

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, May 24th, 2026
Pentecost Sunday

Welcome

Hymn: “Lead On, O King Eternal”

Scripture reading: Psalm 32:5-7

Isaiah 55:6-11

Pastoral Prayer

Confession of Faith: Apostle’s Creed

Praise Team: “Battle Belongs”

“Same God”

“Death was Arrested”

Children’s Church dismissed

Sermon: “Memorial Stones”

Joshua 4:1-7

Benediction

Hymn: “Faith of Our Fathers”

Postlude

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Upcoming Events:

Tu: 6:30-8pm “I Love America” Choir practice in the FLC lobby

Wed: 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Southern Belle’s  
9am-2pm Quilting  
6:30pm Greven Life Group (Last one)

Th: 6:30pm Cryder Life Group (Last one)  
7pm Mathre Life (Last one)

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group  
7:30pm Pilon Life Group (Last one)

Sun: 9:30am Fellowship  
10am Worship service—Welcome New Members

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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Summer Backyard Bible Studies for the youth are back! We are looking for YOU to host the youth one Wednesday night this summer and share a Bible lesson, your testimony, or devotion. Sign up sheets and more information are available at the Welcome Center! Begins June 3rd.

The **Helmarpalooza Matching Fund** is available until June 1st. Be in prayer about how the Lord would have you participate with this ministry. You may donate directly from the Helmarpalooza.com website. And don’t forget to register for you tickets!

The plant by the podium is in memory of the one year anniversary of Harvey Urton’s homegoing on May 30th, given by Carol Marie, Sheila Marie, Rich, Jenny, and his grandchildren, Danielle Marie, Wyatt Michael, Callie and Matt.

Pray for our Graduates! Junior High/Confirmation: Carter Chelsen, Ellie Chelsen, Brett Cryder, Payton Yaggie. High School: Lily Benjamin, Hannah Greven, Sam Niles. Liberty University Graduate School: Jim Osmond

*To add graduates, please contact the church office.

Registration is open for the **Family and Youth Bible Camp!** July 19-23rd at Cedar Lake, Indiana. Keynote speaker is Pastor Steve Larson and Don Davidson is leading an adult Bible hour this year. If you are a current HLC member, Helmar will help send you to camp. Reach out to Kristen or Jacob Mathre for more details. **Don't miss the June 15th camp T-shirt deadline!**

Register at <https://www.fybiblecamp.com/>

"I Love America" Choir

Inviting singers to join the "I Love America" Choir which performs Sunday evening, July 5 in Newark.

Rehearsals at Helmar Lutheran Church 11935 Lisbon Rd. (rural) Newark, in the FLC lobby. Chairs provided as needed.

Tuesdays 6:30p-8:00p, May 26 through June 30, and Thursday 7/2 7:00p-10:00p with Choir and Orchestra in Helmar FLC gym.

More info: Sharon McKanna (cell): 815-690-5337

Bring your books this week if you have them!

"How can I say thanks for all He has done for me? This from the song is hard to express the thanks I have for what God has done for me. He has blessed me with a church family (and Pastor) that supports each other in so many ways: prayers, cards, flowers, food, gifts, services, hugs and all kinds of ways of caring for another church member. God has blessed me with so much during this time of surgery, recovery and literally "getting back on my feet." God is good!" Myrtle Duvick

"Thank you to many who have called or sent cards these last six weeks. I have been through something I hope none of you have to experience. Something I've learned is that our bodies are "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14). Be thankful daily when you are feeling well.

Nancy Christian



May 24, 2026

"Memorial Stones" Joshua 4:1-9, 19-24

The Lord told Joshua to build two monuments: one in the midst of the Jordan River and the other on the west bank. There were two piles of stones—one seen, the other under water. These would have a special meaning to Israel. They would be stones of remembrance of what God had done. Generations to follow would know the greatness of the Lord.

Here are some reminders of God's faithfulness to us (Stones of Remembrance):

I. The _____ Romans 5:8

II. The _____ I Corinthians 15:20

III. The _____ Matthew 13:16-18

May 24, 2026

As congregations, we have unique opportunities to instill certain values and characteristics in our youth as they grow up in our midst. While there are many worthwhile traits to pass along, a quick observation of the world around us suggests that strength and courage should be top priorities. Verses like Joshua 1:9 also speak to the importance of this notion. While it may be tempting to simply refer to this verse and exhort our students and fellow congregants to be strong and courageous as they follow Jesus, it isn't enough to simply share this exhortation on its own. If we do so, we may be communicating that all one has to do to live a life pleasing to God is to try harder and "man up." While on the surface, this may look like good advice, it will lead to despair and discouragement as all will eventually recognize that they are not strong or courageous enough to complete the task they have been called to.

Instead of falling into this temptation, we look to the context of this passage where we see that, even in its original form, the exhortation was never for people to simply find the courage or strength within themselves. Instead, this courage and strength was to be rooted in the reality of God's presence. Rather than saying, "be strong" or "have courage," our first task is to make sure we are clearly teaching who the Lord is and then reminding everyone that He is truly with us wherever we go. That changes the emphasis from us finding our strength and courage within ourselves to finding strength and courage in Him who is strong enough to create and sustain all that exists through His word and will.

Yes, we live in a time in history where both the church and the world are in desperate need of believers who are living courageously with strength. However, it will not be the strength and courage of man that will challenge the darkness and change hearts. Instead, it will be the faithful presence and love of ordinary people being transformed by the real presence of Jesus Christ in their everyday lives, allowing His strength and courage to be expressed through them. Don't fall into the trap that you need to become something extra; instead, remember that Jesus already has provided all that you need in Himself and that He is with you wherever you may go.

Mr. Jordan Langness
AFLC Youth Ministry Training Coordinator
Ishpeming, Michigan

AFLC Promotion for May is Youth Ministries

Helmar Lutheran Church
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Helmar exists to be a:
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Burden-Bearing Church**
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Youth Directors-Jared & Kynsey Mathre
815-483-6616 Email helmaryouth@gmail.com
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815-508-1403 Email matthewgreven@hotmail.com
Secretary—Stacy Christian 815-201-3789 (call or text)
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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet
5-24-2026
Hide God's Word in your Heart

“Behold, God is my helper; The Lord is the sustainer of
my soul.”
Psalm 54:4