

Helmar Heartlines



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VOLUME 51 ISSUE 8
AUGUST 2025

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From the Pastor

We attended Angie's family reunion in Fayette, Arkansas recently. I had been asked to preach at the gathering. I was glad to do so and the Lord led me to share a message my father-in-law, Pastor James Asp, first preached about thirty years ago. I had kept the sermon outline in my notebook. Since it was his family in attendance, they heard his message through me. They were told it was his message, not mine. The Holy Spirit gave him the sermon—I just repeated it in outline form. It was a reminder to the family of their godly heritage.

The sermon emphasized the reality of sin and also the redemption provided by Jesus. Passages from Genesis and the Gospel of John were emphasized. The family was led to consider Christ and His Blood sacrifice provided for all of us. The sermon was an example of Dad Asp's gospel ministry and, also, his emphasis on Jesus' finished work of salvation at Calvary.

In reflecting on the above experience, some things can be noted:

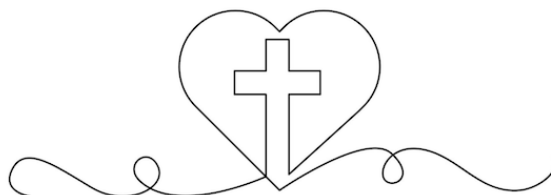
First, it is the Word of God we preach, whether years ago or today. It is always what we preach!

Second, we always preach Christ and Him crucified, risen, and coming again. Past or present—it makes no difference!

Third, what message are you leaving for your family? What will they have from you that will point them to Jesus?

The grass withers, the flower fades, but the Word of our God stands forever (Isaiah 40:8).

Pastor Steve





Sunday School begins on September 7th!

Picnic following the morning worship service!

The classes are as follows:

- Preschool/Kindergarten with Blake and Doris McManus, Lisa Funnell, Carrie Pilon. They will be learning about the person and life of Jesus.
- 1st/2nd Grade with Jennifer Yaggie and Shira Christian. They will be learning how to use their Bibles, as well as about Creation, the fall, and God's plan for a Savior.
- 3rd/4th Grade with Muriel Sucher, and Sawyer Niles. They will be studying the Lord's Prayer.
- 5th/6th Grade with Brian Pilon, and Kim Eisenagle. They will be journeying through the Old Testament.
- 7th/8th Grade Confirmation Class with Matt Greven.
- High School with Jacob Mathre and they will be studying the book of Acts.
- Adults will be using LifeGuides to study The Lord's Prayer, Parables, Miracles of Jesus and Abiding in Christ.

We are looking for someone to commit to nurturing our littlest ones in the nursery on the 4th Sundays, and quarterly 5th Sundays. If you would like to help with either of those, please see Ruth Karales.

Children's Church

We are in need of teachers that could help lead our children's church starting this fall in September. Teaching materials and any supplies are all provided.

The schedule would be in a rotation and if we get enough help, you would only have to teach once or twice a quarter.

Please let Kristen Mathre know asap if you can help: 815-762-5320



Shopping for shoeboxes is almost done! We are expecting to pack about 200 boxes this year again. Now is the time to start praying for the provision of the shipping costs, which will be \$2000.

There will be a group packing party, but the location and date will be determined by whether our church is a Drop-off location this year or not. For details, please see Stacy Christian.

Looking Ahead

- October 5th—Stacy Swenson will be here to give us an update on Light of the Moon Ministries during the Sunday School hour. She will also be sharing some stories and needs for Ahava House. We will meet in the lower level at 9am. High School and Adult classes are welcome. There will also be a door offering after the worship service.

Fall Bible Studies

- ◇ A new men's Bible Study on the book of Jude, "Contending for the Faith", begins on August 6th. They meet at Southern Belle's in Yorkville on Wednesdays at 6:30am. This is the perfect time to join if you do not already participate! See Pastor Lombardo for details.
- ◇ The Ladies' Bible Study will begin on September 18th at 9:30am in the Library. They will be starting a new study on the book of Nehemiah, "The Call to the Wall". See Angie Lombardo for details.



Library Notes



I am gearing up to return to library work in September. New books from the Historical fiction category will be added soon. Over the years I've reviewed, the writing quality has improved immensely, so give some titles a try if you have hesitated to read Christian fiction before.

Recently, there's been a demand for mystery novels. Many mysteries are thrillers or suspense, but the ones in demand are what I call "cozy" mysteries. They are an easier read and usually aren't as graphic as others. One author who has a trilogy in our library is Ann Gabhart, and I'm hoping to find other authors who have entered this market. I will keep you posted as it is a favorite category of mine too!

A couple of people are trying to read through our library, so I will be listing newly added books in the future. Right now, I hope to be gearing up for fall and winter reading as we tend to stay indoors. My wish is to keep books fresh by rotation, but I will also be culling books no longer read.

The NON-fiction category has excellent reading material! Check out titles in a handful of categories. The authors are fantastic, and the material challenges us on how to live in today's culture and to engage with others who have contrasting views. This makes them great companion material to your Bible reading! Though it is easier to find Christian fiction at your local library, it is more difficult to find Christian NON-fiction, so use your church library with so many current books.

Happy Reading!
Cindy Akre

Now You Know

When my brothers and I were young, we were allowed thirty minutes of free time after school before we had to start working on homework. Many afternoons, they (and I, being outnumbered) chose to watch “GI Joe”. Most of the episodes ended with “Now you know. And knowing is half the battle.”

In order to help everyone get the most out of the resources that the church uses, occasionally we will be including an informational article that explains the mechanics of one of those resources. That’s my “Half the battle”.

The Mechanics of Mailchimp

Helmar uses an email service called Mailchimp to send out bulk emails, called “blasts”. This helps us deliver information in an efficient way.

The account that we have allows us 5000 “sends” per month to a list of up to 500 email addresses. If we send an email announcement to 200 people, that counts as 200 “sends”, even though it is only one email. That adds up quickly, and every “send” over the limit costs us a surcharge. The analytics of Mailchimp allows me to see what emails are being opened, and by whom. This is not something I normally spend time doing, but can use this tool to investigate potential problems with delivery.

We currently have 6 “tags” or types of emails that we send: Devotionals (Fridays at 6am), Missions Updates (Tuesdays 6pm), Announcements, Events, Prayer Chain, Newsletter/Council Meeting minutes (as needed). You can unsubscribe from a tag that you no longer want to receive simply by clicking “unsubscribe” in one of those emails. If you wish to be added to the emails, or a specific tag, you will need to contact the secretary for a signup form. Mailchimp frowns on adding someone without permission.

Here’s where it gets sticky. Every email service that you use personally, whether it’s Google, Yahoo, or AOL (we need to talk), filters email blasts differently. You have to *train* your email service to allow the emails that you want to come to your primary inbox, and not spam or promotions, etc. This means that you need to look in the your junk folders and select the emails that are not junk and tell your email service that they are not junk. If you are consistent with doing this, you will get less junk mail in the long run, and relevant email will show up where you want it. For those of you with 4000 emails, you have work to do. That’s your half of the battle.

Additionally, Mailchimp also “cleans” or removes emails addresses from our list if those emails go unopened for too long, or if they bounce (meaning the email address is no longer valid, or too full).

If you have any questions, or would like to be added to the email list, or a specific tag, please don’t hesitate to ask.

Stacy Christian

August 2025

Pickleball M-F 7-10am, F 1-3pm

1	F	
2	Sa	9-11am SS teacher training w/Ambassador Publications, 12pm FLBC Alumni Picnic
3	Su	9:30 Fellowship, 10am Worship
4	M	7-9pm Open Volleyball
5	Tu	
6	W	6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle; 6:30pm Youth BYBS @ Marlon & Sheila Mathre's
7	Th	7-9pm Open Basketball
8	F	5-7pm Food Pantry
9	Sa	Helmarpalooza!
10	Su	9:30 Fellowship, 10am Worship
11	M	7-9pm Open Volleyball
12	Tu	6:30pm Deacons/Trustees Mtg, 7:30pm Council Mtg
13	W	6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle; 6:30pm Youth BYBS @ Jacob & Kristen Mathre (new address)
14	Th	7-9pm Open Basketball
15	F	
16	Sa	
17	Su	9:30 Fellowship, 10am Worship, Cake Reception for Woodworths
18	M	7-9pm Open Volleyball
19	Tu	
20	W	6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle; 6:30pm Youth BYBS--Girl's night and Guy's night
21	Th	7-9pm Open Basketball
22	F	
23	Sa	
24	Su	9:30 Fellowship, 10am Worship
25	M	3-5pm Food Pantry, 7-9pm Open Volleyball
26	Tu	
27	W	6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle; 6:30pm Youth BYBS @ The Benjamins'
28	Th	7-9pm Open Basketball
29	F	
30	Sa	
31	Su	9:30 Fellowship, 10am Worship