

**Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL**

Sunday, July 5th, 2026
Fifth Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Opening Hymn: “America the Beautiful”

Welcome

Hymn: “My Country ‘Tis of Thee”

Scripture reading: Psalm 61:1-4

Psalm 62: 5-8

Confession of Faith: The Apostle’s Creed

Communion

Praise Team: “Christus Victor”

“Evidence”

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Children’s Church dismissed

Sermon Series: “The Goodness of God 250”

Part Five: “A Tower Strong”

Proverbs 18:10-12

Benediction

Hymn: “Battle Hymn of the Republic”

Postlude

~~~~~

There will be a brief congregational meeting following the service to vote on air conditioning repairs for the FLC lobby.

Upcoming Events:

**Today:** 8pm “I Love America” Choir concert at the Newark High School Soccer field (please note location change). Bring your lawn chairs. Fireworks to follow.

M-F: 9am-Noon “Emerald Crossing” VBS

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

Th: 7pm VBS Program

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
Noon VBS Picnic  
3-5pm Food Pantry

Sun: 9:30am Fellowship  
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

~~~~~

Helmarpalooza is just around the corner! Where are you volunteering? Signup sheets are at the Welcome center.

Registration is open for the **Family and Youth Bible Camp!** July 19-23rd at Cedar Lake, Indiana. Keynote speaker is Pastor Steve Larson, and Don Davidson and Jim Osmond are leading adult Bible studies this year. If you are a current HLC member, Helmar will help send you to camp. Reach out to Kristen or Jacob Mathre for more details.

Register at <https://www.fybiblecamp.com/>

We are beginning to collect items for our **Operation Christmas Child** shoeboxes. Please check the bulletin board for a list of items needed.

Life Groups will resume the week of September 13th. The series will be “Ecclesiastes—life is worth living”. Keep an eye out for sign up sheets coming soon.



July 5th, 2026

**“A Tower Strong”
Proverbs 18:10-12**

As we celebrate the 250th birthday of our nation, we focus on the Judeo-Christian heritage of our country. Samuel Adams (1722-1803), the patriarch of liberty, was a devoted follower of Jesus Christ. One writer says that his zeal came from his faith. Proverbs 18:10 was an important verse to him and he encouraged others with it! Let’s look at the section in chapter 18:10-12 as we consider this question: Where is the place of safety and security?

I. Not in _____ v. 11

II. Not in _____ v. 12

III. But in the Name of the _____ v. 10

July 5, 2026

A great experiment began 250 years ago. It was an experiment in freedom. At that time the expected norm was that nations needed to be ruled by monarchs or some type of authoritarian regime. Giving the common people the freedom to decide on their rulers seemed to be an invitation to chaos. Government by the people wouldn't work.

On July 4, 1776, the thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain. They believed, "Governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed." They asserted that the government needed to respect the authority of the governed. They longed for freedom.

Nearly 100 years later, in 1874, Georg Sverdrup came to the United States. He dreamed of a "free church in a free land." He believed the political freedoms that existed in America provided the best environment to plant and nurture free congregations. His dream of free congregations led to the beginning of the Lutheran Free Church in 1897, followed by the birth of the Association of Free Lutheran Congregation in 1962.

The free church movement is an experiment in congregational freedom. As many questioned whether people could govern themselves, so also many question whether the common person in the pew can be trusted to make decisions for the congregation. Some think the congregation needs to be governed by elite, educated elders or specially selected synodical authorities.

Congregational freedom can work because God graciously gives each believer the freedom to seek wisdom and direction from God's Word. It can work because God's Spirit dwells in each believer who has faith in Christ. "Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is there is freedom" (2 Corinthians 3:17).

Sverdrup believed congregational freedom was the best type of structure to encourage spiritual freedom. Helping people to be set free from sin is the goal of free congregations and the goal of missions. "Through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death" (Romans 8:2).

Each person, no matter what race or ethnicity, can be set free by faith in Jesus who went to the cross for us. Each congregation, no matter what language they speak or where in the world they meet, can be free to seek the Lord through His Word and have His Spirit dwelling within them. We rejoice in God's wonderful gift of freedom.

Dr. Craig Johnson
AFLC World Missions Board
Ferndale, Washington

AFLC Promotion for July is World Missions

Helmar Lutheran Church

(815) 201-3789 email: helmarlutheran@gmail.com
website: helmarlutheranchurch.com

Helmar exists to be a:

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

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

217-621-2949 Email scbarido64@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

7-5-2026

Hide God's Word in your Heart

**"God is our refuge and strength,
an ever-present help in trouble."
Psalm 46:1**