

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, August 16th, 2026
Eleventh Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Since Jesus Came into My Heart"

Scripture reading: Philippians 1:1-11

Mark 8:31-38

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: Autumn Sucher

Praise Team: "Days of Elijah"

"Behold Our God"

"Only a Holy God"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Calling Each Other Higher"

Benediction

Hymn: "Whiter than Snow"

Postlude

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Please Note: Pastor Lombardo will be out of the office August 11th-31st.

The Door Offering for Church Friends was \$902.00.

Upcoming Events:

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's  
6:30pm Youth BYBS at Jacob & Kristen Mathre's

Fri: No Ladies Prayer Group in August

Sun: 10am Worship service—Pastor Jon Benson

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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Life Groups will resume the week of September 13th. The series will be "Ecclesiastes—Life is Worth Living". Sign-up sheets are available at the Welcome Center. We are still in need of a host for the Yorkville area. Please see Dave Christian for more information. (815) 474-0440



August 16th, 2026

“Calling Each Other Higher”

August 16, 2026

When you think about joy, you might be reminded of something that made you really happy. It could have been the championship won by your favorite sports team or athlete. It could have been your trip to an amazingly beautiful natural wonder. It could have been a major family event such as your engagement or the birth of your first grandchild. All of these things give us a burst of joy that far exceeds our ordinary daily experience. These are mountaintop highs!

“Rejoice evermore,” says 1 Thessalonians 5:16. This Bible verse redirects our perspective from what gives us the highest and greatest thrill to what makes us glad for the longest time and yields the most enduring joy. Paul does not tell us to rejoice intensely or enthusiastically, but continually and always. He surely believes that enduring joy is possible for God’s people. Paul does not insist that this lasting joy for God’s people will always be intense or overwhelming. It may be more steady and modest. But it will last.

The Bible teaching on the Christian’s joy is a Gospel message. This means that it is a promise, not a demand. It is news to be announced rather than a law to be enforced. When we read this statement in the Bible—rejoice evermore—God is offering and giving us a good and perfect Gift. That gift is the enduring joy of Jesus Christ as a perfect Savior and the complete forgiveness of all our sins through faith in Him. It also includes the scriptural promises of delightful fellowship in the body of Christ, gladness at the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit, and the inexpressible bliss awaiting us in our eternal, heavenly home.

When we have sinned grievously and broken God’s heart, the good news of forgiveness in Jesus will give us a powerful, joyful thrill—uplifting and strong. But even greater than the immediate thrill is the lasting certainty. As many times as we need to return to Jesus in brokenness and repentance, exactly that many times will Jesus receive back His sinful children and assure them that His death and resurrection always give salvation.

Through failure and temptation, repentance and return, renewed faith and difficult obedience, the joy of the Lord endures. Thanks be to God.

Dr. Stephen Mundfrom
AFLC Schools Faculty
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for August is the Seminary

Helmar Lutheran Church

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***Helmar exists to be a:
Soul-Winning, Disciple-Making,
Burden-Bearing Church***

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

217-621-2949 Email scbardo64@gmail.com

Children’s Ministry Director- Kristen Mathre

815-762-5320 Email helmarkids@gmail.com

Youth Ministry

Email helmaryouth@gmail.com

Music Director-Lisa Greven

815-508-1403 Email matthewgreven@hotmail.com

Secretary—Stacy Christian 815-201-3789 (call or text)

Email helmarlutheran@gmail.com

Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

8-16-2026

Hide God’s Word in your Heart

“And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in real knowledge and all discernment, so that you may approve the things that are excellent, in order to be sincere and blameless until the day of Christ; having been filled with the fruit of righteousness which comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.”

Philippians 1:9-11