



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"



Second Sunday in Lent

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

March 1, 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 **Acolyte:** Cara Brinkmeier **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** April Eberle **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Bob & Marge Roiland **Ushers:** Tracy Downs family **Counters:** Chris Kempel & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

P Pastor **C** Congregation **L** Lector **A** Assisting Minister

Introduction to the Day

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRESERVICE MUSIC

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

C Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CHILDREN LEAVE FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL IN LOWER LEVEL

GATHERING HYMN

“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross”

ELW 335

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 leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

L A reading from Genesis, the twelfth chapter.

L The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 121

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
- C** **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**
- L** The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- C** **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- L** the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- C** **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
- L** The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
- C** **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

- L** A reading from Romans, the fourth chapter.
- L** What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.
For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.
For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

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

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL**John 3:1-17**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

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

P Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

G **Praise to you, O Christ**

(Please be seated)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY
NICENE CREED

“Jesus, Remember Me” (twice)

ELW 616
ELW PAGE 126

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(A brief silence.)

A Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymn writers throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Welcoming One, 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, Stuart Hershey, and Connie Melville*. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

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.

(Please stand as you are able.)

OFFERING PRAYER

- A** Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.
C **Amen.**

DIALOGUE

ELW Page 144

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 call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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

ELW Page 144

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

- P** Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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



St. John's Giving page QR code

P O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C **Come, Holy Spirit.**

P With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, 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 **Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.**

*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 of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

BLESSING

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✝ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING SONG

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

ELW 666

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

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

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!

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 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, March 12th 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, March 1, 2026

9a Worship
10a Grace Meal Committee meeting
10a Confirmation Class
10a Property Committee meeting
10a Prayer Shawl ministry
11:30a Eating Out Together at Route 20

Monday, March 2, 2026

7p 4-H meeting

Tuesday, March 3, 2026

9a Dominoes in Luther Hall
6:30p Call Committee meeting

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

7:30a Men's Breakfast at The Beltline Cafe
9:30a Worship & Music Committee meeting
10:30a Bible Study

12p Lenten Lunch at PCMC

Thursday, March 5, 2026

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Saturday, March 7, 2026

9a CRE at Sauk Valley College

Sunday, March 8, 2026

Exodus 178:1-7

Psalms 95

Romans 5:1-11

John 4:5-42

Confirmation: Our schedule for confirmation is a bit different the next few months as we will not be meeting on Sunday, March 15th, I will be out of town. We will also not meet on Easter Sunday, April 5th as it is important to spend our time with family and friends. Our last two meetings will be April 19th and May 3rd. The study of the Apostles' Creed has finished but we have begun our lessons on the Twelve Apostles. Please remind your child to continue 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.

Sunday School: We continue to meet every Sunday until May 10th. 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.

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, March 17th at 9:45 a.m. - refreshments (served by Lynda Palmer and Lee Frey) 10 a.m. - bible study led by Karen Bremmer on The Promise of God's Name "I Am":. Bread, vine and light: Abiding in us. No Sit N Sew in March.

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

*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. The committee of Lee Frey, Lynda Palmer, Kris Eden, Kathy Williams, Doris Kness, and Karen Bremmer will be asking for cookie donations for dessert There will be a free will offering for the lunches. Women's Gathering receives the donations for March 18th.

*Prayer bead bracelets were made on February 15th. If anyone is interested in making one, please contact Karen Bremmer by March 15th so supplies can be ordered. On April 12th, another chance to make the bracelets will be occur.

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 social ministry committee would like to thank April Eberle and Jean Lutz for taking on the duties of the greeting card ministry. If you know someone in need of a card, please give the name and address to April or Jean. Also, any donations of cards are appreciated. We would also like to thank Leann Heimerdinger for acting as an interim until this position could be filled. Thanks again to April, Jean, and Leann for their dedication and work to keep this ministry going.

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 25 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
Mar. 8	Lee & Stacey Block	Theresa Snetcher family	Shawn Kuhlemeier

Acolytes	Tech Support
Cara Brinkmeier	Welden Snetcher



Happy Birthday!

*Kris Liebenstein Becky Potter Kathy Williams Deb Bremmer
Calvin Kloften Alayna Palmer Hailey Heimerdinger*

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the February Grace Meal, Johnathan Barthel, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy Faust, Janet Ferguson, Hendrix Feld, Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Jim Heimerdinger, Lois Hunsaker, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Doris Kness, Craig Lindquist, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, Marge Roiland and DJ Scott. We served a total of 269 meals, 35 deliveries, and 234 curbside pickups.

The March Grace Meal will be on March 15th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday March 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 March Grace Meal will be lasagna, green beans, Italian bread 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!

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!

There will be a celebration on life for Joyce Kempel on Saturday, April 11th from 1:00-3:00 PM in Luther Hall. Women's Gathering will be serving finger foods and drinks. Come and join us as we celebrate the life of Joyce and remember the good times we had with her!