

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, November 15th, 2026
24th Sunday after Trinity

Prelude
Welcome
Hymn: “Revive Us Again”
Scripture reading: Proverbs 16:1-8
I Timothy 6:7-10
Pastoral Prayer
Praise Team: “Yet not I but through Christ in Me”
“His Mercy is More”
“Hymn of Heaven”
Sermon: “Wealthy But Without Hope”
Ecclesiastes 5:8-17
Benediction
Hymn: “Blessed Assurance”
Postlude

Members of Helmar’s Prayer Team will be at the front of the sanctuary following the service to meet with those who desire to receive Christ as Lord and Savior, those who wish to renew their relationship with Jesus, or those who need prayer for specific needs. Anointing with oil, according to James 5:14 is available upon request.

Christmas Choir practice begins in the Lower Level after the service today!



November 15th, 2026
“Wealthy But Without Hope”
Ecclesiastes 5:8-17

Money talks! It certainly does in our culture. But Solomon might have something more to teach us. There are some dangers to avoid.

I. No _____ vv. 10-12

II. No _____ vv. 13-15

III. No _____ vv. 16,17

Upcoming Events:

Mon: 7pm Mathre Life Group—last one until Jan.

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study at Southern Belle
2pm Adult Bible Study—last one until Jan 6th, 2027
6:30pm Christian Life Group—last one until Jan
6:30pm BLAST, JAM, HS

Th: 6:30pm Gengler Life Group—last one until Jan

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Hour
7:30pm Pilon Life Group—last one until Jan

Sun: 8:30am Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship
Christmas Choir Practice after the service

Life Group Study Questions are available on the ledge outside the sanctuary, or online.

Thanksgiving Eve Service—November 25th at 6:30pm

Mark your calendar, teenage and ladies of the church - **Christmas Dinner** is set for Thursday, December 3rd at 6:00pm in the lower level. The speakers will be Fran and Sheri Klaas, and their theme is "A Tradition of Christmas". We look forward to hearing their message to remind us of the Christmas season. Invite your family and friends and please sign up at the welcome center so we know how many to plan for.

Save the Date: Our Sunday School Christmas Pageant will be December 13th during the morning worship service. There will be a dress rehearsal on December 12th from 9:30-11am. Please contact Ruth Karales if you have any questions. 815-791-6566

November 15, 2026

Grace unto You, and Peace, from God

One of the lessons I've been learning in recent years is how valuable it is to know how to express tone, intent, and things like that, in written communication. I send many text messages, emails, and letters every day, and it can be easy for any recipients of those messages to misunderstand what I'm saying if I'm not clear or if I make a mistake. I've been on the other end of this too. I've received text messages over the years, where the sender accidentally had the CAPS LOCK feature turned on, and I immediately thought this person was yelling at me, even though the content was entirely harmless.

The Apostle Paul communicated in writing a lot, and thirteen of his letters are in the Bible. All thirteen letters begin and end with a greeting or blessing that includes some version of "Grace unto you, and peace, from God . . ." It's fascinating to me that he was so consistent with this, and I believe it provides for us a glimpse into his love and care for the recipients of his letters.

Paul's prayer at the beginning of every letter was that the people reading it would receive grace and peace from God. He then proceeded to give them God's inspired Word, which is where we receive gifts like grace and peace. Sometimes that message contained hard truths, like his letters to the Corinthians and the Galatians. But even then, his prayer was that this Word would ultimately bring grace and peace.

Paul also ended each letter with a prayer of blessing for grace. His desire was that his readers would go forth in the grace of God, found in Jesus Christ, and delivered in His Word.

My prayer is that Christians would be known for communication that is marked by grace and peace. That's not just written communication either. This relates to how we speak to one another and to others not of the faith. Even when hard words have to be communicated, I pray they are done in a spirit of love and grace with the goal of peace. In this way, we can bring the light of Christ's Gospel into this dark world.

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

Rev. Micah Hjermstad
AFLC President
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for November is the H.I.S. Fund