

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, December 28, 2025
First Sunday after Christmas

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Go, Tell It on the Mountain"

Scripture reading: Psalm 119:11-16

Matthew 6:19-21

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "It's Christmas"

"Emmanuel"

"All Glory Be To Christ"

Sermon: "A Quiet Christmas"

Luke 2:19

Benediction

Hymn: "As with Gladness Men of Old"

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

Sun: 9:30 Fellowship
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

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- There will be no Sunday School, Children's Church or Wednesday evening classes this week. Classes will resume on January 4th. Parent-led nursery will still be available during the worship service.
 - Sign-up Sheets for additional 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!
 - This is the last week to sign-up for our Helmar Handbook in the FLC lobby. The handbook includes 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. Please sign up for at least one thing. Be a participant. Be a servant. To God be the Glory!
 - The Annual Congregational Meeting will be on January 24th at 9am. The Annual Report will be available for members on Sunday, January 18th for review prior to the meeting.

And Mary said: "My soul exalts the Lord, And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior. For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed. For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name. AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM. He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart. He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble. HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed. He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy, As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever."

Luke 2:46-55

Kumla Dinner—Our Annual All You Can Eat Kumla Dinner will be on Saturday, January 17, 2026 from 4:30pm-7:00pm. The proceeds are to support the HLC Food Pantry. The dinner includes Ham, Kumla (like a dumpling), applesauce, dessert, and beverage. For those that would prefer, a baked potato will be substituted for Kumla. Carry-outs will be available. It is a free-will donation dinner. We will have something new this year: you can buy raffle tickets for a chance to win beautifully themed baskets, which will be on display at our dinner. If you would like to donate items for the baskets, there is more information at the Welcome Center. Please plan on supporting this fundraiser by attending, but please prayerfully consider helping carry this event out. There is an opportunity to peel potatoes the night before, bake desserts, set up, make kumla Saturday morning (anyone can do this with a few minutes instruction), serve and clean up. If you've never helped with this event, it is a great time for fellowship amongst everyone who comes to lend a hand to ultimately feed our neighbor in need. Signup sheets will be in FLC and contact Linda Mathre with any questions 815.210.0985.



**December 28, 2025
"A Quiet Christmas"
Luke 2:19**

The little word "but" at the beginning of verse 19 is important. It shows that there is a contrast between the excitement of the shepherds and the quiet reflection of Mary.

I. Mary _____.

II. Mary _____.

December 28, 2025

THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

In Revelation 1:8, God says, “I am the Alpha and the Omega,” the first and the last. At the end of the book, in Revelation 22, Jesus uses that name for Himself, the Alpha and the Omega. The fact that Jesus identifies Himself with a name that God used for Himself speaks beautifully to Christ’s divine nature.

Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet. The name represents totality and eternity, and in Jewish teaching the first and last letters of the alphabet represent God’s glory. The Hebrews described this glory as Shekinah. God’s Shekinah glory is God’s visible presence for the benefit of the people. The burning bush (Exodus 3) and the pillars of cloud and fire (Exodus 13) are examples of this. So when Jesus says in Revelation 22 that He is the Alpha and the Omega, He’s expressing that He is the glory of God who has come and is visible, for your benefit. He is God’s presence in your midst. This is what John speaks of in John 1:14, “The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory.”

This is the miracle of the incarnation. The Almighty and Triune God, in all His glory, came and dwelt in our midst, for our benefit. The Old Testament is filled with examples of sinful mankind unable to stand in the presence of God. Psalm 24 says, “Who can even stand in His presence?” So when Revelation 1:7 declares that God is coming with the clouds and every eye will see Him, that is a dreadful prospect for sinful man. But because God visibly came for our benefit and we “have seen his glory . . . full of grace and truth,” in the Word made flesh, we have hope.

God made a way for us to stand in His glorious presence, and live. That way is Jesus Christ alone. In Jesus, we are not consumed by God’s holy glory; rather, we enjoy His glory, and we enjoy it forever.

This week is unique in the sense that Christians just celebrated the incarnation, and now we ponder the close of one year and the start of the next. I love this week, because as we peacefully rest in His glory revealed in Christ, we look ahead to whatever the next year may hold, with that peace and with anticipation that maybe this will be the year that the Alpha and the Omega comes for us.

Rev. Micah Hjermstad
AFLC President
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for December is All Ministries

Helmar Lutheran Church

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Helmar exists to be a:

***Soul-Winning, Disciple-Making,
Burden-Bearing Church***

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

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Children’s Ministry Director- Kristen Mathre

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Youth Directors-Jared & Kynsey Mathre

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Music Director-Lisa Greven

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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

12-28-25

Hide God’s Word in your Heart

“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved.”

Acts 4:12