

September 1, 2024

THE LORD—HE IS GOD IN HEAVEN ABOVE

With God's deliverance fresh in their minds, the Israelites were preparing to enter the Promised Land. They'd seen the Red Sea's tide stopped, ate the manna provided daily, and learned to trust His leading through cloud and fire. As the land of milk and honey awaited, God's people received His call to obedience and His warning against idolatry: "Know therefore today, and lay it to your heart, that the Lord is God in heaven above and on earth beneath; there is no other" (Deuteronomy 4:39).

Our modern ears might find that statement a bit startling. In our culture today, we are encouraged to find our own realities and determine our own individual theologies of who God is to us. But from the beginning, God has been clear with us about what is true. "Know therefore . . ." invites us to find confidence in what is objective and real. God's words through Moses continue with the connection from our minds to our hearts: "lay it on your heart." God wants us to not only know Him, but to experience His love! Our Creator and Redeemer, Jesus Christ, makes our relationship with Him clear to us. He calls us in covenant relationship to Him, and Him alone!

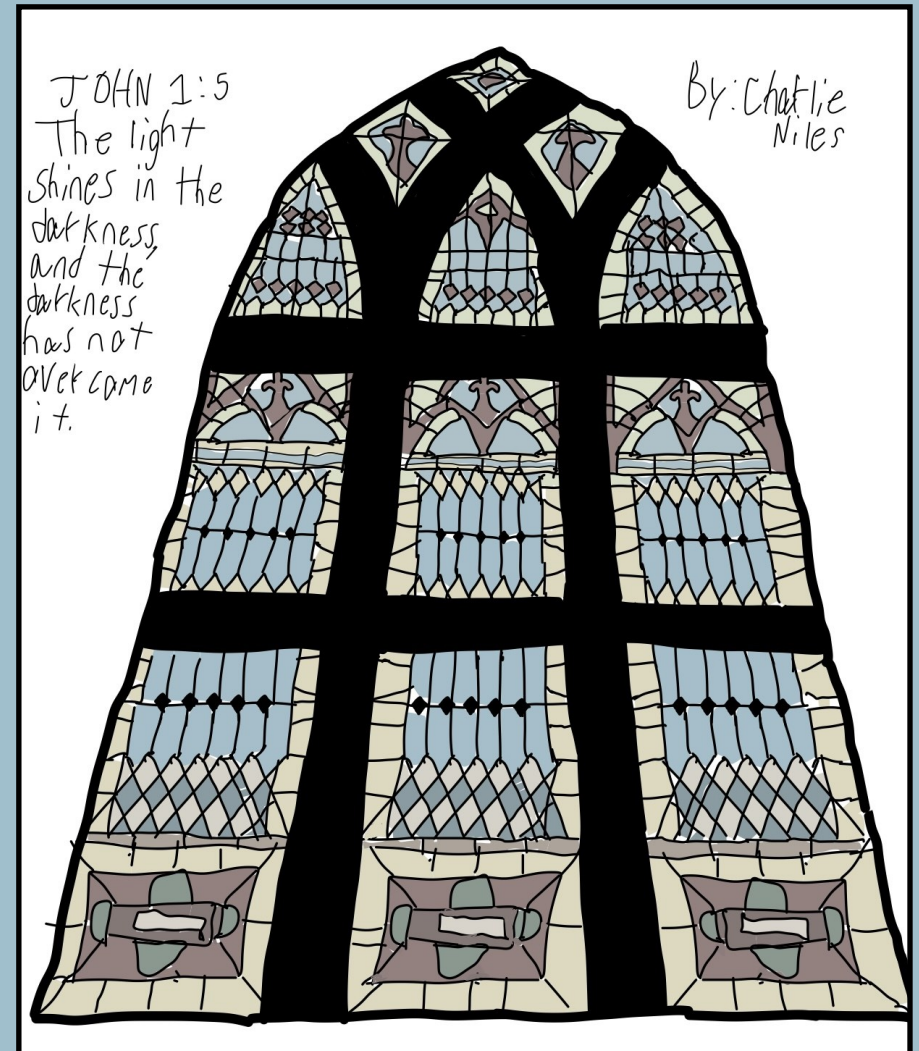
Knowing the battle that awaited the Israelites—not just the conquest of Canaan but the battle against idolatry—God directed them to the truth that would sustain them. He knew their hearts would be tempted to look to something apart from Him. "So it is with all idolatry. For it happens not merely by erecting an image and worshipping it, but rather it happens in the heart. For the heart stands gaping at something else. It seeks help and consolation from creatures, saints, or devils" (Luther's Large Catechism).

While it seems mind-boggling that the Israelites forgot the amazing work of God among them, the same can happen in our congregations today. Even as we seek to plant new churches, encourage growth, and navigate through struggles in our congregations, we can be tempted to depend on our own effort or success. In times of trial and discouragement, we may doubt His power and goodness, the truth that "there is no other" (Deuteronomy 4:39). As helpful as growth strategies and programs may be, when we depend on those more than Christ and His work, they become idols.

As our congregations enter a new season this fall, we can declare confidently that the Lord is God. There is no other. Let's look to Him and depend on His power to continue to build His Church.

Mrs. Monica Coyle
Shiloh Free Lutheran Church
Rapid City, South Dakota

AFLC Promotion for September is Home Missions



Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, September 1, 2024
Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: “To God Be The Glory”

Scripture reading: Deuteronomy 30:15-19

Ephesians 2:1-6

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: “Jesus Messiah”

“You Cannot Be Stopped”

“I Speak Jesus”

Children’s Church dismissed

Sermon: “Making the Most of Opportunities”

Matthew 11:20-24

Hymn: “Softly and Tenderly”

Benediction

Postlude

The flowers today are in loving memory of Russell & Marjorie Mathre, from their daughters Phyllis Both, Becky Halverson, Jean Rosholt, and Rhoda Niles. We are remembering their recent birthdays, and anniversary on September 5th.

Wed. 6:30am Men’s Bible Study @ Southern Belle’s

Fri. 9am Ladies Prayer Hour in the Fireside Room

Sun: 8:30am Fellowship

9am Sunday School for all ages

10am Worship **in the Sanctuary**

6:00pm GriefShare

Welcome and thank you for attending our church service today. If you are new to Helmar and are interested in finding out more about us, please stop at the Welcome Center and talk with John and Laurie. We have a gift bag for you.

Bulletin Art by Charlie Niles

If you have missed any of the bulletins designed by our youth, the extras will be available in the FLC the first two Sundays of September.

The Youth Group will launch their fall session on September 11th at 6:30pm. Anyone entering 6th grade is welcome to join them at that time.

Rally Day—Our Sunday School and Fall schedule will launch on September 8th. Please be in prayer for the teachers as they prepare for the new classes. Plan to join us for a potluck picnic following the worship service that day. The church will provide chicken and beverages. Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. Seating will be available indoor and outdoor. Signup sheets are available at the Welcome Center.

Henry and Pam Cryder are celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary on September 12th. Their family will be hosting an open house here at church on September 15th. Details are on a personalized invite in the FLC lobby welcome center. If you will be able to celebrate with us, please sign up and indicate how many attending so we have an estimate. Thank you!!



September 1st, 2024

“Making the Most of Opportunities
Matthew 11:20-24

Four Spiritual Laws about Opportunities:

I. Growing up with the Gospel is a great
_____ v. 20

- A. In NT Israel
- B. In America
- C. In our church and area

II. With Opportunity comes _____
and _____ vv. 21-24

III. _____ can be
_____.

“To be ‘almost persuaded’ is to be entirely lost.”

Vance Havner

IV. Regardless of wasted opportunities of the past,
_____ is still a day of salvation! vv. 28-30

3 words of Hope and Invitation:

A. _____ v. 28

“O Lamb of God, I come, I come.”

B. _____ v. 29

After you come to Jesus, will you choose to
take His way?

1. Rich Young Ruler: He _____ to Jesus,
but...

Mark 10:17,22

2. Deuteronomy 30:19, John 1:12

Pastor Lombardo: “I have decided to follow
Jesus!”

C. _____ v. 29b

This is _____ learning!

“Learning to lean, I’m learning to lean, I’m
learning to lean on Jesus!”

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“Our law and our institutions must necessarily be based upon the
teachings of the Redeemer of Mankind. It is impossible that it
should be otherwise; and in this sense and to this extent, our
civilization and our institutions are emphatically Christian.” **U.S.
Supreme Court, 1892**

“If we abide by the principles taught in the Bible, our country will
go on prospering and to prosper; but if we and our posterity
neglect its instructions and authority, no man can tell how sudden
a catastrophe may overwhelm us and bury all our glory in
profound obscurity.” **Daniel Webster, 1821**

Spiritual Discipline Sheet
9-1-24

Hide God's Word in your Heart

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Joshua 24:15

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The Ladies Bible Study begins on September 12th at either 9:30am or 7pm in the lower level. They will be going through a 12 week study of the “Women of the New Testament”. Signup sheets are available at the Welcome center.

As many of you know, Tyler Wiesbrook stepped down as youth director in May, but we are thankful for the many great years of his service working with the kids! Our youth council and Pastor Alex along with some willing volunteers carried out a great summer full of backyard Bible studies hosted by a variety of wonderful families as well as two great weeks at FLY Beyond and Family Bible Camps where the kids have been able to grow in their walk with Jesus. We are excited to announce that Jared and Kynsey Mathre will be taking over as our new youth directors come January 2025! In the meantime Brandon and Angie Niles will lead the youth group through this time of transition during the fall months. Some new changes are taking place that you will hear more about down the road, but in the meantime we are excited for the new season ahead and are so thankful for the Mathre's willingness to answer the call to walk alongside our teens as they grow in their relationships with the Lord!

**Helmar Lutheran Church**

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*Helmar exists to be a:*

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

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