



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. 6-11 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"



Maundy Thursday

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

First Communion—Holy Communion—Chancel Choir Sings

April 2, 2026

Large Print Bulletins are available from the ushers.

Serving Us Today

Presiding Minister: Pastor Len Hoffmann **Acolytes:** ? **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Joel Kempel **Assisting Minister:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Greeter:** Lois Hunsaker **Ushers:** April Eberle **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

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

Introduction to the Day

This evening our Lenten observance comes to an end, and we gather with Christians around the world to celebrate the Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection. Tonight we remember Christ's last meal with his disciples, but the central focus is his commandment that we live out the promise embodied in this meal. As Jesus washed his disciples' feet, so we are called to give and receive love in humble service to one another. Formed into a new body in Christ through this holy meal, we are transformed by the mercy we have received and carry it into the world. Departing worship in solemn silence, we anticipate the coming days.

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Friends in Christ, in this Lenten season we have heard our Lord's call to struggle against sin, death, and the devil—all that keeps us from loving God and each other. This is the struggle to which we were called at baptism. Within the community of the church, God never wearies of forgiving sin and giving the peace of reconciliation. On this night let us confess our sin against God and our neighbor, and enter the celebration of the great Three Days reconciled with God and with one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C Amen

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. Holy God, source of all love, on the night of his betrayal, Jesus gave us a new commandment, to love one another as he loves us. Write this commandment in our hearts, and give us the will to serve others as he was the servant of all, 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

Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14

Israel remembered its deliverance from slavery in Egypt by celebrating the festival of Passover. This festival featured the Passover lamb, whose blood was used as a sign to protect God's people from the threat of death. The early church described the Lord's supper using imagery from the Passover, especially in portraying Jesus as the lamb who delivers God's people from sin and death.

L A reading from Exodus, the twelfth chapter

L The LORD said to Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt: This month shall mark for you the beginning of months; it shall be the first month of the year for you. Tell the whole congregation of Israel that on the tenth of this month they are to take a lamb for each family, a lamb for each household. If a household is too small for a whole lamb, it shall join its closest neighbor in obtaining one; the lamb shall be divided in proportion to the number of people who eat of it. This is how you shall eat it: your loins girded, your sandals on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and you shall eat it hurriedly. It is the passover of the LORD. For I will pass through the land of Egypt that night, and I will strike down every firstborn in the land of Egypt, both human beings and animals; on all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgments: I am the LORD. The blood shall be a sign for you on the houses where you live: when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and no plague shall destroy you when I strike the land of Egypt.

This day shall be a day of remembrance for you. You shall celebrate it as a festival to the LORD; throughout your generations you shall observe it as a perpetual ordinance.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116: 1-2, 12-19

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** I love the LORD, who has heard my voice, and listened to my supplication,
- C** **for the LORD has given ear to me whenever I called.**
- L** How shall I repay the LORD for all the good things God has done for me?
- C** **I will lift the cup of salvation and call on the name of the LORD.**
- L** I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people.
- C** **Precious in your sight, O LORD, is the death of your servants.**
- L** O LORD, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your handmaid; you have freed me from my bonds.
- C** **I will offer you the sacrifice of thanksgiving and call upon the name of the LORD.**
- L** I will fulfill my vows to the LORD in the presence of all God's people,
- C** **in the courts of the LORD's house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

In the bread and cup of the Lord's supper, we experience intimate fellowship with Christ and with one another because it involves his body given for us and the new covenant in his blood. Faithful participation in this meal is a living proclamation of Christ's death until he comes in the future.

- L** A reading from first Corinthians, the eleventh chapter
- L** For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took a loaf of bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body that is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way he took the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

John 13:1-17, 31b-35

The story of the last supper in John's gospel recalls a remarkable event not mentioned elsewhere: Jesus performs the duty of a slave, washing the feet of his disciples and urging them to do the same for one another.

P The gospel according to St. John, the thirteenth chapter

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

P Now before the festival of the Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to depart from this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The devil had already put it into the heart of Judas son of Simon Iscariot to betray him. And during supper Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he had come from God and was going to God, got up from the table, took off his outer robe, and tied a towel around himself. Then he poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel that was tied around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus answered, "You do not know now what I am doing, but later you will understand." Peter said to him, "You will never wash my feet." Jesus answered, "Unless I wash you, you have no share with me." Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only but also my hands and my head!" Jesus said to him, "One who has bathed does not need to wash, except for the feet, but is entirely clean. And you are clean, though not all of you." For he knew who was to betray him; for this reason he said, "Not all of you are clean."

After he had washed their feet, had put on his robe, and had returned to the table, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me Teacher and Lord—and you are right, for that is what I am. So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you. Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them."

"Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going, you cannot come.' I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG **“For God So Loved the World”** **Chancel Choir**
HAND WASHING CEREMONY

P On this night we have heard our Lord’s commandment to love one another as he has loved us. We who receive God’s love in Jesus Christ are called to love one another, to be servants to each other as Jesus became our servant. Our commitment to this loving service is signified in the washing of hands, in our contemporary times hands have become a symbol of health and hygiene just as feet were in the time of Jesus. So, following the example similar to the one our Lord gave us on the night before his death to show our servanthood.

Sung during hand washing **“Lord, Whose Love Is Humble Service”** **ELW 712**

(Please be seated.)

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A On this night when Jesus gave us a new commandment to love one another, let us bring our prayers before the One whose love knows no bounds.

(A brief silence.)

A Gracious host, you knelt to wash your disciples’ feet. Cleanse us from pride and self-centeredness, and teach us to love one another as you have loved us. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Creator God, the earth is yours and everything in it. Awaken us to care for all you have made and conserve the rich diversity of your good creation. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A God of the nations, guide the world’s leaders in the ways of justice and peace. Where they wield power unjustly, confront them. Where they are indifferent to suffering, awaken their conscience. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Compassionate One, embrace all who are lonely or in captivity, comfort the grieving, and relieve those in pain. Draw near to all who suffer (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Blessed redeemer, we give you thanks for this community of faith, and for all who gather around your table of grace. Unite us in love for you and for one another. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A Faithful savior, remember all who are confined to their homes and health care centers from our community and congregation. Today we pray for *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 Eternal God, we praise you for the great cloud of witnesses who now rest from their labors. At the last, gather us with them at your heavenly banquet. Hear us, O God.

C **hear our prayer.**

P We entrust these prayers to you, O God, confident that you will strengthen us by your Spirit to love one another as Christ has loved us. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C **Amen.**

PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us share signs of peace with one another.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Let us pray.

A 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 You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

P Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints. To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

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.*

SONG DURING COMMUNION

“In Remembrance”

Chancel Choir

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. Lord Jesus, in a wonderful sacrament you strengthen us with the saving power of your suffering, death, and resurrection. May this sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the fruits of your redemption will show forth in the way we live, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

READING OF PSALM 51

P Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me. You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance. O LORD, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased. The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. Do good to Zion in your good pleasure; rebuild the walls of Jerusalem, then you will delight in right sacrifices, in burnt offerings and whole burnt offerings; then bulls will be offered on your altar.

ALL LEAVE IN SILENCE

CONTACT INFORMATION

Interim Pastor

Pastor Len Hoffmann

815-975-4740

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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 29, 2026

9a Worship

Monday, March 30, 2026

6:30p Call Committee meeting

Tuesday, March 31, 2026

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Wednesday, April 1, 2026

7:30a Men's Breakfast at The Beltline Cafe

Thursday, April 2, 2026

7p Maundy Thursday service

Friday, April 3, 2026

7p Good Friday service

Sunday, April 5, 2026

9a Easter Sunday worship service

10a Grace Meal Committee meeting

10a Property Committee meeting

Sunday, April 5, 2026

Acts 10:34-43

Psalms 18:1-2, 14-24

Colossians 3:1-4

Matthew 28:1-10

Make plans to be with us on Saturday, April 25th for a Bingo/Games Family Fun Night! It will be from 6-8PM in Luther Hall. We ask that everyone bring a snack to share for the evening. Coffee, lemonade, and water will be provided. Ask your friends to join us!

The Call committee is putting together a welcome folder for any candidate that St John's interviews. Some examples of things included are: facts about our community, school systems, including higher education that is located nearby, medical services, veterinary services, local attractions, entertainment, etc. We will work on completing this information before our next meeting on March 30th.

Our synod has a new Steward of Transitions beginning in April. Pastor Jana Howson will be our new liaison. We welcome her and look forward to working with Pastor Jana.

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.

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, April 5th. Start a shawl/quilt or work on one already started. Someone will be available to help.

*The next bible study will be on Tuesday, April 28th. Coffee & refreshments at 8:45, kitchen & closet cleaning at 9:00, Bible study led by Karen Bremmer at 11:00. Chicken Noodle soup and sandwiches served at noon.

*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.

*The WELCA Spring Retreat will be on Saturday, April 25th from 9AM to 3PM at the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry Campus in Oregon, IL. The theme is "Raising our voices: Proclaiming the Gospel, The World is Loud." Registration forms are on the bulletin board with a fee of \$30 (includes coffee, snacks, lunch, and materials). Scholarships are available.

*Thank you to Lynda Palmer, Kris Eden, Doris Kness, Janet Ferguson, Lee Frey, Joan Klatt, and Karen Bremmer for preparing and serving the community Lenten Lunch on March 18th. Thank you also to Pastor Len for giving the message and Lee Frey for providing the cookies.

*The Northwest Conference WELCA 2026 spring gathering will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lanark on Thursday, April 23rd. There will be a continental breakfast and registration at 9 a.m. The program "Yellow Creek Quilt Designs Through the Years" will be presented by Jill Shaulis from 10:15 a.m. - 11 a.m. Cost \$10.00 Open to all women of the ELCA and guests by April 17th. Registration forms are on the bulletin board.

*Thank you to Jerilyn Strohecker for purchasing the palm branches for the Palm Sunday service on March 29th.

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.

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.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
April 5	Marion & Kris Eden	Terry Kempel	Joan Stewart
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Arianna Schoenhard Lucy Voss		George Snetcher	



Happy Birthday!

Twila Simler Nolan Heimerdinger-Baake Porter Friedlund Ron Bremmer

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the March Grace Meal, John Barthel, Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Randy & Sandy Faust, Hendrix Feld, Cindy & Earl Heimerdinger, Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Kolton Kampmeier, Joan & Marvin Klatt, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, Marge Roiland, George & Weldon Snetcher, and DJ Scott. We served a total of 275 meals, 33 deliveries, and 242 curbside pickups.

The April Grace Meal will be on April 19th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday April 16th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 19th. The menu for the April Grace Meal will be ham loaf, mashed potatoes & gravy, peas & carrots, applesauce 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 in April. It will be held at 10:30 AM April 8th, 15th, and 22nd. 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!

Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to eat out together. The next one will be on Sunday, April 12th at 11:30 AM at Cimino's Pizza. Please sign up in the lobby by April 6th. Car pooling will be set up!