

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Welcome

Presentation: Robin Jameson/Jubilee Bible Camp*

Hymn: "And Can It Be?"

Scripture reading: Isaiah 40:3-8

Luke 3:1-6

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "Hallelujah for the Cross"

"The Power of the Cross"

"The New Doxology"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: Series: "Truths to Consider"

"Part Three: Consider One Holy Passion"

Luke 3

Benediction

Hymn: "Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart"

Postlude

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\*Door Offering for Jubilee Bible Camp

Upcoming Events:

\*The Adult Bible Study and All Life Groups will not be meeting during Lent. They will resume the week after Easter.

**Today:** Easter Choir practice following the service in the LL

Tu: 6:30pm Deacons/Trustees Mtg, 7:30pm Council Mtg.

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's  
9am-2pm Quilting  
6:30pm BLAST, JAM  
6:30pm **Lenten Service** in the lower level (with Youth Group)

Th: 9:30am Ladies Bible Study

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
5-7pm Food Pantry

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship  
9am Sunday School  
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21  
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Lenten Schedule

- Lenten Services are being held every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the lower level. The theme this year will be "Keeping Near the Cross". The Adult Bible Study and the Life Groups will not meet from February 17th through Good Friday. They will resume on April 7th.
- There will be an **Easter Pageant** presented by our Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, March 29th during the Worship Service at 10am. **Parents**, there will be a rehearsal on March 28th from 9:30-11:00am for all grade 8 and under.
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30pm on April 2nd
- Good Friday Service at 6:30pm on April 3rd
- Easter Sunday—No Sunday School. Worship Service at 10am

- Thursday, March 19th, 7pm: **FLBC Concert Choir** at Bethlehem Lutheran in Morris. They are still looking for housing for choir members. This would include taking them home after the concert, providing a place to sleep, and breakfast on Friday morning, then brining them back to the pick-up location. For details, please contact Bethlehem’s office at 815-942-1145.
- **Fill a Lunch, Fill a heart!** The children’s ministry is hosting a Lunchable donation for our food pantry kids! Please bring Lunchables to church during the month of March before church on Sundays and Wednesday nights.
Main donation item: Lunchables!
Also, can bring fruit snacks, fruit roll ups, dessert like/individually wrapped snacks.
Please drop items off in the plastic bin in the FLC lobby.
- **Love Thy Neighbor Conference:** March 14th & 15th at West Lisbon Church. See the bulletin board for more details or contact the West Lisbon church at 815-736-6331.
- **Spring Clean-up Day:** March 21st at the church, cemetery, and parsonage. Save the date and plan to bring gloves, rakes, buckets, etc., to help tidy the grounds for a new season. There will be a task list posted soon. March 28th will be the backup date if we need to reschedule.
- A hearty **Thank You** to *Everyone* who has worked so diligently through the very busy few weeks that we have had here at church! From all of the ladies who worked so tirelessly in the kitchen for all of the funeral luncheons, to the Helmar “Muscle” group that set up and took down tables and chairs for the meals and the CCWM banquet, to the custodians (especially Jean) who put in the extra time to keep the building looking great—Your hard work, faithfulness, organization, and compassion are a blessing! To God be the glory!
- The door offering for Ellie Gallo was \$2,156.00



March 8, 2026
Series: Truths to Consider
“Consider One Holy Passion”
Luke 3

John was a unique person. We can learn from his life and ministry so that he becomes an example to us. He was an example of passion for God and the things of God.

I. He had a _____ v. 2

II. He had a _____ vv. 19,20

III. He had a _____ v. 16

March 8, 2026

Why, God?

What a gut-wrenching, soul-consuming question that tragedy and loss wring from our lips. It is a question the Scriptures also know well.

“Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble?” (Psalm 10:1) “How long, O LORD, will you forget me forever? How long will you hide your face from me?” (Psalm 13:1) “Awake! Why are you sleeping, O Lord? Rouse yourself! Do not reject us forever! Why do you hide your face? Why do you forget our affliction and oppression?” (Psalm 44:23)

However, what if God were to answer that question right now? Would that really meet our need?

One of my children often asks me “why” about decisions she does not like. I remember my own frustration at adults not explaining themselves, and so I often answer her questions. I lay out the facts. I show the logic connecting things one to another. I use the Socratic method so that each fact and each logical step she has acknowledged herself.

The most common outcome? She is still unsatisfied. Sometimes she can’t fully grasp the answer, even if she could repeat it; but even when she does understand it, the problem is that she still feels emotional pain, and the rationality of the decision doesn’t fix that. You know when she is the happiest with a bad situation? When she trusted me to make the most of it.

God does not typically answer the “why” questions in the Scriptures, but He *does answer* His peoples’ cries with their deepest needs.

What we need is not specific answers, but assurance that God loves us, cares for us, and is near. We need confidence in the character of God. We find this in Christ. While we were yet sinners, enemies of God, Christ died for us. “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32). Because of this, we have confidence that God “is near to the broken hearted and saves the crushed in spirit” (Psalm 34:18). And behold, He is coming, and He will make all things new. This is most certainly true.

Mr. David J. R. Olson
AFLC Coordinating Committee
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

AFLC Promotion for March is the General Fund

Helmar Lutheran Church

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Helmar exists to be a:

***Soul-Winning, Disciple-Making,
Burden-Bearing Church***

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

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Children’s Ministry Director- Kristen Mathre

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Youth Directors-Jared & Kynsey Mathre

815-483-6616 Email helmaryouth@gmail.com

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Secretary—Stacy Christian 815-201-3789

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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

3-8-2026

Hide God’s Word in your Heart

“Oh give thanks to the LORD, call upon His name; Make known His deeds among the peoples.”

Psalm 105:1