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Edinburg Lutheran Parish St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

December 7, 2025

Pastor Katie Gosswein Parsonage: 984-9260 Cell: 335-7758 https://elpva.org/

Remembering those who have requested prayer: Sophia Gibb,
Tasha Mahony, Kitty Martz, Jane Perry, Jerry Polk, Larry Polk
and we further remember... Steve Baker, Steve Campbell,
Leannah Comer, Keith Cubbage, 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, Eric McMinn, Evelyn Moomaw, Ron Moomaw,
Jerry Newland, Anna Nilsen, Rick Painter, Bob Perry, Linda Perry, Karen
Polk, Judy 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 14 – Third Sunday of Advent

8:30 Worship will be a Service of the Word at St. Jacob's with hymnbooks.
9:45 Adult Sunday School meets at both churches.
11:00 Worship will be a Service of Holy Communion at Zion
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?

Abraham sacrificed a ram instead of his son, Isaac (Genesis 22:13)

A LITTLE HUMOR

What is a dentist's favorite hymn? Crown him with many crowns.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Wreaths Across America will take place NEXT Saturday, December 13 – 11:30 AM at Zion. Everyone is welcome to join us for this solemn event. The wreaths will arrive on Tuesday and we will have a group transporting and another group fluffing them as well as setting up for the day inside and out. If you'd like to help and need specific information of times, etc, call Robin Heishman. (540-481-3765)

Following 8:30 worship at Zion today, we will have a commercial regarding next Sunday's Congregational meeting. We're pleased to announce that Dianne George, Robbie Green, and Dave Hottle are willing to stand for election to our vacant Council seats. Many thanks to Steve Heishman, who will be finishing his second term and to Dianne who will complete her first. We will further briefly discuss some financial matters for you to prayerfully consider over the coming week regarding the 2026 budget, which will be discussed in further detail at our congregational meeting next Sunday, following the 11 AM service. For those unable to attend today, be encouraged to call Steve Heishman or Pastor Katie with your questions about what was shared.

St. Jacob's Council will meet tomorrow at 6:30 at the home of the Monroes

Spring Forward is on Christmas break and will resume classes on Tuesday, January 6 – Epiphany!

Advent Bible Study: Wednesday Nights (December 10 & 17) at 6 PM we look forward to learning more about the gifts this season offers us. This week our focus will be on **The Gift of Silence**, as we consider Bible readings from Psalm 19, James 1:17-21 and Luke 1:5-25, 57-66.

Wednesday Noon Advent Service at Emanuel – Woodstock – Pastor Katie and Pastor Todd Gess from Woodstock UMC will lead the worship service, which will be followed by a lunch of soup, sandwiches and cookies. Thanks to those who offered to bring food!

Salvation Army – Red Kettle Ringers! Thanks to those who braved the cold this past Thursday at Mt. Jackson – Food Lion. We have two more afternoons we are hoping to fill on Mondays, December 8 and 15. Pastor Katie has the sign-up sheet or you can call her. 90% of all funds raised stay here in the County and are used for utility and rent assistance. Come be a ding-a-ling to help others!

Circle the date! Saturday, December 20, 6:30 – 8 PM as we look forward to having a nativity celebration and carol sing!



Larry Polk, Diane Funkhouser, Karen & Junior Polk

2nd Sunday of Advent

St. Jacob's Lutheran Church December 7, 2025 + 11 AM

Welcome - Pictures today are from December 4, 2022.

Confession and 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.

Assurance and 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, 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 # 241 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You

O Lord, how shall I meet you, how welcome you aright? Your people long to greet you, my hope, my heart's delight! Oh, kindle, Lord most holy, your lamp within my breast to do in spirit lowly all that may please you best.

I lay in fetters, groaning; you came to set me free. I stood, my shame bemoaning; you came to honor me. A glorious crown you give me, a treasure safe on high that will not fail or leave me as earthly riches fly.

Love caused your incarnation; love brought you down to me. Your thirst for my salvation procured my liberty. Oh, love beyond all telling, that led you to embrace in love, all love excelling, our lost and fallen race.

Rejoice, then, you sad-hearted, who sit in deepest gloom, who mourn your joys departed and tremble at your doom. All hail the Lord's appearing! O glorious Sun, now come, send forth your beams so cheering and guide us safely home.

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.**

Canticle of Praise

Page 140

Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us free to be people of God. (**Refrain**) Power, riches, wisdom and strength, and honor, blessing, and glory are His. (**Refrain**)

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation: Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. (**Refrain**)

For the Lamb who was slain has begun his reign. Alleluia. (**Refrain**)

Prayer of the Day

God's Word



Today's Readings

Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72 Romans 15:4-13

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

The Gospel Matthew 3:1-12

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 3rd Chapter, beginning with the 1st verse...

Glory to you, O Lord.

The reading of the Gospel
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



Dandy Harlow

Sermon Hymn # 249 On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry

On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry announces that the Lord is nigh; awake and harken, for he brings glad tidings of the King of kings!

Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin; make straight the way for God within, and let us all our hearts prepare for Christ to come and enter there.

Stretch forth your hand, our health restore, and make us rise to fall no more; oh, let your face upon us shine and fill the world with love divine.

All praise to you, eternal Son, whose advent has our freedom won, whom with the Father we adore, and Holy Spirit, evermore

Nicene Creed - We speak together the words of our faith

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 Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. Turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know Your care; and prepare us now to feast on the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our 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.

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

Leannah Comer serving Communion Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by His glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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. (Page 108)

+ 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

Christ invites you to partake. Come, taste, and see.



Partaking of 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

Gracious God, in this meal You have drawn us to Your heart, and nourished us at Your table with food and drink, the body and blood of Christ. Now send us forth

Let us pray.



to be Your people in the world, and to proclaim Your truth this day and evermore, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **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 # 264 Prepare the Royal Highway

Prepare the royal highway; the King of Kings is near! Let every hill and valley a level road appear! The 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

Sending Go in peace, for Christ goes with you.

Thanks be to God!



St. Jacob's
will have their
congregational meeting on
Sunday, December 21
following the
11 AM service.

Pat Monroe & Nancy Bly!

Psalm, continued

and let there be an abundance of peace till the moon shall I be no more.

18 Blessed are you, LORD God,

¹⁸Blessed are you, LORD God, the ¹ God of Israel; you alone do ¹ wondrous deeds! ¹⁹And blessed be your glorious name forever, and may all the earth be filled with your glory. A- I men. Amen.

Second Reading

Romans 15:4-13

Whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by stead-fastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written,

"Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles

and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says,

"Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again,

"Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says,

"The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope."

13May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel

Matthew 3:1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, ²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said,

"The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'

⁴Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the River Jordan, confessing their sins.

⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for his baptism, he

said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the coming wrath?
Therefore, bear fruit worthy of repentance, and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Deven now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire.

¹¹"I baptize you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire."

TODAY'S READINGS December 7, 2025

Volume 57, Number 1

Next Sunday's Readings: Isaiah 35:1-10; Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46b-55; James 5:7-10; Matthew 11:2-11.

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Today's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent December 7, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming nurture our growth as people of repentance and 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

Isaiah 11:1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse,

and a branch shall grow out of his roots.

The spirit of the LORD shall rest on him,
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of counsel and might,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of
the LORD.

³His delight shall be in the fear of the LORD.

He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, but with righteousness he shall judge for

the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth;

he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,

and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.

⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist

and faithfulness the belt around his loins.

⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid;

the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them.

⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.

⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp,

and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den.

They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD

as the waters cover the sea.

¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Psalm

Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19; tone 8



Give the king your jus- I tice, O God, and your righteousness to I the king's son;

2that he may rule
your I people righteously
and the I poor with justice;

3that the mountains
may bring prosperity I to the people, and the I hills, in righteousness.

4Let him defend the needy
a- I mong the people,

rescue the poor, and crush the oppressor.

⁵May he live as long as the sun and moon endure, from one generation to another.

⁶Let him come down like rain upon ¹ the mown field,

like showers that wa- | ter the earth. 7In his time may the | righteous flourish;

continued