

**Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL**
Sunday, February 15, 2026
Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Prelude
Welcome
Hymn: "My Savior's Love"
Scripture reading: Ephesians 6:5-9
 II Corinthians 5:6-10
Confession of Faith: Acts 17
Let the Redeemed of the Lord Say So!
Praise Team: "You Are My All in All"
 " Worthy"
 "The Heart of Worship"
Children's Church dismissed
Sermon: "Work Ethics"
 Colossians 3:22-4:1
Benediction
Hymn: "O How I Love Jesus"
Postlude

Upcoming Events:
*The Adult Bible Study and All Life Groups will not be meeting during Lent. They will resume the week after Easter.

Tu: 6:30pm Deacons/Trustees Mtg, 7:30pm Council Mtg.
Wed: 6:30am Men's Bible Study @ Southern Belle's
 6:30pm BLAST, JAM
 6:30pm **Lenten Service** in the lower level (with Youth Group)
Th: 9:30am Ladies Bible Study
Fri: 9am Ladies Prayer Group
Sun: 8:30 Fellowship
 9am Sunday School—**Discover Helmar Class**
 10am Worship service
 The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

Lenten Schedule

- Lenten Services will begin on Wednesday, February 18th, at 6:30pm in the lower level. The theme this year will be "Keeping Near the Cross". The Adult Bible Study and the Life Groups will not meet from February 17th through Good Friday. They will resume on April 7th.
- **Easter Choir**—practice begins March 1st, in the lower level after the worship service. We will plan to sing Maundy Thursday and Easter Sunday.
- There will be an **Easter Pageant** presented by our Sunday School children on Palm Sunday, March 29th during the Worship Service at 10am. **Parents**, if your children will Not be able to participate that Sunday, please notify Ruth Karales.
- Maundy Thursday Communion Service at 6:30pm on April 2nd
- Good Friday Service at 6:30pm on April 3rd
- Easter Sunday—No Sunday School. Worship Service at 10am

- We are putting together a group of people willing to help setup/tear down for events at the church. We will be using the GroupMe app to organize this. If you are willing to participate, please sign up in the FLC.
- Coming Soon: M Night, The Cup of Cold Water Ministries Banquet, and Kid's Missions night is coming on February 28th. Additional information is available on the bulletin board in the FLC lobby. You may see Matt Greven, Fred Alexander, or Amy Benjamin for tickets. We are also looking for people who would be willing to bake cookies for that evening. A signup sheet is at the Welcome Center.
- VBS: July 6-10th, "Emerald Crossing", registration coming soon!
- Family Youth and Bible Camp: July 19-23, 2026



February 15, 2026
"Work Ethics"
Colossians 3:22-4:1

We aren't always aware that the Lord is interested in our work. Yet, He does value work. He created it before sin came into the world. Adam was put into the Garden of Eden to cultivate and maintain it (Genesis 2:15). Today, we find in the text instructions for the Christian in the workplace.

I. First Instruction—Given to _____
 vv. 3:22-25

⇒ Be _____ v. 22
 ⇒ Be _____ v. 23
 ⇒ Be _____ vv. 24,25

II. Second instruction—Given to _____
 v. 4:1

⇒ Be _____ v. 1a
 ⇒ Be _____ v. 1b

February 18, 2026

I was at an event where a comedian joked about the “little sins” he commits. The crowd cringed—me, too. It wasn’t just his awkward assertions. It was the idea that any sin, even “little sins,” was laughable.

Perhaps if he had listened to the previous speaker, he would have understood why his joke flopped. We had just heard a message about the majesty of Almighty God, the One who stands in what Paul calls “unapproachable light” (I Timothy 6:6). Any sin, no matter the size, places us in enmity with a pure and holy God.

When I sin, I feel the utter shame of it. And what is my first reaction? I push the shame far away. My ego cannot deal with it. But it niggles my conscience, and the shame multiplies. When I finally agree with the Holy Spirit’s prodding and take stock of my sin, I realize the weight of its darkness is beyond human remedy. Confronted with my dirty soul, I can only don sackcloth and sit in the dust like the king of Nineveh of old (Jonah 3:6).

Ashes and dust—appropriate accessories to shame. Do you see how their darkness mirrors the inward predicament? Many biblical patriarchs recognized the abyss that exists between God and mankind because of sin. Job repented in dust and ashes (42:6). Abraham, too, acknowledged that he was “but dust and ashes” (Genesis 18:27).

Ashes manifest our humble state before God: our sin and our mortality.

But there is another use for ash: the sacrificial fire. Isaiah writes that when he stood before the throne of the Most High and cried, “Woe is me! I am ruined! For I am a man of unclean lips!” a seraph took a burning coal from the altar, and with one touch to Isaiah’s mouth, his “guilt was taken away” and his “sin atoned for” (6:5–7).

That fire held the ultimate and perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ. He emptied himself. He even humbled himself (Philippians 2). He made himself like us—dust and ashes—so that ultimately, he could be the only one who has the authority to bestow on us a “crown of beauty instead of ashes, oil instead of mourning, and a garment of praise instead of a spirit of despair” (Isaiah 61:3).

As we enter the season of Lent, may we, like King David in Psalm 34, humbly seek the Lord. He promises to deliver us from all our fears. And our “faces shall never be ashamed” (v. 5).

Miss Ruth Gunderson
The Lutheran Ambassador Managing Editor
Plymouth, Minnesota

AFLC Promotion for February is *The Lutheran Ambassador*

Helmar Lutheran Church

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Helmar exists to be a:

Soul-Winning, Disciple-Making,

Burden-Bearing Church

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Spiritual Disciplines Sheet

2-15-2026

Hide God’s Word in your Heart

“For even when we were with you, we used to give you this order: if anyone is not willing to work, then he is not to eat, either.”

II Thessalonians 3:10