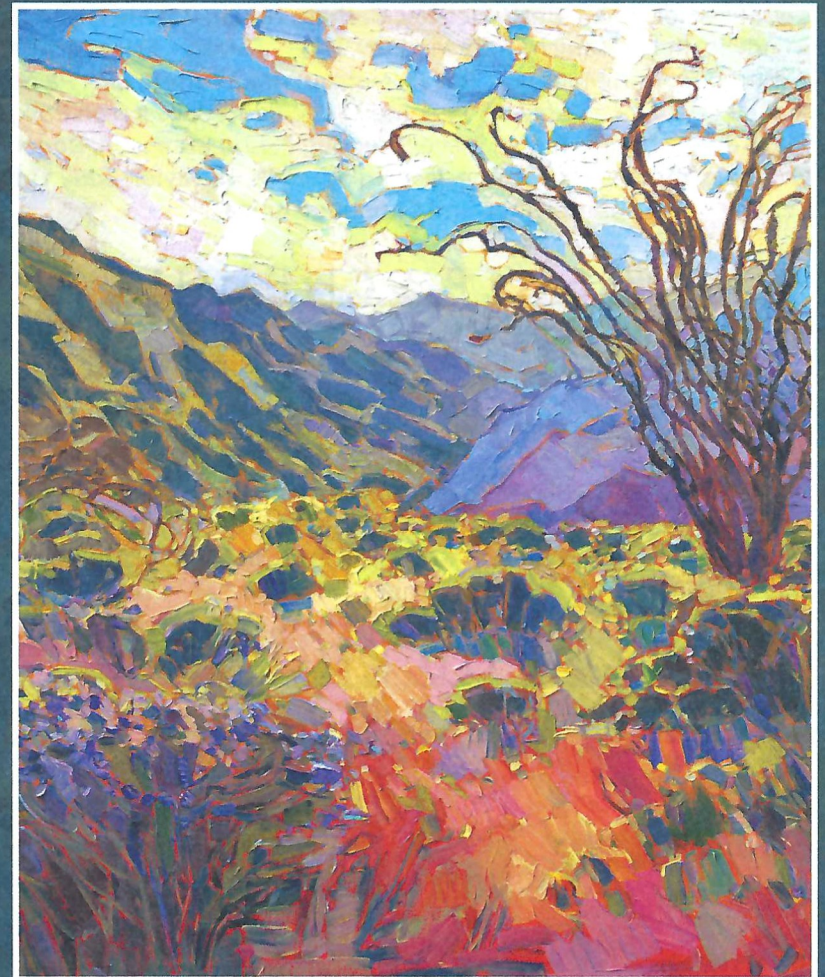


The desert shall
**rejoice and
blossom**

ISAIAH 35:1



Cover: *Borrego in Bloom* by Erin Hanson. Copyright © Erin Hanson. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Scripture quotations from the New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary copyright © 1992 by the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), admin. Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Please visit our website at www.augsburgfortress.org. Tracks 1 and 2
Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. May not be reproduced. Printed in U.S.A. 20251214-ADV3 ITEM014894 ELCA-N

Edinburg Lutheran Parish
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

December 14, 2025

Pastor Katie Gosswein Parsonage: 984-9260 Cell: 335-7758

<https://elpva.org/>



Remembering those who have requested prayer: Dot Doolan,

Shelby Eye, Sophia Gibb, Erica Lam, Jim Lam, Tasha Mahony, Kitty Martz, Goldie Lam, ... **and we further remember...** Steve Baker, Steve Campbell, Leannah Comer, Keith Cabbage, Tina Daniels, Burgess Dellinger, Roe Dias, Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst, Virginia Estep, Shelby Eye, Landon Fadely, Diane Funkhouser, Harper Gochenour, Luther Gochenour, Peggy Graff, Podge Green, Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Martha Harlow, Mike Harlow, Tim Harlow, Mike Heishman, Betty Helsley, Barbara Hollar, Ronnie Hoffman, Wade Ludwig, Keith Manich, Toby Markley, Bonnie Mason, Erich McMinn, Evelyn Moomaw, Ron Moomaw, Jerry Newland, Anna Nilsen, Rick Painter, Bob & Jane Perry, Linda Perry, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk, Ed & Bea Provost, Dennis Rigby, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Roger Schmidt, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Dan Strother, Keith Taylor, Judy Tharp, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Next Sunday: December 21 – Fourth Sunday of Advent

8:30 Worship will be a Service of the Word at Zion.

9:45 Adult Sunday School meets at both churches.

11:00 Worship will be a Service of the Word at St. Jacob's

Call-in worship is always offered at the 11:00 service.

Conference call: (425) 436-6395 Toll Free: (844)-854-2222

Access Code: 377656 #

DID YOU KNOW ?

Jesus preached that no one could come to the Father except through him
(John 14:6)



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thank you for supporting Wreaths Across America!! Everyone's help this past week and especially yesterday was greatly appreciated! It was a blessing to once again remember and honor those who have served our country and from whom we have received so much. You are invited in the coming weeks to take a moment for quiet reflection in our wreath laden cemetery.

Zion will have their Congregational meeting TODAY following 11 AM worship. We hope you will remain with us as we elect our 2026 Council. Thanks to Dianne Gerorge, Robbie Green, and Dave Hottle who are willing to stand for election and the floor will also take nominations. We will further study and discuss the recommended 2026 budget and our financial Parish relationship with St. Jacob's.

Salvation Army – Red Kettle Ringers! Tomorrow afternoon, Monday, December 15 is our last day to ring at Mt. Jackson – Food Lion. We have one spot open from 2-3 PM if you are interested. They may need help on Friday, December 19 at Walmart. See Pastor Katie for more information.

Cake Judges are needed! Come help Pastor Katie judge the "Mom No-Bake Cake Contest" for the Cub Scouts at Zion this Tuesday at 6:30! All the cake you can eat is your prize!

Wednesday Noon Advent Service at Emanuel – Woodstock – continues with Father Trinh from St. John's Bosco leading the service. Come at 12:00 for Advent reflection and stay for soup & sandwiches! Many thanks to those who helped Pastor Katie out last week.

Advent Bible Study: This Wednesday night, 6 PM, will be our last Advent Bible Study as we consider the gifts this season offers us. Our focus will be on **The Gift of Hope**, as we consider Bible readings from Psalm 33:13-22, Romans 8:18-24, James 1:17-21 and Luke 1:46-55, 67-79.

Christmas Nativity Celebration – Everyone is invited!! Come join us next Saturday evening from 6:30 – 8 PM at Zion for a relaxed evening of experiencing the Christmas story, singing Christmas carols, enjoying good food and fellowship!

St. Jacob's will have their Congregational Meeting following worship next Sunday. We look forward to talking about the status of our Council and the 2026 budget. If you would consider serving on Council, please speak with Pastor Katie.

Thanksgiving Offering: thanks to all who came out for our Thanksgiving Eve service. We were pleased to collect \$135 for Luke's Backpacks.



3rd Sunday of Advent

Zion Lutheran Church

December 14, 2025
11 AM

Welcome Today's pictures are from Wreaths Across America, held yesterday.

Advent Prayer

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe.
Your prophets spoke of a day when the desert would blossom and waters would break forth in the wilderness.

Bless us as we light the candles on this wreath.
Strengthen our hearts as we prepare for the coming of the Lord.

**May He give water to all who thirst,
for He is our light and our salvation.
Blessed be God forever. Amen.**

Advent Wreath Lighting *Wait for the Lord* # 262

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near.
Wait for the Lord: Be strong, take heart!

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
whose home is heaven and earth,
whose salvation is sure. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God of mercy,
we confess that we have sinned.
We trust earthly powers and human authority alone.
We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.
God of might,
we confess that we have sinned.
We have turned away from our neighbors.
We have trusted false promises.
God in our midst,
we confess that we have sinned.
We plead: come to us.
Bring Your mercy to birth in us.



Assurance and Forgiveness

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through + Christ Jesus, whose day draws near.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn #264
Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway;
the King of Kings is near!
Let every hill and valley
a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory,
foretold in sacred story:



Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord,
For He fulfills God's word!

God's people, see him coming, your own eternal King!
Palm branches strew before him!
Spread Garments! Shout and sing!
God's promise will not fail you!
No more shall doubt assail you! **Refrain**

Then fling the gates wide open
to greet your promised king!
Your king, yet every nation its tribute too may bring.
All lands will bow before him;
their voices join your singing: **Refrain**

His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav'n above.
His rule is peace and freedom
and justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding
for kindness so abounding. **Refrain**

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, ...be with you all.
And also with you.

Kyrie

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**
For the peace from above, and for our salvation,
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,
for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity
of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy place, and for all who offer here their
worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen**

Refrain

This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose
2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.
join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to

*Refrain*

hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.
God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -

*Refrain*

gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day
God's Word



Today Readings

Isaiah 35:1-10
Psalm 146
James 5:7-10

Gospel Acclamation

page 102

Al-le-lu--ia, al-le-lu-lia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le--lu-ia.
Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life.
Al-le-lu--ia, al-le-lu-lia, al-le-lu-ia, al-le--lu-ia.

The Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 11th Chapter,
beginning with the 2nd verse...

Glory to you, O Lord.

***The reading of the
Gospel***

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you,
O Christ.**

Sermon



Sermon Hymn *Comfort, Comfort Now My People* # 256



1 "Com - fort, com-fort now my peo - ple; tell of peace!" So says our God.
2 For the her-ald's voice is cry - ing in the des - ert far and near,
3 Straight shall be what long was crook - ed, and the rough - er plac - es plain.



Com-fort those who sit in dark - ness mourn-ing un - der sor - row's load.
call - ing us to true re - pen - tance, since the reign of God is here.
Let your hearts be true and hum - ble, as be-fits God's ho - ly reign.



To God's peo - ple now pro-claim that God's par - don waits for them!
Oh, that warn - ing cry o - bey! Now pre - pare for God a way.
For the glo - ry of the Lord now on earth is shed a - broad,



Tell them that their war is o - ver; God will reign in peace for-ev - er.
Val - leys, rise to greet the Sav - ior; hills, bow down in hum-ble fa - vor.
and all flesh shall see the to - ken that God's word is nev - er bro - ken.

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord,
Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through Him all things were made.



For us and for our salvation He came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate; He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the scriptures; He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Lord, in Your mercy,
hear our prayer.



Offering

Offering Prayer

Nourishing God, You are water in the wilderness and streams in the desert. Through this meal, satisfy our parched

places, and through these gifts care for our community, that we may rejoice and be for the world signs of Your kingdom come. **Amen.**

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart O God
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.
Restore to me the joy of Your salvation and
uphold me with Your free spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to You, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ; You comforted your people
with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will
also make all things new in the day when He comes to judge
the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of
angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we
praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

+ Words of Consecration +

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray...

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come,
thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



Invitation to Communion

In Christ's presence, there is fullness of joy.
Come, share in His presence.

Sharing in Communion

*In the sanctuary, we will commune at the altar railing.
Those at home are invited to commune at the
beginning, as the Pastor invites them*

Prayer after Communion

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, most gracious God, that you have fed us with the bread of heaven and given us a foretaste of Paradise. Enliven us to be your body in the world and to serve those who are in need; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Blessing

May God who comes among us,
Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,
and good news to share today and always.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

The King Shall Come

260

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.

Not as of old a little Child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.

Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.

Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn
upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.

The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.

Sending

Go in peace.

The Lord goes before you, preparing the Way

Thanks be to God.

Wreaths Across America

Zion Lutheran Cemetery + Saturday, December 13, 2025





Happy are they who have
the God of Jacob ¹ for their help,
whose hope is in the ¹ LORD
their God;

⁶who made heaven and earth, the seas,
and all that ¹ is in them;
who keeps promis- ¹ es forever;

⁷who gives justice to those
who are oppressed,
and food to ¹ those who hunger.
The LORD sets the ¹ captive free.

⁸The LORD opens the eyes of the blind;
the LORD lifts up those
who ¹ are bowed down;
the LORD ¹ loves the righteous.

⁹The LORD cares ¹ for the stranger;
the LORD sustains
the orphan and widow,
but frustrates the way ¹ of the wicked.

¹⁰The LORD shall ¹ reign forever,
your God, O Zion, throughout
all generations. ¹ Hallelujah!

or Luke 1:46b-55 [not printed]

Second Reading

James 5:7-10

Be patient, therefore, brothers and sisters, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. ⁸You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord

is near. ⁹Brothers and sisters, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! ¹⁰As an example of suffering and patience, brothers and sisters, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Gospel

Matthew 11:2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples ³and said to him, "Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?" ⁴Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: ⁵the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with a skin disease are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. ⁶And blessed is anyone who takes no offense at me."

⁷As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind?

⁸What, then, did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. ⁹What, then, did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. ¹⁰This is the one about whom it is written,

'See, I am sending my messenger
ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before
you.'

¹¹"Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist, yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."



Today's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent
December 14, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 35:1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall
be glad;
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus ²it shall blossom
abundantly
and rejoice with joy and shouting.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given
to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

³Strengthen the weak hands
and make firm the feeble knees.
⁴Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
"Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you."

⁵Then the eyes of the blind shall be
opened,
and the ears of the deaf shall be
opened;
⁶then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless
sing for joy.

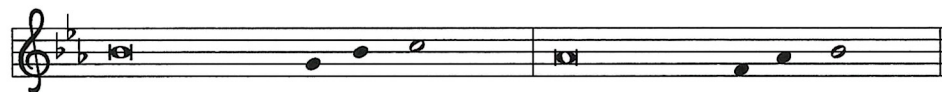
For waters shall break forth in the
wilderness
and streams in the desert;
⁷the burning sand shall become a pool
and the thirsty ground springs of
water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a
swamp;
the grass shall become reeds and
rushes.

⁸A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveler, not even fools, shall go
astray.

⁹No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come
up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
¹⁰And the ransomed of the LORD shall
return
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Psalm

Psalm 146:5-10; tone 1





Dear members, friends and community surrounding Zion Lutheran Church

December 13, 2025, proved to be another day the support at Zion Lutheran Church was overwhelming. Thank you each for the many ways you helped make our second ceremony for Wreaths Across America a success.

This program can only be done thanks to all the many people involved. The financial support, donated equipment, food donations, set up, clean up, parking car help, making location signs, making signs for each of the three wreath tables, and making wonderful social hall reception table decor, photography, kitchen and hospitality hosts, the program readers, bell ringing, attendance counters, table helpers, floating folks who helped solve problems, and wreath laying volunteers, each one is a vital part. This undertaking cannot be done alone, and I appreciate all the help from everyone!

We had approximately 75 people attend the ceremony, with assistance from 6 or 7 youth organizations, and 23 people attended the reception afterward.

We will rest briefly and enjoy the holiday, but please join us next year for a review meeting and finding ways that you may be interested in helping.

Please share the word that **the save the date for 2026, is December 19!** I provided the wrong date previously.

Thank you again!!! Robin

