

Advent Signs

Few things in life are as jarring as awakening to the shriek of a fire alarm. Of course, that is by design. The safety of those gathered indoors calls for a blaring warning of impending danger so that all might be delivered from harm. Jesus offers a similar signal to his beloveds today, begging us to pay attention to the seriousness of the message he bears: *Be ready! Keep awake! Pay attention to your surroundings! Deliverance is coming soon!*

Advent is a season of preparation, directing our focus toward the incarnation, toward Christmas, when God becomes human and the weary world rejoices. Sometimes preparations take the form of monthslong laborious planning, as we might do for an international trip or the renovation of a home. Other times, preparations must happen immediately, within hours, minutes, or seconds. When a fire alarm sounds, there's no time to plan: We must act quickly, gathering what is most important to get to safety together.

This first Sunday of Advent is a chance to take stock of what is most important in life, to attune our spirits to the reign of heaven that God is birthing in our world. We may be unsettled by these gospel images of the great flood and of field workers being disappeared. Such stories indeed may spark fear, anxiety, and distrust. Yet God comes to be with us amid all the great uncertainties of life, amid the atrocities of human violence, amid the worst of our losses and fears. Jesus reminds us that God is always drawing near to the world, always extending mercy, always acting with love. Mercy and love are Advent signs worth paying attention to, worth staying awake for. Be ready, beloveds, and fear not! God's deliverance is coming soon.

About that
day and hour
no one
knows

MATTHEW 24:36

Edinburg Lutheran Parish
St. Jacob's & Zion Congregations

November 30, 2025

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

<https://elpva.org/>



Remembering those who have requested prayer: Leannah

Comer, Todd Edgerton, Sophia Gibb, Tasha Mahony, Jane Perry, Jerry Polk, Keith Taylor... **and we further remember...** Steve Baker, Steve Campbell, Keith Cubbage, Tina Daniels, Burgess Dellinger, Roe Dias, 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, Kitty Martz, Bonnie Mason, Erich McMinn, Evelyn Moomaw, Ron Moomaw, Jerry Newland, Anna Nilsen, Rick Painter, Bob Perry, Linda Perry, Karen Polk, Judy Polk, Larry Polk, Ed & Bea Provost, Dennis Rigby, Steve Ritenour, Laurie Robinson, Roger Schmidt, Peter Shoemaker, Ed Sine, Dan Strother, Judy Tharp, John Wymer, and Christine Zuniga.

We further pray for God's holy comfort to be with the families of Pastor Tom Perry, Ralph Wayne Taylor - grandfather of Shane Taylor, and Jean Wilkins. May this season of Advent, which calls us who are living to wait and watch for the Lord, give them a deep abiding comfort that their loved ones' wait is now over and they are in His holy presence.

A graveside service for Pastor Tom Perry will take place on Wednesday, December 3 at 11:00 AM at Zion Lutheran Cemetery. Please continue to remember the family in prayer.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Next Sunday: December 7 – Second Sunday of Advent

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 ?

Jonah told the people of Niveah that God was going to destroy the city in 40 days
(Jonah 3:4)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today at Zion: You are invited to stay and join us for a lunch of baked potatoes, hot dogs and dessert following the service. We look forward to enjoying great fellowship and decorating the church and Social Hall.

December Council Meetings: Zion will meet tomorrow, Monday, December 1 at 5:30 and St. Jacob's will meet Monday, December 8 at 6:30.

Spring Forward will meet Tuesday and Thursday this week, from 4 – 6 PM.

Advent Bible Study: Wednesday Nights ((December 3, 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 Patience**, as we consider Bible readings from James 7 and Mark 13.

Aluminum Recycle is next weekend - Zion will have their monthly aluminum can collection. A truck will appear in the back parking lot. Every can counts, so thanks for your support!

Help needed....on Wednesday, December 10, Pastor Katie will be participating in the Woodstock Advent Midweek Service at Emanuel. These services take place at 12 PM, and a soup & sandwich lunch is provided at 12:30. Can you help her provide sandwiches or cookies on that day? Woodstock United Methodist is providing the soup. Plus you are welcome to attend any of the next three Wednesdays, which are all at Emanuel.

Giving Tuesday...as you may be aware, on Tuesday, December 2 there is a national movement that encourages everyone to remember their favorite charity. Many charities are able to get matching funds for the day and our own Shenandoah County Chamber of Commerce has secured \$5000 our own local charities will be able to share as matching donations. To see a list of agencies and their weblinks who are participating go to:
www.shenandoahcountychamber.com/event-5893067

Grandparents As Parents is hosting a Christmas carnival and movie at First Baptist on Saturday, December 6 at 6 PM. The movie: "For King and Country – A Drummer Boy" is a re-telling of the Christmas story. A great opportunity for families!



First Sunday of Advent

Edinburg Lutheran Parish

November 30, 2025

8:30 & 11 AM

Welcome – pictures are from last Sunday, November 23 & Parish gathering.

Lighting the Advent Wreath

Blessed are you, God of Jacob, for you promise to transform weapons of war into implements of planting and harvest and to teach us your way of peace; you promise that our night of sin is far gone and that your day of salvation is dawning. As we light the first candle on this wreath, wake us from our sleep, wrap us in your light, empower us to live honorably, and guide us along your path of peace. O house of Jacob, come,
let us walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

O Come, O Come Emmanuel
and ransom captive Israel.
That mourns in lonely exile here,
Until the Son of God appears.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel
Shall Come to Thee, O Israel.

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.

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**



Gathering Hymn *Come, We That Love the Lord* #625



1 Come, we that love the Lord, and let our joys be known;
2 Let those re - fuse to sing who nev - er knew our God;
3 The hill of Zi - on yields a thou-sand sa - cred sweets
4 Then let our songs a-bound, and ev - 'ry tear be dry;



join in a song with sweet ac - cord, join in a song with
but chil - dren of the heav'n - ly King, but chil - dren of the
be - fore we reach the heav'n - ly fields, be - fore we reach the
we're march - ing through Im - man - uel's ground, we're march - ing through Im -



sweet ac - cord and thus sur - round the throne, and thus sur-round the throne.
heav'n-ly King may tell their joys a-broad, may tell their joys a - broad.
heav'n-ly fields, or walk the gold - en streets, or walk the gold - en streets.
man-uel's ground, to fair - er worlds on high, to fair - er worlds on high.

Refrain



We're march - ing to Zi - on, beau - ti - ful, beau - ti - ful Zi - on:



we're march - ing up - ward to Zi - on, the beau - ti - ful cit - y of 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.



Come, ye thankful people, come;
raise the song of harvest home.
All be safely gathered in
ere the winter storms begin.
God, our maker, doth provide
for our wants to be supplied.
Come to God's own temple, come,
raise the song of harvest home.

For the Lord our God shall come
and shall take the harvest home;
from His field shall in that day
all offenses purge away;
give His angels charge at last
in the fire the tares to cast,
but the fruitful ears to store
in His garner evermore.

Even so, Lord, quickly come
to Thy final harvest home.
Gather then Thy people in,
free from sorrow, free from sin,
there, forever purified,
in Thy garner to abide.
Come, with all thine angels, come,
raise the glorious harvest home!

Prayer of the Day

First Reading

Psalms 122

Second Reading



Today's Readings

Isaiah 2:1-5

Today's Readings

Romans 13:11-14

The Gospel Acclamation

page 205

Alleluia, Lord and Savior; open now Your saving Word.

Let it burn like fire within us;

Speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that You bring.

The Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 24th Chapter beginning with the 36th verse... **Glory to you, O Lord.**



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

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Soon and Very Soon*

#439

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more cryin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
No more dyin' there we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we are goin' to see the King!

Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon we are goin' to see the King,
Hallelujah, Hallelujah,
we're are goin' to see the King!

Offering 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 Hymn

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.

The 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'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

God the eternal Word,
who dwells with us in Jesus,
and who holds us in the
grace of the Holy Spirit,
+ bless you now and forever
Amen





1 Peo - ple, look east. The time is near of the crown - ing
 2 Fur - rows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is
 3 Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the
 4 An - gels an - nounce with shouts of mirth him who brings new



of the year. Make your house fair as you are a - ble,
 plant - ed there. Give up your strength the seed to nour - ish,
 bowl shall brim. shin - ing be - yond the frost - y weath - er,
 life to earth. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley hum - ming



trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
 that in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
 bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
 with the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



east, and sing to - day— Love, the Guest, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Rose, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Star, is on the way.
 east, and sing to - day— Love, the Lord, is on the way.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.



⁷Peace be with-¹ in your walls
and quietness with-¹ in your towers.
⁸For the sake
of my kindred¹ and companions,
I pray for¹ your prosperity.

⁹Because of the house
of the¹ LORD our God,
I will seek to¹ do you good.”

Second Reading

Romans 13:11-14

Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is already the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; ¹²the night is far gone; the day is near. Let us then throw off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light; ¹³let us

walk decently as in the day, not in reveling and drunkenness, not in illicit sex and licentiousness, not in quarreling and jealousy. ¹⁴Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Gospel

Matthew 24:36-44

[Jesus said to the disciples,] ³⁶“About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. ³⁷For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. ³⁸For as in the days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, ³⁹and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so, too, will be the coming of the Son of Man. ⁴⁰Then two will be in the

field; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴¹Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken, and one will be left. ⁴²Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. ⁴³But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”



Today's Readings

First Sunday of Advent
November 30, 2025

Prayer of the Day

Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection save us from the threatening dangers of our sins, and enlighten our walk in the way of your salvation, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 2:1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction
and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

²In days to come
the mountain of the LORD's house
shall be established as the highest of the mountains
and shall be raised above the hills;

⁴He shall judge between the nations
and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

all the nations shall stream to it.

they shall beat their swords into plowshares
and their spears into pruning hooks;

³Many peoples shall come
and say,
“Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,
to the house of the God of Jacob,
that he may teach us his ways
and that we may walk in his paths.”

nation shall not lift up sword
against nation;
neither shall they learn war
any more.

⁵O house of Jacob,
come, let us walk
in the light of the LORD!

Psalm

Psalm 122; tone 2



I was glad when they¹ said to me,
“Let us go
to the house¹ of the LORD.”

the assembly of Israel,
to praise the name¹ of the LORD.

²Now our¹ feet are standing
within your gates,¹ O Jerusalem.

⁵For there are the¹ thrones of judgment,
the thrones of the¹ house of David.

³Jerusalem is built¹ as a city
that is at unity¹ with itself;

⁶Pray for the peace¹ of Jerusalem:
“May they pros-¹ per who love you.”

⁴to which the tribes go up,
the tribes¹ of the LORD,

Readings For January

January 1 - 4

Thursday - Philippians 2:5-11
Friday - Hebrews 11:1-12
Saturday - Psalm 72
Sunday - Jeremiah 31:7-14, Psalm 147:12-20,
Ephesians 1:3-14, John 1:1-18

January 5 - 11

Monday - Hebrews 11:32 -- 12:2
Tuesday - Matthew 2:1-12
Wednesday - 1 Kings 10:1-13
Thursday - Ephesians 4:7, 11-16
Friday - Micah 5:2-9
Saturday - Psalm 29
Sunday - Isaiah 42:1-9, Psalm 29, Acts 10:34-43, Matthew 3:13-17

January 12 - 18

Monday - Psalm 89:5-37
Tuesday - Acts 8:4-13
Wednesday - Isaiah 51:1-16
Thursday - Psalm 40:1-11
Friday - Acts 1:1-5
Saturday - 1 Kings 19:19-21
Sunday - Isaiah 49:1-7, Psalm 40:1-11, 1 Corinthians 1:1-9, John 1:29-42

January 19 - 25

Monday - Matthew 16:13-19
Tuesday - Psalm 40:6-17
Wednesday - Isaiah 48:12-21
Thursday - Psalm 27:1-6
Friday - 1 Samuel 9:27 -- 10:8
Saturday - Luke 5:27-32
Sunday - Isaiah 9:1-4, Psalm 27:1-9,
1 Corinthians 1:10-18, Matthew 4:12-23

January 26 - 31

Monday - Galatians 1:11-24
Tuesday - Psalm 27:7-14
Wednesday - Luke 1:67-79
Thursday - Psalm 15
Friday - Deuteronomy 24:17--25:4
Saturday - John 13:31-35

Readings For December

December 1 - 7

Monday - John 1:35-42
Tuesday - Psalm 124
Wednesday - Isaiah 54:1-10
Thursday - Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19
Friday - Isaiah 30:19-26
Saturday - Isaiah 40:1-11
Sunday - Isaiah 11:1-10, Psalm 72:1-7, 18-19,
Romans 15:4-13, Matthew 3:1-12

December 8 - 14

Monday - Psalm 21
Tuesday - Romans 15:14-21
Wednesday - Genesis 15:1-18
Thursday - Psalm 146:5-10
Friday - 2 Peter 3:11-18
Saturday - 1 Samuel 2:1-8
Sunday - Isaiah 35:1-10, Psalm 146:5-10,
James 5:7-10, Matthew 11:2-11

December 15 - 21

Monday - Psalm 42
Tuesday - Jude 17-25
Wednesday - Zechariah 8:1-17
Thursday - Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
Friday - 2 Samuel 7:18-22
Saturday - John 3:31-36
Sunday - Isaiah 7:10-16, Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19,
Romans 1:1-7, Matthew 1:18-25

December 22 - 28

Monday - 1 Samuel 2:1-10
Tuesday - Genesis 21:1-21
Wednesday - Isaiah 9:2-7, Psalm 96, Titus 2:11-14, Luke 2:1-20
Thursday - Isaiah 52:7-10, Psalm 98, Hebrews 1:1-12, John 1:1-14
Friday - Matthew 23:34-39
Saturday - John 21:20-25
Sunday - Isaiah 63:7-9, Psalm 148, Hebrews 2:10-18, Matthew 2:12-23

December 29 - 31

Monday - 1 Peter 4:12-19
Tuesday - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18
Wednesday - 1 Kings 3:5-14



It's almost time!

**And there are ways everyone can
play a part and help!**

**ON SATURDAY – DECEMBER 13
at 11:30**

**Zion will once again host Wreaths Across America,
And on that Saturday morning, as well as the week prior
there is much to do to pull it all together.**

The TENTATIVE Schedule is as follows:

(Based on years past. It is hard to know if the weather and
other factors may delay this schedule.)

Tuesday, December 9 – the wreaths arrive from Maine by
tractor trailer and are escorted to Woodstock.

Wednesday, December 10 - our volunteers pick up the
boxes of wreaths from the Woodstock location. A cool
sheltered place has been identified for storage.

Thursday, December 11 – volunteers unbox and fluff the
wreaths and bows. Wood row markers and small American
flags will mark the places the wreaths will go on Saturday.

Friday, December 12– our volunteers will set up/decorate
the social hall for the reception to follow our ceremony.

Saturday, December 13 – The opening program will be held
at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Woodstock.

Zion's ceremony is scheduled for:

11:30 AM at the Zion Cemetery,

Please contact **Robin Heishman (540-481-3765)** if
you'd like to be involved or have questions.



Calling All Interested Salvation Army Volunteer Bellringers!

We have been asked to partner with Shenpaco and work partial days at the **Mt. Jackson Food Lion.** They would work the morning and we would cover Noon – 4 PM.

The dates are: This **Thursday, December 4**
Monday, December 8
Monday, December 15

You can work 1 or 2 hour shifts, whatever your preference.

Sign-up today or give Pastor Katie a call! (540-335-7758)



Zion Lutheran Church will have a congregational meeting following the 11 AM service on Sunday, December 14.

The agenda for this meeting will be to discuss and vote on the 2026 Budget, as well as elect two Council members.