all they need to thrive. God of love,

**C** **May your kingdom come. Amen**

## PSALM

## Psalm 98

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** Sing a new song to the LORD, who has done marvelous things, whose right hand and holy arm have won the victory.

**C** **O LORD, you have made known your victory, you have revealed your righteousness in the sight of the nations.**

**L** You remember your steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel; all the ends of the earth have seen the victory of our God.

**C** **Shout with joy to the LORD, all you lands; lift up your voice, rejoice, and sing.**

**L** Sing to the LORD with the harp, with the harp and the voice of song.

**C** **With trumpets and the sound of the horn shout with joy before the king, the LORD.**

**L** Let the sea roar, and all that fills it, the world and those who dwell therein.

**C** **Let the rivers clap their hands, and let the hills ring out with joy before the LORD, who comes to judge the earth.**

**L** The LORD will judge the world with righteousness and the peoples with equity.

## SECOND READING

### 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13

*Some members of the Thessalonian community, because of their belief in the nearness of Christ's return, had ceased to work, living off the generosity of other members of the community. The writer of this letter warns them bluntly that if they want to eat, they need to work.*

**L** A reading from second Thessalonians, the third chapter.

**L** Now we command you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from every brother or sister living irresponsibly and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not irresponsible when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it, but with toil and labor we worked night and day so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living irresponsibly, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

*(Please stand as you are able)*

## GOSPEL

### Luke 21:5-19

*As history moves toward God's fulfillment there will be frightening signs and events. Before the end, believers will draw strength from their relationship to God and will be given the words they need to testify and to endure without fear.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-first chapter

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

**P** When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, [Jesus] said, "As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down." They asked him, "Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?" And he said, "Beware that you are not led astray, for many will come in my name and say, 'I am he!' and, 'The time is near!' Do not go after them. "When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified, for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately." Then he said to them, "Nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes and in various places famines and plagues, and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

“But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defense in advance, for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and siblings, by relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.”

**L** The Gospel of the Lord

**G** Praise to you, O Christ

*(Please be seated)*

## SERMON

REFLECTION SONG “Change My Heart, O God”

ELW 801

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 roots and branches, defend the leaders of your church as they proclaim the gospel using discernment, wisdom, and brave testimony. Keep all the baptized on righteous paths in response to Christ’s call. Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** God of roaring seas, in a world of earthquake, famine, and plague, use your mighty power to nurture the land and all that lives upon it. Restore peoples and places experiencing natural disasters (*especially*). Strengthen organizations who provide aid to any in crisis. Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** God of victory, among quests for power, guide those in government, courts, law enforcement agencies, and the military. Turn them from war and violence to actions of care that build up the common good. Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** God of healing, where injustice and exploitation result in populations that are marginalized or underserved, accompany those abandoned by friends, hurt by family, and harmed by violence or oppression. Care for all who are ill, anxious, or in pain of any kind (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

**G** Your mercy is great.

**A** God of new songs, in a congregation of faithful believers, energize us for compassionate service and delight us through worship and inspired prayer. Encourage your people in building equitable community where all are valued. Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of compassion, 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 every generation, we remember the saints with steadfast love and faithfulness (*especially*). Confident in Christ's victory over death, may we be inspired by the example of the faithful. 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.**



St. John's Giving page QR code

- 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

## 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

“When Peace Like a River” (vs. 1, 3, & 4)

ELW 785

## DISMISSAL

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

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*Mon., Wed., 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 16, 2025**

**9a** Worship

**10:15a** Confirmation Class

**10:30a** Grace Meal

**2p** Historical Society meeting

## **Monday, November 17, 2025**

**5:30p** Girl Scout meeting

## **Tuesday, November 18, 2025**

**9:45a** Women's Gathering meeting

**5:30p** Girl Scout meeting

## **Wednesday, November 19, 2025**

**3:15p** Kids Klub meeting

**5:30p** Bible Study

**7p** Church Council meeting

## **Thursday, November 20, 2025**

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

Sunday, November 23, 2025

Jeremiah 23:1-9 Psalm 46

Colossians 1:11-20 Luke 23:33-43

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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, December 7<sup>th</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.

\*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 19<sup>th</sup>, Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study every Wednesday at 5:30 PM. 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, December 2<sup>nd</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>.

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**\*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!!**

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Nov. 23	Jeff & Linda Erbsen	Josh & Alison Hille	Shawn Kuhlemeier
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Welden Snetcher		Jonah Schubert	



*Happy Birthday!*

*Michael E. Palmer Nicole Sheffey Marion Eden  
Hudson Voss Jonah Schubert Jodee Kempel*

## **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, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 AM at Cimos Pizza in Freeport. Please sign up in the lobby by December 1<sup>st</sup>! Car pooling will be set up!