

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, November 23, 2025

Prelude*
Welcome
Hymn: "Give Thanks"
Scripture reading: Ephesians 2:1-7
I Peter 2:21-25
Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed
Baptism
Special Music: "I'm in Love with the King"
Praise Team: "Shout to the Lord"
"Jesus, Thank You"
"Goodness of God"
Children's Church dismissed
Sermon: "Set Free"
Colossians 2:11-15
Benediction
Hymn: "Victory in Jesus"
Postlude

*Portions of today's prelude are from the music library of Diane Oram, former long-time organist/pianist at Helmar. Diane has retired from church music and generously donated dozens and dozens of invaluable music books to Helmar. We are so appreciative of this overwhelming gift from our dear sister in the Lord.

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Baptism of  
Daisy Susan Moderhack  
Date of Birth: May 8, 2025  
Parents: Mike and Payton Moderhack  
Grandparents: Ron and Sue Moderhack, Fran and Sherry Klaas  
Siblings: Jaxon and Violet  
Sponsors: Aiden and Casey Benton  
"Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."  
Luke 18:16

Upcoming Events:

Today: 4pm Choir practice in the lower level

Mon: 3-5pm Food Pantry

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle  
6:30pm Thanksgiving Eve service

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship  
9:00 Sunday School  
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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- We will be **decorating for the Christmas season** on Saturday, November 29th at 9am. Come join us as we begin to prepare our hearts and our church to receive our King!
  - There will be a **door offering** for the shipping costs for our Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes following the worship service on November 30th.
  - We are looking for a member of the church to oversee the group that meets on **Thursday nights to play basketball**. For details, please see one of the trustees.
  - All of the women of Helmar, with their daughters, are invited to the DWWC Christmas Dinner. We plan to start Advent out right, with the blessings of joining together and setting our hearts and minds' focus on the real meaning of the season. Our event is Monday, December 1st, at 6pm in the lower level. We will enjoy seasonal songs and a devotional by Nancy Christian. Cynthia Younce will be speaking on "Be Still and Know That I Am God". Ladies are asked to bring a dish to share and the committee will provide chicken. Please add your name and the number attending to the sign up sheet in the FLC. This helps the serving committee to provide adequate seating and meat for all. You are encouraged to invite a friend. Sign ups are available at the Welcome Center.

## **Our Active Military Service Members:**

- Lt. Col. Jeff Moore is the son of Cheryl Durland. He says “I am still active duty, serving for 21 years now. No prayer requests now—I have a nice desk job that does not deploy.”
- PFC Avery Davison has completed Airborne training and expects to serve out the rest of his enlistment at Fort Eustis. He is the grandson of Ron and Cheryl Mathre.
- TSgt. Terry Frank is serving in the Air Force Reserves as a data analyst for the Air Refueling Wing at Grissom. He has 5 years remaining and is thankful for all of the prayers over the last 15 years. Terry is the SiL of Steve and Kristy Bunge (Megan’s husband).

Regarding **Hope of the World- Nigerian Mission!** The Bible says in Ecclesiastes 3:1 that there is an appointed time for everything, and there is a time for every event under heaven. We received word this month from Nigeria that Pastor Alone Bassey has gone home to be with the Lord that he faithfully served for many years. We also received word that the church ministry we have supported for many years is now being overseen by the Lutheran Church of Nigeria. We praise God for the open doors God has given us for ministry in Nigeria. We look back with grateful hearts at God's work through Pastor Blegen, (the founder of this ministry), Pastor Bassey and many faithful workers in Nigeria, as well as faithful supporters here in the US. To God be the glory! Eternity will reveal the fruit of these labors.

With these developments, the current board (Pastor Jeff Swanson, President/Acting Director, Annetta Dale, secretary and Myrtle Duvick, Treasurer) have made the decision that this will be the last month of our support and involvement in Nigeria. The monies in the bank account will be wired by the end of November.



**November 23, 2025**  
**“Set Free!”**  
**Colossians 2:11-15**

Paul has been writing concerning this truth: Jesus + nothing=everything. Believers are complete in Him. Now Paul tell us that since we are complete in Christ, we have been set free!

I. Set Free from the \_\_\_\_\_ v.13a

II. Set Free from the \_\_\_\_\_ v. 13b

III. Set Free from the \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 14,15

November 23, 2025

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son.” These familiar words of John 3:16 remind us that we do indeed have a giving God. How unfortunate that so often we give so little thought to the gifts God gives to us. As you got up this morning, did you stop to thank God for giving you this day to live? Today is a gift from God to be enjoyed.

In confirmation as we study the First Article of the Apostles’ Creed in Luther’s Small Catechism, we are reminded of the many things that our heavenly Father gives us. In answer to the question of what it means to “believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,” we respond, “I believe that God has created me and all that exists; that He has given and still preserves to me my body and soul, my eyes and ears, and all my members, my reason and all the powers of my soul, together with food and clothing, home and family, and all my property; that He daily provides abundantly for all the needs of my life, protects me from all danger, and guards and keeps me from all evil; and that He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me; for all of which I am in duty bound to thank, praise, serve, and obey Him. This is most certainly true.”

As we have just read, “He does this purely out of fatherly and divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me,” thus demonstrating that He richly gives. The question is often asked, “Why does God so richly bestow these gifts on us who are so unworthy?” It is because in addition to being holy and just, God is love. It is a part of His nature to be loving and merciful. In Romans 5:8 we are reminded of the extent to which God goes in showing us His love: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

God demonstrated His love to that extent so that we might be able to enjoy to the fullest all the other gifts that He gives us. Remember the words of Jesus in John 10:10, “I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.” Remember that Jesus—His life, death, and resurrection—is the demonstration of how richly God gives to us so that we might enjoy all things, both now and into eternity

Written by Pr. Jon Benson, excerpt from *Threads of Grace* (Minneapolis, MN: Ambassador Publications, 2012), 131-132.

AFLC Promotion for November is the H.I.S. 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**

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**Music Director-Lisa Greven**

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**Secretary—Stacy Christian 815-201-3789**

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### **Spiritual Disciplines Sheet**

**11-23-25**

### **Hide God’s Word in your Heart**

“but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through  
our Lord Jesus Christ.”  
I Corinthians 15:57