

The truth
will make
you free

JOHN 8:32

Edinburg Lutheran Parish
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

October 25, 2026

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

<https://elpva.org/>



Remembering those who have requested prayer: John

Dart, Jamie Richard, Laurie Robinson, Caroline Valerio....**we**

continue to further remember... Steve Baker, Harlynn

Beckenstrater, Joan Bowers, Tom Burner, Steve & Linda

Campbell, Leannah Comer, Donnie Cook, PG Coverstone,

Roe Dias, Virginia Duncan, Todd Edgerton, Carla Eickenhorst,

Virginia Estep, Landon Fadely, Diane Funkhouser, Lynette George,

Chuck Givens, Harper & Luther Gochenour, Peggy Graff, Podge Green,

Terry Grigsby, Belle Hamman, Martha Harlow, Mike & Rebecca Harlow,

Tim Harlow, Betty Helsley, Ronnie Hoffman, Sonny Hovatter, Jim Lam,

Brian Lear, Wade Ludwig, Keith Manich, Charlene Miller, Donna Mumaw,

Jerry Newland, Linda Perry, Jerry & Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Karen Polk,

Linda Perry, Wanda Rinker, Sherrie Ritenour, Steve Ritenour, Sandy

Ross, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Keith Taylor, Judy Tharp, Jerry Walters,

June Weatherholtz, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

Prayers for the comfort of the Holy Spirit to be with the family and friends of Glenn McMinn. May the God of all grace draw them close in this time of sorrow. Services for Glenn will be Saturday, November 7 at Zion Lutheran Church.

On the 4th Sunday of every month, we take time during our prayers to name everyone on our prayer list, asking for God's healing and mercy.

W O R S H I P S C H E D U L E

Next Sunday: November 1 + All Saints Sunday

Next Sunday is also the end of Daylight saving time. Clocks "fall back" one hour local time, giving you an extra hour of sleep.

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

A N N O U N C E M E N T S

Bluegrass Reformation Fun is TODAY! It's not too late to come join us at 4 PM at **Reformation Lutheran Church in New Market**. The new Virginia Synod Director of Youth and Young Adults, Rev. Tina Toburen will preach! Hot dogs & brats will be provided and you are invited to bring a side dish or dessert to share.

Lions Club Dinner will be provided tomorrow night at Zion and volunteers are always welcome! If you'd like more information, call Ann Ward at 540-477-3894.

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 7**, as **St. Jacob's hosts a Chicken BBQ! Help us spread the news!** Halves are **\$6.00 each**, and you can reserve yours by signing up today or calling 984-9260. Proceeds support Response in their mission to prevent sexual and domestic violence. Special thanks to Thrivent for sponsoring this fundraiser.

Bible Study: We will meet this Wednesday evening at 6 PM and pick up our study of the Gospel of Mark at Mark 1:9.

Circle Saturday, November 14 at 9 AM as we will have a work session to clean up Zion Cemetery in preparation for Wreaths Across America. We'll be trimming around the stones, and doing general cleaning of the area. See Robin Heishman for more information.

Aluminum Recycle is next weekend! Thank you to all who contribute so faithfully either by leaving their cans in the cabinet on Zion's back parking lot or bringing them to the truck every first weekend.

Bell Ringing starts early this year! Would you consider ringing a bell for **Salvation Army** on Fridays, November 6 & 13 or Saturday, November 14 at the Mt. Jackson Food Lion? See Pastor Katie!

Volunteers Needed: Cookie Bakers! The Shenandoah Alliance for Shelter is requesting home-baked cookie donations once again for the Empty Bowl Soup Supper on Friday, November 20! Please package cookies 3 to a snack-size bag and deliver them by Thursday, November 19. If you are able to contribute, please sign up with Pastor Katie.

Zion Council will meet on Monday, November 2 at 5:30.

Spring Forward is off to a wonderful beginning this year. We have openings for elementary age students. Bus transportation may also be arranged from the southern campus. Call Jane Perry (540-477-2088) for information.



Reformation Sunday

**Edinburg Lutheran
Parish**

**October 25, 2026 +
8:30 & 11 AM**

WELCOME: Today's pictures are from recent classes of our Spring Forward after school program.

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

As we worship this morning, O God, we pray that Your Spirit will be our strength, Your Word will be our guide, Your love will be our comfort, and Your promises will be our hope. For our help is in the name of the living God who has made heaven and earth.

Come then, let us bow down, let us quiet ourselves in the presence of God, our Creator and Redeemer. Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

based on Psalm 46

Be still!

We come to quiet ourselves by all that is holy.

Be still and know . . .

we come to understand the Word which sets us free.

Be still and know that God is

our Hope, our Help, our Refuge, and our Redeemer.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross given in your baptism.

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.**



A moment for reflection.

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.**

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.



A mighty fortress is our God,
a sword and shield victorious;
He breaks the cruel oppressor's rod
and wins salvation glorious.
The old satanic foe,
has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might, He arms himself to fight.
On earth He has no equal.



No strength of ours can match His might!
We would be lost, rejected.
But now a champion comes to fight,
whom God Himself elected.
You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is He!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only Son adored.
He holds the field victorious.

Though hordes of devils fill the land
all threat'ning to devour us.
We tremble not, unmoved we stand;
They cannot overpower us.
Let this world's tyrant rage; in battle we'll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God's judgement must prevail!
One little word subdues him.

God's Word forever shall abide,
no thanks to foes who fear it
For God Himself fights by our side
with weapons of the Spirit.
Were they to take our home, goods, honor, child, or spouse,
though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day.
The kingdom's ours forever!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray

Gracious Father, we pray for Your holy church. Fill it with all truth and peace. Where it is corrupt, purify it; where it is in error, direct it; where anything is amiss, reform it; where it is right, strengthen it; where it is in need, provide for it; where it is divided, reunite it; for the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**



HYMN OF PRAISE ELW 855 *Crown Him with Many Crowns*

Crown Him with many crowns,
the Lamb upon His throne;
hark, how the heav'nly anthem drowns
all music but its own.

Awake, my soul, and sing of Him who died for thee,
and hail Him as thy matchless King through all eternity.

Crown Him the Lord of years, the potentate of time,
creator of the rolling spheres, ineffably sublime.
All hail, Redeemer, hail! For Thou hast died for me;
Thy praise and glory shall not fail throughout eternity.

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 31:31-34

PSALM 46



SECOND READING

Romans 3:19-28

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

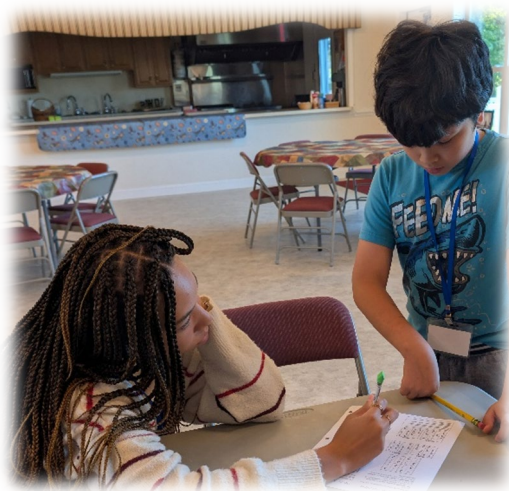
Tune: ELW 504

God's Word is our great heritage
and shall be ours forever;
to spread its light from age to age
shall be our chief endeavor.
Through life it guides our way; in death it is our stay.
Lord, grant while time shall last
Your church may hold it fast throughout all generations.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 8:31-36

The Holy Gospel according to the 8th chapter of John....
Glory to you, O Lord.



The Gospel of the Lord. + Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN # 517 *Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word*

Lord, keep us steadfast in Your word;
curb those who by deceit or sword
would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
and bring to naught all He has done.

Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
for You are Lord of lords alone;
defend your holy church, that we
may sing Your praise eternally.

O Comforter of priceless worth,
send peace and unity on earth;
support us in our final strife
and lead us out of death to life.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of love, You abide with us; You provide for all our needs and guide us in Your ways. Out of gratitude for Your care, we bring our gifts before You. Use them for Your work, that all may come to know Your love, have faith in Jesus, be filled with holy hope and walk without fear. **Amen.**

THE APOSTLES 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



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 make His face shine upon you,
And be gracious to you;
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you,
And give you peace. **Amen**

SENDING HYMN ELW 654 *The Church's One Foundation*

The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is His new creation by water and the Word.
From heav'n He came and sought her
to be His holy bride;
with His own blood He bought her,
and for her life He died.

Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,
her charter of salvation one Lord, one faith, one birth:
one holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
and to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.

Though with a scornful wonder
this world sees her oppressed,
by schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
yet saints their watch are keeping;
their cry goes up: "How long?"
and soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.

Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
she waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
and the great church victorious
shall be the church at rest.

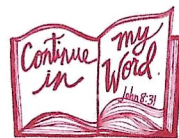
Yet she on earth hath union
with God, the Three in One,
and mystic sweet communion
with those whose rest is won.
Oh, blessed heav'nly chorus!
Lord, save us by Your grace,
that we, like saints before us,
may see You face to face.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace,
Christ is with you!

Thanks be to God!





Today's Readings

Reformation Sunday
October 25, 2026

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God, gracious Lord, we thank you that your Holy Spirit renews the church in every age. Pour out your Holy Spirit on your faithful people. Keep them steadfast in your word, protect and comfort them in times of trial, defend them against all enemies of the gospel, and bestow on the church your saving peace, 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

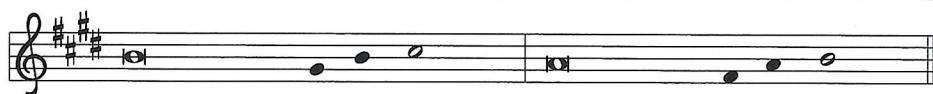
Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel

after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD, for I will forgive their iniquity and remember their sin no more.

Psalm

Psalm 46; tone 1



God is our ref-¹uge and strength,
a very present¹ help in trouble.

²Therefore we will not fear,
though the¹ earth be moved,
and though the mountains
shake in the depths¹ of the sea;
³though its waters¹ rage and foam,
and though the mountains
tremble¹ with its tumult.

⁴There is a river whose streams
make glad the cit-¹y of God,
the holy habitation
of¹ the Most High.

⁵God is in the midst of the city;
it shall¹ not be shaken;
God shall help it
at the¹ break of day.

⁶The nations rage,
and the¹ kingdoms shake;
God speaks,
and the earth¹ melts away.

⁷The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob
¹is our stronghold.

⁸Come now,
regard the works¹ of the LORD,
what desolations
God has brought up-¹on the earth;

continued

Psalm, continued

⁹behold the one
who makes war to cease
in¹ all the world;
who breaks the bow,
and shatters the spear,
and burns the¹ shields with fire.

¹⁰**"Be still, then,
and know that¹ I am God;
I will be exalted
among the nations;
I will be exalted¹ in the earth."**
¹¹The LORD of¹ hosts is with us;
the God of Jacob
¹is our stronghold.

Second Reading

Romans 3:19-28

Now we know that, whatever the law says, it speaks to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world may be held accountable to God. ²⁰For no human will be justified before him by deeds prescribed by the law, for through the law comes the knowledge of sin.

²¹But now, apart from the law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed and is attested by the Law and the Prophets, ²²the righteousness of God through the faith of Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, ²³since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; ²⁴they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through

the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to demonstrate his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; ²⁶it was to demonstrate at the present time his own righteousness, so that he is righteous and he justifies the one who has the faith of Jesus.

²⁷Then what becomes of boasting? It is excluded. Through what kind of law? That of works? No, rather through the law of faith. ²⁸For we hold that a person is justified by faith apart from works prescribed by the law.

Gospel

John 8:31-36

Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, ³²and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." ³³They answered him, "We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, 'You will be made free'?"

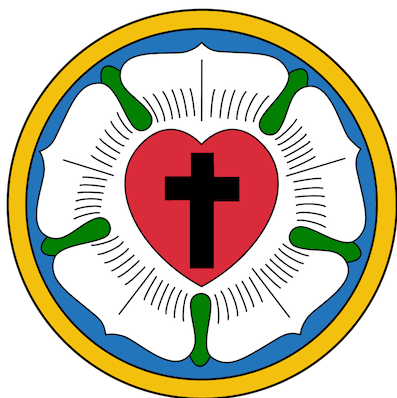
³⁴Jesus answered them, "Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. ³⁵The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. ³⁶So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed."

TODAY'S READINGS October 25, 2026 (Reformation Sunday)

Volume 57, Number 4

Next Sunday's Readings: All Saints Day Revelation 7:9-17; Psalm 34:1-10, 22; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12 or **Twenty-Third Sunday after Pentecost** Micah 3:5-12; Psalm 43; 1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:1-12.

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Halloween and Reformation Day fall on the same day each year: Oct. 31st.

At its best, Halloween — or All Hallows' Eve — offers us an opportunity to confront our mortality. Yes, whether you're honoring your dear departed before

All Saints' Day on Nov. 1, or handing out candy to the milling masked masses, you can't help but think about death. At the grave of your loved one or in a costume on your porch, it's in front of you. Knocking on the door. And you and I are powerless. Happy Halloween.

Let's celebrate Reformation instead! But, actually, Reformation Day is no less scary. At the heart of the Reformation is our powerlessness in the face of mortality. The unknown country calls all of us, and how do we know we'll meet a welcome there? One word....**Justification**, which was under attack in Luther's day. Justification is all about our standing before God in the judgement. Each of us alone, before the Great Judge. And nothing I can think, say or do (or buy) will prop up my case in that courtroom on its own merit. Happy Reformation!

I offer you this Lutheran hymn...at it is a powerful, and pretty cheeky, response to our proper fear and trembling in the face of death.

You've probably not sung it...maybe not even heard it, but I invite you to read this hymn a devotion in the coming week. The one who sings it should smile, sticking out a defiant chin and narrowing eyes at that

three-headed beast: sin, death and the devil, that would try to terrify God's lambs. After you absorb this hymn, you'll look death in the eye and *dare* it to say "boo."

A most blessed All Hallows' Eve, Reformation, and All Saints' to you, dear lambs!

① Little Flock, Fear Not the Foe

263

Luke 12 : 32

Verzage nicht, du Häuflein klein

Johann M. Altenburg, 1632, asc., ab.

Tr., Catherine Winkworth, 1855, alt.

8. 8. 6. 8. 8. 6.

Kommt her zu mir
German melody, c. 1400

1 O lit-tle flock, fear not the Foe Who mad-ly seeks your o-ver-throw;
 2 Be of good cheer; your cause belongs To Him who can avenge your wrongs;
 3 As true as God's own Word is true, Not earth nor hell with all their crew
 4 A-men, Lord Jesus, grant our prayer; Great Captain, now Thine arm make bare,

Dread not his rage and pow'r. What tho' your courage sometimes faints,
 Leave it to Him, our Lord. Tho' hid-den yet from mor-tal eyes,
 A-gainst us shall pre-vail. A jest and by-word are they grown;
 Fight for us once a-gain! So shall Thy saints and mar-tyrs raise

His seeming triumph o'er God's saints Lasts but a lit-tle hour.
 His Gid-eon shall for you a-rise, Up-hold you and His Word.
 God is with us, we are His own; Our vic-t'ry can-not fail.
 A might-y cho-rus to Thy praise, World without end. A-men. A-men.