



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"



Third Sunday in Lent

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Chancel Choir sings

March 8, 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:** Carlito Ramos **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Assisting Minister:** Lincoln Voss **Greeter:** Lee & Stacey Block **Ushers:** Theresa Snetcher 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

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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

“In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

ELW 324

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. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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

Exodus 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

L A reading from Exodus, the seventeenth chapter

L From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you

struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 95

L Let us say the Psalm responsively

L Come, let us sing to the LORD; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

C **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

L For you, LORD, are a great God, and a great ruler above all gods.

C **In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.**

L The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

C **Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

L For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand. Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!

C **“Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

L There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

C **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying, ‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

L Indeed I swore in my anger, ‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus’ death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

L A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.

L Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces

character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

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

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

P [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

L The Gospel of the Lord

C Praise to you, O Christ

(Please be seated)

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

NICENE CREED

“Old Rugged Cross”

Chancel Choir

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 O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought (*especially*), and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When your followers cannot be here, 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, Verda Werkheiser, Carol Byers, Gina Boop, Jerry Harnish, Ron Fluegel, Louise Cuccio, Donna Freedlund, and Connie Melville*. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

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

C **Amen.**



St. John's Giving page QR code

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.**

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.**

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

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CONTACT INFORMATIONInterim Pastor

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St. John's Website

www.stjohnspearlcity.org

This Week at St. John's**Sunday, March 8, 2026**

9a Worship

10a First Communion class in Nursery

10a Stewardship/Outreach Committee meeting

10a Memorial/Finance Committee meeting

2p Historical Organization meeting

6p 4-H meeting

Monday, March 9, 2026

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting

Wednesday, March 11, 2026

10:30a Bible Study

12p Lenten Lunch at PCMC

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Thursday, March 12, 2026

1p Cards & dominoes in Luther Hall

Saturday, March 14, 2026

8a Grace Meal prep

Sunday, March 15, 2026

1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm 23

Ephesians 5:8-14

John 9:1-41

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 5 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.

Please sign up by March 15th if you would like to purchase a lily for the annual Easter Lily Garden. Each lily is \$16 and will be delivered to the church. Checks should be made out to DeVoe Floral and put in the secure box outside the office. If you would like to purchase your own lily, please have it to the church by April 2nd.

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.

*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.

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.

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.

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. 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.

Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, April 7th. 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!

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
March 15	DJ Scott	Ken & Kathy Hillmer	Leann Heimerdinger

Acolytes	Tech Support
George Snetcher	Welden Snetcher



Happy Birthday!

Jack Kempel Kirk Knoup Hannah Little Danielle Kempel Jacob Lieb

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!

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.

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!

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.
