



# 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"



## Second Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

April 12, 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:** Arianna Schoenhard **Organist:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** DJ Scott **Assisting Minister:** Karen Bremmer **Greeter:** Marvin & Joan Klatt **Ushers:** Mike & Lynda Palmer **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kris Liebenstein and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## WELCOME

### Introduction to the Day

*In today's gospel the risen Christ appears to the disciples and offers them the gift of peace. Even amid doubts and questions, we experience the resurrection in our Sunday gathering around word and meal, and in our everyday lives. Throughout the coming Sundays of Easter the first two readings will be from the Acts of the Apostles and the first letter of Peter. Even as the early Christians proclaimed the resurrection, we rejoice in the new birth and living hope we receive in baptism.*

## PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

**P** Alleluia! Christ is risen.

**C** **Christ is risen, indeed. Alleluia!**

**P** Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne and to the Lamb!

**C** **Amen**

**P** Merciful God, you are the one who was, who is, and who is to come. You lead us beside still waters. We thank you for the waters of creation: morning dew, gentle rain, roaring waves. We thank you for the waters that nourish us Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness who accompanies us on our journeys. We give you thanks for your life-giving death and resurrection. We praise you for joining us in joy and sorrow. Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Holy Spirit, you anoint our head with oil and our cup overflows. Break down barriers that divide us. Fill us with the breath of peace. Blessed are you.

**C** **You guide us to springs of the water of life.**

**P** Holy One, we thank you for the gifts and grace of baptism, and for making us a new creation. We join with saints and angels, giving you honor and praise, now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

**(During the hymn, please bring your donations for the Good Gifts items to the table in the front of the sanctuary.)**

### 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** Amen.

### THIS IS THE FEAST

ELW Page 140

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** And also with you

**P** Let us pray. Almighty and eternal God, the strength of those who believe and the hope of those who doubt, may we, who have not seen, have faith in you and receive the fullness of Christ’s blessing, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

### FIRST READING

Acts 2:14a, 22-32

*After the Holy Spirit comes to the apostles on Pentecost, Peter preaches the gospel to the gathered crowd. He tells them that Jesus, who obediently went to his death according to God’s plan, was raised from the dead by God. Finally, he appeals to scripture, quoting Psalm 16:8-11, to show that Jesus is the Messiah: though crucified, the risen Jesus is now enthroned.*

**L** A reading from Acts, the second chapter

**L** Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: “Fellow Israelites, listen to what I have to say: Jesus of Nazareth, a man attested to you by God with deeds of power, wonders, and signs that God did through him among you, as you yourselves know this man, handed over to you according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, you crucified and killed by the hands of those outside the law. But God raised him up, having released him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for him to be held in its power. For David says concerning him, ‘I saw the Lord always before me, for he is at my right hand so that I will not be shaken; therefore my heart was glad, and my tongue rejoiced; moreover, my flesh will live in hope. For you will not abandon my soul to Hades or let your Holy One experience corruption. You have made known to me the ways of life; you will make me

full of gladness with your presence.’ “Fellow Israelites, I may say to you confidently of our ancestor David that he both died and was buried, and his tomb is with us to this day. Since he was a prophet, he knew that God had sworn with an oath to him that he would put one of his descendants on his throne. Foreseeing this, David spoke of the resurrection of the Messiah, saying, ‘He was not abandoned to Hades, nor did his flesh experience corruption.’ “This Jesus God raised up, and of that all of us are witnesses.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## Psalm 16

**L** Let us say the Psalm responsively

**L** Protect me, O God, for I take refuge in you; I have said to the LORD, “You are my Lord, my good above all other.”

**C** **All my delight is in the godly that are in the land, upon those who are noble among the people.**

**L** But those who run after other gods shall have their troubles multiplied.

**C** **I will not pour out drink offerings to such gods, never take their names upon my lips.**

**L** O LORD, you are my portion and my cup; it is you who uphold my lot.

**C** **My boundaries enclose a pleasant land; indeed, I have a rich inheritance.**

**L** I will bless the LORD who gives me counsel; my heart teaches me night after night.

**C** **I have set the LORD always before me; because God is at my right hand, I shall not be shaken.**

**L** My heart, therefore, is glad, and my spirit rejoices; my body also shall rest in hope.

**C** **For you will not abandon me to the grave, nor let your holy one see the pit.**

**L** You will show me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy, and in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

## SECOND READING

## 1 Peter 1:3-9

*This epistle was written to encourage Christians experiencing hardships and suffering because of their faith in Christ. The letter opens by blessing God for the living hope we have through Christ’s resurrection even amid difficult circumstances and surroundings.*

**L** A reading from first Peter, the first chapter.

**L** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead and into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you, who are being protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you rejoice, even if now for a little while you have had to suffer various trials, so that the genuineness of your faith—being more precious than gold that, though perishable, is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. Although you have not seen him, you love him, and even though you do not see him now, you believe in him and rejoice with an indescribable and glorious joy, for you are receiving the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

**ELW Page 142**

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL**

**John 20:19-31**

*The risen Jesus appears to his disciples, offering them a benediction, a commission, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. But one of their number is missing, and his unbelief prompts another visit from the Lord.*

**P** The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

**P** When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors were locked where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, “We have seen the Lord.” But he said to them, “Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.” A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.” Then he said to Thomas, “Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.” Thomas answered him, “My Lord and my God!” Jesus said to him, “Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.”

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may continue to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated.)*

## SERMON

### REFLECTION SONG

“We Walk By Faith”

ELW 635

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

### NICENE CREED

ELW PAGE 126

*(Please be seated.)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

**A** Trusting in the power of Christ’s resurrection to heal and redeem our broken world, let us pray for the needs of all creation.

*(A brief silence.)*

**A** Almighty God, you give life to the dead and call into existence things that do not exist. Breathe your Spirit upon us, that our faith may be renewed day by day.

Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Maker of heaven and earth, your mercies are new every morning. Open us to the wonders of creation, from the beauty of flowers to the complexity of subatomic particles. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** God of peace, in every place where conflict rages, sow seeds of calm and openness to reconciliation. Strengthen the resolve of leaders and citizens to work for peace in their nations. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Healing God, come alongside all who are doubting, fearful, or suffering in any way (*especially*). Reveal to them your presence and assure them of the inheritance you have prepared for them. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Giver of joy, let this assembly be a place of genuine love and mutual affection. Deepen our care for one another and help us to embody your forgiving and sacrificial love. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Compassionate God, 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.* Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Eternal One, we give thanks for saints who were faithful unto death and have joined the church triumphant. Inspire us by their witness and bring us with them into your glorious presence. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**P** God of resurrection power, use us and these prayers to proclaim the good news of new life to all the world, through Jesus Christ, our risen Savior.

**C** Amen.

## PEACE

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

**P** Let us share signs of peace with one another.

*(Please stand as you are able.)*

## OFFERING PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. Merciful God, accept the fruits of our labor, gathered to give you glory. You have set a table before us, a glimpse of that great day when we will hunger and thirst no more. Nourish us with the body and blood of Jesus, that goodness and mercy may follow us and bless the world you love. In the name of Jesus,

**C** Amen.

## DIALOGUE

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## 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, for the glorious resurrection of our Savior Jesus Christ, the true Paschal Lamb who gave himself to take away our sin; who in dying has destroyed death, and in rising has brought us to eternal life. And so, with Mary Magdalene and Peter and all the witnesses of the resurrection, with earth and sea and all their creatures, and with angels and archangels, cherubim and seraphim, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

ELW Page 144



St. John's Giving page QR code

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

**P** Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father: Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign. You have filled all creation with light and life; heaven and earth are full of your glory. We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age: the promise to Israel, the rescue from Egypt, the gift of the promised land, the words of the prophets; and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son, who proclaimed the good news in word and deed and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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** 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

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## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** **Come to the table of new life. Receive the risen Lord.**

*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. Holy One, through this meal you have made your home among us and are making all things new. Send us now to speak peace to anxious hearts, to love our enemies, and to bring your healing to the nations. In the name of Jesus,

**C** **Amen**

## BLESSING

**P** God Almighty, who is the beginning and the end, Jesus Christ, the firstborn of the dead, and the Spirit, our advocate and peace, ✚ bless you now and forever.

**C** **Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

**“Now the Green Blade Rises”**

**ELW 379**

## DISMISSAL

**A** Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

**C** **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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The Social Ministry Committee starts their ELCA Good Gifts project on April 12<sup>th</sup>. This project will continue through May 17<sup>th</sup>. This project is a collection to purchase items out of the ELCA Good Gifts catalog to benefit people around the world. The goals for this project are as follows:

**Family Farm- \$715.00** This includes a cow, a couple of goats, a dozen chicks, two pigs, farming tools, seeds, and agricultural training.

**(7) Honeybee colonies-** \$20.00 each for a total of \$140.00

**(10) Water filters-**\$30.00 each for a total of \$300.00

**(10) Vaccinations-** \$30.00 each for a total of \$300.00

**(4) Food for 4 orphaned children for one month-**\$25.00 each for a total of \$100.00

Total of goals for this project: **\$1555.00**

Thank you in advance for your support of this important ministry.

## 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. 6-11 AM*

### St. John's Website

[www.stjohnspearlcity.org](http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org)

## This Week at St. John's

### Sunday, April 12, 2026

9a Worship  
10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting  
10a Memorial/Finance Committee meeting  
11:30a Eating Out Together at Ciminis  
2p Historical Organization presentation  
6p 4-H meeting

### Monday, April 13, 2026

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

### Wednesday, April 15, 2026

10:30a Bible Study  
3:15p Kids Klub meeting  
7p Church Council meeting

### Thursday, April 16, 2026

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

### Saturday, April 18, 2026

8a Grace Meal prep

Sunday, April 19, 2026

Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 116:1-4, 12-19 1 Peter 1:17-23 Luke 24:13-35

## 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.

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, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 28<sup>th</sup>. 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 15<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is interested in making one, please contact Karen Bremmer by March 15<sup>th</sup> so supplies can be ordered. On April 12<sup>th</sup>, another chance to make the bracelets will be occur.

\*The WELCA Spring Retreat will be on Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 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.

\*The Northwest Conference WELCA 2026 spring gathering will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lanark on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup>. Registration forms are on the bulletin board.

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**Confirmation:** Our last two meetings will be April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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.

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Pastor Len will be hosting a bible study discussing the Gospel of John on Wednesdays in March and April. It will be held at 10:30 AM April 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. If you are interested in coming, please sign up in Luther Hall so materials can be made for each participant.

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Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month from 9AM-Noon. The next one is on Tuesday, May 5<sup>th</sup>. Also, we are still playing cards and dominoes on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1-3:30PM. The next date will be on Thursday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

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

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
April 19	Carla Personette	Chad & Deb Bremmer family	Shawn Kuhlemeier

Acolytes	Tech Support
Kooper Kampmeier	Kolton Kampmeier



*Happy Birthday!*

*Janet Ferguson Michelle Miller Jason Gray Michael Palmer  
Dennis Kruse Richard Blackmore Lee Frey Elaina Lott Clayton Downs*

### **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. Thank you to Dennis Kruse for brining all the boxes and flats each month for larger pick-up meal orders.

The April Grace Meal will be on April 19<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The menu for the April Grace Meal will be ham loaf, mashed potatoes, gravy, peas and 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!**

**Sunday School:** We continue to meet every Sunday until May 10<sup>th</sup>. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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.