



# 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"



## **Easter Sunday—Resurrection of Our Lord**

Pastor Len Hoffmann presiding

Holy Communion—Chancel Choir Sings

April 5, 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 **Acolytes:** Koton Kampmeier & Carlito Ramos  
**Organist:** Karen Bremmer **Lector:** Joan Stewart **Assisting Minister:** Kathy Hillmer  
**Greeter:** Marion & Kris Eden **Ushers:** Terry Kempel **Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger & Kris Liebenstein **Sacristan:** Kathy Williams, Kris Liebenstein, and Nancy Trampel

**P** Pastor

**C** Congregation

**L** Lector

**A** Assisting Minister

## WELCOME & EASTER MEDLEY BY KATHY HILLMER & KAREN BREMMER

### Introduction to the Day

*This is the day the Lord has made! Christ is risen, and through him all creation is made new! Indeed, “God shows no partiality” (Acts 10:34): Christ’s resurrection truly brings life to everyone. We sing hymns of praise, gather around sacred words, and proclaim God’s faithfulness, power, and love in the feast of holy communion. With the women at the tomb, we are astonished, elated, and grateful. We depart with joy to proclaim the good news of God’s endless love.*

## 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

## 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

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** The Lord be with you

**C** And also with you

**P** O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen

*(Please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

Acts 10:34-43

*Peter’s sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.*

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

**L** Peter began to speak to [the people]: “I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.”

**L** The word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## PSALM

## Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

- L** Let us say the Psalm responsively
- L** Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good; God's mercy endures forever.
- C** Let Israel now declare, "God's mercy endures forever."
- L** The LORD is my strength and my song, and has become my salvation.
- C** Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous: "The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- L** The right hand of the LORD is exalted! The right hand of the LORD acts valiantly!"
- C** I shall not die, but live, and declare the works of the LORD.
- L** The LORD indeed punished me sorely, but did not hand me over to death.
- C** Open for me the gates of righteousness; I will enter them and give thanks to the LORD.
- L** "This is the gate of the LORD; here the righteous may enter."
- C** I give thanks to you, for you have answered me and you have become my salvation.
- L** The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone.
- C** By the LORD has this been done; it is marvelous in our eyes.
- L** This is the day that the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

## SECOND READING

## Colossians 3:1-4

*Easter means new life for us as it first meant new life for Christ. His resurrection reshapes the entire focus and motivation for our lives since we are now hidden with the risen Christ in God.*

- L** A reading from Colossians, the third chapter.
- L** If you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on the things that are above, not on the things that are on earth, for you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life is revealed, then you also will be revealed with him in glory.
- L** The word of the Lord.
- C** Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*(Please stand as you are able)*

**GOSPEL**

**Matthew 28:1-10**

*Sorrow gives way to “fear and great joy” when two women are sent by an angel to proclaim the good news: Jesus is risen!*

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

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

**P** After the Sabbath, as the first day of the week was dawning, Mary Magdalene and the other Mary went to see the tomb. And suddenly there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord, descending from heaven, came and rolled back the stone and sat on it. His appearance was like lightning and his clothing white as snow. For fear of him the guards shook and became like dead men. But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy and ran to tell his disciples. Suddenly Jesus met them and said, “Greetings!” And they came to him, took hold of his feet, and worshiped him. Then Jesus said to them, “Do not be afraid; go and tell my brothers and sisters to go to Galilee; there they will see me.”

**P** The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*(Please be seated.)*

**SERMON**

**REFLECTION SONG**

**“Easter Alleluia”**

**Chancel Choir**

*(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** Risen Savior, you have conquered death and opened the gates of everlasting life. Dispel our doubts and fears and renew our faith and hope in you. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** Life-giving God, the created world rejoices in Christ’s victory over death. May all the earth be renewed by the light of Jesus’ resurrection, and may we be faithful stewards of all you have made. Merciful God,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** Sovereign God, let the nations acknowledge your reign of justice and truth. Where violence, oppression, and corruption hold sway, pour out your holy and life-giving Spirit to transform and redeem. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Gentle Shepherd, like the women at the empty tomb, many grieve or feel lost and afraid. Draw near to those who are ill or in pain (*especially*). Reveal yourself to them as the Risen One. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Faithful God, we thank you for the living hope you give us through Christ's resurrection. Bless this community, that we may boldly proclaim Christ's victory over death in word and deed. 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 all who have died and now share in the joy of your resurrection. Bring us, with them, to the unending feast of your victory. 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.



St. John's Giving page QR code

**PREFACE**

**P** It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY****ELW Page 144****THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

**P** 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.*

**SONG DURING COMMUNION**      **“You Are the Bread”**      **Chancel Choir**

## RECEIVING OF HOLY COMMUNION

**P** The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen.**

## COMMUNION BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray. 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**      **“Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen!” (vs. 1, 2, 5)**      **ELW 377**

## DISMISSAL

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

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

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

## This Week at St. John's

### Sunday, April 5, 2026

9a Easter Sunday worship

10a Property Committee meeting

10a Prayer Shawl ministry

### Monday, April 6, 2026

7p 4-H meeting

### Tuesday, April 7, 2026

9a Dominoes in Luther Hall

### Wednesday, April 8, 2026

10:30a Bible Study

### Thursday, April 9, 2026

1p Cards & dominoes in Luther Hall

3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing

### Saturday, April 11, 2026

1p Joyce Kempel's Celebration of Life

Sunday, April 12, 2026

Second Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14a, 22-32 Psalm 16

1 Peter 1:3-9 John 20:19-31

**Confirmation:** We will not meet on Easter Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> as it is important to spend our time with family and friends. 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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The Healthy Wolves backpack ministry is very thankful for your continuing financial support. Without you, we would not be able to supply weekend meals for those in need. The number of students needing help is twice the amount of last school year. You are indeed a blessing to our community.

The social ministry committee will be starting 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 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.

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### **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.

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Don't forget that we are still playing dominoes on the first Tuesday of each month at 9AM. The next date is Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Cards and dominoes are still on for the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 1PM as well. The next date is Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 1PM!

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The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of Kleenex, paper towels, body wash, shampoo & conditioner, canned fruit & vegetables, and Ramen noodles. Donations can be brought to Lena American Legion Home on Saturdays from 10-11 AM. It is located at 316 W. Main Street in Lena. All donations are welcome!



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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!

## **Women's Gathering News ...**

\*Women's Gathering has dish cloths for sale. They are \$1.50 each. Contact the church office or Lynda Palmer if you are interested.

\*Prayer Shawl Outreach will meet on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</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.

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

\*The Northwest Conference WELCA 2026 spring gathering will be at Trinity Lutheran Church in Lanark on Thursday, April 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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The Healthy Wolves committee would like to thank the people of St. John's for their generous support of this ministry. Without you and the support from the community, we would not be able to provide weekend meals for school children who are less fortunate. The committee works to make sure no child goes hungry. May you be held in God's hands and may you continue to receive God's blessings.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Lector</b>
<b>April 12</b>	Marvin & Joan Klatt	Mike & Lynda Palmer	DJ Scott
<b>Acolytes</b>		<b>Tech Support</b>	
Arianna Schoenhard		Brynlee McPeek	

## *Happy Birthday!*

*Dianne Edler Gail Westaby Calvin Block April Eberle Gwen Heimerdinger  
Wade Yarbrough Jorja Johnson Georgia Sellers Brian Schiess*

### **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!**

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There will be a celebration on life for Joyce Kempel on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup> from 1:00-3:00 PM in Luther Hall. Women's Gathering will be serving finger foods and drinks. Come and join us as we celebrate the life of Joyce and remember the good times we had with her!

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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 9<sup>th</sup>.

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**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.

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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 8<sup>th</sup>, 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.