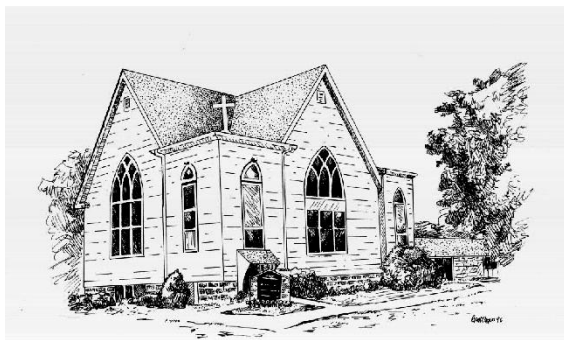




Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, September 13th, 2026
Rally Sunday

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

Scripture reading: John 4:20-24

Philippians 4:4-7

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: "Melodies from Childhood"

Praise Team: "By Faith"

"Yet Not I, but Through Christ in Me"

"Build My Life"

Sermon: "Let the Church be the Church"

Acts 2:42

Benediction

Hymn: "Standing on the Promises"

Table Prayer

Postlude

Church Picnic to follow in the FLC or under the pavilion



September 13th, 2026
“Let the Church Be the Church”
Acts 2:42

The text provides us with some insights regarding the early church and its ministry. God has promised to bless His Church! In the book of Acts we see that the church was devoted to four activities.

I. Devoted to _____ v. 42a

II. Devoted to _____ v. 42b

III. Devoted to _____ v. 42c

IV. Devoted to _____ v. 42d

Upcoming Events:

Mon: 7pm Mathre Life Group (Yorkville)

Wed: 2pm Adult Bible Study
6:30pm Christian Life Group (Newark)
6:30pm BLAST, JAM, HS

Th: 9:30am Ladies Bible Study
6:30pm Gengler Life Group (Yorkville)

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Hour
7:30pm Pilon Life Group (Minooka)

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

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

We are still in need of some items for our **Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes**. If you would like to shop, there are suggested items on the Christmas tree outside the sanctuary, which you may purchase on Amazon (or locally). Or you may contribute financially by writing "OCC" on the memo line or envelope and placing it in the offering. Please see Stacy if you have questions.

Mark your calendars for an **Autumn Worship Night**, October 9th, starting at 5:30pm. This event is for Everyone! More details are coming next week.

September 13, 2026

O Lord God of hosts, how long will you be angry with your people's prayers? Psalm 80:4

The writer of Psalm 80 brings a series of bold questions to the Lord, the Shepherd of Israel. How long will you be angry? Why have you allowed this? Why does it seem like the enemy is winning?

Scholars believe the psalmist is observing the downfall of the northern kingdom at the hands of Assyria. This has left the southern kingdom of Judah exposed to potential attack as well. The psalmist is brutally honest, asking why God would bring His chosen people out of Egypt only to be crushed by their enemies.

Current events in our country and around the world often have us asking similar questions. When we see such hurt and anger, it can seem like the power of the world and the schemes of the devil are winning out. We wonder why God would allow His church and our families to face such turmoil.

As I consider these uncertain times, I'm thankful for the ways God has grounded my faith to withstand the storms. He has given me a family who has pointed me to the truth. He has given me a call to pass along that truth to my children. He has given me two years at our Bible College and three years at our Seminary which instilled confidence that God's Word is trustworthy and sufficient for all of life's challenges. And He has given me a church family that reminds me I'm not alone on this journey.

From within this framework, I can reject human solutions, which ultimately lead to more pain and anger, and instead repeat the closing words of Psalm 80: "Restore us, O Lord God of hosts! Let your face shine, that we may be saved!" Although we don't understand why God would allow evil or delay in answering our prayer, we recognize He is the only solution. In Jesus we find forgiveness, salvation, and victory.

Mr. Josh Johnson
FLBC Alumni, Class of 2011
Maranatha Free Lutheran Church
Glyndon, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for September is the Bible College