



# St. John's Lutheran Church

"EVER LOVING, CARING ALWAYS"

• May 2026 Newsletter •

Sunday Worship and Children's Church (K-6): 9am

229 S. First St, PO Box 234  
Pearl City, IL 61062  
815-443-2215

Pastor Len Hoffmann  
Email: prshadmin@gmail.com  
www.stjohnspearlcity.org



## What do Lutherans believe about Baptism? Why do Lutherans baptize infants?

In Holy Baptism, God liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Born children of a fallen humanity, in the baptismal waters we become God's reborn children and inherit eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church, which is Christ's body. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love and obedience to God's will.

(ELCA Service of Holy Baptism (paraphrased), Lutheran Book of Worship pg. 121.)

**God's act, Jesus' command.** In this beginning of the ELCA baptismal service, we acknowledge first that **Baptism is God's act, God's initiative and God's gift.** It connects us to Jesus, the Church and eternal life. That is fundamental to ELCA Lutherans' baptismal theology. Lutherans baptize in response to Jesus directing his disciples to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). We believe that this Great Commission is the motivator for Christian Baptism, as distinct from the baptism of John the Baptist.

**The Church and infant baptism.** ELCA Lutherans believe that Baptism is the Church's entry rite. Baptism brings us into the Church, Christ's living body on earth. As the First Century church baptized whole families, including infants, so do Lutherans. In fact, usually ELCA Lutherans bring their infants to the baptismal font within the first months – even weeks – of a child's life. "The fact that circumcision (which occurred on an infant's eighth day) was replaced by Baptism in Jewish-Christian circles may indicate that infant baptism was assumed from the first" ("Baptism" by Martin Marty).

Upholding the ancient church's practice of baptizing infants, Luther argued that if, "... Baptism is made dependent on faith, we (would) scarcely ever arrive at the assurance of having sufficient faith and thus at the validity of our Baptism. ... Baptism ... points to the fact that salvation comes only from God." Sacramental baptism – Word and water – is one of the two sacraments that mark Lutheran theology and practice, the other being The Eucharist (or Holy Communion). We believe both to have been instituted by Jesus. Martin Luther defined sacraments as actions whose outward signs point to God's command and promise. They contain two things:

**an outward sign** - which in Baptism is the ancient element, the 'stuff' of life, water Luther said, "... when the Word accompanies the water, Baptism is valid, even though faith be lacking. For my faith does not constitute Baptism but receives it."

**the Word**, says Luther, is everything. Without it - and no Christian would deny this - the water is nothing and Baptism does not exist. ... Connection with the Word thus means that Baptism relates a person to the whole plan of God. ... This is why ancient baptismal commands are of considerable importance to moderns who stand in the same need. ... 'In the name of the Father' relates Baptism to the whole of creation - and its water; 'in the name of the Son' calls to mind the whole personal relation of the baptized community to God in Christ; and 'in the name of the Holy Spirit' means that God takes the initiative, turning the (Word) into Spirit and creating the church." Luther's Large Catechism (IV, 83) instructs that Baptism "overcomes and takes away sin."

Baptism is truly God's gift, drawing us into Christ's church and bestowing upon us forgiveness of sins and the promise of eternal life. In it, we are marked by the cross of Christ forever. The ELCA Service of Holy Baptism, Lutheran Book of Worship, pg. 124, includes these words spoken at your child's baptism: "... Child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever."

(source is info@elca.org)

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS!!**

**Sunday School:** We continue to meet until Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup> at which time we will be off for the summer. Sunday School will resume on Rally Sunday which is September 13<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 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.



The Stephenson County Veterans Pantry in Lena is in need of paper towels, shampoo, conditioner, mouthwash, cans of fruit, cans of chicken, tuna, and ham. 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!

**The Grace Meal committee is always looking for people to help prepare and serve the monthly meals! If you think that this is something you could commit to, talk to Marge Roiland, Lois Hunsaker, or Kris Eden! We meet the first Sunday of the month to discuss the upcoming meals! You don't have to know any recipes—just be able to help prepare and serve. Thanks.**



Don't forget that everyone is welcome to come to dominoes on the first Tuesday of every month from 9AM to Noon. The next one will be May 5<sup>th</sup>. Invite others! Cards and dominoes are played on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 1:00-3:30 PM as well. The next dates for that will be May 14<sup>th</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>!

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



Make plans to be with us on Sunday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. The No Worries Band will be providing special music that Sunday!! Also, make plans to be with us on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 17<sup>th</sup> as well!!



Women's Gathering invites the congregation/guests to Eat Out Together on Sunday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>. 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 26<sup>th</sup>.



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

If you would like to give to St. John's using a debit or credit card, use this QR code to make a donation. This is a one-time donation, but if you would like to set up a recurring donation to St. John's from your checking or saving account, there is a form for this in the office that you can fill out to do that. Thank you for supporting the ministries of St. John's!



St. John's Giving page QR code

## Confirmation News. . .

**Confirmation:** May 3<sup>rd</sup> is our last meeting until Rally Sunday on September 13<sup>th</sup> when we have our informational meeting after the church service upstairs in the Youth Room. Have a great summer and I will see all of you in church. If you have any questions, please contact Shawn Kuhlemeier.



<b>Date</b>	<b>Acolytes</b>	<b>Tech Support</b>
<b>May 3</b>	Diem Gronewold	Arianna Schoenhard
<b>May 10</b>	Cara Brinkmeier	Wade Sheffey
<b>May 17</b>	Diem Gronewold	Jonah Schubert
<b>May 24</b>	Cara Brinkmeier	Diem Gronewold
<b>May 31</b>	Brayden Heimerdinger	Porter Freedlund

If you can not help when you are scheduled, please email the church office of who your replacement is. Thank you!  
(prshadmin@gmail.com)

## ***Duties of the Church for May 2026***

<b>Date</b>	<b>Greeters</b>	<b>Ushers</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Worship Assistant</b>
<b>May 3</b>	Josh & Alison Hille	Randy & Sandy Faust	DJ Scott	Shawn Kuhlemeier
<b>May 10</b>	Ron & Kay DePrisco	Jay & Brianne Freedlund family	Deb Bremmer	DJ Scott
<b>May 17</b>	Doris Kness	Jayson & Kim Williams family	Lynda Palmer	Andrew Gronewold
<b>May 24</b>	Bonnie Dittmar	Larry & Kathy Albrecht	Marion Eden	Kris Eden
<b>May 31</b>	Kathy Williams	Brian Brudi	Brandon Scharping	Karen Bremmer

**Organist:** Karen Bremmer/Kathy Hillmer

**Counters:** Cindy Heimerdinger and Mike Palmer

## **Men's Breakfast. . .**

The Men's Breakfast is on the first Wednesday of the month, The next two are May 6<sup>th</sup> and June 3<sup>rd</sup>! They are meeting at The Beltline Cafe in Freeport at 7:30 AM. See you there!



## **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, Hendrix Feld, Craig Lindquist, Jim Heimerdinger, Cathy Hoffmann, Lois Hunsaker, 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 17<sup>th</sup>. To reserve your meals for that day, contact St. John's Lutheran Church by Thursday May 14<sup>th</sup> (815-443-2215). Meals can be picked up between 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. on the 17<sup>th</sup>. 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!**



Have you ever wondered what goes on at the Church Council meetings each month? All the papers and forms discussed at each month's meeting are posted on the bulletin board right outside of Luther Hall! Check it out and ask questions if you have them.

## **Worship Services. . .**

Worship services will continue to be held at St. John's in our sanctuary and live on Facebook. You are welcome to stop at the church on Friday or Saturday before worship and pick up a bulletin. The worship service online will be a complete service. The upcoming bulletin and the past three weeks of bulletins and announcements are now online at <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/bulletins-sermons>.

**If you have a Facebook Account:** You will be accessing the church's Facebook at St. John's Lutheran Church. (You will see the 125th Anniversary Quilt.) **If you Don't have a Facebook Account:** You may access the livestream via the St. John's website at [www.StJohnsPearlCity.org](http://www.StJohnsPearlCity.org). On the top right of the website has our Facebook page icon and you may click on it there.

## **Church Giving. . .**

The church's ability to do ministry is dependent upon your regular gifts. St. John's is able to continue in the mission of the Church because of your faithfulness and financial commitment. While you may be joining us from worship at home, you can give online here: <http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org/giving> Other easy ways to give can also be found on our website by clicking on the GIVING tab.

*"We love because he first loved us." 1 John 4:19*



## Financial Committee Report . . .

**Both the Current Fund and the Improvement Fund finished 2025 on a positive note with income exceeding expenses, and both funds are in good status heading into 2026. Thank you to the congregation for your generous giving and your continued support of St. John's**

### Income vs Expense Comparison by Month

Current Fund	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
Income	11,858.77	12,461.76	9,888.77										34,209.30
Expense	12,131.75	11,259.97	11,751.12										35,142.84
Difference	-272.98	1,201.79	-1,862.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-933.54
<b>Improvement</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	3,281.00	820.00	820.00										4,921.00
Expense	747.50	399.18	88.99										1,235.67
Difference	2,533.50	420.82	731.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,685.33
<b>Grace Meal</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	265.00	165.55	932.41										1,362.96
Expense	953.99	969.52	121.45										2,044.96
Difference	-688.99	-803.97	810.96	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-682.00
<b>Healthy Wolves</b>	<b>Jan</b>	<b>Feb</b>	<b>Mar</b>	<b>Apr</b>	<b>May</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>Aug</b>	<b>Sept</b>	<b>Oct</b>	<b>Nov</b>	<b>Dec</b>	<b>Total</b>
Income	330.00	430.00	730.00										1,490.00
Expense	784.08	1,018.83	485.79										2,288.70
Difference	-454.08	-588.83	244.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	-798.70

## Our Friends at Home . .

No one likes to be inside all the time. However we have many friends and members who are unable to attend services or activities with us. Please take a few moments to remember them by sending a small note, or a phone call. Let them know we are thinking of them. It only takes a few moments to brighten up someone's day. Contact the office at 815-443-2215 or email at prshadmin@gmail.com for address info.

Richard Brinkmeier

Ron Fluegel

Connie Melville

Carol Byers

Janis Kampmeier

Lori Miller

Verda Werkheiser

Louise Cuccio

Gina Boop

Donna Freedlund

During the monthly synod call committee zoom meeting, we met our new steward of Transitions. Her name is Pastor Jana (pronounced Yanah) Howson. Each of us gave her a brief synopsis of our congregation and where we are at in the call process. This was the entirety of the meeting as there were quite a few people attending. Pastor Jana is excited to step into her new position. Please pray for her as she starts her call as Steward of Transitions.

**Call  
Committee  
Update**



I want to thank our Chancel Choir for their beautiful singing this year! This group is so dedicated, learns the songs quickly, and harmonize well with each other. The choir adds so much joy to our church service!! A big thank you to Sandy Scott for being our wonderful accompanist! She is so talented and we really appreciate her so much! Thanks, Chancel Choir for another year of praising our Lord! I hope to see even more choir members next Fall. Kathy Hillmer—director

## Women's Gathering Ministries . .

**Mother Hubbard's Cupboard** – bring BABY WIPES

**Food Pantry donations:** Mayonnaise and Salad Dressing

**Starting the EMAIL Prayer Chain:** To start the email prayer chain, contact Karen Bremmer at [\(815 443 2478\)](tel:8154432478) or [815 821 4698](tel:8158214698)) or email at [rkbremmer@gmail.com](mailto:rkbremmer@gmail.com) You may also contact the church office at [815 443-2215](tel:8154432215) (please leave a message as they are checked after hours, etc.) or email at [prshadmin@gmail.com](mailto:prshadmin@gmail.com). If you are not receiving the Prayer Chain email and would like to be included, please contact the church office.

\*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, May 19<sup>th</sup> at Route 20 Bar & Grill. Please sign up on the bulletin board. Car pooling will be set up. Coffee at 10:00 AM, Bible study from 10:10-11:10 led by Kathy Hillmer, and at 11:00 AM we will order lunch from the menu.

\*We will be distributing the high school graduate quilts at the May 17<sup>th</sup> worship service. A reception will follow in Luther Hall.

\*Thank you to Kris Eden, Marge Roiland, Kathy Hillmer, Lynda Palmer, and Karen Bremmer who spent three hours cleaning the kitchen, pantry, and closet on April 28<sup>th</sup> prior to the bible study. They did a great job! Thank you to Lynda Palmer and Karen Bremmer for the refreshments.


\*Thank you to those who helped serve at the celebration of life for Joyce Kempel and who donated cookies on April 11<sup>th</sup>.

\*The 13<sup>th</sup> Triennial Women of the ELCA Convention at Des Moines, IA will be on July 16-19. Registration is \$525 plus lodging. The deadline to register is June 21<sup>st</sup>. St. John's has a scholarship available if you are interested.

\*Women's Gathering will be hosting the graduation reception on Sunday, May 17<sup>th</sup> after the worship service for graduates Kameron Downs and Brandon Hille. Quilts were made by Lynda Palmer.

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.



 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.

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.



### **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. If you would like to help back the backpacks, the group meets downstairs in the Healthy Wolves room in the new basement every Thursday at 3:15 PM! **Items of particular need are individually wrapped full size bars of soap, or monetary donations?**

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The Kids Klub is still going strong!! Join us for a monthly adventure designed for Kindergarten through 5<sup>th</sup> grade students. The program is supported by Pearl City area churches, offers a safe and supportive environment where your child can explore, make new friends, and learn valuable life skills. From games and crafts to Bible study and snacks. Kids Klub has something for everyone. It is free of charge and open to all children in the community. The next meeting is May 20<sup>th</sup> from 3:15-5:00 PM at St. John's. For more information or to register your child, please contact Pastor Roger Bronkema at [rbronkema18@gmail.com](mailto:rbronkema18@gmail.com) or at 815-291-6261.



# May 2026

See an updated and complete calendar throughout the month at [www.stjohnspearlcity.org](http://www.stjohnspearlcity.org)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>May 3</b> 9a Worship 10a Grace Meal meeting 10a Property meeting 10a Prayer Shawl ministry 10a Confirmation Class 11:30a Eating Out Together 6p Baccalaureate at Zion	<b>4</b> 7p 4-H meeting	<b>5</b> 9a Dominoes	<b>6</b> 7:30a Men's Breakfast 9:30a Worship & Music Committee meeting	<b>7</b> 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9a Worship 10a Stewardship/Outreach meeting 10a Memorial/Finance meeting 6p 4-H Meeting	<b>11</b> 5:30p Girl Scout meeting 6p American Legion Auxiliary meeting	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 1p Cards & Dominoes 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 8a Grace Meal prep
<b>17</b> 9a Worship (Graduation) 10:30a Grace Meal	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 10a Women's Gathering meeting at 5:30p Girl Scout meeting	<b>20</b> 3:15p Kids Klub Meeting 7p Council meeting	<b>21</b> 3:15p Healthy Wolves backpack packing	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9a Worship (Pentecost)	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	<b>28</b> 1p Cards & Dominoes 6p Cub Scout meeting	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9a Worship	<b>June 1</b>	<b>2</b> 9a Dominoes	<b>3</b> 7:30a Men's Breakfast	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

## May Birthdays

4	Kendra Hillmer	16	Khristine Block	30	Theresa Albers
5	Chris Knoup	18	Colt Kempel		Jennifer Elliot
7	Mikayla Palmer	19	Tate Williams	31	Fred Mather
	Colton Gronewold	20	Jim Heimerdinger		Kay DePrisco
8	Adam Ditzler	21	Kim Williams		
	Erica (Albrecht) Schubert	23	Noah Shatek		
	Brinkley Knoup	24	Tara Allind		
9	Lindsay Hass	27	Carmen Bremmer		
10	Brogan Mitchell		Georgie Yarbrough		
11	Marge Roiland		Heidi Erbsen-Poldre		
12	Alison Hille		Coe Kempel		
	Jim Robinson		Devin Schiess		
13	Ashley Gronewold	29	Ross Bremmer		