



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., Tues., Thur. 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"



Second Sunday of Advent

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Time and Talent Temple Talk

December 7, 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:** Brayden Heimerdinger **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Kim Williams **Assisting Minister:** Carlito Ramos **Greeter:** Chad & Jordy McPeck family **Ushers:** Bob & Marge Roiland **Counters:** Ron Bremmer & Chad Bremmer **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

At the heart of our Advent preparation stands John the Baptist, who calls us to repent and make a new beginning. As the darkness increases we turn toward the approaching light of Christ. For Christians he is the root of Jesse, the righteous judge who welcomes all, especially the poor and meek of the earth. We wait with hope for that day when the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and there will be no more hurt or destruction. From the Lord's table we are sent in the spirit of John the Baptist to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of God has come near.

PRESERVICE MUSIC & WELCOME

TIME AND TALENT TEMPLE TALK

Brandon Sharping

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, & 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 our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and peace; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT CANDLES

Brayden Heimerdinger

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING Isaiah 11:1-10

Isaiah describes the coming of a future, ideal ruler who will renew David's royal line (the stump of Jesse). Gifted by the spirit of God, this ruler will reign with perfect justice. Enmity and danger will be restored to harmony and peaceful coexistence.

L A reading from Isaiah, the eleventh chapter

L A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Give the king your justice, O God, and your righteousness to the king's son;
- C** **that he may rule your people righteously and the poor with justice;**
- L** that the mountains may bring prosperity to the people, and the hills, in righteousness.
- C** **Let him defend the needy among the people, rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.**
- L** May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.
- C** **Let him come down like rain upon the mown field, like showers that water the earth.**
- L** In his time may the righteous flourish; and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall be no more
- C** **Blessed are you, LORD God, the God of Israel; you alone do wondrous deeds!**
- L** And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. Amen. Amen.

SECOND READING

Romans 15:4-13

God's promise to include Gentiles within the circle of God's blessed people has been fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Christians live out their unity by welcoming and encouraging each other just as Christ has welcomed them into God's family.

- L** A reading from Romans, the fifteenth chapter.
- L** Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles and sing praises to your name"; and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Matthew 3:1-12

Just before Jesus begins his public ministry, John the Baptist appears, calling people to mend their ways and speaking of a powerful one who is to come.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

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

P In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, “Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.” This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.’ ” Now John wore clothing of camel’s hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins. But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath? Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. “I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

C **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

ELW 471

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 With wisdom and understanding, inspire the faithful around the world. Unite hearts and minds in work to address poverty, access to housing, and equity among peoples. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With counsel and might, move us to care for creation. As we dream of the day when all creatures will flourish alongside one another, guide us in ways humanity and all creation will mutually thrive. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With righteousness and faithfulness, encourage nations to live in harmony with one another. We pray for international student and teacher exchanges, for our partner churches, and for the shared mission of Lutheran World Relief and Lutheran Disaster Response. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With steadfastness and encouragement, strengthen those who have lost hope in the face of grief, depression, or disease (*especially*). Renew the spirits of those recovering from surgery and medical procedures. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With welcome and hospitality, embolden us in our shared ministry to overcome all that divides. In acts of repentance, reconciliation, and reparation, may we serve in the way of Christ. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A With compassion for all, 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 With joy and peace, we remember our ancestors in the faith. Fill us with the hope of the Holy Spirit now and into the ages of ages. 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.)

OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.
A Nourishing God, you are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched places, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of your kingdom come.
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



St. John's Giving page QR code

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 our host, at this table you have fed us with joy and gladness. Send us forth, eager to share the feast, welcome the stranger, and bear good fruit in the name of Jesus.

C **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.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG **“On Jordan’s Bank” (verses. 1, 4 & 5)** **ELW 249**

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Keep awake.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

“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!

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.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

Mon., Tues., Thur. 6:00-11:00 AM

St. John's Website
www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, December 7, 2025

9a Worship

10a Grace Meal Committee meeting

10a Property Committee meeting

10a Prayer Shawl ministry

10a Confirmation Class

11:30a Eating Out Together at Ciminis

Monday, December 8, 2025

6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting

Thursday, December 11, 2025

1p Cards & dominoes at Karen's house

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, December 14, 2025

Isaiah 35:1-10 Psalm 146:5-10

James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

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, January 6th. 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 at Karen Bremmer's house (313 Walgren Road)!

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Dec. 14	Donnie & Michelle Miller family	Stuart & Shawn Kuhlmeier	Leann Heimerdinger
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Brayden Heimerdinger		Kooper Kampmeier	



Happy Birthday!

Abbey Goldsmith Amanda (Erbsen) Davidson Connor Boop Jordy McPeek
Kendra (Melville) Gipe Scott Johnson Ethan Bremmer Amelia Hass

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.

*Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. The next one will be on Sunday, December 7th at 11:30 AM at Ciminis Pizza in Freeport. Please sign up in the lobby by December 1st! Car pooling will be set up!