



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work.
Our hands.

Worship Services:

Sundays 9:00 am

Interim Pastor

Pastor Len Hoffmann

815-975-4740

prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com

Church office hours:

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

Parish Administrator

DJ Scott

prshadmin@gmail.com

Church Address:

PO Box 234 229 S First St

Pearl City, IL 61062

Church Phone:

815-443-2215

Building Hours:

The building will only be open
when the office is open

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"



First Sunday of Advent

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

November 30, 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:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Brandon Scharping **Assisting Minister:** Ben Bremmer **Greeter:** Brandon & Morgan Scharping family **Ushers:** Theresa Snetcher **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 new church year begins with a wake-up call: Christ is coming soon! In today's readings both Paul and Jesus challenge us to wake from sleep, for we know neither the day nor hour of the Lord's coming. Isaiah proclaims the day when God will gather all people on the holy mountain and there will be no more war or suffering. Though we vigilantly watch for the promised day of salvation, we wait for what we already have: Christ comes among us this day as the word and meal that strengthens our faith in the promises of God.

PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

TEMPLE TALK

Brandon Scharping

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, whose home is heaven and earth, whose salvation is sure.

C Amen

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

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P Long-expected God,

C we confess that we look to ourselves for the peace and security only you can provide. We reach for swords and spears, reluctant to release our grip on the ways of war. We become impatient while waiting and weary of keeping awake. Free us from self-reliance, and teach us to live in harmony with our neighbors. Increase our trust in God's timing, and awaken us to your advent among us, that we may abound in the hope you have promised. Amen.

P God judges us not as we deserve, but according to God's own righteousness.

☩ You are freed and forgiven, saved by grace, and ready to welcome the Savior.

C Amen

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LOWER LEVEL

GATHERING HYMN "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" (vs. 1, 2, and 3) ELW 257

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

KYRIE

ELW Page 138

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Shawn Kuhlemeier

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Isaiah 2:1-5

The visionary message presented in this reading focuses on a future day when God establishes a universal reign of peace. Divine decisions will make war obsolete, and the worshipping community responds: "Let us walk in the light of that Lord now!"

L A reading from Isaiah, the second chapter

L The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. In days to come the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established as the highest of the mountains and shall be raised above the hills; all the nations shall stream to it. Many peoples shall come and say, "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth instruction and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. He shall judge between the nations and shall arbitrate for many peoples; they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation; neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come, let us walk in the light of the LORD!

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 122

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** I was glad when they said to me, “Let us go to the house of the LORD.”
- C** **Now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.**
- L** Jerusalem is built as a city that is at unity with itself;
- C** **to which the tribes go up, the tribes of the LORD, the assembly of Israel, to praise the name of the LORD.**
- L** For there are the thrones of judgment, the thrones of the house of David.
- C** **Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: “May they prosper who love you.**
- L** Peace be within your walls and quietness within your towers.
- C** **For the sake of my kindred and companions, I pray for your prosperity.**
- L** Because of the house of the LORD our God, I will seek to do you good.”

SECOND READING

Romans 13:11-14

Paul compares the advent of Christ to the coming of dawn. We live our lives today in light of Christ’s coming in the future.

- L** A reading from Romans, the thirteenth chapter.
- L** Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; let us walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Matthew 24:36-44

Jesus describes his second coming as a sudden, turbulent event that will bring about deep change to our normal, day-to-day lives. Therefore, he urges people to stay awake, be aware, and wait expectantly, because the Son of Man will come unannounced.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the twenty-fourth chapter

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

P [Jesus said to the disciples,] “About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken, and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG “O Master, Let Me Walk With You” (vs. 1 & 4) ELW 818

NICENE CREED

ELW PAGE 104

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A In our waiting and watching, we come to you in prayer, O God, trusting your promise to renew the church, the nations, and the whole creation.

(A brief silence.)

A God of the people, we come seeking wisdom and instruction. Uphold and strengthen lay leaders, teachers, deacons, pastors, and bishops. Teach us your ways and lead us in your paths. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of the earth, we seek your goodness in the grandeur of creation. Empower us to care for forests and oceans, as we see you in the world around us. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of the nations, grant wisdom to leaders, judges, and mediators. Cast out words of hate and transform them into words for building up community. Remake implements of war to sow peace. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of healing, bring comfort and strength. We pray for our kindred and companions who are ill or despairing (*especially*). Surround all with care and consolation. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of new possibilities, when addiction wounds, jealousy tears down, and relationships fray, show us how to journey with one another. Nurture therapists, counselors, and sponsors in their care for others. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of all believers, 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, Richard Brinkmeier, Lori Miller, Janis Kampmeier, Mary Ellen Aurand, Verda Werkheiser, Carol Byers, Gina Boop, Jerry Harnish, Ron Fluegel, Louise Cuccio, Donna Freedlund, and Connie Melville*. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A God of all time, build up our lives that we would reflect your grace. At the last, bring us with all the saints (*especially*) to your holy city where peace and goodness make a home. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Draw near to us, O God, as we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, Emmanuel.

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.)



St. John's Giving page QR code

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW Page 144

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. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. 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 144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life: Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

P Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

P With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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 Here is life. God is with us. Come, receive what God has promised.

*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 Let us pray. God for whom we wait, in this meal you give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of your name, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

G Amen

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

P May God who comes among us, Father, ✙ Son, and Holy Spirit, grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness, and good news to share today and always.

G Amen.

SENDING SONG

“Angels From the Realms of Glory”

ELW 275

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

G Thanks be to God.

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright
2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg For-
tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

PEARL CITY HEALTHY WOLVES FOOD PROGRAM

Provides backpacks filled with nutritious meals and snacks for school aged children K-12 for the weekend. **We are currently sending 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.

“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 23rd to December 12th 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!

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor
Pastor Len Hoffmann
815-975-4740
prlen.hoffmann@yahoo.com

Parish Administrator:
DJ Scott
E-mail: prshadmin@gmail.com

Church Office
815-443-2215
Box 234
229 S First St
Pearl City, IL 61062

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

St. John's Website
www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's Sunday, November 30, 2025

9a Worship

Monday, December 1, 2025

5:30p Girls Scout meeting

7p 4-H meeting

Tuesday, December 2, 2025

9a Dominoes in Luther Hall

6p Community Christmas meal meeting

Wednesday, December 3, 2025

7:30a Men's Breakfast at Beltline Café in Freeport

9:30a Worship & Music meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2025

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

Romans 15:4-13 Matthew 3:1-12

Confirmation: We continue to meet on the first and third Sunday of the month. We are into the study of the Apostles' Creed and are looking into the second section of the creed which is about Jesus Christ. Just a reminder that our Christmas party will be on Sunday, December 21st right after the church service. We will not meet again until January 18, 2026. I have asked a few of you to read about the lighting of the Advent Candles during the church service. Brayden Heimerdinger is on Sunday, December 7th and Kolten Kampmeier on Sunday, December 14th. I am looking for two more confirmands to help out on December 21st and the 24th. Let me know if you can help out. If your child is not going to attend confirmation, please text me at 630-965-2016 prior to our meeting so that we are not waiting for them to show up. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.—Blessings, Shawn Kuhlemeier

Sunday School: As we enter the holiday season, we have a bit of a different schedule for Sunday School. We will meet on December 7, 14, and the 21. We will **not** meet on December 28 or January 4 but will reconvene on January 11 with a lesson on Jesus' Baptism. We would still welcome volunteers to help out with teaching Sunday School. If you have any questions, please speak with Morgan Scharping, Theresa Snetcher, or Grace Heimerdinger-Baake.

Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, December 2nd. 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 11th.

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 7th. 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 20th 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 16th 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 14th on the lobby bulletin board.

Anyone who would like to help with the Community Christmas meal being served on Thursday, December 25th, please attend the meeting on Tuesday, December 2nd 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.

The Social Ministry committee will start their Giving Tree collection on November 30th. We will be collecting children's gloves for Pearl City School and we will also be collecting shelf stable food, paper products, and toiletries for The Veterans Footlocker. The collection will run through January 4th. To take part in this collection just remove a paper ornament from the tree of an item you would like to donate. Put a regular ornament (provided) on the tree in the spot where you removed the paper ornament. Regular ornaments are in a box by the elevator. Purchase the item listed on the paper ornament. Bring the purchased item to church and place it in the donation box next to the tree. All items will be delivered after January 4th. Thank you for taking part in this important ministry.

Please fill out and return your time and talent sheets by December 14th! 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.

THANK YOU to so many members who helped decorate the sanctuary, lobby and Luther Hall on November 23. We had extra work with the elevator not working. Your help is really appreciated. Thankful our congregation is willing to give of their time and talents.

The Healthy Wolves backpack ministry is very thankful for your continuing financial support. Without you, we would not be able to supply weekend meals for those in need. The number of students needing help is twice the amount of last school year. You are indeed a blessing to our community.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Dec. 7	Chad & Jordy McPeck family	Bob & Marge Roiland	Kathy Williams
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Brayden Heimerdinger		Kooper Kampmeier	



Happy Birthday!

*Karla Ditmar Jase Sheffey Easton Heimerdinger
Kari Mitchell Marlyse Johnson Carter Brudi*

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 25th. Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 25th. Reservations are due in the church office by Monday, December 22nd.

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!

If you are interested in purchasing a poinsettia for the Poinsettia Garden, there is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex now. The plants will be purchased from DeVoe floral and the cost will be \$16. Orders will be due no later than Wednesday, December 10th. Checks should be made out to DeVoe Floral and put in the secure box by the office. The poinsettias should be on display for the December 21st worship service and for the Christmas Eve services.

Ron and Kay DePrisco would like to invite everyone to an Open House at their place at 1314 W. Lincoln Boulevard in Freeport on Sunday, December 21st. This Open House will coincide with the annual Luminary Walk in Freeport. The Open House will start at 4 PM and will offer food, snacks, hot chocolate, and refreshments. The Luminary Walk begins at 4:30 PM that day. If you have questions, contact Ron at 815-297-7724.