

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, December 21, 2025
Fourth Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Hark, The Herald Angels Sing"

Special Music: "The Bells of Christmas"—Carol Urton, Sharon

McKanna, Kristy Bunge, Lisa Greven

Scripture reading: Isaiah 7:10-14

Acts 4:8-12

Confession of Faith: The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Special Music: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen"—Wendi, Shelby,

Kelly Greven, and Madi Trost

Praise Team: "Crown Him"

"Christmas Day"

Sermon: "What's In a Name?"

Matthew 1:21-23

Benediction

Hymn: "Joy to the World"

Postlude

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"A special thank you to Sharon McKanna for gifting the church with the beautiful upright piano that Kristy Bunge played today during the special music. Thanks Sharon for your generous gift! We will all enjoy it for many, many years!"

The door offering for Operation Christmas Child was \$676.00.

Upcoming Events:

Today: Choir practice immediately following the service

Mon: 3-5pm Food Pantry

Wed: No Men's Bible Study until January 14th.  
No Quilting until January 14th  
**4:30pm Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

Sun: 9:30 Fellowship  
10am Worship service

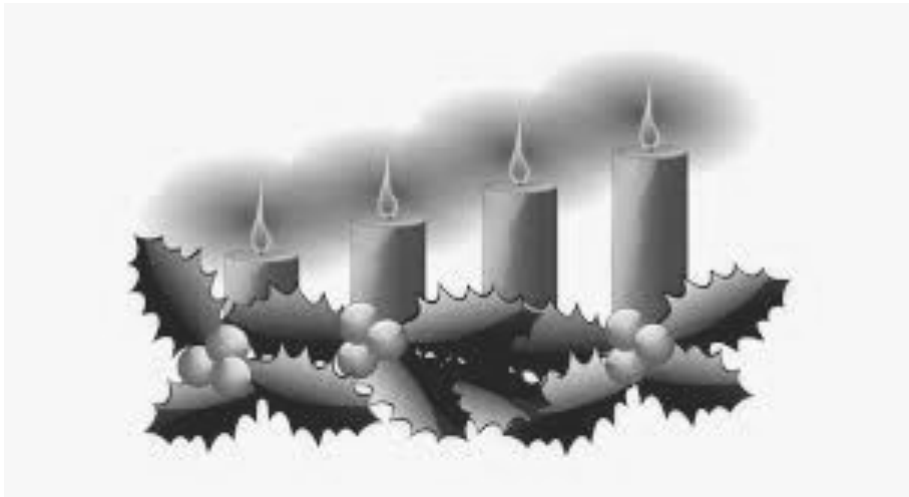
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- There will be no Sunday School, Children's Church or Wednesday evening classes December 21st and 28th. Classes will resume on January 4th. Parent-led nursery will still be available during the worship service.
  - We are looking for a member of the church to oversee the group that meets on **Thursday nights to play basketball**. For details, please see one of the trustees.
  - **Christmas Card Exchange**—Please pick up your Christmas Cards in the Narthex after the service.
  - Sign-up Sheets for new Life Group members are available at the Welcome Center. If you are interested in joining one of the mid-week study groups, please sign up!
  - Our Helmar Handbook sign-up sheets are available in the FLC lobby. The handbook included the events and committees that are made up of the church body (members and non-members alike), working together throughout the year for the glory of God. All are welcome to take part. Be a participant. Be a servant. To God be the Glory!
  - The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 24th at 9am.

*“She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.” Now all this took place to fulfill what was spoken by the Lord through the prophet:*

*‘BEHOLD, THE VIRGIN SHALL BE WITH CHILD AND SHALL BEAR A SON, AND THEY SHALL CALL HIS NAME IMMANUEL,’ which translated means, ‘GOD WITH US.’”*

*Matthew 1:21-23*



**December 21, 2025**  
**“What’s In a Name?”**  
**Matthew 1:21-23**

I. A \_\_\_\_\_ v. 21

1. “You shall call His name Jesus”.

2. “He” emphasized

II. A \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 22,23

1. Prophecy fulfilled

2. “Immanuel”

December 21, 2025

### **HIS ONLY SON**

*In this the love of God was made manifest among us,  
that God sent his only son into the world, so that we might live through him.*  
1 John 4:9

Will you gaze this Christmas into the manger at God's only Son?

*We look with wonder, because of the identity of the only Son.*

John 1:14 puts it this way. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth." Jesus is God's Word in the flesh. He is the promised picture of the Old Testament tabernacle, setting up His dwelling with people. This Child is full of God's grace. Jesus is not simply someone with truth, but rather, He Himself is eternal truth.

*We also look with wonder, because of the importance of the only Son.*

Scripture has a steady thread about significant individuals who were an "only son." Three times in Genesis 22, Isaac is referenced as the only son. In the prophets, Jeremiah and Amos point to the kind of heart-wrenching grief that accompanies the loss of an only son. Foreshadowing His own resurrection, Jesus raised the only son of a widow in Luke 7.

*We finally look with wonder, because of the invitation of the only Son.*

Christmas compels us to receive the only Son. "Only" is powerful. It signifies the authority of Jesus. "Only" declares that there is no other. It reminds us the Baby in the manger is the sole Savior of the world. "Only" is exclusive in that there is no substitute for His substitutionary death. While our globe continues to clamor for other ways to earn salvation, consistently ignoring God's provision in Christ, the Lord God Almighty declared Jesus to be His beloved Son. "Only" communicates this importance. The early church stressed the fact in Acts 4:12. "And there is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

The "only Son" came to deliver your soul and mine. Jesus' life would lead to His death and His resurrection. When we say, "Merry Christmas," we declare the only Son of God has come for us. Let us live through Him!

Dr. Jason Holt  
AFLC Presidential Ministry Associate  
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for December is All Ministries

### **Helmar Lutheran Church**

(815) 201-3789 email: helmarlutheran@gmail.com  
website: helmarlutheranchurch.com

***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**

**12-21-25**

### **Hide God's Word in your Heart**

"But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, so that He might redeem those who were under the Law, that we might receive the adoption as sons. Because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" Therefore you are no longer a slave, but a son; and if a son, then an heir through God."

Galatians 4:4-7