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Profile ID: 38526

MINISTRY SITE PROFILE St John's Lutheran Church

Pearl City, IL

Completed: 01/28/2026



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

The Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is intended for use by congregations and church-related organizations that are seeking to call a rostered minister of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, or a First Call candidate for rostered ministry. Congregations must complete the entire MSP. Church-related organizations may, with the concurrence of the synod bishop, complete only the required sections (Part I, III and IV). Once complete, this form is submitted electronically to your synod bishop for review and posting to the "Current Openings" listing on the ELCA website (www.ELCA.org/call).

Summary Description

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in northwest Illinois. We were established in 1888. Our mission statement "Ever Loving, Caring Always" reflects our active congregation. St. John's is blessed with beautiful worship and educational facilities. We have dedicated lay leaders, strong and active committees, and wonderful rapport with the community. We seek a pastor with a love of Christ and a heart for God's people to help us continue this good work with an emphasis on youth and family ministry, member care, and outreach/evangelism.

PART I: WHO WE ARE

Name and Location

CONGREGATION

CONGREGATION/MULTIPLE POINT PARISH/ ORGANIZATION

St John's Lutheran Church

02026

Pearl City, IL, 61062

NAME

CONG ID

CITY, STATE, ZIP

US

COUNTRY

Northern Illinois Synod (5B)

Congregation - Organized

1888

SYNOD

TYPE OF MINISTRY SITE

YEAR ORGANIZED

Small town (under 10,000)

SIZE OF COMMUNITY

Contact Information

Ministry Site (preferred contact information)

229 S. First Street Box 234

Pearl City, IL, 61062

US

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COUNTRY

prshadmin@gmail.com

**www.St.JohnsPearl
City.org**

(815) 443-2215

E-MAIL

WEB SITE

PHONE

FAX

Chairperson of Congregation or Head of the Organization

Grace Heimerdinger-Baake

NAME

216 W DeVore

Pearl City, IL, 61062

US

ADDRESS LINE 1

ADDRESS LINE 2

CITY, STATE, ZIP

COUNTRY

(815) 764-1194

(815) 764-1194



with weekend meals by volunteers and sent home with students on Fridays during the school year. The entire Pearl City community supports this ministry with various item and monetary donations.

Context:

List three ways the community in which you are located has been challenged by change and transition in the last three to five years.

Our community has been impacted by the growth of non-denominational churches. Recent decisions by the worldwide United Methodist Church have led to several new non-denominational churches being formed in the Pearl City area. Our youth ministries have declined in the last several years. Weekend sports outside of the community have contributed to a decline in attendance of the youth. With the loss of a permanent pastor and youth leaders, our youth programs have been revived with congregational members leading Sunday school and confirmation. The weekly bible studies have been restarted with an interim pastor.

Programs:

Describe your congregation's or organization's current programs for mission and ministry.

St. John's has a strong focus on outreach ministries in the community and beyond. Our congregation supports ELCA World Hunger, ELCA Disaster Relief, ELCA Mission Support, Lutheran World Relief and ELCA Good Gifts. Closer to home, our programs include a greeting card ministry, Pearl City food pantry, school supply collection, item collection for veterans, mitten/hats/scarves collection for the school system. The Healthy Wolves backpack program for the school students is strongly supported, as well as the free monthly Grace meal, which serves approximately 240 every month. The outreach committee plans family fun nights and sponsors a laundry day for the community. The laundry day provides free detergent and money for washers and dryers at the local laundromat. The Health Ministry committee provides hand sanitizers in the pews and has a bulletin board with health updates. This ministry plans a flu clinic in the fall and an annual health fair, both of which are open to the community. Our youth and education programs include weekly Sunday School during the school year, community VBS and confirmation. St. John's has a monthly men's breakfast at a local restaurant for fellowship and good times. The women's group has a large attendance at monthly bible studies. Some of the activities this energetic group plans are: a prayer shawl/quilt ministry, organized social activities including day trips to theaters, euchre/dominos parties, Christmas and summer get to-gathers, baby wipe collections for Mother Hubbard's Cupboard, and an email prayer chain. The women's group has a monetary collection for gift cards given to needy families at Thanksgiving and Christmas. This group serves funeral luncheons and delivers Easter recognition to shut ins. The women's group plans and serves receptions for special occasions. St. John's worship and music committee is very active in planning weekly and special services. Many liturgies are used during the services. The committee (with help from the congregation) decorates the church and Luther Hall (our community room) throughout the year. This committee helps with scheduling assisting ministers. We have a chancel choir that sings twice a month. The music and worship committee helps facilitate congregational involvement in all services.

Goals:

What are the primary goals of your ministry site (please refer to any Strategic Plan that has been adopted).

We endeavor to live out our mission statement together: Ever Loving, Caring Always. We will continue to empower lay leaders to create more opportunities for outreach and fellowship. We seek a pastor to feed us spiritually and work with us to revitalize our youth programs, provide member care and preach the Good News.

Energy:

What is your congregation or organization really excited about right now?

St. John's has successfully had first call pastors. We are experienced with change, which includes nurturing and growing with the pastor. The congregation will walk alongside and support whoever accepts a call to St. John's. Our congregation is excited about our future together. We are a community of Christ who are eager to look for new opportunities to study God's Word, equip our people for spiritual growth, and welcome the community for fellowship. We hope to call a pastor who is also excited about these things and who will walk alongside us, preaching, teaching, and sharing our passion.

Partnership:

How does this congregation or organization see itself as a member and active participant in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America



and the synod?

St. John's Lutheran Church is a member and active participant in the Northern Illinois Synod of the ELCA. Mission support is 10% of current offerings. Voting delegates from the church attend the annual synod assembly. Many of our members have attended the WELCA Triennial assemblies and the youth have attended the National Youth Gatherings



Ministry Site Characteristics

AS A COMMUNITY

	A LOT LIKE US	A LITTLE LIKE US	A LITTLE LIKE US	A LOT LIKE US	
We tend to be formal and programmatic.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We tend to be informal and spontaneous.
We have clearly defined goals and plans for our future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We have no stated goals or plans.
We are racially and economically diverse.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	We are demographically homogeneous.

OUR LEADERSHIP STYLE

We welcome ideas that are provoking and challenging.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We prefer ideas that are tried and true.
We rely on our leaders for direction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We rely on group decision-making.
We have learned how to use conflict constructively.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We tend to perceive conflict as something destructive.

OUR PROGRAMMING

Our facilities are often used by community groups.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Our facilities are only used for our activities.
We train people to minister outside our walls.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We train people to minister inside our walls.
We focus on ideas and beliefs.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We focus on skills and action.

OUR THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE

We are obviously Lutheran in identify and practice.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are less obvious about our Lutheran heritage.
We participate in synod and ELCA activities.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We are not very active in the synod and ELCA.
We focus on Biblical studies and doctrine.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	We focus on contemporary issues and topics.



Purpose, Giftedness and Mission

Purpose

How does this congregation or organization understand its reason for being in the light of God's call to mission and service? Who are you? Why are you here?

"Ever Loving, Caring Always". We are a strong congregation diligently committed to service because of our relationship with Christ. St. John's serves the community by bringing them God's word and by feeding them physically and spiritually. Based on our vision, our emphasis is growing and strengthening key areas of church life: youth and family ministries, stewardship and outreach, and Bible studies.

Giftedness

What are your gifts and resources for fulfilling this purpose? What are the congregation's or organization's top three assets and how are they being used? Are there obstacles that must be overcome to be able to use these gifts and accomplish the mission?

1. We are excited to learn and grow in our faith. We preach and teach the Word of God, witnessing to the reconciling Word of God to reach out to all people. As a church family, we grow in love and care for one another as we build our relationships with others and with Christ.
2. We have the skills to share in our congregation and serve outside our walls. We creatively challenge, equip, and support all members in carrying out their calling in their daily lives and in the congregation. We have many talented members who share their gifts within the church and community.
3. We have the ability to accomplish worthy tasks and projects. We respond to human need through our congregation's history of faithfulness and generosity and with innovative programs and projects to expand our reach locally. Stewardship of our time and talents, our outreach has become a hallmark of our identity as a congregation in the community. Our facilities are kept in beautiful condition and are used not just by the congregation, but also by the community. Our building is handicapped accessible with an elevator to four floors. St. John's is the standardized testing site for the school and is the safe haven for the school in case of an emergency evacuation. Our facility is the meeting place for girl scouts, boy scouts and 4-H clubs. A well-kept parsonage is available, if desired.

Mission

In light of the way you have described your ministry context in this Ministry Site Profile, what are the top three mission priorities which, if accomplished, hold the most promise for the continued development of this ministry?

1. Expand the scope of opportunities for youth and families through events, ministries, and the study of God's Word in confirmation and beyond, while making a commitment to an inter-generational approach to ministry.
2. Becoming God's hands and feet in the Pearl City area and in the world through continued and expanded stewardship and social ministry outreach.
3. To continue our fellowship in the community by bringing people to Christ with innovative and creative worship, while maintaining the best of our traditions.

References

Synod Bishop

Bishop Stacie Fidler

Northern Illinois Synod

bishopstacie@nisynod.org

NAME

SYNOD

E-MAIL

(309) 794-4004

DAY PHONE

EVENING PHONE

CELL

FAX

Inside Congregation or organization



The five most critical tasks required in this position.

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Administration | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building a Sense of Community | <input type="checkbox"/> Campus / Young Adult Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chaplaincy | <input type="checkbox"/> Children's Ministry | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Christian Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications/ Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Community Organizing | <input type="checkbox"/> Conflict Management |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Counseling/ Social Work | <input type="checkbox"/> Early Childhood Administration | <input type="checkbox"/> Ecumenical Work |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Evangelism/ Mission | <input type="checkbox"/> Financial Management | <input type="checkbox"/> Global Service |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Innovation / Creativity | <input type="checkbox"/> Interim Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Interpret Theology |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Inter-personal Climate | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Crisis | <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry in Daily Life |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ministry with Seniors | <input type="checkbox"/> Multicultural Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Music / Worship / Arts |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor/ Camping Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Parish Nurse / Health | <input type="checkbox"/> Participant in the Larger Church |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pastoral Care and Visitation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preaching / Worship | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Policy / Advocacy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recruit and Equip Leaders | <input type="checkbox"/> Self Care / Family Life | <input type="checkbox"/> Small Group Ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social Ministry | <input type="checkbox"/> Spiritual Formation / Direction | <input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Strategic Mission Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Teaching | <input type="checkbox"/> Volunteer Coordination |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Youth and Family Ministry | | |

Gifts for Ministry

The five gifts essential in this position, and the five that are very helpful in this position.

Top Priority		Very Helpful
	Help people develop their spiritual life.	
	Help people understand and act upon issues of social justice.	
	Provide care and nurture.	Yes
Yes	Be active in visitation of members and non-members.	
	Be effective in working with children.	
	Build a sense of community among the people with whom he/she works.	Yes
	Help others develop their leadership abilities and skills for ministry.	
	Be an effective administrator.	
Yes	Be an effective communicator.	
	Be an effective teacher.	
	Encourage support of the Church's wider mission.	
	Work regularly in the development of stewardship growth.	
	Be active in ecumenical relationships.	Yes
Yes	Be effective in working with youth.	
	Organize people for community action.	
	Be skilled in planning and leading programs.	Yes
	Have a strong commitment and loyalty to the ELCA.	



Understand and interpret the mission of the Church from a global perspective.

Deal effectively with conflict.

Yes

Yes Bring joy and good humor to relationships.

Yes Be able to share leadership and work in a team.

Be creative and innovative about his or her tasks.

Be able to use technology and media.

Appreciate cultural diversity in language and customs.

Have talents in the areas of music, arts and writing.

Mutual Expectations

Please list the five primary areas of activity or focus that you wish your newly-called rostered minister to give special attention to during the first year of his or her ministry at this congregation or organization:

- A. **Children/youth/young adult programs**
- B. **Acclimate to the congregation and community by getting to know people and being actively involved**
- C. **Meaningful sermons from the Bible and applying readings to everyday life**
- D. **Developing confidence and leadership in themselves**
- E. **Provide pastoral care**

Please list the five ways that this congregation / organization will support and encourage the rostered minister during the first year in order to help her or him accomplish these responsibilities:

- A. **We will: Provide emotional support with honesty, respect, and friendship.**
- B. **Support new ideas and change.**
- C. **Encourage our new pastor to ask for help as needed.**
- D. **Reach out and introduce ourselves. We will be kind, understanding, flexible, and welcoming.**
- E. **Have strong committees to help with the workload.**

Compensation

Yes	Yes
PARSONAGE	SOCIAL SECURITY TAX OFFSET
\$65,000 - \$70,000	
MAXIMUM AMOUNT AVAILABLE FOR DEFINED COMPENSATION	

Benefits

Yes	Yes	4 weeks
PENSION	MEDICAL	VACATION WEEKS
No	No	
SABBATICAL POLICY	PARENTAL LEAVE POLICY	
Yes		
ARE BACKGROUND CHECKS REQUIRED		



Professional Expenses

Yes	Yes
AUTO / TRAVEL REIMBURSEMENT	PROFESSIONAL EXPENSES ACCOUNT
Yes	Yes
FIRST CALL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION	CONTINUING EDUCATION

Comments:

Please offer any comment or explanation regarding the compensation package, especially as it compares to synodical recommendations or guidelines.

This compensation package meets all synodical recommendations. The call committee will be flexible regarding a pastor's years of experience taking into consideration their ability to be an effective leader. While highly skilled and qualified candidates are being sought, we place a high value on character, chemistry, passion, and a long-term commitment to St. John's.

Other Supporting Resources

Are you able to supply the following items, if requested?

Mission and Vision statement of the congregation or organization	Yes
Printed history of the congregation or organization	Yes
Strategic Plan: Goals and Objectives	No
Budget	Yes
Annual Report	Yes
Position description: Duties and Responsibilities	Yes
Communications Piece (publicity, newsletter, etc.)	Yes

PART IV: COMMENTARY



You are encouraged to offer information or commentary that will help the reader appreciate the vision, opportunities, challenges and nature of your ministry site. Use this opportunity to creatively promote and commend your ministry possibilities.

St. John's Church was established in 1888 and continues to be a vibrant and active congregation. Our mission statement of "Ever Loving, Caring Always" is evident in the ministries that we do. These ministries include but are not limited to: serving approximately 240 free meals to community members every month through our Grace Meal program, providing weekend backpacks of food to students who are food insecure through our Healthy Wolves ministry and giving our support to community members through our Social Ministry and Outreach committees. The men's group meets once a month for breakfast and fellowship. There is a strong women's ministry which meets once a month for Bible studies and fellowship. This group provides many services that have been previously stated. Our members are very intentional of being good stewards of our God-given talents and we are always looking for opportunities to expand our ministries. St. John's congregation has a strong feeling of being a family. This is evident in everything we do.

St. John's has a 9:00 am worship service on Sunday mornings that is live streamed. The live stream can be accessed through St. John's Facebook page or through our church website. The live stream has helped us to reach those in the community and beyond who may be home bound or unable to attend in person.

Our church has been remodeled several times and we most recently went through a building addition in 2007. The remodel allows us to extend our ministries to the community. Our church is handicap accessible. The building addition added a large kitchen, Luther Hall, modern bathroom facilities, a full lower level with a conference room, Sunday School rooms, storage and an elevator reaching all four floors. St. John's has a spacious, well-maintained parsonage for any spiritual leader who would like to utilize it.

St. John's Church is located in Pearl City, Illinois, a village of over 800 residents in the beautiful rolling hills of northwestern Illinois. Pearl City has grown over the last 25 years with the addition of two new subdivisions. Pearl City has a Pre-K through 12th grade school. The high school received an "exemplary status" on the Illinois school report card in 2023. This status puts it as one of the top 10% of high schools in the state of Illinois. There is an excellent daycare program at the school, which was started with the help of St. John's. The church gave a generous monetary donation to help implement this program. Pearl City has a vibrant park district that has a summer program for children and sports programs. We have a very active public library, a volunteer fire department with a newly built firehouse, a post office, a newly developed dog park, and a village hall located within the firehouse building. There is a cemetery located on the north edge of town.

There are many businesses in Pearl City, including but not limited to, a bank, gas station with a quickmart, a general merchandise retailer, two restaurants with bar facilities, a lumber yard, insurance agent, a funeral home, a quilting shop, body shops, a plumbing business, a car dealer, car wash, laundromat, and a dog groomer. Pearl City is also the headquarters for Pearl City Elevator, which is a large agricultural company in northwest Illinois.

There are many active clubs in Pearl City, such as two 4-H clubs, Boy and Girl Scout troops, FFA, Lions Club, Legion & Legion Auxiliary. There are many recreational opportunities in the Pearl City area. There are seven golf courses within ten miles. Lake Carroll is a nearby lake community where some of our members live. It is only seven miles from Pearl City and offers a golf course, a clubhouse with a restaurant that is open to the public, boating, swimming, and fishing. There is an extensive snowmobile trail system in the Pearl City community. This trail system is maintained by the Sno Pearls snowmobile club so that residents can use the trails during the winter months. Pearl City is located 10 miles from Lake Le-Aqua-Na State Recreation Area, which has a 40 acre lake, hiking and multi-use trails, picnic areas, and campgrounds.

There are additional shopping opportunities in Freeport, Illinois, which is a town located ten miles east of Pearl City. Freeport is a town of over 25,000 residents. Pearl City is an hour away from Rockford, Illinois, and just over two hours from Chicago, Illinois. The historic town of Galena is less than an hour from Pearl City. Urban areas are within one and one half hours away of Pearl City in all directions.

St. John's Church looks forward to sharing our exciting ministries with a spiritual leader with which we can work and grow together.

PART V: COMPLETION OF PROFILE



Discernment Process and Adoption

Please describe the process used to gather information, formulate responses, and officially adopt this Ministry Site Profile. (Approximately 100 words maximum).

St. John's congregation appointed six members to the call committee. Survey questions were handed out on two different Sundays before service. Each Sunday had a different question. Surveys were collected at the end of the service. Later, a comprehensive pastoral search survey was provided (email and paper) with a return deadline. The results were compiled, summarized and edited by the call committee. Input was received from the church treasurer and parish administrator. The MSP was then completed.

Enter the date on which this Ministry Site Profile was adopted by vote of the Congregation Council or organization's **6/5/2024** board:

CALL PROCESS ADMINISTRATOR

The name of the person on the synod staff that the bishop has designated as the Call Process Administrator for this call process.

Rev. Jen Henry

**Interim Steward of Transitions
Leader**

NAME

TITLE

(309) 794-4004

mobility@nisynod.org

OFFICE PHONE

E-MAIL

Reference's Recommendation

Pastor Pat Esker

pastoresker@gmail.com

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CELL

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