



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"



Fourth Sunday of Easter

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

April 26, 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:** Kathy Hillmer **Lector:** Ethan Bremmer **Assisting Minister:** Kris Eden **Greeter:** Linda Brinkmeier **Ushers:** Lois Hunsaker **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 is sometimes called “Good Shepherd Sunday.” Jesus is called the “gate” of the sheep in today’s gospel. The risen Christ opens the way to abundant life. He anoints our heads with oil and guides us beside the still waters of our baptism. Each Sunday he spreads a feast before us amid the world’s violence and war. We go forth to be signs of the resurrection and extend God’s tender care to all creation.

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 our shepherd, you know your sheep by name and lead us to safety through the valleys of death. Guide us by your voice, that we may walk in certainty and security to the joyous feast prepared in your house, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

(Please be seated)

FIRST READING

Acts 2:42-47

Today's reading is a description of life in the community following Peter's sermon on the day of Pentecost, when the Spirit was poured out on God's people. The new community is sustained in worship and fellowship, shares what they have, and ensures that everyone has enough.

L A reading from Acts, the second chapter

L [The baptized] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone because many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 23

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.
- C** **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**
- L** You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- C** **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- L** You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- C** **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING

1 Peter 2:19-25

Doing the right things does not guarantee that one will not experience difficulties, hardships, rejection, or even suffering. Here Christ is presented as the model for our path of endurance and loyalty to God, particularly amid adversity.

- L** A reading from first Peter, the second chapter.
- L** It is a commendable thing if, being aware of God, a person endures pain while suffering unjustly. If you endure when you are beaten for doing wrong, what credit is that? But if you endure when you do good and suffer for it, this is a commendable thing before God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you should follow in his steps. "He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When he was abused, he did not return abuse; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but he entrusted himself to the one who judges justly. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, so that, having died to sins, we might live for righteousness; by his wounds you have been healed. For you were going astray like sheep, but now you have returned to the shepherd and guardian of your souls.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Please stand as you are able)

GOSPEL

John 10:1-10

Jesus uses an image familiar to the people of his day to make a point about spiritual leadership. Those who listen to Jesus are led to abundant life.

P The Holy Gospel according to John.

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

P [Jesus said:] “Very truly, I tell you, anyone who does not enter the sheepfold by the gate but climbs in by another way is a thief and a bandit. The one who enters by the gate is the shepherd of the sheep. The gatekeeper opens the gate for him, and the sheep hear his voice. He calls his own sheep by name and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but they will run from him because they do not know the voice of strangers.” Jesus used this figure of speech with them, but they did not understand what he was saying to them.

So again Jesus said to them, “Very truly, I tell you, I am the gate for the sheep. All who came before me are thieves and bandits, but the sheep did not listen to them. I am the gate. Whoever enters by me will be saved and will come in and go out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

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

(Please be seated.)

SERMON

REFLECTION SONG

“Lord, Be Glorified”

W&P 89

(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 Shepherd God, draw all people to yourself and lead them in paths of righteousness. Embolden your church to enter the valleys of the world and guide us beside the still waters of your grace. We pray for military and prison chaplains serving near and far. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Creator God, by the resurrection of your Son, show us your steadfast love and instruct our hearts in your ways. Help us to revere and protect the wonders of your creation. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Righteous Judge, strengthen and uphold those who work for justice and advocate for human rights. Bring an end to oppression and save us from the temptation of violence or vengeance. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Great Physician, walk with those who are grieving, and anoint those who are ill or injured (*especially*). Restore them to health of body, mind, and spirit. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Good Shepherd, continually seek us out as lambs of your flock, and form us into a community where all are honored and cared for. Spread a feast before us and fill our cups to overflowing. 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, Ron Fluegel, Louise Cuccio, Donna Freedlund, and Connie Melville*. Merciful God,

C receive our prayer.

A Living God, we praise you for the saints who have died in faith and now dwell in your love. At our end, bring us, with them, to our heavenly home. 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

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.**



St. John's Giving page QR code

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

“How Great Thou Art”

ELW 856

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Praise the Lord. Alleluia!

C Thanks be to God. Alleluia!

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tress Liturgies Annual License #28059

Make plans to be with us on Sunday, May 10th. The No Worries Band will be providing special music that Sunday!!

Also, make plans to be with us on Sunday, May 17th. We will be recognizing our 2026 graduates during the service and hold a reception for them after worship. The Chancel Choir will be singing on the 17th as well!!

St John’s will be working the Pearl City Food Pantry in May. Volunteers are especially needed for May 9th and 23rd for when the patrons come and pick up their food. Also a few volunteers might be needed for restocking the shelves on the 2nd and 16th. Contact Doris Kness or Janet Ferguson if interested.

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

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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 26, 2026

9a Worship

Monday, April 27, 2026

MAY NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Tuesday, April 28, 2026

8:45a Women's Gathering meeting

Thursday, April 30, 2026

1p Cards & Dominoes in Luther Hall

6p Cub Scout meeting

Sunday, May 3, 2026

Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 7:55-60 Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16 1 Peter 2:2-10 John 14:1-14

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.

Confirmation: Our last meeting will be 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.

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.

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, May 14th.

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
May 3	Josh & Alison Hille	Randy & Sandy Faust	Stacey Block
Acolytes		Tech Support	
Diem Gronewold		Porter Freedlund	



Happy Birthday!

*Carla Personette Brandon Scharping Taylor Brudi
Laine Shatek Robert Winning*

Grace Meal News. . .

A special thank you to everyone who helped with the April Community Meal, Pearl City National Honor Society: Kameron Downs, Xander Krolow, Mackenzie Lotz, Scarlett Snyder, Nataleigh Todd and Oscar Ugalde. Dennis Downs, Kris & Marion Eden, Cindy & Earl Heimerdinger, Easton Heimerdinger, Grace Heimerdinger-Baake, Craig Lindquist, Jim Heimerdinger, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, Hendrix Fled., Kolton Kampmeier, Joan Klatt, Judy & Rollin Nelson, Angie & Wayne Niehaus, Marge Roiland, and DJ Scott.

We served a total of 265 meals, 32 deliveries, and 233 curbside pickups. We sent 23 additional meals to the fire station in Lena for tornado disaster. Thank you to Stephanie Schubert and son Jonah for delivering the meals to the fire station in Lena. The May Grace Meal will be on May 17th. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday May 14th (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 17th. The menu for the May Grace Meal will be Barbeque, three-bean salad, potato chips and a Rice Krispie bar.

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!