

Helmar Lutheran Church

Newark, IL

Sunday, January 11, 2026
Youth Service

Prelude

Welcome

Hymn: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

Scripture reading: Ephesians 1:18-21

Hebrews 10:21-25

Confession of Faith: The Apostle's Creed

Congregational Prayer

Praise Team: "Only A Holy God"

"Turn Your Eyes/Jesus We Lift Our Eyes"

"Behold Our God"

Youth Video

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "Take Note"

Philippians 3:17-21

Benediction

Hymn: "Trust and Obey"

Postlude

Please join us in the FLC for a Soup and Salad luncheon provided by the Helmar Youth!

Table Prayer:

Be present at our table, Lord.

Be here and everywhere adored.

These mercies bless and grant that we
May feast in Paradise with Thee! Amen.

Upcoming Events:

Tu: 6:30pm Greven Life Group
6:30pm Deacons/Trustees Mtg, 7:30pm Council Mtg

Wed: 9am-2pm Quilting
2pm Adult Bible Study
6:30pm BLAST, JAM, HS groups

Th: 6:30pm Cryder Life Group
7pm GriefShare—Fireside Room
7pm Mathre Life Group

Fri: Kumla Dinner Prep

Sat: 4:30-7pm Kumla Dinner

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship
9am Sunday School
10am Worship service

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

- **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: a silent auction 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 at 815-210-0985. If you would like to sponsor a basket, or donate items, please contact Shirlene Peterson at 815-557-7936.

- **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.
- **Ladies' Bible Study**—Have you ever wrestled with doubt or struggled with faith? "Follow Me" is an in-depth study on the gospel of Mark. The gospel of Mark is an invitation to follow Jesus. We will learn how following Jesus is not a one-time action but a lifelong pursuit. Every day for the believer in Christ is a day to trust and obey the God who gave His life for us. So, women of Helmar, are you ready to follow Jesus? There is a **signup sheet** in the FLC. We will begin the 8-week study entitled, "Follow Me\A Study on the Gospel of Mark", on Thursday February 5, 2026, at 9:30 AM in the library.

Fran Sebby's 100th Birthday celebration will be on January 24th and her children are inviting everyone to celebrate with her in person or with cards. Additional information is available on the bulletin board in the FLC.

Coming Soon: M Night, The Cup of Cold Water Ministries Banquet, and Kid's Missions night is coming on February 28th. Keep an eye out for additional information and ticket sales.



January 11, 2026
"Take Note"
Philippians 3:17-21

January 11, 2026

Worship the Creator of Heaven, Earth, and Sea

January often brings the chill of winter, settling in with frosty mornings and bare landscapes. Yet it's also a season of fresh starts—a new year brimming with possibilities, plans, and the quiet anticipation of spring's arrival. Soon the world will awaken with vibrant grass, blooming flowers, and leaves painting the earth in colors crafted by our Creator. One of my great joys is hearing the cheerful songs of birds returning in the warmer months, a reminder of the life and beauty God has woven into the world.

Scripture clearly reveals the source of all creation: "In the beginning God created" (Genesis 1:1). This foundational truth brings clarity and purpose to everything else in the Bible. Consider the staggering diversity of life—estimates suggest up to 100 million unique species, from animals and plants to fungi and bacteria. The complexity and variety of life defy the notion of random evolution, a theory that persists despite its scientific shortcomings. The truth is far simpler and more profound: every element of the heavens, earth, and sea is the masterful work of our Lord.

The Bible beautifully captures this in Psalm 19:1-4: *"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands. Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge. They have no speech, they use no words; no sound is heard from them. Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world."*

These words resonate deeply. When I stand under a country sky, far from city lights, the stars shine with a brilliance that stirs awe in my soul. Their silent majesty speaks of God's boundless power. Similarly, in the warmth of summer, sitting in my backyard surrounded by towering trees, rustling bushes, chirping birds, and fluttering butterflies, I'm overwhelmed by the creativity and beauty of our Creator. These moments echo the truth of Romans 1:20: *"For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse."*

We are without excuse. Creation itself testifies to God's glory, inviting us to worship the One who made it all. Let's pause to marvel at His handiwork and give Him the praise He deserves.

Mr. Dana Hagen
AFLC Home Missions Board
Sioux Falls, South Dakota

AFLC Promotion for January is Home Missions

Helmar Lutheran Church

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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
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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

1-11-2026

Hide God's Word in your Heart

"Be imitators of me, just as I am also of Christ."

I Corinthians 11:1