

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, February 22, 2026
First Sunday of Lent

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Tell Me the Story of Jesus"

Scripture reading: Acts 1:12-14

I Peter 3:13-17

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "The Wonderful Cross"

"Man of Sorrows"

"Living Hope"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: Series: "Truths to Consider"

"Part One: Consider Eternity"

Colossians 4:2-6

Benediction

Hymn: "Take the Name of Jesus with You"

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

*The Adult Bible Study and All Life Groups will not be meeting during Lent. They will resume the week after Easter.

Mon: 3-5pm Food Pantry

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

9am-2pm Quilting

6:30pm BLAST, JAM

6:30pm **Lenten Service** in the lower level (with Youth Group)

Th: 9:30am Ladies Bible Study

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship

9am Sunday School—**Discover Helmar Class**

10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

Lenten Schedule

- Lenten Services are being held every Wednesday evening at 6:30pm in the lower level. The theme this year will be "Keeping Near the Cross". The Adult Bible Study and the Life Groups will not meet from February 17th through Good Friday. They will resume on April 7th.
- **Easter Choir**—practice begins March 1st, in the lower level after the worship service. We will plan to sing Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.
- There will be an **Easter Pageant** presented by our Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, March 29th during the Worship Service at 10am. **Parents**, there will be a rehearsal on March 28th from 9:30-11:00am for all grade 8 and under.
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30pm on April 2nd
- Good Friday Service at 6:30pm on April 3rd
- Easter Sunday—No Sunday School. Worship Service at 10am

- Coming Soon: M Night, The Cup of Cold Water Ministries Banquet, and Kid’s Missions night is coming on February 28th. Additional information is available on the bulletin board in the FLC lobby. You may see Matt Greven, Fred Alexander, or Amy Benjamin for tickets.
- VBS: July 6-10th, “Emerald Crossing”, registration coming soon!
- Family Youth and Bible Camp: July 19-23, 2026
- Save the date... HelmarPalooza 2026 is set for Saturday, August 8th, and planning is underway! We are excited to welcome Brandon Heath as one of our special guests, whose music many of you should be familiar with! The others are still to be finalized. Please join us in covering this year’s event in prayer, and in helping us raise the funds needed to cover expenses. We are currently estimating that around \$65,000 is still needed, and trusting the Lord will provide as He sees fit!

We are very thankful to Jared and Kynsey Mathre for the last year and a half that they have served faithfully as our youth directors, however, as they embark on their new adventure as first-time parents, they will be stepping back from this role. We will be seeking someone or a couple to fill this very part-time position starting late spring/early summer. If this is something you may be interested in, we will be accepting applications during the month of March. For more information or to apply, you may use the link provided or talk to Brandon Niles.



February 22, 2026
Series: Truths to Consider
“Consider Eternity
I Peter 1:3-5

Peter writes to the churches with wonderful words of encouragement. If you have received Jesus Christ and you are trusting His work at the Cross for forgiveness of your sins, you have LIFE! This LIFE is seen in some amazing benefits.

I. _____ v. 3

II. _____ v. 4

III. _____ v. 5

February 22, 2026

King Saul offered David his armor before he went to battle against Goliath. It didn't work for him. Instead, he went to battle with five stones and a slingshot. "David said to the Philistine, 'You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty'" (1 Samuel 17:45).

A helmet and sword seemed like a necessity when going up against Goliath, but the Lord wins battles by different means than we expect. In battling our sin problem, we are tempted to think morality and good works will win the day. But depending on our own goodness leads to certain defeat.

When battling forces of evil, we might think fighting like the world does gives the best chance for victory. We look to political and economic power as the kind of armor we need. Some look at "If your enemy is hungry, feed him" and "overcome evil with good" (Romans 12:20-21) as impractical battle plans that won't work in our day.

"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against . . . the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. Therefore put on the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:12-13). We are encouraged to fight battles God's way, depending on His armor and not our own.

God's chief means of victory involved a shocking battle plan. He defeated evil and death and won our salvation by letting men mock His Son, beat Him and nail Him to a cross. Jesus didn't look like a conqueror as He bled and died, but He gained the greatest victory ever. "And having disarmed the powers and authorities, he made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross" (Colossians 2:15).

The threat of the law that continually defeated us, was disarmed by Christ's perfect sacrifice. By humility, death and resurrection, Jesus has triumphed. As we cling to Christ by faith, we get to share in the victory.

The Lenten season is a time of year to dwell on the path to victory. The true victory we need does not come through human might, good works, or material gain. It is found by trusting Jesus, the suffering and triumphant Servant. The way of the cross is the march to victory.

Dr. Craig Johnson
The Lutheran Ambassador Editorial Board
Ferndale, Washington

AFLC Promotion for February is *The Lutheran Ambassador*

Helmar Lutheran Church

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

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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

2-22-2026

Hide God's Word in your Heart

“But may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.”

Galatians 6:14