

## **Helmar Lutheran Church**

**Newark, IL**

Sunday, January 25, 2026  
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "How Firm A Foundation"

Scripture reading: Romans 12:1,2  
Ephesians 4:17-24

Confession of Faith: Apostle's Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "Before the Throne of God Above"  
"Hymn of Heaven"  
"The Jesus Way"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Designer Clothes"  
Colossians 3:12-14

Benediction

Hymn: "Jesus Loves Even Me"

Postlude

## Upcoming Events:

M: 3-5pm Food Pantry

Tu: 6:30pm Greven Life Group

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

Th: 6:30pm Cryder Life Group  
7pm Mathre Life Group

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

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

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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- **Ladies' Bible Study**—"Follow Me: A study on the gospel of Mark" will begin Thursday, February 5, 2026. We will meet at 9:30am in the library. If you've never been to a study, please consider coming. The Word teaches us so much that can be applied to our lives; plus you will enjoy getting to know one another better. Please sign up for the study in the FLC. You can also purchase the study book as well.
- 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.
- The Kumla Dinner fundraiser was a huge success again this year. \$13,798.00, including money from the auction, was raised to support the Food Pantry. Thank you so much to everyone who worked (and ate) to make this possible!

- 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.
- A new **Discover Helmar** information class will begin Sunday, February 8th, at 9 am in the Fireside Room. There are four sessions through March 1st. All who are interested in learning more about our church are invited. Attendance at the class does not obligate you to become a member of Helmar, but it is a requirement of those who do become members.
- 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.



**January 25, 2026**  
**“Designer Clothes”**  
**Colossians 3:12-14**

In this section the Colossians are encouraged to “put on” specific virtues. As one writer says: “Here we have the wardrobe of the saints, and what beautiful garments they are!” (Kent Hughes)

- I. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12
- II. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12
- III. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12
- IV. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12
- V. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 12
- VI. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 13
- VII. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 13
- VIII. \_\_\_\_\_ v. 14

January 25, 2026

I recently saw a video of a Catholic priest at a funeral who, unexpectedly, burst into singing “Goodness of God.” The chorus sings, “And all my life You have been so, so good, With every breath that I am able, I will sing of the goodness of God.” It struck me for two reasons. Firstly, because it was a beautiful pastoral moment that reminded a grieving congregation of God’s faithfulness. But then I also realized these are the very words the dead man would wish to sing if he were able. Except that he had no more breath. He was unable.

Psalm 104:33a sings, “I will sing to the Lord as long as I live.” It is easy to sing when we have health, comfort, and our loved ones nearby. But what about when we have only some or even none of that? Our grieving, faltering voice fails to find itself, and we forget how to sing. In those moments, all we can do is be reminded of the goodness and the faithfulness of God. Psalm 104 is a “go-to” Scripture for the creative and providential power of God. Take a moment and read this Psalm. It describes how our Lord established the very foundations of the world; giving water, food, and even breath to all living things. By His Word alone, He created out of nothing. Out of His fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, He richly and daily provides you with all that you need. If it is hard to find your voice, if you feel the sting of loss, if you are suffering, hear the Word of our Lord in Psalm 104. The same Word that made the heavens and the earth out of nothing and sustains them, spoke faith out of nothing into your heart and sustains it today. Receive His faithfulness, and let it kindle a faltering, stammering tongue to sing.

Even greater, let us not forget that our Lord Jesus often prayed the Psalms during His life (and death, see Psalm 22). Dietrich Bonhoeffer reminds us in *The Prayerbook of Christ* that we can read each Psalm as a prayer offered by the Great High Priest Jesus to our Heavenly Father. So, when we come to die, as each of us will, we can take heart that our High Priest does not forget us. Instead, as we lie in death’s bed, Jesus raises His voice when ours has finally failed. Jesus sings for us to our Father hymns of praise and glory. He sings us awake unto eternal life.

Mr. David Hein  
AFLC Home Missions Corporation President  
San Antonio, Texas

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**

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### **Spiritual Disciplines Sheet**

**1-25-2026**

### **Hide God’s Word in your Heart**

“And have mercy on some, who are doubting; save others, snatching them out of the fire; and on some have mercy with fear, hating even the garment polluted by the flesh.”

Jude 1:22,23