

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, July 27, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "How Firm A Foundation"

Scripture reading: Ephesians 2:1-10

Colossians 2:8-15

The Nicene Creed

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "In Christ Alone"

"Turn Your Eyes"

"Lord, I Need You"

No Children's Church (resumes August 17th. Nursery is available)

Sermon: "Law and Gospel, Part Two"

John 13:1-20

Hymn: ""The Solid Rock

Benediction

Postlude

Upcoming Events:

Mon: 3-5pm Food Pantry

Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle
6:30pm BYBS @ Cryder Farm, Samuel and Sydney Swenson
will be speaking

Sat: 12pm FLBC Alumni Picnic (@ pavilion)

Sun: 9:30 Fellowship
10am Worship service in the Sanctuary

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

- Cover art by Allison Pilon
- The Door Offering for FLBC was \$569.
- Helmar is still in need of a leader for the Shoebox Drop-off during the National Collection Week (11/11-11/24) for Operation Christmas Child. For more details, please see Dan Hanback or Stacy Christian.

Helmarpalooza Update:

- The countdown is on... "sold out" Helmarpalooza is just 3 weeks away! First, thank you to all who have signed up! If you are planning to help there is an informational volunteer meeting on Monday, August 4th at 7pm. We also invite anyone to come do a prayer walk outside on the grounds at 6:00pm that Monday as well! If you signed up for the first door security shift with initials only, please contact Angie Niles (630)624-1294 to keep your spot!
- We still need some food donations, please see sign up sheet at welcome center.
- We are very grateful to announce that we currently have a matching funds offer for \$15,000 and if we reach this goal, our projected budget for Helmarpalooza 2025 will be fully funded!
- And lastly, please be in prayer for this event! For people who come seeking to have an encounter with the Lord, the committee as they make final preparations, for great weather and safety for all, and for the Lord's continued provision of our funding!

July 27, 2025

“Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector.”

Luke 18:10

You have already heard that before any man can do what is good and pleasing in God’s sight, he must already be a pious man; that is, he must be accounted as justified and righteous before God by faith in Christ. At all times it remains universally true that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and, contrariwise, that a bad tree cannot produce good fruit. If a man is to do what is good, he must be good beforehand. So also here. The tax collector beats his breast, and this act may be regarded as a mark of the faith he already had in his heart.

This took place and was recorded so that we should really open our eyes and not judge people merely by outward appearances. We must try to discover what was in the heart of these two men and not simply form a judgment according to works. If the heart is godly, all is godly. If this tax collector is judged by works, you soon come to a false conclusion. It appears that in him there is nothing but sin. Likewise, when I judge the hypocritical Pharisee here according to works, I also finish up with a wrong conclusion. He stands in the holy place, makes a fine prayer, praises and thanks God with impressive works, fasts, gives tithes, and harms no one. Everything about this man glitters. His standards find universal approval.

It is not easy to reject the testimony of such an honorable, virtuous life. Who would venture to assert that fasting is not good, that praising God and rendering to every man his due is something evil? When I look at a priest, monk, or nun, I regard them as godly. Who can gain-say me? But if I am to determine that this man is evil and that man godly, I must look into their hearts. This I cannot do.

DAILY SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:9–14

PRAYER

We know that it is quite useless, heavenly Father, to play the role of a hypocrite, because You can always look into our hearts and judge us accordingly.

Purify our hearts from all base motives, that the services we render

You may truly please You and benefit our neighbor, for Christ’s sake. Amen.

Excerpt from *Luther for the Busy Man* (Minneapolis, MN: Ambassador Publications, 2021), 290.

AFLC Promotion for July is the Free Lutheran Seminary

