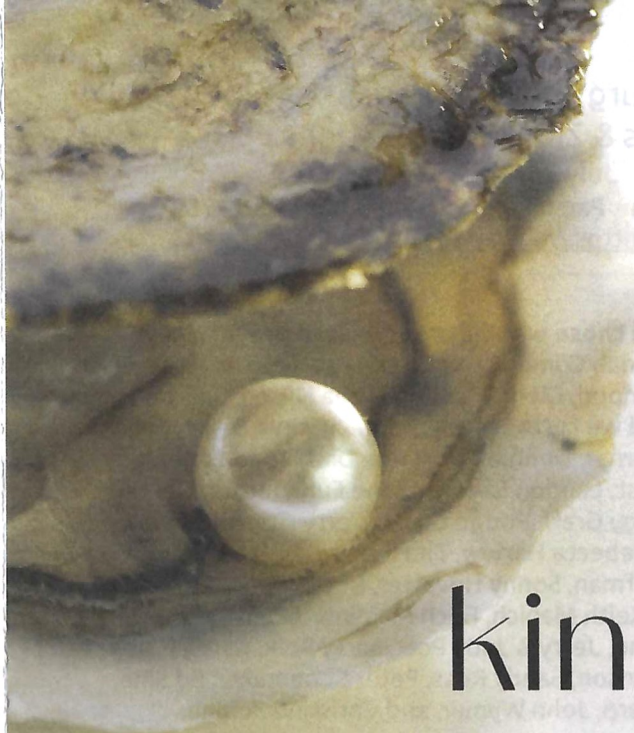




The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls

MATTHEW 13:45

Cover: An oyster with a pearl. Copyright © 2025 Getty Images Plus via Getty Images/Tetra Images. Used by permission.

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Edinburg Lutheran Parish
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

July 26, 2026

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

<https://elpva.org/>



Remembering those who have requested prayer: Steve Campbell, Leannah Comer, Lynette George, Martha Harlow, Danny Lindamood, Glenn McMinn, Anna Nilsen, Sherrie Ritenour ... **and we further remember...** Steve Baker, Joan Bowers, Tom Burner, Donnie Cook, Roe Dias, Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst, Landon Fadely, Diane Funkhouser, Harper & Luther Gochenour, Peggy Graff, Podge Green, Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Mike Harlow, Rebecca Harlow, Tim Harlow, Betty Helsley, Barbara Hollar, Ronnie Hoffman, Sonny Hovatter, Buck Jones, Jim Lam, Brian Lear, Wade Ludwig, Keith Manich, Erich McMinn, Donna Mumaw, Freddie Neal, Jerry Newland, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Sandy Ross, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Keith Taylor, Judy Tharp, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

We further remember the family of our dear Burgess "Bud" Dellinger in our prayers, who at 96, died unexpectedly Friday night. A Service of Resurrection Joy will be held at St. Jacob, and the details are still being worked out, but for now we thank God for the joy he brought to us all.

We also lift up the family of Justin Laidler, who at 37, passed after a courageous battle with ALS, leaving his wife and three children. May our Lord be their comfort and strength, even as we thank God for Justin's service through his career in fire and rescue.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

NEXT SUNDAY: August 2 - 10th Sunday after Pentecost

8:30 Worship – Service of the Word at Zion – Hymnbook Sunday

9:45 Adult Sunday School meets at both churches.

11:00 Worship will be a Service of Holy Communion 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 ?

The Garden of Eden was guarded by a cherubim and a flaming sword to prevent future access to the Tree of Life
(Gen 3:24)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wednesday in the Word will be reading and discussing the last two chapters of Ezekiel this week and talk about why this prophetic book is still relevant for today the following week. We meet at 6 PM on Wednesdays at Zion and there is always a chair waiting for you!

NEXT SUNDAY AFTERNOON: Disaster Preparedness Planning –

How will our church respond in times of disaster? SC Deputy Emergency Preparedness Director, Shannon Walters, will provide a 1-hour presentation on Sunday, August 2 at 2 PM at Zion. This event is open to all churches, and their members.

THANK YOU to all who came out to the **Rock Painting Party** at Zion yesterday. It is wonderful to add our creations to those collected for WRE's tables for the SCPS Open Houses. If you are still feeling inspired to paint more, rocks are still needed. Just let Pastor Katie know of your plans.

Shenandoah County Pregnancy Center is looking to hire a Client Care Director. This person provides leadership and oversight for our client services and program operations, helping ensure that every woman, man, and family who comes through our doors receives compassionate, high-quality care rooted in the mission and values of the Center. For more information, call: 540.984.4673

The Good Shepherd Comfort Care Program is on our website (www.svlm.org) and offers the **enrollment form** for those in need of **adult diapers**. Enrollment helps us ensure we have the right sizes available. Diaper pickup is at Edinburg Christian Church on the first two Thursdays of each month from 9-11am and 5-7pm.

Sight & Sound Movie – "Jesus" will be shown on Saturday, August 8 at 10 AM at the Sipe Center – 100 N. Main St. – Bridgewater. This is a private showing being sponsored by the Southern Valley WELCA and "dutch treat" lunch at Cracked Pillar or Francesco's will follow. No reservations required.



9th Sunday after
Pentecost
Edinburg Lutheran Parish
July 26, 2026

Welcome – Today's pictures are from St. Jacob's chicken BBQ on July 11.

Confession & Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of Your people, turning us from our sin to live for You alone. Give us the power of Your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive Your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and Lord. **Amen.**

— Silence is kept for reflection —

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

- Declaration of Forgiveness -

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for His sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn #772 *Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways
to keep his statutes still!
Oh, that my God would grant me grace
to know and do his will!

Order my footsteps by your word
and make my heart sincere;
let sin have no dominion, Lord,
but keep my conscience clear.

Assist my soul, too apt to stray,
a stricter watch to keep;
and should I e'er forget your way,
restore your wand'ring sheep.

Make me to walk in your commands,
'tis a delightful road;
nor let my head or heart or hands
offend against my God.

Apostolic Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Hymn of Praise # 689 *Praise and Thanksgiving*

Praise and thanksgiving, God, we would offer
for all things living, You have made good:
harvest of sown fields, fruits of the orchard,
hay from the mown fields, blossom, and wood.

God, bless the labor we bring to serve You,
that with our neighbor we may be fed.
Sowing or tilling, we would work with You,
harvesting, milling for daily bread.

Father, providing food for Your children,
by Wisdom's guiding teach us to share
one with another, so that, rejoicing
with us, all others may know your care.

Then will Your blessing reach ev'ry people,
freely confessing Your gracious hand.
Where You are reigning, no one will hunger;
Your love sustaining showers the land.

Prayer of the Day

Today's Readings Insert

God's Word



1 Kings 3:5-12

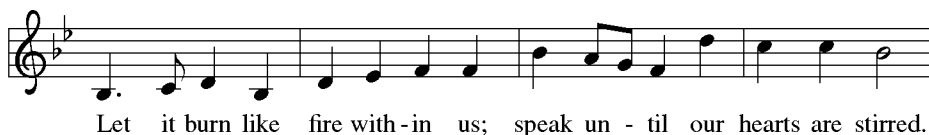
Psalm 119

Romans 8:26-39

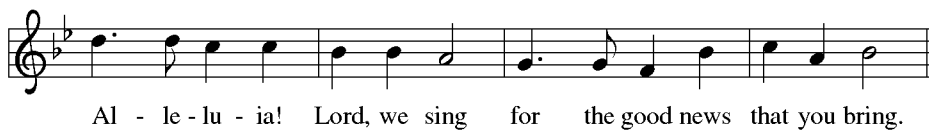
The Gospel Acclamation



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord and Sav - ior: o - pen now your sav - ing word.



Let it burn like fire with - in us; speak un - til our hearts are stirred.



Al - le-lu - ia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

The Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 13th
Chapter, beginning with the 31st verse...

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading of the Gospel

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day # 763 *My Life Flows On in Endless Song*



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

Refrain



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Offertory Prayer

Blessed are You, O
God, maker of all
things. Through
Your goodness,
You have blessed
us with these gifts:
ourselves, our time,

and our possessions. Use us, and what we have
gathered, in feeding the world with Your love, through
the One who gave Himself for us, Jesus Christ, our
Savior, and Lord. **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 unto me the joy of Your salvation and
uphold me with Your free spirit.



Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died,
and was buried;**

He descended to the dead.

On the third day He rose again;

He ascended into heaven,

**He is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and He will come to judge the living and the dead.**



**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

Lord in Your mercy
Hear our prayer



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.**

Blessing

Numbers 6:24-26

The Lord bless you and keep you;
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor,
+ and give you peace. **Amen**

Sending Hymn # 705 *God of Grace and God of Glory*

God of grace and God of glory,
on Your people pour Your pow'r,
crown Your ancient church's story;
bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the facing of this hour,
for the facing of this hour.

Lo! The hosts of evil round us
scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
for the living of these days,
for the living of these days.

Cure Your children's warring madness;
bend our pride to Your control;
shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
lest we miss your kingdom's goal.

Save us from weak resignation
to the evils we deplore;
let the gift of Your salvation
be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving You whom we adore,
serving You whom we adore.

Sending

Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!
Thanks be to God.





The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches hearts, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the first-born within a large family. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son but gave him up for all of us, how will he

Gospel

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened."

⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on

not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ³⁶As it is written,

"For your sake we are being killed all day long;
we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered."

³⁷No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52

finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."



Today's Readings

Sunday, July 26, 2026
9th Sunday after Pentecost

Prayer of the Day

Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

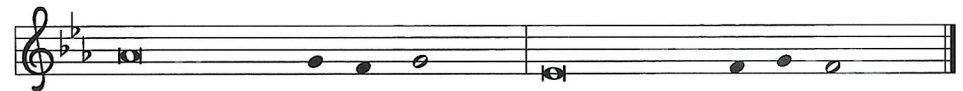
At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you, and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people

so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant, therefore, an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil, for who can govern this great people of yours?"

¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or for the life of your enemies but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed, I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you, and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm

Psalm 119:129-136; tone 5



Your de- | crees are wonderful;
therefore I obey them
with | all my heart.

¹³⁰**When your word is opened**
it gives light;
it gives understanding
to the simple.

¹³¹I open my | mouth and pant
because I long
for | your commandments.

¹³²**Turn to me**
and be gra- | cious to me,
as you always do
to those who | love your name.

¹³³Order my footsteps | in your word;
let no iniquity
have dominion | over me.

¹³⁴**Rescue me from those**
who oppress me,
and I will keep
your commandments.

¹³⁵Let your face shine
up- | on your servant
and teach | me your statutes.

¹³⁶**My eyes shed | streams of tears,**
because people do not | keep
your teaching.