

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, December 14, 2025
Third Sunday of Advent

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: “The First Noel”

Scripture reading: John 8:31,32

Ephesians 2:8-10

Sunday School Pageant: “The Birth of Jesus”

Children’s Church dismissed

Sermon: “Amazing Grace, Awesome Truth”

John 1:1,14

Choir: “Angel’s Advent Carol”

Benediction

Hymn: “O Come Let Us Adore Him”

Postlude

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Door Offering for Operation Christmas Child

Upcoming Events:

Today: 4pm Choir practice in the lower level

Wed: 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Southern Belle  
6:30pm Advent Service

Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Hour

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 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 FLC after the service.
  - 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.

Dear HLC Congregation,

We shared with you the state of our Food Pantry ministry and you not only heard and prayed for us but absolutely overwhelmed and humbled us. Thank you for responding with your generous gifts of support. Due to your generosity, we went from closing the ministry in December to being able to offer food to our patrons into Spring of next year. We thank you for your own sacrifice to help us fulfill God's Word here in our community. May we continue to keep our eyes on the Lord and praise be to God for always meeting our needs.

Matthew 25:35 "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink."

Thank you,

Helmar Lutheran Pantry Board



**December 14, 2025**  
**"Amazing Grace, Awesome Truth"**  
**John 1:1,14**

We are glad to have the Sunday School children point us to the true meaning of Christmas this morning. Our text, also, tells us two facts about Jesus to remember this season.

I. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ vv. 1, 14a

II. Jesus' \_\_\_\_\_ v. 14b



December 14, 2025

## MARY

Mary has a special place in women's hearts—women who have carried babies and wonder what the child in their womb will look like and be like. I had a Christmas baby, and Mary's story in Luke 1 and 2 is amazing as I read it while carrying a child and while telling it to my children each December.

When we read Luke 1 and 2, we can wonder as Mary did what it must be like to be chosen by God, to be greeted by an angel, and to carry the Messiah. It adds to the wonderment of all women who have carried babies.

"Greetings you who are highly favored, the LORD is with you." The words of the angel troubled Mary, understandably for anyone as there hadn't been a word from the Lord in hundreds of years, let alone from an angel to a young girl! But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, you have found favor with God. You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, His kingdom shall have no end." Mary listened to all the angel was saying to her.

"How can this be?" Mary asked the angel. This doesn't appear to be a question of disbelief from Mary, not "Is this real?" or "Are you sure?" Mary only asked, "How can this be, since I'm a virgin?" Mary believed that God was faithful to His promise of sending the Messiah and didn't doubt. She only questioned how a virgin, who had never been with a man, could be with child?

Mary demonstrated her faith clearly through surrender and trust with her strong answer to the angel, "I am the Lord's servant, may it be to me as you have said."

Even Elizabeth said of Mary, "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Mrs. Karen Pederson  
WMF President  
Tioga, North Dakota

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

12-14-25

## Hide God's Word in your Heart

"She will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus,  
for He will save His people from their sins."

Matthew 1:21