

## **Helmar Lutheran Church**

**Newark, IL**

Sunday, January 18, 2026  
Second Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "My Faith Has Found a Resting Place"

Scripture reading: Romans 13:11-14

II Corinthians 5:16-19

Confession of Faith: I Corinthians 15:1-8

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "Amazing Grace/My Chains are Gone"

"He Will Be"

"I Speak Jesus"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Put Off—Put On!"

Colossians 3:5-11

Benediction

Hymn: "Living For Jesus"

Postlude

## Upcoming Events:

Tu: 6:30pm Greven Life Group

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

Th: 6:30pm Cryder Life Group  
7pm GriefShare—Fireside Room  
7pm Mathre Life Group

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
7:30pm Pilon Life Group

Sat: 8:30am Fellowship  
**9am Annual Congregational Meeting**

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship  
9am Sunday School  
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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- **Annual Reports** will be available for members after the worship service. Please bring your report with you to the meeting on Saturday to help us reduce printing costs. **Contribution statements** will be available for pickup at the Congregational Meeting on Saturday. Online giving statements have already been emailed. If you have any questions, please see Stacy Christian.
- **Ladies' Bible Study**—Have you ever wrestled with doubt or struggled with faith? "Follow Me" is an in-depth study on the gospel of Mark. The gospel of Mark is an invitation to follow Jesus. We will learn how following Jesus is not a one-time action but a lifelong pursuit. Every day for the believer in Christ is a day to trust and obey the God who gave His life for us. So, women of Helmar, are you ready to follow Jesus? There is a **signup sheet** in the FLC. We will begin the 8-week study entitled, "Follow Me\A Study on the Gospel of Mark", on Thursday February 5, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the library.

- 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.
- Save the Date: Our week of VBS will be July 6-10 this year, with set up and decorating on July 2nd & 3rd because of the holiday.



**January 18, 2026**  
**“Put Off—Put On!”**  
**Colossians 3:5-11**

In the Scripture today, Paul gets specific about what it means to live as new creations of God. In the first two chapters of Colossians he has taught the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Now he stresses the application of it. What we believe should affect behavior.

I. \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 5-9a

- \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 5-7
- \_\_\_\_\_ v. 8a
- \_\_\_\_\_ v. 8b
- \_\_\_\_\_ v. 9a

II. \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 9b-11

- \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 9b-10
- \_\_\_\_\_ v.11

January 18, 2026

*What is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?*

*Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor.*

Psalm 8:4-5

I imagine David lying down, glancing up at the universe, utterly blown away by the immensity and beauty of the cosmos. In the midst of this quiet moment, a sobering comparison comes to mind. What is man compared with the hugeness of creation? Humanity is a speck in the cosmos. The answer David gives us is surprising. Man has been given a high status, “a little lower than the heavenly beings,” and “crowned with glory and honor.” Notice the intentional language used, “You have made.” “You have given.” This was not an accident. It all screams VALUE. Value given and determined by the God of creation. This value simply IS. Intrinsic value is the foundation of the Sanctity of Life, which applies to so many areas in our society.

We are tempted to evaluate life through the lens of instrumental value instead of intrinsic value. This approach says that there is “life unworthy of life.” This worthiness is determined through the lens of being useful, beneficial, or wanted. Therefore, a human can have more or less value depending upon whatever judgment line is being used. It is an innately subjective position. The consequences of this idea have led to carnage as it relates to human trafficking, disabilities, abortion, eugenics, euthanasia, racism, and more.

The Sanctity of Life is not merely a “Christian” issue, it’s a human one. Anytime a group of people is allowed to place a subjective line of value, people will be sacrificed. Abuse will happen. History has shown this time and time again.

However, the greatest demonstration of the value of human life is not creation. It’s the cross. The cross tells us that each human life was so infinitely important to God that He sent His Son Jesus to take on human flesh, endure rejection, and be executed FOR YOU. Our Lord cares so much for us that He took our sin to provide forgiveness and true life with Him for eternity.

Aren’t you glad that the Lord doesn’t employ instrumental value with you? The Bible testifies that you were created as the crown of God’s creation. Despite your rejection and sin, God deemed you of enough value to sacrifice His life that you might live. Today, cherish your intrinsic position as a dearly loved and valued image bearer of God.

Pr. Andy Coyle  
AFLC Home Missions Director  
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for January is Home Missions

**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 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**

**1-18-2026**

**Hide God’s Word in your Heart**

“At that time Jesus said, “I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from the wise and intelligent, and have revealed them to infants. Yes, Father, for this way was well pleasing in Your sight.”

Matthew 11:25,26