



# 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

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

November 9, 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:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Karen Bremmer **Assisting Minister:** Kris Eden **Greeter:** Jim & Judy Robinson **Ushers:** DJ Scott **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

*We worship on the first day of the week because Jesus was raised on that day. Every Sunday is a little Easter. This Sunday feels more like Easter than many as the appointed texts celebrate the reality of the resurrection. Live it up this Lord's day. Our God is the God of the living.*

## 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

“Shout to the Lord”

ELW 821

## 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 eternal redeemer, by the presence of your Spirit you renew and direct our hearts. Keep always in our mind the end of all things and the day of judgment. Inspire us for a holy life here, and bring us to the joy of the resurrection, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING **Job 19:23-27a**

*Job suffers the loss of children, wealth, and health. Accused by his companions of wrongdoing, he knows himself to be innocent. Here, in the midst of his suffering, Job clings to the radical hope that his vindicator, his redeemer, lives; and that one day he himself will see God.*

**L** A reading from Job, the nineteenth chapter

**L** “O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my vindicator lives and that in the end he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side, and my eyes shall behold, and not another.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## **Psalms 17:1-9**

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** Hear a just cause, O LORD; give heed to my cry; listen to my prayer, which does not come from lying lips.

**C** Let my vindication come forth from your presence; let your eyes be fixed on justice.

- L** Examine my heart, visit me by night, melt me down; you will find no impurity in me.
- C** **I have not regarded what others do; at the word of your lips I have avoided the ways of the violent.**
- L** My footsteps hold fast to your well-worn path; and my feet do not slip.
- C** **I call upon you, O God, for you will answer me; incline your ear to me and hear my words.**
- L** Show me your marvelous lovingkindness, O Savior of those who take refuge at your right hand from those who rise against them.
- C** **Keep me as the apple of your eye; hide me under the shadow of your wings,**
- L** from the wicked who assault me, from my deadly enemies who surround me.

## SECOND READING

## 2 Thessalonians 2:1-5, 13-17

*This portion of the letter provides encouragement for the church at Thessalonica during a time of confusion and opposition, as some allowed their concern over Jesus' imminent return to divert them from the central teachings of the gospel.*

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

**L** As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way, for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our gospel, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL****Luke 20:27-38**

*Some Sadducees, who do not believe in the resurrection of the dead, try to trap Jesus. They formulate the convoluted case of a serial widow who marries a succession of seven brothers. Jesus responds by teaching about God to whom all are alive and in whom all relationships are fulfilled.*

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

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

**P** Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to [Jesus] and asked him a question: “Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man’s brother dies leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married a woman and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.”

Jesus said to them, “Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage, but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed, they cannot die anymore, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead but of the living, for to him all of them are alive.”

**L** The Gospel of the Lord

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ**

*(Please be seated)*

**SERMON**

**REFLECTION SONG** “Jerusalem, My Happy Home” (vs. 1, 3, & 5) **ELW 628**

**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 our Redeemer, bless your church universal and its leaders. Set all hearts on you from generation to generation in anticipation of Christ's return. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of life, we give thanks for the fruits and grains of harvest, for rivers and streams, for all that is made of rock and iron. Renew the earth's natural resources and the lands from which they come. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God of justice, we give thanks for the service of our veterans and pray for those needing support for wounds of any kind. Strengthen those charged with the governance and protection of vulnerable populations. Bring an end to war throughout the world. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God who leads us to belief and truth, we give thanks that you are always and already here. Nurture and support those who are unsteady in mind, unsafe in spirit, or unwell in body (*especially*). Comfort those who suffer from trauma and exposure to traumatic events. Hear us, O God.

**C Your mercy is great.**

**A** God who gathers us together, we give thanks for our pastors and deacons, teachers and musicians, administrators, and building caretakers. May they find joy in leadership as we grow in faith together. 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 the saints, we give thanks for all who have died in faith (*especially*). Uplift us as we honor their memory and await your coming in glory. 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

“Blessed Assurance”

ELW 638

### DISMISSAL

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

**C** Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

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The Kids Klub is back at St. John's! This monthly adventure is designed for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students and is sponsored by Pearl City area churches. It offers a safe and supportive environment where children can explore, make new friends, and learn valuable skills. It continues Wednesday, November 19<sup>th</sup> 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!

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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.

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

## This Week at St. John's

### Sunday, November 9, 2025

**9a** Worship

**10a** Stewardship/Outreach Committee meeting

**10a** Memorial/Finance Committee meeting

**10a** Helping Hands meeting

**6p** 4-H meeting

### Monday, November 10, 2025

**7p** American Legion Auxiliary meeting

### Wednesday, November 12, 2025

**5:30p** Bible Study

### Thursday, November 13, 2025

**1p** Cards and dominoes in Luther Hall

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

### Saturday, November 15, 2025

**8a** Grace Meal prep in Luther Hall

Sunday, November 16, 2025

Malachi 4:1-2a Psalm 98

2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Luke 21:5-19

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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 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, 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. 16	Brian Brudi	Mike & Lynda Palmer	Theresa Snetcher
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Welden Snetcher		Jonah Schubert	



*Happy Birthday!*

Sam Ferguson Grace Heimerdinger-Baake

Wayne Niehaus Ron Henze

Kennah Block Keith Schubert

## **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!