



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:

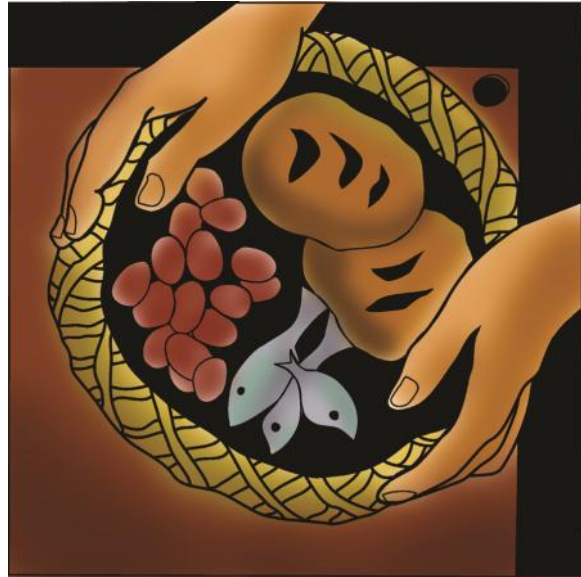
815-443-2215

Building Hours:

The building will only be open
when the office is open

ST. JOHN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Ever Loving, Caring Always"



Third Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

April 19, 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:** Kooper Kampmeier **Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Shawn Kuhlemeier **Assisting Minister:** Carlito Ramos **Greeter:** Carla Personette **Ushers:** Chad & Deb Bremmer family **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

Today's gospel begins with two disciples walking to Emmaus, overcome with sadness, loss, and disappointment. They had hoped Jesus, who was crucified, would be the one to redeem Israel! Yet the risen Christ walks with them and then opens their eyes in the breaking of the bread. Each Sunday our hearts burn within us as the scriptures are proclaimed and Christ appears to us as bread is broken and wine is poured. The story of Emmaus becomes the pattern of our worship each Lord's day.

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 149

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you

C And also with you

P Let us pray. O God, your Son makes himself known to all his disciples in the breaking of bread. Open the eyes of our faith, that we may see him in his redeeming work, 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, 36-41

Today's reading is the conclusion of Peter's sermon preached following the giving of the Holy Spirit to the apostles on the day of Pentecost. The center of his preaching is the bold declaration that God has made the crucified Jesus both Lord and Christ.

L A reading from Acts, the second chapter

L Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed [the crowd]: “Therefore let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.” Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, “Brothers, what should we do?” Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.” And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, “Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.” So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 116:1-4, 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** The cords of death entangled me; the anguish of the grave came upon me; I came to grief and sorrow.
- C** **Then I called upon the name of the LORD: “O LORD, I pray you, save my life.”**
- 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. Hallelujah!**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 1:17-23

The imagery of exile is used to help the readers of this letter understand that they are strangers in a strange land. Christians no longer belong to this age. Through the death of Christ we belong to God, so that our focus, faith, and hope are no longer on such things as silver or gold.

- L** A reading from first Peter, the first chapter.
- L** If you invoke as Father the one who judges impartially according to each person’s work, live in fear during the time of your exile. You know that you were ransomed from the futile conduct inherited from your ancestors, not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without defect or blemish. He was destined before the foundation of the world but was revealed at the end of the ages for your sake. Through him you have come to trust in God, who raised him from the dead and gave him glory, so that your trust and hope are in God. Now that you have purified your souls by your obedience to the truth so that

you have genuine mutual affection, love one another deeply from the heart. You have been born anew, not of perishable but of imperishable seed, through the living and enduring word of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW Page 142

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

Luke 24:13-35

The colorful story of Jesus' appearance to two disciples on the road to Emmaus answers the question of how Jesus is to be recognized among us. Here, he is revealed through the scriptures and in the breaking of bread.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

P Now on that same day two [disciples] were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, "What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?" They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, "Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?" He asked them, "What things?" They replied, "The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him. But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said, but they did not see him." Then he said to them, "Oh, how foolish you are and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?" Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures.

As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, "Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over." So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized him, and he vanished from their sight. They

said to each other, “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road, while he was opening the scriptures to us?” That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem, and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, “The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!” Then they told what had happened on the road and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“Seek Ye First”

W&P 122

(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 Living Savior, just as you journeyed with the disciples to Emmaus, accompany us on our journey of faith. Gather us at your table, that we recognize you in the breaking of the bread. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Almighty God, you provide for the needs of all creation. Bless the fields that are being prepared for planting, and send favorable weather so that the soil may yield an abundant harvest. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A God of justice, where leaders abuse power, confront them and call them to repentance. Where there is corruption, bring integrity; where there is violence, sow peace. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Healing Savior, your resurrection brings hope to a hurting world. Heal those who are sick (*especially*). Strengthen the weary, give courage to the despairing, and comfort the dying. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Gracious One, you have made us your own through the gift of baptism. Unite us in genuine love for one another and uphold this community in your name. 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 Light, we give thanks for all who have nurtured your church's life in ages past. Bring us at last with them to the brightness of 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

ELW Page 152

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 153



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

ELW Page 154

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 **“The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve”** **WOV 723**

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

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

From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright
2023 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.
Reprinted by permission under Augsburg For-
tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

The Social Ministry Committee starts their ELCA Good Gifts project on April 12th. This project will continue through May 17th. 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

This Week at St. John's

Sunday, April 19, 2026

9a Worship

10:15a Confirmation Class

10:30a Grace Meal

Monday, April 20, 2026

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

Tuesday, April 21, 2026

5:30p Girl Scout meeting

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

10:30a Bible Study

3:15p Kids Klub meeting

Thursday, April 23, 2026

1p Cards & Dominoes in Luther Hall

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

Saturday, April 25, 2026

6p Bingo/Games Family Night

Sunday, April 26, 2026

Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:42-47

Psalms 23

1 Peter 2:19-25

John 10:1-10

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 3rd. 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.

*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.

*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.

Confirmation: 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.

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 15th and 22nd. If you are interested in coming, please sign up in Luther Hall so materials can be made for each participant.

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 5th. 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 23rd.

Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to Eat Out Together on Sunday, May 3rd. We are planning on eating at the new restaurant in Pearl City called The Fork and Flavor House at 11:30 AM. Please sign up in the lobby by April 26th.

The Baccalaureate service and fellowship for the Pearl City class of 2026 will be on Sunday, May 3rd at 6 p.m. at Zion Community church. All are welcome.

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Lector
April 26	Linda Brinkmeier	Lois Hunsaker	Ethan Bremmer

Acolytes	Tech Support
Kooper Kampmeier	Colton Gronewold



Happy Birthday!

*Weston Gronewold Kelsey Butson Katie Stager
Garrett Handsaker Scott Heimerdinger Aaron Woker*

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 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 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 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.