

Helmar Heartlines



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INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Birthdays & Anniversaries	2
Deck The Halls, Griefshare	2
Congregational Meeting	2
December Events	3
Youth Front, Offering Env.	4
D.W.W.C., Kumla Dinner	4

The season of Advent (the four weeks preceding Christmas) is like an alarm clock. We are called to awaken out of spiritual drowsiness. Why? Because Jesus, Who came once, is coming again! The imminent return of Christ should be on our hearts as we prepare to celebrate His first coming. Paul, in Romans 13:11-14, points to how we are to live in view of the Second Coming. Warren Wiersbe writes that there are three important admonitions to heed.

The first is, WAKE UP! “Do this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed” (v. 11). This is not the time for spiritual apathy and lethargy! “Salvation” here does not refer to our justification, but rather, to our glorification. We realize that we are closer to Jesus’ coming and our homegoing to heaven. This should be a time when we are awakened to what we have been given in Christ. Let’s live like we have a glorious future—for we do!

The second admonition is, CLEAN UP! “The night is almost gone, and the day is near. Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy” (vv. 12-13). We do not want to be found dressed in filthy clothes when Jesus comes. We do not want to be involved in the sinful pleasures of the world which, ironically, are all too common during the Christmas season.



The last admonition is, GROW UP! “But put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts” (v. 14). We seek the Holy Spirit to help us become more like Christ which means we will not want to satisfy the flesh. Wiersbe says, “We grow on the basis of the food we eat. This is why God warns us not to make provisions for the flesh. If we feed the flesh, we will fail; but if we feed the inner man the nourishing things of the Spirit, we will succeed.”

A fellow admitted he has a difficult time waking up. He said, “After trying to wake me for a meeting, a friend once despaired, ‘I hope you haven’t wasted money on a smoke alarm. Unless it throws you out of the window, it is useless to you!’”

May the Advent Alarm Clock awaken us to Christmas Joy! We have a Savior and His name is Jesus! We celebrate Him!

Merry Christmas!
Pastor Lombardo

Congregational Meeting

Just a reminder for the **Day After Christmas**..... please start thinking about the Annual Report that you will need to turn in. We will need the following reports: Pastor's, Cemetery, Treasurer's, Deacon's, Trustee's, Youth, Missionary Fund, Family Life Center (expenses & receipts for 2018), and Sunday School. All reports need to be turned in by January 10th so the reports can be available on Sunday, January 20th before our meeting on the 26th.



We will be starting a 13 week Grief Share program on Thursday, January 3rd at 7:00pm in the Fireside Room. This is a program for anyone who has suffered the loss of a loved one. Whether the loss was recent or even a number of years ago, you are welcome to attend. Each lesson is independent so you may start anytime.

The class will be led by Tom and Linda Mathre. Contact them at [815-210-0875](tel:815-210-0875) (Tom) or [815-210-0985](tel:815-210-0985) (Linda) if you have any questions.

-People are funny; they want the front of the bus, the middle of the road and the back of the church.
 -Quit griping about your church; if it was perfect, you couldn't belong.
 -Opportunity may knock once, but temptation bangs on your front door forever.



Please join us on Saturday, December 1st at 8am as we decorate the church for Christmas. It is a big job, but many hands make light work!

Birthdays and *Anniversaries For DECEMBER

We will update our list the first of the year to include only active members and non-members, homebound, military and those requesting to be on. If we don't have your info, we can't list you!

December 1

Lucas Geistler
 Mia Geistler
 Jeff and Beth Goins*

December 2

Clyde Borneman

December 3

Brad Mathre

December 4

Teri Osmond

December 7

Tessa Cryder
 Joyce Ward

December 8

Jon & Melissa Hageman*

Jane Swanson

December 9

Connie Punke
 Sheila Marie Urton

December 10

Allison Pilon

December 12

Ruby Chelsen

December 13

Jared Mathre

December 14

Charlie Niles

December 18

Gary & Vicki Maxwell*

December 19

Elmer Leifheit

December 20

James & Kristin Molstre*

December 21

Keith Keigher
 David Swenson

December 23

Carter Chelsen

Ellie Chelsen

December 25

Don Funte

December 27

Brad Boe

Capri Sucher

December 28

Kristin Molstre

December 29

Judy Anderson

December 30

Betty Anderson

December 31

Vickie Wayne

*Wedding Anniversaries



Christmas Card Delivery

The high school group will once again be sorting Christmas cards for our church family. The money donated for postage will go to our Youth Program. PLEASE- ONLY BRING CARDS FOR THOSE WHO **REGULARLY ATTEND HELMAR**.

Just write the Family name on the envelope, alphabetize, and put a rubber band around them. Deposit your bundle in our "mailboxes" located at each entrance. Please deposit a check in the amount that you would have spent on postage, made out to Helmar Church. The youth will sort into piles by family and they can be picked up any time after the S.S. Christmas Program on Sunday, December 16th. **Please DO NOT add cards after the 16th.**



Christmas will be here before you know it. If you'd like to purchase a poinsettia to decorate the sanctuary, they will be \$8 each (make checks payable to Newark High School).

Please have checks or cash to Sheila Marie Urton no later than Sunday, **December 16th**. Please indicate if you would like them in memory or honor of someone. Please call Sheila Marie with any questions @ 815-695-5547 or 815-617-2917.

Door Offering



On December 9th, we will have our free will offering of thanks for our volunteer music people who put in many hours of service throughout the year.



Helmar's annual Christmas cantata, the "Corinne Mathre Memorial Cantata" will be "Night of Miracles". We will honor Corinne's memory and thank God for her musical service of many years as choir director, singer, pianist and composer at Helmar.

"Night of Miracles" will be presented on Sunday, December 9th at 7pm.

Please join us for an evening of worship and praise in song.



Sunday School & WeeCare Christmas Program

The annual S.S. Christmas Program will be on Sunday, December 16th during the worship service (in the F.L.C.). There will be practice for the program on Saturday, December 15th from 9-11am, and also during Sunday School on the 16th. The annual WeeCare Christmas Program will also be on the 16th during the worship hour.



Christmas Candlelight Dinner

Women of the church (bring a friend) to enjoy our Candlelight Dinner on Thursday, December 6th at 6pm in the basement. This is a potluck dinner so please bring a dish to pass. Our guest speaker will be Vicki Maxwell. She will be speaking on "The Truth About Angels" - Hebrews 1:14 - Are not all angels ministering spirits sent to serve those who will inherit salvation? At Christmas time, we see beautiful female angels adorning trees. When we watch "It's a Wonderful Life" we see the angel, Clarence, trying to earn his wings. So what does an angel really look like? What do angels do? We will be looking at what the bible says is true about angels. Gathering together is a special way to start the Christmas season.

God gave the very best gift ever--He gave Himself...Jesus became incarnate, putting on flesh so that we could understand God better. He endured suffering and death to pay the penalty for our sins. Now it is our turn to give God the best gift we have--our lives...letting Him be the Lord, the One we live for. He created the purpose and passions inside each of us and He best knows how to bring them to fruition!

Events in December:

December 2, 11:15-3:30--The JAM Cookie Bake in the FLC kitchen. Each student should bring a batch of his favorite cookie dough (already mixed together) and a cookie sheet. They will deliver the cookies and homemade cards to the shut-ins and those home alone. Please encourage your child to share in bringing joy to others!

December 16, during SS--The high school students will sort Christmas cards. The congregation brings cards for those that regularly attend Helmar. The postage they save can be donated to the Youth Fund.

The 6-12th grades will join the adults in the basement for the Advent Services, the first three Wednesdays in December. We look forward to everyone getting to know each other better through the singing, the sharing, and hearing the Word.

Give God's love to others this Christmas!

DWWC 2019 Committees - It's hard to believe it's time again to sign up for committees for the upcoming calendar year at Helmar. I know you were anxiously awaiting the sign up sheets. The board will be a couple weeks in the FLC and a couple weeks in the east door entry - so whichever door you enter be looking for the blank lines that need your name. In our busy lives, we are to "do what we can" to serve our Lord. Please be a part of Mark 14:8. Thank You!

Kumla Dinner

Our annual Kumla Dinner will be held on Saturday, January 19th, 2019. It will be held in the FLC. Please be thinking about ways to help with this fundraiser. All proceeds will go to the Helmar Food Pantry. More details will follow in the January newsletter.

Offering Envelopes

Do you put a check (or cash) in your offering envelope and mark it General Fund? Consider marking a specific item for giving. Example:

Mission Support is partnering with our missionaries, working alongside them.

Building Fund is used to make upgrades and improvements to our entire building.

Benevolence is for the AFLC to support the Bible School, Home Missions or Seminary.

Also, if you would like offering envelopes for the 2019 year and aren't already using them, please let Sue (in the office) know ASAP. Another option for giving is monthly electronic giving. See Sue if you'd like to know more about how to set that up.

2018 Giving Statements will be sent out in early January. If you signed up last year, you'll receive a statement this year. If you are new at Helmar or didn't receive a statement last year, but would like one, please let Sue know by December 20th.

December 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 8am Men's Bible Study 8am Decorate Church
2 8:30am Fellowship Time 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 11:15am-3:30pm JAM Cookie Bake 4pm Cantata Practice	3	4 7pm Bells	5 7pm Advent Service 7pm BLAST 6:30-6:55 & 8-9pm Open Gym	6 6:00pm Christmas Candlelight Dinner	7 9am WeeCare 9am Ladies Prayer Hour	8 8am Men's Bible Study
9 8:30am Fellowship Time 8:30am Worship Choir 9am Sunday School 10am Worship 7pm Cantata	10	11 6:30pm Deacon's Mtg. 7pm Trustee's Mtg. 7pm Bells 8pm Council Mtg.	12 7pm Advent Service 7pm BLAST 6:30-6:55 & 8-9pm Open Gym	13	14 9am WeeCare 9am Ladies Prayer Hour 5-7pm Food Pantry	15 8am Men's Bible Study 9-11am Christmas Program Practice
16 8:30am Fellowship Time 9am Sunday School 10am Worship w/ Sunday School & WeeCare Programs in Family Life Center	17	18 7pm Bells	19 9am-2pm Quilting 7pm Advent Service 7pm BLAST 6:30-6:55 & 8-9pm Open Gym	20 7pm Faith Circle	21 9am Ladies Prayer Hour	22 8am Men's Bible Study
23 8:30am Fellowship Time 9am Sunday School 10am Worship	24 4:30pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Have a Blessed Christmas	26	27	28	29
30 9:45am Fellowship Time with Cinnamon Rolls 10am Worship	31					