



St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• February 2026 Newsletter •

Sunday Worship and Children's Church (K-6): 9am

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

Pastor Len Hoffmann
Email: prshadmin@gmail.com
www.stjohnspearlcity.org



Lent Begins Ash Wednesday

On Wednesday, February 18, we begin our journey through Lent. Ash Wednesday Lenten worship is at 7:00 pm. Wednesdays at noon beginning February 25, we will gather at the United Methodist Church at Noon for a luncheon sponsored by local congregations with their faith Leaders providing a Lenten reflection.

Lent is a time when we again pause to reflect on who we are and who God is. We enter the discipline of Lent which includes fasting, prayer and works of love.

Fasting causes us to recognize that we often put other things first. So, by fasting, or denying ourselves we become more aware of our dependence on God's mercy and grace to live life. We are not self-sufficient or all sufficient – we need a power greater than ourselves to have a fulfilling life.

Therefore, prayer becomes very important to us during this time of reflection and self-evaluation. Our conversations with God during this Lenten journey seek to help us see where we need God's grace and mercy. What is it that gets in the way of letting God be God of our lives? What are those things that block our view of God's activity in our lives and in our world? So, we pray during this time of renewal that the stumbling blocks and barriers that keep us away from worship, and bible study are removed? We pray that by God's mercy we may have renewed in us an ability to forgive as we are forgiven. We pray we may love as God loves us.

This leads us into the final discipline of Lent, namely, works of love. In this season and in every season, we seek God's grace and mercy so that we might deal mercifully with others. We seek more opportunities to care for our neighbor in need and to seek peace and justice in all the land.

Our Lenten journey unites us to Christ's journey to the cross and ultimately to resurrection. As we recall our baptism, we are daily united with Christ. We daily drown that self-centeredness and are raised to live and love in God's grace through Jesus Christ.

Plan now to journey through Lent as a community of faith in view of God's grace and mercy.

Blessed Lenten Journey!

Pastor Len

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!

Sunday School: We continue to meet every Sunday until mid-May. 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, videos, games, and crafts. We invite any child between the age of 3 through 5th grade to join the group. 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.



The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of dish soap, laundry soap, body wash, and paper towels. Donations can be brought to Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10-11 AM. It is located at 316 W. Main Street in Lena. All donations are welcome!

The Grace Meal committee is always looking for people to help prepare and serve the monthly meals! If you think that this is something you could commit to, talk to Marge Roiland, Lois Hunsaker, or Kris Eden! We meet the first Sunday of the month to discuss the upcoming meals! You don't have to know any recipes—just be able to help prepare and serve. Thanks.



Don't forget that everyone is welcome to come to dominoes on the first Tuesday of every month from 9AM to Noon. The next one will be February 3rd! Invite others!

Cards and dominoes are played on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00-3:30 PM as well. The next dates for that will be February 12th and 26th!

In the coming months, we will be reaching out to all members who currently use envelopes to give to the church. We will be ordering another year of envelopes in the spring. If you currently use envelopes and want to continue to use them, that is fine. If you would like to learn how to set up a weekly or monthly recurring payment from a checking or savings account in order to give to the church, DJ can show you how to do that as well. If you decide to give through this recurring method, you can give to the current fund, the improvement fund, Healthy Wolves, and/or the Grace Meal. The QR code in the bulletin and later in this newsletter is used to give a one-time donation to the church from a credit or debit card.



On Sunday, February 15th we will be taking down the garland and lights in Luther Hall and in the Narthex right after worship. Any help we can get will be much appreciated! Thanks.

*Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. The next one will be on Sunday, March 1st at 11:30 AM at Rout 20 Bar & Grill. Please sign up in the lobby by February 23rd! Car pooling will be set up!



Lenten Luncheons



Lenten Lunches during Lent will be at the Methodist Church on Wednesdays at noon on February 25th, and March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. St. John's will provide the meal on Wednesday, March 18th and Pastor Len will give the message. There will be a free will offering for the lunches. Women's Gathering receives the donations for March 18th.

Confirmation News. . .

Confirmation: We continue to meet on the first and third Sunday of each month right after the church service upstairs in the Youth Room. Please look at your Confirmation Class Schedule that I emailed out at the end of January.

The study of the Apostles' Creed is going well and will take us through the rest of the 2026 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. They have been doing a great job remembering to bring it along. 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.



Date	Acolytes	Tech Support
Feb. 1	Jonah Schubert	Brayden Heimerdinger
Feb. 8	Jonah Schubert	Brayden Heimerdinger
Feb. 15	Arianna Schoenhard	Brayden Heimerdinger
Ash Wed. Feb. 18	Arianna Schoenhard	Brayden Heimerdinger
Feb. 22	Arianna Schoenhard	Brayden Heimerdinger

If you can not help when you are scheduled, please email the church office of who your replacement is. Thank you!
(prshadmin@gmail.com)

Duties of the Church for February 2026

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector	Worship Assistant
Feb. 1	Nancy Trampel	Chad & Deb Bremmer family	Chad Bremmer	Kris Eden
Feb. 8	Jay & Brianne Freedlund family	Chris Kempel	Lincoln Voss	Tracy Downs
Feb. 15	Jenaro Ramos & Jean Lutz family	Joel & Lori Kempel	Theresa Snetecher	Karen Bremmer
Ash Wed. Feb. 18	Joel & Lori Kempel	Ron & Karen Bremmer	Lori Kempel	Theresa Albers
Feb. 22	Mike & Lynda Palmer	Jeff & Linda Erbsen	Kathy Hillmer	Carlito Ramos

Organist: Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

Counters: Kelly Lawler and Chris Kempel

Men's Breakfast. . .

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are February 4th and March 4th! They are meeting at The Beltline Cafe in Freeport at 7:30 AM. See you there!



Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the January Grace Meal: Theresa Albers, Kathy & Larry Albright, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy Faust, Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Jim Heimerdinger, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Juma and Junior, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Craig Lindquist, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Marge Roiland, DJ Scott, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, and Dee Voss. We would also like to thank Mike Klatt for his work at the Christmas meal and Pearl Valley Eggs for the donation of 15 dozen eggs for the January meal. We served a total of 270 meals, 35 deliveries, and 235 curbside pickups.

The February Grace Meal will be on February 15th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday February 12th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 15th. The Menu for the February Grace Meal will be ham salad on a croissant, macaroni salad, potato chips, and 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!



Have you ever wondered what goes on at the Church Council meetings each month? All the papers and forms discussed at each month's meeting are posted on the bulletin board right outside of Luther Hall! Check it out and ask questions if you have them.

Worship Services. . .

Worship services will continue to be held at St. John's in our sanctuary and live on Facebook. You are welcome to stop at the church on Friday or Saturday before worship and pick up a bulletin. The worship service online will be a complete service. The upcoming bulletin and the past three weeks of bulletins and announcements are now online at <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/bulletins-sermons>.

If you have a Facebook Account: You will be accessing the church's Facebook at St. John's Lutheran Church. (You will see the 125th Anniversary Quilt.) **If you Don't have a Facebook Account:** You may access the livestream via the St. John's website at www.StJohnsPearlCity.org. On the top right of the website has our Facebook page icon and you may click on it there.

Church Giving. . .

The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. St. John's is able to continue in the mission of the Church because of your faithfulness and financial commitment. While you may be joining us from worship at home, you can give online here: <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/giving> Other easy ways to give can also be found on our website by clicking on the GIVING tab.

"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19



Financial Committee Report . . .

Both the Current Fund and the Improvement Fund finished 2025 on a positive note with income exceeding expenses, and both funds are in good status heading into 2026. Thank you to the congregation for your generous giving and your continued support of St. John's

Income vs Expense 2025

Current Fund	
Income	138,725.18
Expense	129,468.36
Difference	9,256.82

Improvement Fund	
Income	21,449.66
Expense	14,977.87
Difference	6,471.79

Our Friends at Home . .

No one likes to be inside all the time. However we have many friends and members who are unable to attend services or activities with us. Please take a few moments to remember them by sending a small note, or a phone call. Let them know we are thinking of them. It only takes a few moments to brighten up someone's day. Contact the office at 815-443-2215 or email at prshadmin@gmail.com for address info.

Richard Brinkmeier	Ron Fluegel	Connie Melville	Mary Ellen Aurand	Donna Freedlund
Janis Kampmeier	Lori Miller	Shirley Goldsmith	Verda Werkheiser	Louise Cuccio
	Carol Byers	Gina Boop	Jerry Harnish	



The Kids Klub is back!! Join us for a monthly adventure designed for Kindergarten through 5th grade students. The program is supported by Pearl City area churches, offers a safe and supportive environment where your child can explore, make new friends, and learn valuable life skills. From games and crafts to Bible study and snacks. Kids Klub has something for everyone. It is free of charge and open to all children in the community. The next meeting is February 18th from 3:15-5:00 PM at St. John's. For more information or to register your child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at rbronkema18@gmail.com or at 815-291-6261.

The January zoom meeting with Bishop Fiedlar and members of call committee members from across the synod was held January 26, 2026. Bishop Fiedlar told those attending that there has been no paperwork from interested candidates so far this year. She did say that this is not unusual as people don't want to move in the winter or uproot children during the school year. As spring rolls around, she expects to receive more interest in the Northern II synod.

On February 9, the first meeting of first call pastors will take place. Bishop Fieldar will attend this meeting. She will speak for our synod to those who are deciding which synods will receive first call pastors. Bishop Fiedlar is strongly advocating for the Northern II synod. This is good news for us and gives us hope as our budget would only allow for a first call pastor.

There are still 17 congregations in the transition phase. Even though 6 congregations called pastors last year, there were that many pastors who either retired or took a different call.

Please do not give up hope on getting a pastor. Have faith in the process so that when the right candidate is presented to us, we will be ready to welcome them into our congregation and community. Please pray for all churches in transition, all seminarians, those contemplating the ministry and those discerning a new call.

Call
Committee
Update

Women's Gathering Ministries . .

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard – bring BABY WIPES

Food Pantry donations: Spaghetti sauce

Starting the EMAIL Prayer Chain: To start the email prayer chain, contact Karen Bremmer at [\(815 443 2478\)](tel:8154432478) or [815 821 4698](tel:8158214698)) or email at rkbremmer@gmail.com You may also contact the church office at [815 443-2215](tel:8154432215) (please leave a message as they are checked after hours, etc.) or email at prshadmin@gmail.com. . If you are not receiving the Prayer Chain email and would like to be included, please contact the church office.

*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, February 1st. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*The next bible study will be on Tuesday, February 17th at 9:45 a.m. - refreshments (served by April Eberle and Joan Klatt) 10 a.m. - bible study led by Lori Kempel on "Now Let Us Pray: Praying With the Body of the Earth". Sit N Sew will follow at 11:00. Bring a sack lunch.

*Thank you to everyone who donated toward the Christmas gift cards for the PC students. 72 \$25 gift cards were purchased. We collected \$1465 for that and Women's Gathering made up the difference.

*Thank you to the Women's Gathering for voting to give a \$100 donation to the PC Post Prom Committee.

*On Sunday, February 15th, the Confirmation Class will make prayer bead bracelets (The Pearl of Life) led by the Women's Gathering in the Youth Room after the worship service. Ladies who did not make one at the July outing are invited to join the group.

*Lenten Lunches during Lent will be at the Methodist Church on Wednesdays at noon on February 25th, and March 4th, 11th, 18th, and 25th. St. John's will provide the meal on Wednesday, March 18th and Pastor Len will give the message. There will be a free will offering for the lunches. Women's Gathering receives the donations for March 18th.



If you would like to give to St. John's using a debit or credit card, use this QR code to make a donation. This is a one-time donation, but if you would like to set up a reoccurring donation to St. John's from your checking or saving account, there is a form for this in the office that you can fill out to do that. Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. John's!

St. John's Giving page QR code

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 Grace Meal Committee would like to thank the following people, businesses, and groups that donated to the Pearl City Community Christmas meal held at St. John's on December 25th. They included The Pearl City Hornets 4-H Club, Fischer Excavating, State Bank of Pearl City, Pearl City Lions Club, Little John's Tap, Lena Vet Clinic, Hometown Motors, Loran Mutual Insurance, IES Drilling, Visel Construction, Kempel Urish Construction, Johnson Appraisals, Musser Seed Company, Twila Simler, Albrecht Family, Hillmer Family, PC Seamless Inc., Solutions Bank, and First United Methodist Church. A huge thank you to the 40+ people who also volunteered their time to help, prepare, serve, and deliver meals!

The social ministry committee completed their Giving Tree collection on January 4th. All items for The Veterans Footlocker were delivered on January 5th and the gloves for Pearl City School were delivered on January 6th. The committee will be meeting in February to set up their projects for 2026.





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. If you would like to help back the backpacks, the group meets downstairs in the Healthy Wolves room in the new basement every Thursday at 3:15 PM! **Items of particular need are individually wrapped full size bars of soap, or monetary donations?**

If you are interested in hearing more about the Pearl City School Tax Referendum, Superintendent Dr. Mike Schiffman is hosting Referendum Presentation at St. John's on Wednesday, February 25th. He will give one presentation at 9:00 AM and another at 4:00 PM! He will take questions following each presentation. Come and hear about this referendum before it is voted on in March!



February 2026

See an updated and complete calendar throughout the month at www.stjohnspearlcity.org

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
February 1 9a Worship 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property meeting 10a Prayer Shawl ministry 11:30a Lunch Together	2 7p 4-H meeting	3 9a Dominoes	4 7:30a Men's Breakfast	5 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	6	7
8 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting 10a Memorial/Finance meeting 10a Christian Education meeting 2p Historical Society meeting 6p 4-H Meeting	9 5:30p Girl Scout meeting 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	10	11 7p Church Council meeting	12 1p Cards & Dominoes 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	13	14 8a Grace Meal prep
15 9a Worship 10:15a Confirmation Class 10:30a Grace Meal	16	17 9:45a Women's Gathering meeting 5:30p Girl Scout meeting	18 10:30a Bible Study 3:15 Kids Klub meeting 7p Ash Wednesday service	19 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	20	21
22 9a Worship	23 5:30p Girl Scout meeting NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	24	25 9a PC School Tax Referendum meeting 10:30a Bible Study 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC 4p PC School Tax Referendum meeting	26 1p Cards & Dominoes 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing 6p Cub Scout meeting	27	28
March 1 9a Worship 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property meeting 10a Prayer Shawl ministry 11:30a Lunch Together	2 5:30p Girl Scout meeting	3 9a Dominoes	4 7:30a Men's Breakfast 10:30a Bible Study 12p Lenten Lunch at FUMC	5 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	6	7 9a Congregational Resourcing Event

February Birthdays

1	Adeline Schimetz	8	Sara Schoenhard	22	Marsha Butson
3	Bonnie Dittmar	10	Pam Richards	23	Carrie (Boop) Baxter
	Olivia Williams		Brooks Scharping		Kayla Niehaus
	Jamie Melville	11	Jace Kempel	24	Earl Heimerdinger
4	Steve Miller		Kolton Kampmeier		Aaron Hass
	Brent Schneider	12	Doris Kness		Abigail Hass
5	Zxandyr Klatt	16	Brian Brudi	25	MacKenzie Bentz
	Carlito Ramos	18	Kayla (Albrecht) Schimetz	28	Aubrey Schubert
7	Tom Smargiassi	19	Austin Little		