

Helmar Lutheran Church
Newark, IL
Sunday, August 31, 2025

Prelude

Welcome

Video Presentation from Paul and Becky Abel*

Hymn: "I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

Scripture reading: Psalm 21:1-6

Psalm 139:23,24

Pastoral Prayer

Praise Team: "This I Believe"

"He Will Hold Me Fast"

"Gratitude"

Children's Church dismissed

Sermon: "It's Later Than It's Ever Been Before!"

Selected Scriptures

Benediction

Hymn: "'Tis So Sweet to Trust in Jesus"

Postlude

*Door Offering for the Abels

Upcoming Events:

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

Sun: 8:30 Fellowship

9:00 Sunday School-begins in the Sanctuary

10am Worship service in the Sanctuary

Church Picnic following the worship service

Communion will be on September 14th

The church Wi-Fi password is Helmar21

- The Adult Bible Study will resume on September 10th at 2pm in the library. They will be studying I & II Samuel. Please see Mac or Patti McKenna for details.
- The Helmar quilting group will resume on September 10th, from 9am to 2pm in the lower level. They meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month and would love for you to join them!
- BLAST (preschool-5th grade), and youth classes will resume here at the church on September 10th. There will be an ice cream social at 6 pm.
- The Ladies' Bible Study will begin on September 18th at 9:30am in the library. There will not be an evening study. They will be starting a new study on the book of Nehemiah, "The Call to the Wall". See Angie Lombardo for details. Signup sheets are available at the Welcome Center.
- Stacy Swenson will be here on October 5th to share an update on Light of the Moon ministries and Ahava house with the adult and high school Sunday school classes. We will be meeting in the lower level at 9am.
- We are still looking for a couple of families to help with Children's Church. This is a great opportunity to impact our little ones with a love for Jesus, God's Word, and His Church! Please see Kristen Mathre for details.

Rally Sunday, September 7th

- Sunday School classes will be kicking off for the new year next Sunday at 9am. There will be a dedication of the Sunday School teachers in the Sanctuary and then the children will be dismissed to their classes. The adults will remain for a preview of their class material.
- Following the worship service, we will be having the Annual Church Picnic. It will be potluck. Last names ending in A-I can bring salads, J-P can bring hot dishes, and Q-Z can bring desserts. Of course, if you have a “signature” dish, you may bring that as well! The church will provide chicken, table service and beverages.
- Please sign up for the picnic at the Welcome Center so that we know how much chicken to order.
- There will be activities planned for children and adults.

*The training by the Fire Department mentioned last week will be scheduled at another time. To help us know how many classes to arrange, please sign up at the Welcome Center if you are interested. The training will include instructions on the AED devices in the building, and hands only (no certification) CPR.



- Midweek Adult Small Groups will begin the week of September 14th. Each group will be studying the sermon for the upcoming Sunday. They are as follows:
 - ~Tuesdays at 6:30pm at Don & Mary Greven’s in Newark
 - ~Thursdays at 6:30pm at Scott & Tina Cryder’s in Minooka
 - ~Thursdays at 7pm at Marlon & Sheila Mathre’s in Yorkville
 - ~Fridays at 7:30pm at Brian & Carrie Pilon’s in Minooka
- Look for sign up sheets in the Welcome Center.



*We are looking for someone to keep the refrigerator in the FLC stocked with pop & water and pick up more drinks when needed. Please see Stacy Christian if you are interested in taking on this job.



August 31, 2025

“It’s Later Than It’s Ever Been Before”

We speak of the return of Jesus because the Word of God teaches this doctrine. Also, today’s events which we see and hear in the news reveal signs of the times pointing to the inevitable return of Christ. According to Mark Hitchcock, author of The End, there are five significant signs of the End Times.

I. The _____
Jeremiah 30:1-3; Ezekiel 37

II. The _____
II Timothy 2:2,3; 3:1-9; Jude 1:1-16

III. The _____
Daniel 9:27; I Thessalonians 5:1,2

IV. The _____
Daniel 2:40-44; 7:7,8,24

V. The _____
Genesis 11:1-9; Revelation 13:17

August 31, 2025

Everyone who has played on a sports team can think of a game where nothing went right. I think of one specific basketball game where nothing seemed to go our way. Our shots were not falling, the refs were not making the calls we wanted them to, and the scoreboard was not in our favor. It's games like this that require me to have a deeper reason for why I play. If I play only to win, the whole team fails. If I play to make myself look good, I am never satisfied. Even if I play to have fun, it's nearly impossible to find joy in a game like that. So, is it all for nothing? Why have I spent so many years of my life playing sports?

Being a part of athletics at FLBC has given me a reason for why I play, different from any other team I have been on. Playing on Christ-centered volleyball and basketball teams has taught me how to live on mission in all I do. As Paul says in Colossians 3:17, "Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father."

The team culture at FLBC is about more than the results on the court. Rather, we are taught to "live on mission." Hebrews 12:1-2a says, "Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith." Whether in another country or on the court, as Christians our lives are a mission field to shine the light of Jesus. When my eyes are fixed on Him, I show Christ to the other team, refs, and audience. It is through the Holy Spirit in me that I can live my life for Him.

It is a relief to know that games like I mentioned earlier do not define us. Our identity in Jesus sets us apart. We can fix our eyes on Christ and know that we are not playing for ourselves but for the glory of Christ. As 2 Corinthians 5:15 says, "And He died for all, so that they who live might no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf."

Miss Faith Peterson, FLBC Student
Grace Free Lutheran Church
Valley City, North Dakota

AFLC Promotion for August is the Free Lutheran Bible College

Helmar Lutheran Church

(815) 201-3789 email: helmarlutheran@gmail.com

website: helmarlutheranchurch.com

Helmar exists to be a:

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

Pastor— Steven Lombardo

217-621-2949 Email scbarido64@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

Email helmarlutheran@gmail.com

If you would like to provide **fresh flowers** for the altar, in memoriam or celebration, please contact Lori Chelsen.

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**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 talk with the greeters or stop by the Welcome Center. If you feel comfortable doing so, please share your contact info so that we can get to know you better. You can tear off this portion and drop it in the donation box or give it to an usher. We promise not to spam your phone or email.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Prayer request: