

**Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL**

Sunday, August 2nd, 2026
Ninth Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: “Open My Eyes the I May See”

Scripture reading: Psalm 83:1,2

Hebrews 4: 14-16

Confession of Faith: Apostle’s Creed

Communion

Praise Team: “Before the Throne of God Above”

“Hymn of Heaven”

“The Heart of Worship”

Sermon Series: “Spiritual Warfare—It’s Real!”

Part Four: ”Prayer: God’s All in All

Ephesians 6:18-20

Benediction

Hymn: “The Lord’s Prayer”

Postlude

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The door offering for the Kittelsons was \$1829.

Upcoming Events:

Mon: 6pm Prayer Walk  
7pm Meeting for Helmarpalooza Volunteers

Wed: 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Southern Belle’s  
6:30pm Youth BYBS at the Benjamin’s

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
All Day Setup for Helmarpalooza

Sat: HELMARPALOOZA!

Sun: 10am Worship service—sermon text: I John 1:1-4

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 hosts for the Yorkville area. Please see Dave Christian for more information. (815) 474-0440



August 2nd, 2026

**“Prayer—God’s All in All”
Ephesians 6:18-20**

In spiritual warfare, prayer is essential. Prayer connects us with the Lord and His victory over the agents of darkness. We are too weak to battle the Enemy alone. We fight best on our knees in prayer, calling on our mighty God for His overcoming strength.

Please note these features of prayer from the text:

I. It is _____ prayer v. 18a

II. It is at _____ v. 18b

III. It is _____ v. 18c

IV. It is _____ vv. 18d-20

August 2, 2026

I grew up with the basic “confirmation” definition of grace and mercy. Grace is getting what you don’t deserve (in a positive sense), and mercy is not getting what you do deserve (in a negative sense).

I think the concept of grace can be fairly easy to understand for many of us who are gift givers. It is a natural way for me to express love by giving gifts. Gift giving can be a way of expressing thanks, but it can also simply be a way of providing someone with enjoyment. I delight in choosing a gift that will make someone happy in just the right way.

Mercy, however, is a different beast altogether. Mercy is easy to clamor for when we’re in need of it, but it is incredibly hard to dole out when we are the offended party. Our sense of righteous indignation often gets in the way of our mercy.

Mercy and forgiveness are the topics of Jesus’ parable in Matthew 18:21-35. A certain king forgives an unfathomable amount of money to a servant. The servant owed him 10,000 talents, and a talent was equivalent to twenty years’ worth of wages for a laborer. You can do the math if you choose.

As the servant begged the king to give him even an opportunity to pay him back, the king chose simply to forgive the debt. He was merciful and simply sent the servant on his way.

The servant, in turn, encountered someone who owed him money. This debt of a hundred denarii (a denarii was the equivalent of a day’s wage) was significant, but not insurmountable. Rather than extend the servant the same mercy he received from the king, the first servant physically accosted the debtor and had him thrown into prison.

Jesus’ parable ends with the king discovering the situation, reversing his decision, and throwing the first servant into prison. “You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?” (Matthew 18:32-33).

A lack of mercy on our part betrays a lack of understanding of the Gospel. We do not deserve the forgiveness Christ won for us on the cross. God did not need to send Him to take our place. But He did, and our salvation and our eternities are bound up in His mercy.

May we all be found extending that mercy to those who have offended us.

Dr. Jason Gudim
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

8-2-2026

Hide God’s Word in your Heart

“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks;
for this is God’s will for you in Christ Jesus.”

I Thessalonians 5:16-18