



# 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:

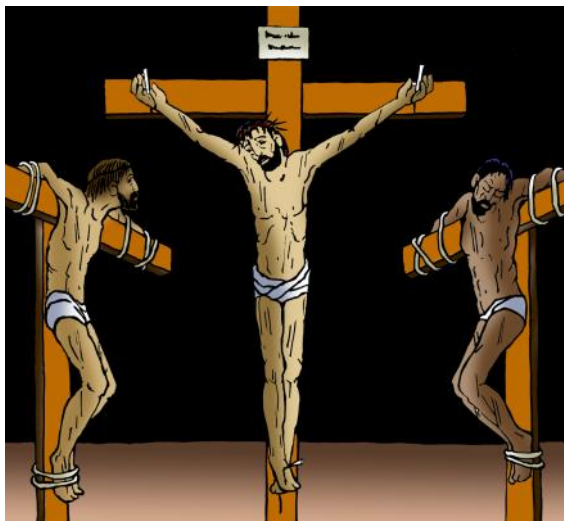
815-443-2215

## Building Hours:

The building will only be open  
when the office is open

## ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"



## Christ the King Sunday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Chancel Choir Sings—Time and Talent Temple Talk

November 23, 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:** Welden Snetcher **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Ron DePrisco **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Jeff & Linda Erbsen **Ushers:** Josh & Alison Hille family **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

*Jeremiah's promise of the execution of "justice and righteousness in the land" finds ironic fulfillment in the execution of Jesus of Nazareth, the King of the Jews. It appears utterly contradictory that a king should be crucified with a criminal. This victory appears for all the world as humiliating defeat. Yet through the gate of death Jesus opens the door to paradise.*

## PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

### TEMPLE TALK

LORI KEMPEL

## 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

"We Praise You, O God"

ELW 870

## 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, our true life, to serve you is freedom, and to know you is unending joy. We worship you, we glorify you, we give thanks to you for your great glory. Abide with us, reign in us, and make this world into a fit habitation for your divine majesty, 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 23:1-6**

*Today's reading builds on the common, ancient Near Eastern metaphor of the king as shepherd. Judah's unjust rulers have caused their people, their "flock," to be scattered. Nevertheless, God will raise up a new and righteous shepherd who will rule a restored Judah.*

**L** A reading from Jeremiah, the twenty-third chapter

**L** Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the LORD. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall no longer fear or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the LORD. The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved, and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness."

**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

## Colossians 1:11-20

*An early Christian hymn praises the mystery of the political, personal, and mystical Christ, the one who was present at creation and is eternally reigning with God.*

- L** A reading from second Colossians, the first chapter.
- L** May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, so that you may have all endurance and patience, joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation, for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place

in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**G** Thanks be to God.

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**ELW Page 142**

## **GOSPEL**

**Luke 23:33-43**

*Amid scoffing and slander from those who sarcastically call him Messiah and king, Jesus reveals that to be Messiah and king is to give one's life for others. Here he uses his power to welcome a despised sinner to paradise but puts his own death into God's hands.*

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

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

**P** When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, "He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!" The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, "If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!" There was also an inscription over him, "This is the King of the Jews." One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, "Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!" But the other rebuked him, saying, "Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong." Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom." He replied, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

**L** The Gospel of the Lord

**G** Praise to you, O Christ

*(Please be seated)*

## **SERMON**

**REFLECTION SONG**

**"Let Us Give Our Thanks"**

**Chancel Choir**

**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** We pray for the church in the world, its leaders, and its mission to share the good news of healing and restoration. Inspire us to embody the beloved community in ways that faithfully witness to the Holy Spirit. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** We pray for the trembling mountains and glad streams of creation. Preserve and renew your coastlines, deep seas, forests, and grasslands. Guide all who tend flocks or care for creatures of all kinds. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** We pray for leaders and advocates in government, civic life, and public safety. Support equity across the globe, and heal division with accountability and truth. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** We pray for any who are hungry, living in poverty or desperation, weary in body or spirit, or sick (*especially*). Comfort all in need of your tender care. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** We pray for this part of the body of Christ gathered around word and sacrament. Bring us into authentic community where all ages are valued and experience God's faithfulness together. Hear us, O God.

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

**A** We pray for those not with us today. 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** We give thanks for all who have died in faith (*especially*). May we remember them faithfully until we are gathered with you in the paradise you promise. 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



St. John's Giving page QR code

## 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

**G** 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

“Give Thanks”

W&P 41

### DISMISSAL

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

**G** Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

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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 35 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.

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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.

## **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Interim Pastor  
Pastor Len Hoffmann  
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prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com

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DJ Scott  
E-mail: prshadmin@gmail.com

Church Office  
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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 23, 2025**

**9a** Worship

**10:15a** Christian Education Committee meeting

### **Wednesday, November 26, 2025**

**NEWSLETTER DEADLINE**

### **Thursday, November 27, 2025**

**HAPPY THANKSGIVING**

Sunday, November 30, 2025

Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122

Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:36-44

**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.

**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.

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, December 11<sup>th</sup>.

**\*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!!**

## ***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, January 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:45 a.m. - refreshments (served by Kris Eden and Janet Ferguson) 10 a.m. - bible study led by Shawn Kuhlemeier. Sit N Sew will be at noon.

\*Women's Gathering invites all ladies to the Winter Wonderland Potluck & Fun Night in Luther Hall on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 6PM. Enjoy an evening of good food, fellowship, Christmas bingo and gift exchange. Table service, coffee, hot cider, and water provided. Please bring a wrapped "White Elephant" gift for the exchange. Make sure it is something you have—don't purchase anything! Invite others. Sign up by Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup> on the lobby bulletin board.

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Anyone who would like to help with the Community Christmas meal being served on Thursday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, please attend the meeting on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6PM in Luther Hall. Even if you can't help with the serving of the meal on Christmas Day, you might be able to help prepare for the meal in the week leading up to Christmas and/or help get donations and supplies.

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**Please fill out and return you time and talent sheets by December 14<sup>th</sup>! Challenge yourself to find a duty or committee you haven't done in the past. All committees can use the help and we can always use more people to help out at the church.**

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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, November 21<sup>st</sup> at 8:15 AM and the next time they will sing at worship will be on Sunday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. They will also rehearse at 8:15 AM prior to singing on the 28<sup>th</sup>! 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!

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"Christmas Wishes Do Come True" collection for 73 children. PC Elementary School principal Brent Chrisman has 73 children (35 families) that the community is going to help make their "Christmas Wishes Come True". Other churches are buying gifts and the St. John's Women's Gathering board has decided to help each of these children by collecting donations from the congregation and friends from November 23<sup>rd</sup> to December 12<sup>th</sup> at St. John's. Our plan is to give each child a \$25 gift card from Walmart. It should help these families have a Merry Christmas. There will be a basket in the Narthex every Sunday to put donations or you can put your donation in the secure box by the office. Make checks out to Women's Gathering. Thank you for your support!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Nov. 30	Brandon & Morgan Scharping family	Theresa Snetcher	Brandon Scharping
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Welden Snetcher		Jonah Schubert	



### *Happy Birthday!*

*Andrew Winning   Luanne Ferguson   Colette Brinkmeier   Bryn McPeck  
 Alexander Gray   Victoria Hanson   Quinn Schneider  
 Cindy Heimerdinger   Nick Knoup*

### **Grace Meal News. . .**

A special thank you to the Pearl City National Honor Society who helped with the November Grace Meal: Kameron Downs, Xander Krolow, Mackenzie Lotz, Oscar Ugalde-Sanchez, Scarlett Snyder and Nataleigh Todd. Also, a special thank you to Theresa Albers, Cara Brinkmeier, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Jim Heimerdinger, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Judy & Rollin Nelson, DJ Scott, Marilyn Smital and Marge & Bob Roiland. We had a total of 283 meals served. There were 35 deliveries and 248 picked up curbside.

The December Meal will be a community meal on Christmas Day, December 25<sup>th</sup>. Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are due in the church office by Monday, December 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**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 Ciminis Pizza in Freeport. Please sign up in the lobby by December 1<sup>st</sup>! Car pooling will be set up!