

July 14, 2024

*For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves,
it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast.*
Ephesians 2:8-9

One of the best things about attending young children's birthday parties is to watch them open gifts from family and friends. The excitement and joy on the faces of the children express a feeling of receiving something of true value to them. They didn't work for it. They didn't exchange money or other possessions for the present. They simply received it, knowing it was given to them out of love.

The Apostle Paul writes in Ephesians 2:8-9 about a gift far surpassing any earthly gift we can give or receive. He states, "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast." These verses make a great effort to point out that salvation is a free gift and "not from yourselves." Paul wanted to be clear that salvation is no result of our own works but an outpouring of God's love.

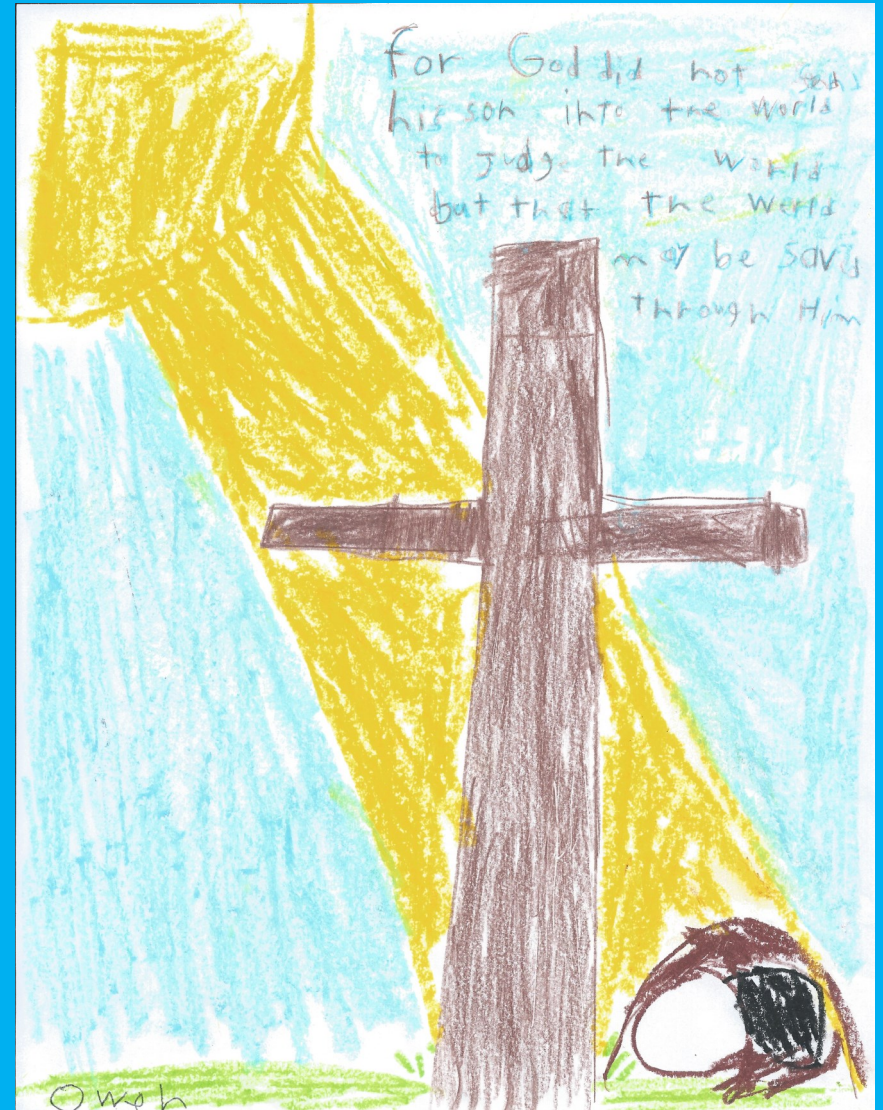
It can be difficult sometimes to accept a gift, knowing you didn't do anything to deserve it, or even thinking you need to repay the gift of generosity in some way in the future. However, putting our faith in Christ to receive this gift is the very essence of what it means to be a believer. Trusting in Him to save us from our sin and provide the only way to eternal life sums up the Christian faith. Martin Luther wrote, "If you have a true faith that Christ is your Saviour, then at once you have a gracious God, for faith leads you in and opens up God's heart and will, that you should see pure grace and overflowing love." Salvation by faith in Christ is the wonderful gift received without gift or obligation. It is the ultimate gift given to humanity from God that surpasses our understanding and allows us to experience God's mercy and love.

Receiving such a valuable gift should prompt and inspire us to communicate this great gift to others. God desires us to share this good news with those we encounter every day. In humility and gratitude for the transformative power of faith and the gift of salvation, Christians can spread God's message of Christ's work on the cross, in order that others might enjoy this gift not earned through any merit of our own.

Mr. Larry S. Myhrer
FLBCS VP of Operations/CFO
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for July is the Free Lutheran Bible College

Bulletin art by Owen Osmond



Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, July 14, 2024
Seventh Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "He Has Made Me Glad"

Scripture reading: Galatians 6:6-10

I John 2:28,29

VBS presentation

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "Yet Not I, But Christ In Me"

"Same God"

"Lord, I Need You"

Sermon: "A Little Big Man"

III John 1:9,10

Benediction

Hymn: "Take the Name of Jesus with You"

Postlude

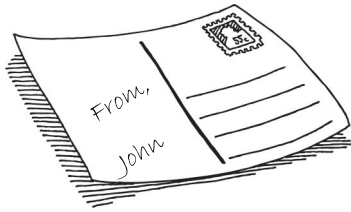
Wed. 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's

Sun: 9:30am Fellowship
10am Worship **in the FLC**
6:30pm GriefShare

Welcome and thank you for attending our church service today. If you are new to Helmar and are interested in finding out more about us, please stop at the Welcome Center and talk with Marlon and Sheila. We have a gift bag for you.

There will be no **Children's Church** during the month of July.

The door offering total for the Larsons was \$1456.00.



July 14, 2024
Postcards from John
“A Little Big Man”
III John 1:9,10

We meet a man in this text with selfish ambition. He desired great things for himself. His name: Diotrephes. He is described as someone who “loves to be first” (v.9). This kind of attitude can be very detrimental to life in the church. Why did John speak of this man’s sinful ambition? The answer is in Diotrephes’ actions.

I. He was _____ v. 10a

II. He was _____ v. 10b

III. He was _____ v. 10c

IV. He was _____ v. 10d

Helmar Lutheran Church

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website: helmarlutheranchurch.com

Guest Wifi password: Helmar21

Helmar exists to be a:

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

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

217-621-2949 Email scbardo64@gmail.com

Pastor—Alex Woodworth

630-414-6460 Email pr.alex.woodworth@gmail.com

Children’s Ministry Director- Kristen Mathre

815-762-5320 Email helmarkids@gmail.com

Music Director-Treva Mathre

Email treva.mathre@aol.com 815-600-4469

Secretary—Stacy Christian 630-251-6733

Email helmarlutheran@gmail.com

The Helmarpalooza committee is still looking to raise about \$18 thousand dollars to cover expenses. A generous matching gift has been offered up to \$20 thousand. Please prayerfully consider how the Lord might be leading you to contribute in this area.

Volunteer sign up sheets are available today. You can also stop by the lobby for yard signs and flyers to hand out to friends and neighbors.