

## **Helmar Lutheran Church**

**Newark, IL**

Sunday, February 8, 2026  
Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "For the Beauty of the Earth"

Scripture reading: Genesis 5:20-25

Ephesians 5: 25-33

Confession of Faith: The Apostle's Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "Who You Say I Am"

"The Love of God"

"My Jesus, I Love Thee"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Family Matters"

Colossians 3:18-21

Benediction

Hymn: "A Christian Home"

Postlude

## Upcoming Events:

Tu: 6:30pm Greven Life Group  
6:30 Deacons/Trustees Mtg, 7:30pm Council Mtg.

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's  
9am-2pm Quilting  
2pm Adult Bible Study  
6:30pm BLAST, JAM, HS groups

Th: 9:30am Ladies Bible Study  
6:30pm Cryder Life Group  
7pm Mathre Life Group

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
5-7pm Food Pantry  
7:30pm Pilon Life Group

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship  
9am Sunday School—**Discover Helmar Class**  
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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- We are putting together a group of people willing to help setup/tear down for events at the church. We will be using the GroupMe app to organize this. If you are willing to participate, please sign up in the FLC.
- 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. We are also looking for people who would be willing to bake cookies for that evening. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center.
- A huge Thank you to all who donated items or whole baskets, purchased baskets or helped in any way at the Silent Auction to benefit Helmar's food pantry. We had 17 amazing baskets. It was a great success! We raised \$3,905 with just the baskets! It was FUN too! Glory to God for His blessings!

## Lenten Schedule

- Lenten Services will begin on Wednesday, February 18th, 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.
- There will be an **Easter Pageant** presented by our Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, March 29th during the Worship Service at 10am. **Parents**, if your children will Not be able to participate that Sunday, please notify Ruth Karales.
- Maundy Thursday Service at 6:30pm on April 2nd
- Good Friday at 6:30pm on April 3rd
- Easter Sunday—No Sunday School. Worship Service at 10am

Mark your calendars!

Family Youth and Bible Camp: July 19-23, 2026

## Special Note:

Whether you are a sports fan or not, would you prayerfully consider joining many other Christians in sending a message about what we value to the broadcast networks during the Super Bowl today? You can find information (who is performing, where to watch, updates, etc) about Turning Point USA’s alternative half-time show at [www.americanhalftimeshow.com](http://www.americanhalftimeshow.com). If you watch the game, at the very least, please change the channel during the half time show and don’t support their godless agenda.



**February 8, 2026**  
**“Family Matters”**  
**Colossians 3:18-21**

In the Scripture today, Paul addresses the very practical area of the family. The supremacy of Christ shows itself in family relationships. It is the home, the Christian home, that is the theme in these verses. Paul presents four important challenges to families.

I. A Challenge to \_\_\_\_\_ v. 18

II. A Challenge to \_\_\_\_\_ v. 19

III. A Challenge to \_\_\_\_\_ v. 20

IV. A Challenge to \_\_\_\_\_ v. 21

February 8, 2026

### The Love of God

After our worship one Sunday, one of my faithful parishioners made an honest request: would I permit him, during the service, to suggest a song to be sung by the congregation if it fit well with the message being preached? I was curious to find out what tunes he might propose. One he especially liked was “The Love of God” by F. M. Lehman (*Ambassador Hymnal* #201), particularly the third stanza:

*Could we with ink the ocean fill,  
And were the skies of parchment made,  
Were every stalk on earth a quill,  
And ev'ry man a scribe by trade,  
To write the love of God above  
Would drain the ocean dry.  
Nor could the scroll contain the whole,  
Though stretched from sky to sky.*

*O love of God, how rich and pure!  
How measureless and strong!  
It shall for evermore endure  
The saints' and angels' song.*

What greater description of the unsurpassing love of our Savior has ever been penned than that? I gladly gave my permission to make such a request!

We live in a society starving for love but at a total loss to know how to identify it. Evangelical scholar D. A. Carson has suggested that “the love of God in our culture has been purged of anything the culture finds uncomfortable. The love of God has been sanitized, democratized, and above all sentimentalized.”

People all around us need to see and grasp and experience God’s great saving love. They need to witness it being lived out by God’s people. *We* need to see it on display in our homes and in our congregations. Scripture calls us to this: “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another” (1 John 4:7–11 ESV).

Friends, that is love’s portrait, which “shall for evermore endure, the saints’ and angels’ song.” Those who know it are called to show it. *Thank the Lord for His amazing love for you today!*

Dr. Jerry Moan  
*The Lutheran Ambassador* Editorial Board  
McIntosh, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for February is *The Lutheran Ambassador*

### Helmar Lutheran Church

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website: helmarlutheranchurch.com

*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 Directors-Jared & Kynsey Mathre**

815-483-6616 Email helmaryouth@gmail.com

**Music Director-Lisa Greven**

815-508-1403 Email matthewgreven@hotmail.com

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

Email helmarlutheran@gmail.com

### Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

2-8-2026

### Hide God's Word in your Heart

“Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.”

I Thessalonians 4:1