



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"



Transfiguration of Our Lord Last Sunday after Epiphany

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding—Chancel Choir Sings

February 15, 2026

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:** Arianna Schoenhard **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Theresa Snetcher **Assisting Minister:** Karen Bremmer **Greeter:** Jenaro Ramos & Jean Lutz family **Ushers:** Joel & Lori Kempel **Counters:** Kelly Lawler & Chris Kempel **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor

C Congregation

L Lector

A Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C Amen.

P Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Mighty God, lover of justice,

C you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in ☩ Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LOWER LEVEL

GATHERING HYMN

"I Love To Tell the Story"

ELW 661

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

G **And also with you**

GLORY TO GOD

ELW PAGE 148

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G **Amen**

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:12-18

At Mount Sinai, Moses experienced the presence of God for forty days and forty nights. The “glory of the LORD” settled on the mountain, and on the seventh day God called out to Moses. On the mountain God gave Moses the stone tablets inscribed with the ten commandments.

L A reading from Exodus, the twenty-fourth chapter

L The LORD said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

L The word of the Lord.

G **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 2

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Why are the nations in an uproar? Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?
- C** **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**
- L** "Let us break their yoke," they say; "let us cast off their bonds from us."
- C** **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing; the LORD holds them in derision.**
- L** Then in wrath God speaks to them, and in rage fills them with terror.
- C** **"As for me, I have anointed my king upon Zion, my holy mountain."**
- L** Let me announce the decree of the LORD, who said to me, "You are my son; this day have I begotten you."
- C** **Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance and the ends of the earth for your possession.**
- L** You shall crush them with an iron rod and shatter them like a piece of pottery."
- C** **And now, you kings, be wise; be warned, you rulers of the earth.**
- L** Submit to the LORD with fear, and with trembling bow in worship;
- C** **lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath. Happy are all who take refuge in God!**

SECOND READING

2 Peter 1:16-21

At the transfiguration, God's voice was heard, declaring Jesus to be the beloved Son. By the activity of the Holy Spirit, God's voice continues to be heard through the word of scripture.

- L** A reading from second Peter, the first chapter
- L** We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.
So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL**Matthew 17:1-9**

Shortly before he enters Jerusalem, where he will be crucified, Jesus is revealed to Peter, James, and John in a mountaintop experience of divine glory called the transfiguration.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew

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

P Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, “Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, “This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!” When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, “Get up and do not be afraid.” And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, “Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

G **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON**HYMN OF THE DAY****“How Great the Love of Jesus”****Chancel Choir****APOSTLES’ CREED****ELW PAGE 105**

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A As God’s beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

(A brief silence.)

A Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God,

G **receive our prayer.**

A Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer

A Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve (*especially*). Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Welcoming God, 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*. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

P Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior.

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.



St. John's Giving page QR code

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray. God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE (Sung)

ELW Page 152

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 sharing our life, lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to your own brilliant light. And so, with all the choir of angels, with the church on earth, and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Page 153

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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 death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food, the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, 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 the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

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. Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

BLESSING

P May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

“Give Me Jesus”

ELW 770

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy.

C **Thanks be to God.**

In order to strengthen relationships and make everyone feel known and welcome, Worship and Music has designed and made name tags for all members. Beginning, Sunday, February 22nd, the name tags will be hanging in the Narthex. We ask that you grab yours and wear it during worship each Sunday and return it to the peg board before going home.

The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of canned ham, canned chicken, canned turkey, paper towels, mouthwash, body wash, and bath 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!

We are looking for one male member and one female member to attend the Northern Illinois Synod on June 12-13, 2026. It is being held at Augustana College in Rock Island Illinois. The cost of registration, meals, and lodging for the weekend is covered by the church. Please contact the office if you are interested in attending.

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.

Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, March 3rd. Cards and dominoes are still on for the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1PM as well. The next date is Thursday, February 26th at 1PM!

Do you have a child/grandchild that is interested in taking his/her first communion? Do you know someone who does? Pastor Len is going to hold a **First Communion Class** for anyone interested during the month of March. The classes will be held right after worship on March 8th, 15th, 22nd, and 29th. This class is aimed at children in grades three and below, but it is open to anyone who feels their child is ready. The child and parents should plan on attending each meeting right after worship in the conference room downstairs. If you plan on attending these classes, please contact Pastor Len or the office so materials can be made for each participant.

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, February 15, 2026

9a Worship

10a Confirmation Class

10:30a Grace Meal

Tuesday, February 17, 2026

9:45a Women's Gathering meeting

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

Wednesday, February 18, 2026

10:30a Bible Study

3p Kids Klub ministry

7p Ash Wednesday worship service

Thursday, February 19, 2026

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Sunday, March 22, 2026

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7 Psalm 32

Romans 5:12-19 Matthew 4:1-11

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 Route 20 Bar & Grill. Please sign up in the lobby by February 23rd! Car pooling will be set up!

Confirmation: Confirmation continues with the study of the Apostle's Creed. We are also studying the twelve apostles as well as bible verses. At this point, we only have four more meetings as our last meeting is May 3rd and we do not meet on Easter Sunday. Next year our study will be the Ten Commandments, the church service and the bible. I will be looking into how many new confirmands will be joining us for the 2026-27 year so that bibles can be ordered prior to our first meeting in mid-September.

Sunday School: Sunday school is going well, and the kids seem to really enjoy the videos as well as all the information they are learning from the lessons. The curriculum is working well. The final three months have been filled with teachers and if anyone cannot make it, Shawn will fill in as a sub. The last Sunday School will be May 10th which is Mother's Day and then we will resume in September. We will revisit the curriculum during the summer months. The computer and TV are working great and easy to use. A few supplies are needed so we will be purchasing some markers, colored pencils, tacky glue sticks, and pencil sharpener with the larger end. Theresa may have one at home but will check it out before we order. Sunday school will not be meeting on Easter or the week that the school has Spring Break.

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, March 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 28th, 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.

Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study discussing the book of John on Wednesdays during Lent. It will be held at 10:30 AM beginning on Ash Wednesday (February 18th) and continue every Wednesday through Lent. If you are interested in coming, please sign up in Luther Hall so materials can be made for each participant.

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.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
Feb. 22	Mike & Lynda Palmer	Jeff & Linda Erbsen	Kathy Hillmer
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Arianna Schoenhard		Brayden Heimerdinger	



Happy Birthday!

Brian Brudi Kayla (Albrecht) Schimetz Austin Little

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!

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.