

APRIL

2025



The Mountain Top Messenger

APRIL 2025

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT
ELDERS April 2 Doug 9 JohnS 13 Andy 17 Doug 18 Darryl 20 EASTER 7am Darryl 9am Scott & Doug 23 JohnP 27 Andy 30 Randy		1	2 5:00pm Soup & Sandwich Sup- per 6:00pm Worship	3	4	5
6 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm :GP	7 10:00am Bible Study	8 1:00pm Sewing Circle	9 10:30am- 12:00pm Educa- tion/Support Group 6:00pm Worship Service	10	11	12
13 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study 2:00pm Mellen	14 10:00am Bible Study	15	16 10:30am- 12:00pm Educa- tion/Support Group 1:00pm Hospice Group Gathering	17 6:00pm  MAUNDY THURSDAY	18 6:00pm  GOOD FRIDAY	19
20 7:00am & 9:00am Worship Service 	21 5:30pm Council Mtg	22 1:00pm Sewing Circle	23 10:30am- 12:00pm Educa- tion/Support Group 6:00pm Worship Service	24 1:30pm Northern Lights	25	26
27 8:45am Sunday School 9:00am Worship Service 10:15am Bible Study	28 10:00am Bible Study	29	30 10:30am- 12:00pm Educa- tion/Support Group 6:00pm Worship Service	April Altar Guild Linda Klobucher 715-746-2064 Lori Anderson 715-292-2122		

Well, here we are rushing into April, while the calendar says it's spring, outside, not so much. Hopefully soon. We are rapidly approaching Easter, one more soup and sandwich to go. I'm not going to spend a lot of time on current events here in the beginning of my newsletter cover. Instead we will dive right into this months' topic:

The Second Commandment:

"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain." (Exodus 20:7)

At first look, it seems pretty straight forward, doesn't it? "You are not to take the name of God in vain." Martin Luther tells us that while the first commandment instructs the heart and teaches faith, the commandment directs us in a more outward fashion and directs our Lips and tongue into a right relationship with God. He then challenges us to answer the question, "What does the Second Commandment mean?" or "What does it mean to take the name of God in vain or to misuse it?"

So what does it mean, in reading through scripture and taking a closer look at both the small and large catechisms I personally found it to mean more than I originally thought. I, like I would assume most of you as well, had the understanding that I shouldn't use God's name in a derogatory manner. Don't be using God's name to try and emphasis my point, don't try to make my point or try to draw attention away from my point by invoking God. In the world today as the lack of respect for God and anything having to with God increases the use of His name in vain increases as well. One of the things I found interesting in my reading is that Luther felt the same way in the 16th century. In the large catechism he writes: *"Unfortunately it now is a common affliction throughout the world that there are just as few who do not use God's name for lies and all kinds of wickedness as there are few who trust in God with their whole heart."* One part of that statement struck me in particular; *"there are just a few who do not use God's name for lies and all kinds of wickedness..."* So how are people using God's name for lies and wickedness?

One portion of the understanding of this commandment that I was perhaps lacking in, is that besides just using the Lord's name in a derogatory form is using God's name to support or back up a lie. Luther says: *"It is a misuse of God's name if we call upon the Lord God in any way whatsoever to support falsehood or wrong of any kind."* Now there's something to ponder. This includes taking oaths in court and wrongfully testifying or telling an untruth. When I was in the Air Force I became a Fire Investigator and attended a number of schools, including a schooling in how to question those suspected of committing a crime. Believe it or not one of the rules of thumb was when questioning someone when they started swearing to God that they did not do something, it usually meant they were indeed guilty and/or lying. The more fervent the oath the more certain the lie. I have had a few experiences in my life where that theory held true.

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Another missed understanding of this commandment is that of false preaching. Luther actually classifies it as the greatest abuse of the commandment. That is he says; *“when false preachers arise and present their lying nonsense as God’s Word.”*

Luther is so adamant about this and the other commandments he says the following which may not fly well in the world today: *“Above all else, therefor, our young people should be strictly required and trained to hold this as well as the other commandments in high regard. Whenever they violate them, we must be after them at once with the rod, confront them with the commandment, and continually impress it upon them, so that they may be brought up not merely with punishment but with reverence and fear of God.”* I will let you ponder this one on your own and will only say, in my opinion there are different types of rods.

I want to close this month with two more Luther quotes that again, in my opinion, fit as well today and they did in Luther’s, if not perhaps even more.

First: “It is evident that the world is more wicked that it has ever been. This no government, no obedience, no fidelity, no faith—only perverse, unbridled people who know teaching or punishment can help. All of this is God’s wrath and punishment upon such willful contempt of this commandment.”

What should our response be?

Second: “To defy the devil, I say, we should always keep the holy name upon our lips so that he (the devil) may not be able to harm us as he would like to do. For this purpose it also helps to form the habit of commending ourselves each day to God—our soul and body, spouse, children, servants and all what we have—for his protection against every conceivable need.

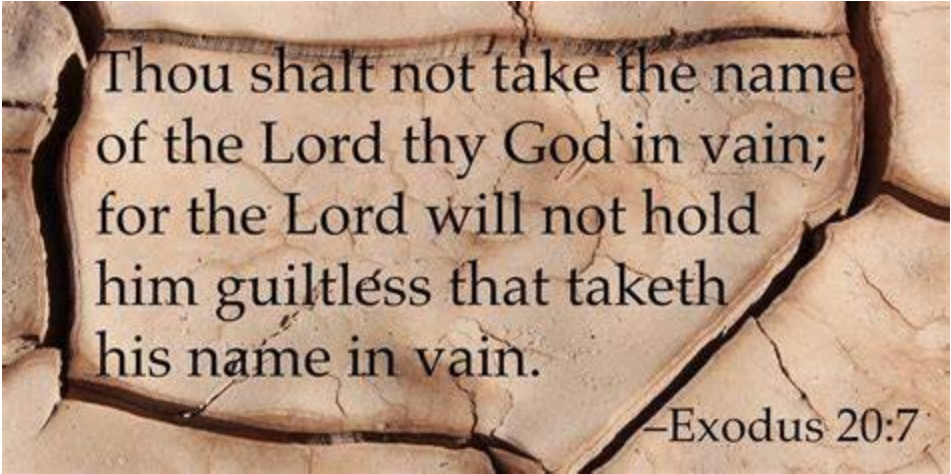
Well, I pray you found this worth while and if you should have any questions please feel free to contact me at any time for further discussion.

I look forward to seeing you at the Lenten Soup and Sandwich on Wednesday April 2. Our final Lenten Wednesday is April 9th, followed by Palm Sunday April 13th, Maundy Thursday April 17th, Good Friday April 18th and Easter Sunday April 20th. Evening services are at 6:00 PM and Easter Sunday services are at 7:00AM and 9:00AM

With that I will close.

My Friends: The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Pastor Rick



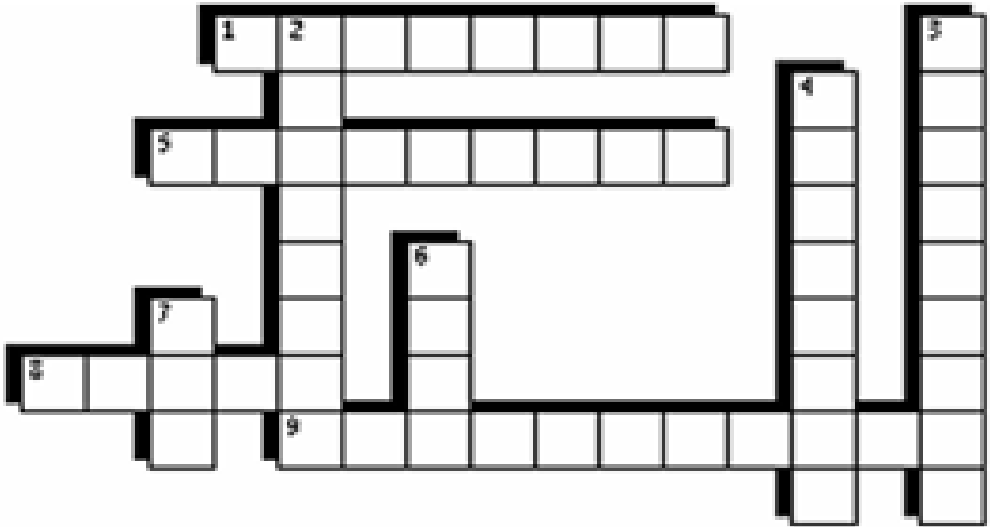
1. Reese's Peanut Butter Egg (2024)
2. The Cadbury Egg (2024)
3. The ears
4. Once a piece of chocolate is over a 1/2 inch thick it's almost impossible to bite into! You'd break your teeth!
5. Red (Very Cherry)
6. Florida, 2007. (It had 501,000 eggs. Now that's a lot of eggs to find!)
7. In Greece, participants tap their hardboiled eggs against the egg next to them until one of them breaks. (The winner gets good luck for a year!)
8. In Germany, you place raw eggs all over your lawn and dance

around them. (The winner is the one who breaks the fewest amount of eggs. And you can make it harder by blindfolding!)

9. You take your painted eggs to a local hill and roll them down, competing with others who are rolling eggs down. The winner is the first egg to the bottom of the hill.
10. Most would say it was the Russian Romanov's annual Easter egg gift to his wife. He commissioned Peter Carl Fabergé, a master goldsmith, to create a custom white enameled egg. The egg opened to reveal a golden yolk within. Inside the yoke was a golden hen, and inside the

hen was a tiny crown and then an even smaller ruby pendant. (This was the first of a line of eggs the goldsmith would make for the Royal Russian family. Now known as the Faberge egg.)

11. That there be a surprise hidden inside
12. March 22 and April 25
13. The moon. It's the first Sunday after the full moon on or after the spring equinox.
14. Lily
15. About 90 million.
16. Hot Cross Buns
- 17 Answer: B. 1878 (And it has only been canceled 3 times since that day. Once from rain and twice due to the Pandemic)

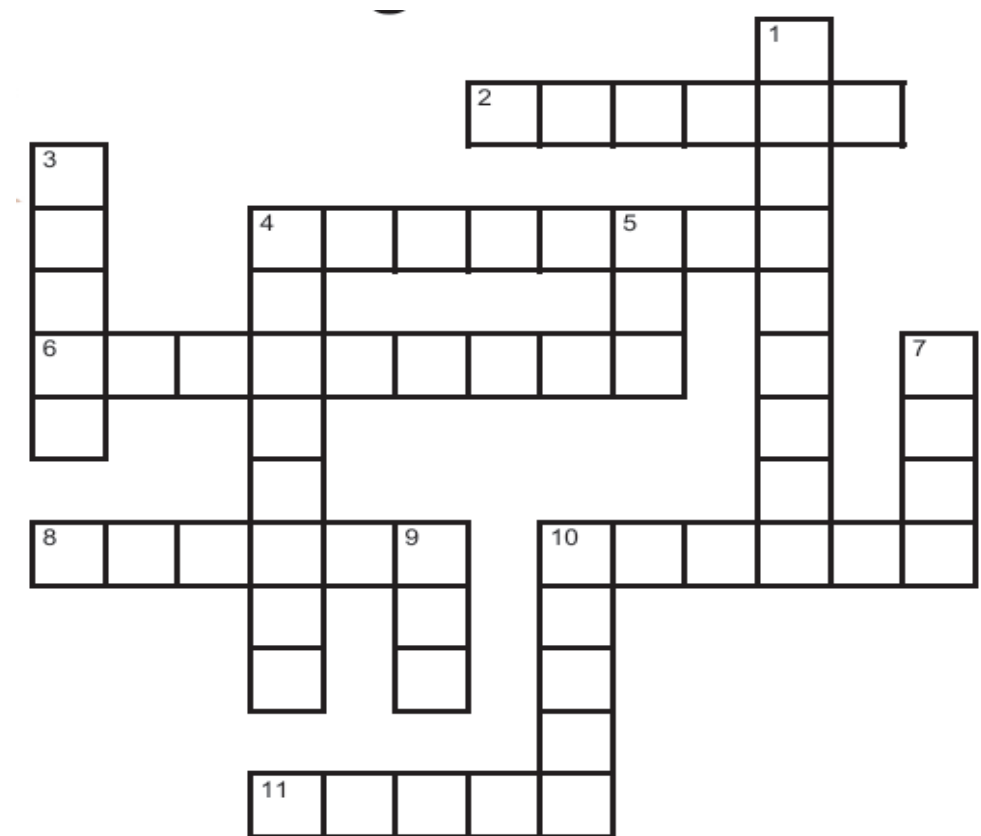


THE LAST SUPPER (LUKE 22:7-20)

- 2 DOWN "And He sent Peter and Jonn saying, 'Go and prepare tne ____ tor us, that we may eat.' " **LUKE 22:8**
- 8 ACROSS "And He said to them, 'Behold, when you have entered the city, a man will meet you carrying a pitcher of water; follow him into the ____ which he enters." **LUKE 22:10**
- 5 ACROSS "Then you shall say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says to you, 'Where is the guest room in which I may eat the Passover with My ____?' " " **LUKE 22:11**
- 6 DOWN "Then he will show you a large, furnished upper ____; there make ready." **LUKE 22:12**
- 1 ACROSS "And when the hour had come, He sat down, and the twelve ____ with Him." **LUKE 22:14**
- 3 DOWN "Then He said to them, 'With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is ____ in the kingdom of God.' " **LUKE 22:15-16**
- 7 DOWN "He took the ____ and gave thanks, and said, 'Take this and divide it among yourselves.' " **LUKE 22:17**
- 9 ACROSS "And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, 'This is my body which is given for you; do this in ____ of Me.' " **LUKE 22:19**
- 4 DOWN "Likewise He took the cup after supper, saying, 'This cup is the new ____ in My blood, which is shed for you.' " **LUKE 22:20**



The Zion Dartball team had another successful and fun year. They participate in the North Star Dartball League which was comprised of seven teams and representing six area congregations. During the regular season, they had a record of 20 wins and 16 losses. Zion took first place during the post season tournament winning 5 of the 6 games played.



- BASKET
- BONNET
- BUNNY
- CANDY
- CHICK
- CHOCOLATE
- DAFFODIL
- DECORATE
- DYE
- EGG
- HUNT
- JELLYBEAN
- PARADE



ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH
1111-11TH AVE WEST
ASHLAND, WI 54806

Sunday Worship Service 9:00am live streamed
Wednesday Evening Service 6:30pm
Sunday School - 1st – 7th grade Sunday 8:45am (Sept.-May)
Bible Studies
 Sunday 10:15am Monday 10:00am (Sept.-May)

Pastor Rick Williams - 715-209-0479
Office Hours: M /T/Th 9-5 Wed. 12-8 Fri. off
 Please call ahead if you need to speak with Pastor.
Office Secretary Lynn Ladd 715-682-6075 Office Hours M/T/Wed 8:30-2:30
 Days and times may change.
Church President: John Pruss 715-292-4825 **Head Elder:** Darryl Warren 715-492-0488
Little Friends of Jesus Child Care Center: 715-682-5185
LFOJ Administrator: JoAnn Martkonis 715-682-6075
Website www.zionashland.org **E-mail** secretary@zionlutheranashland.com

PRAYERS for Home-bound, Assisted Living, Nursing Home
 Those who aren't able to attend common worship that they would find comfort knowing that the Lord is with them.
Ingrid Pocernich
Arlene Zimmerman
Violet Basina

PRAYERS FOR PROTECTION
 For our full-time troops and public servants, for travel, missionaries, and for peace and protection for families.
David Wright
Jordan Thimm
Andrew Pruss

PRAYERS FOR HEALTH AND HEALING
 For good test results, treatment, positive thinking, healing, and comfort during cancer treatments, for those suffering from addiction, mental illness and for healing, strength, comfort, and peace for family we pray for:

Brad Prill	Vi Basina	James Fletcher
Harold Larson	Linda Stenroos	Steve Key
Tim Erickson	Patty Hmielewski	Pam Ekholm
Nick Frisco	Don Pocernich	Ingrid Pocernich
Riley Bretting	Mike Trimble	Jamie Klema
Karen Piff	Molly Colgrove	Linda Parrish
Chuck Sandor	Carl Kubley	Mary Dahl
Sheryl Hildebrandt	Dwayne Lynch	Sandy Bosma
Tom Anderson	Don Pocernich	Bill Swartz
Larry Hildibrandt	Octavia Pearce	Karen
Wayne	Casey	Chuck

and those in our hearts
 Immanuel, Mellen and Trinity, Berglund Congregations while they seek a new Pastor.

Dear Lord, "We come to You today with heavy hearts, as we lift up those who are in need of prayer. We ask that You would bring healing and restoration to their body, mind, and spirit" Amen.

God’s Instruments, God’s Stewards

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Eph. 2:10)

Some pastors refer to these words as “the most forgotten words in the Scriptures.” They are forgotten because they follow the familiar and critical words before it. The preceding two verses that overshadow Ephesians 2:10 are words of justification: “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast” (Eph. 2:8–9). These are words preached regularly. They are assigned as confirmation verses. They carry with them the very heart of what it means to be a redeemed child of God!

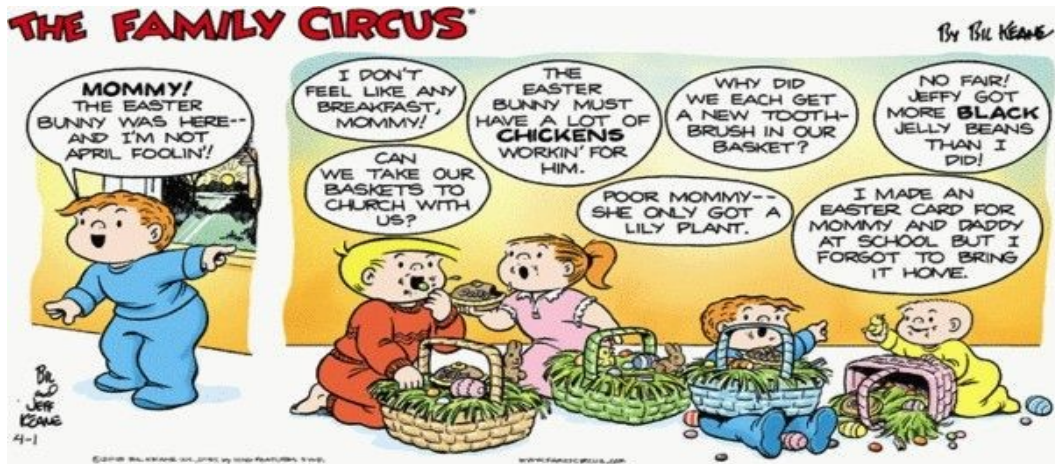
Precisely because the previous verses are so central to salvation, they often overpower our practice of stewardship! We have been saved by grace. This is certain and sure because of Jesus. Works play no role in our salvation. No credit taking for us! Grace is freely given. Faith is miraculously created by the Spirit and joyously received. This truth is so wonderful and so encompassing that we often miss out on WHY we are redeemed.

The grace of God revealed in Jesus calls us to faith. But St. Paul doesn’t stop with grace and faith. He continues to the logical conclusion. Just like the creation declares the handiwork of God, the redemption of sinners like you and me declares His greatest handiwork! Redeemed stewards are created to reflect the grace and mercy God showers on us to others.

As Lutherans, we understand that good works flow from faith in Jesus Christ. They are the fruit of the tree of salvation into which we have been grafted by grace. Sanctification and stewardship are both on-going and active confessions of what the Lord has done in us. These works are not always spectacular. Many times, they are simply parents showing Jesus to their children. They are compassionate actions that live out the truth of the Gospel to co-workers and even complete strangers. While they can be grand endeavors, more likely they are simple, beautiful works which highlight what Jesus has done in us.

These works aren’t random either. They have been planned by God. God planned to use you as a faithful steward as you walk the road that leads you through your daily life. There are no chance encounters or coincidences. They have been planned by the Lord of the universe for the benefit of His creation. Good works are what point to God’s greatest work: Jesus!


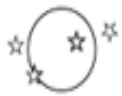


He calls you and me to walk in this faith, which flows from this grace, which has been poured out on us in Jesus. But even this is not to our credit. We are simply called to be faithful stewards of God’s grace so that we may share it with those who need it as much as we do. God’s Spirit carries us along in this. We are just the steward — the instrument in His hand to accomplish His plan and glorify Him!



“Jesus presents the new covenant to His disciples at the last supper.”
Luke 22:7 – 20



April Moon Phase Dates and Times

	First Quarter: April 4, 10:15 P.M. ET
	Full Moon: April 12, 8:22 P.M. ET
	Last Quarter: April 20, 9:35 P.M. ET
	New Moon: April 27, 3:31 P.M. ET

April Moon Facts and Folklore

A full Moon in April brings frost. If the full Moon rises pale, expect rain.

- On April 20, 1972, the lunar module of Apollo XVI landed on the moon with astronauts John Young and Charles Duke aboard. Thomas Mattingly remained in orbit around the moon aboard the command module.
- One day later, on April 21, 1972, Apollo XVI astronauts John Young and Charles Duke drove an electric car on the surface of the moon. It's still up there, along with some expensive tools and some film that they forgot.
- According to folklore, the period from the full Moon through the last quarter of the Moon is the best time for killing weeds, thinning, pruning, mowing, cutting timber, and planting below-ground crops.



.On the Third Day
by Margaret Wideyke

.As pale streaks of coral open
The closed, dark, nighttime skies,
Two women trudge the dusty road
That leads to the place where He lies.

Bring burial spices, they enter,
Subdued by all that happened before.
As they near the tomb they remember
The rock that blocks the door.

But when they reach the site,
The rock stands at one side,
And within, an angel dressed in white
Speaks of their Lord who was crucified.

“This is the place where they laid Him,
But He is not here. He is not dead.
Carry the word to His friends:
He has risen as He said.”

Joyful, astonished, afraid to believe,
For a moment, they stand paralyzed.
Then they rush to report what the angel said

- 11.What was the only requirement of a Faberge egg?
12. Between which two dates is Easter always celebrated?
13. How is the date of Easter determined each year?
14. What flower is considered the symbol of Easter?
15. How many chocolate bunnies are made each year?
16. In England, what baked good is a Good Friday Tradition?
17. In what year did the White House Easter egg roll begin? 1901 1878 1832 1925

229. THE LAST SUPPER
(LUKE 22:7-20)

S U D D J T J M L D U U S O K P B C Y S Y T A V U D B I S V
Q K V C H P Y S S K B L Z J W E S E B Z B L V B O I H L O S
A N V B G S G O N B R Y R S W I M B C R F N T W B O Q N K D
N R L O B J H A P S J L O Z B P H Z M L P J P M T B A D S R
W F C P A V S L M H Z H J N L L V B B B N O G V L E E G J F
V J L O B D E K N P F B L W R E Y E A C I I F Z R O D W F N
V L V R H T Q N S P J K L I Q P B Q K R D M K Q F N B Z R V
W F N J P T M M I R F E A O B B L A I S I B K B F R I M C V
K Z M Y T Q B G H B E K C V R S M L L K L Z O U Z L Y F O B
U V D Y Q F B G T N O B G N H N E B O G G D C W R B Z A R W
O O J M B N C T Q G R D E M A U J F Z W R C T D F I S K L J
B B C G O F B E Q B I V H G N R L H I T A A N Y M D F Z S B
O C M B N T B L H L I O G D N W B V J D F B B N C V A E P E
Q D Y U B H Y S V G Y F N O V S D M Z C W F B B R Z K A E D
J Q S O B D U V Z L S B N T G C Z E E V V L Q P I R Q H F C
V L O V B T W P U N Y I W C R T P L T M B I D H P K S V Z V
O O J V I N D Z D B D Q B B B P D C T S E H Y Q Z E W L L H
I J I R F Y O S F Z Y R W V Z M E O I B Q R C O V G Y V V H
Z W M F A B K M H S B K B N L S B J J B J V Z Z Q I U R O A
E Z O W W P J B G V O D V V B D L I I Y B M Y F Q V F E L H
B N Y P B B Q A U M J F B M I Q I T J U O Y S L U M I R Z B
S Z D W B U B B Q O C H H U V H A B B F A E V Q S V E T J E
W C V V Y M Z I J N V L C O V E I I B D S Y B P D O O Q P U
Q U U G H L E Y V G G D R B T N R U R Q B Y T S E V Z S E D
O Z B J C N P T Q I W I O M L P O K B N W S G B B O E W N J
R H S T I Z Q F D C H P F G C T N B Q N D Q H U B F R S R T
G Z S F H H L Z D N H M O Q M L T T B F I B Q D U B I J B Q
C M O G W R A B D E B W Y O G Z V B H Y A Y Z Z Q J Y R I B
I U V J K A L C V B B L K T K T B F L I J J T O J Y M Q R U
G D Z W Y A L S V P B G E H M T K A E V S P W B A T S U B V

"This is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me."
LUKE 22:19

- 1 What’s the most popular Easter candy in America?
2 What’s the second most popular Easter candy in America?
3. What part of the chocolate Easter bunny do most Americans eat first?
4. Why are chocolate bunnies hollow?
5. What color of jellybean is the most popular?
6. Which state has held the largest Easter egg hunt in the United States?
7 What is the tradition of egg tapping?
8 What is egg dancing?
9. What is egg rolling?
10. What is the most extravagant Easter egg gift of all time?

MISSING EASTER Terry Dittmer

Barry rushed in the front door, threw his books on the hall table and catapulted himself up the stairs to his room where he quickly changed into his work uniform. Dashing back down the stairs and racing through the kitchen, he grabbed a handful of cookies, gave his mom a quick kiss on the cheek and said, "See ya later."

"What about church?" His mom called out.

"Not tonight, Mom. Gotta work. Another guy called in sick, and I can use the money. See ya!"

It seemed an unusually busy night at the Hamburger Hut. "I don't remember when we've cooked up this many fries on a Thursday night!" Barry's boss said gleefully.

Barry himself was laying out yet another tray of burgers on the grill to make into the Hut's specialty – the Sooper Dooper Burger. The big dinner rush was over, but they wanted to be ready for anybody.

Barry glanced at the clock. 7:25pm. In another five minutes, church would be starting. Maundy Thursday. They'd be celebrating the Lord's Supper.

"Hey, I need two more Scoopers."

Barry shoveled the meat onto a poppy-seed bun, squirted on the special sauce, added two slices of tomato, a slice of onion and two slices of dill pickle, expertly wrapped it in foil and slid the burgers down the chute to the waiting hands of the counter help.

8:15 pm. They are probably starting the communion liturgy.

"Take eat. This is my body," Barry imagines the pastor as he unpacks a case of burger buns.

"I'll take a large Coke . . . no ice." He hears the order at the counter.

"Take drink," the pastor says.

11:30 pm and Barry's done for the night. There is the lingering smell of hamburger grease on his uniform. He's put in a good night's work. Yet he feels that something's missing.

Friday night. "Dan's going to be here at 7:00 pm, Mom," Julie calls down the hall. "I've got to hurry."

"I wish you were going to church," Julie's mom says as she enters her room.

"Oh, Mom. You know Dan just can't get into all our church stuff. And we've planned this date all week. I'm sorry. Don't stay up. We'll probably be out till midnight. Movie and a pizza." And Julie gave her mom a hug and was out the door.

Dan and Julie met Kim and Mike at the multiplex at the mall. There were a lot of other kids there that they knew from school. There was a new "teen film" showing. Everybody was talking about it. This was the hot ticket in town right now – rated R.

Julie's mom and dad sat down in a pew close to the front of the half-empty church. "Tonight we remember a death, the most profound death ever," the pastor intoned.

"Life stinks," shouts a bitter hero from the big silver screen in the cinema.

"Christ died for all so that we all might have life."

"If my life is worth anything, it's because of what I do for myself. Look out for number one."

"Christ died to pay for our sins. We can put our sins behind us. We strive to live a holy, Christ-filled life."

Julie felt a little uncomfortable as the couple on screen began to undress. Everybody around her was really into the movie. Dan seemed so absorbed. Why did she feel so out of it?

"Father, forgive them. Father, love them. Father, save them. Amen."

Julie was quiet the rest of the night. She didn't feel much like pizza she said. Could they go home early? Dan dropped her off before 11:00 pm. Julie's mom was still up.

"Something wrong, honey?"

"No, Mom. Just a little tired." She fell asleep, vaguely sensing something missing.

Paula and Nick met at the mall at 10:00 am Saturday morning. Paula needed to do a little shopping before Sunday morning. And they would have lunch and just hang out.

It was hard to find a parking place. It seemed like everybody and his brother had decided to do a little last-minute Easter shopping.

Prepare for the Full Pink Moon - and the Paschal Full Moon!

By Catherine Boeckmann

You can see the full Moon in April on Saturday, April 12. It reaches its brightest point at 8:22 P.M. It's also a micromoon. How is that different from a supermoon? Learn why we traditionally call it the "Pink Moon" and some fascinating facts and folklore.

When to See the Full Moon in April 2025

Venture outside on Saturday, April 12, to catch a glimpse of April's full Pink Moon. This full Moon reaches peak illumination at 8:22 p.m. Eastern Time.

For the best view of this lovely spring Moon, find an open area and watch as the Moon rises just above the horizon. At this point, it will appear its biggest and take on a golden hue!

April Micromoon

April's full Moon is a "Micromoon" this year. Think of this term as the opposite of a "Supermoon." It simply means that the full Moon is at its farthest point from Earth (not the nearest point). In astronomical terms, we call this "apogee." Specifically, April's Micro full Moon is about 252,225 miles from Earth.

Why is the Moon nearer or farther (in this instance) from Earth? Simple: The Moon orbits Earth in an elliptical path. One side is nearer to Earth, and one side is farther. This distance affects the Moon's size and brightness, although it's probably not visible to the naked eye. The perceived size of the Moon from Earth is more related to the "Moon Illusion" and how close the Moon appears to the horizon; in this case, it's high above the horizon, so it may not appear to loom over us the way it appears when it's near the horizon.

Why Is It Called the Pink Moon?

The full Moon names used by *The Old Farmer's Almanac* come from various sources, including Native American, Colonial American, and European sources. Traditionally, each full Moon



name was applied to the entire lunar month in which it occurred, not only to the full Moon.

Although we wish the name "Pink Moon" had to do with the color of the Moon, the reality is not quite as mystical or awe-inspiring. In truth, April's full Moon often corresponded with the early springtime blooms of a certain wildflower native to eastern North America: *Phlox subulata*—commonly called creeping phlox or moss phlox—which also went by the name "moss pink."

Pink moss phlox, or "moss pink," lends its nickname to the April Moon.



Thanks to this seasonal association, this full Moon came to be called the "Pink" Moon! April's full Moon often plays a role in religion, too. Specifically, in Christianity, this Moon is known as the **Lenten Moon** if it is the last full Moon of the winter season (i.e., if it occurs *before* the spring equinox) or as the **Paschal Full Moon** if it is the first full Moon of spring (i.e. if it occurs *after* the spring equinox).

This year, April's full Moon (April 12, 2025) occurs after the spring equinox (March 20, 2025), making it the Paschal Moon. April's full Moon will be the first full Moon of the spring season and, therefore, will determine the date of Easter this year. Read more about how Easter's date is determined.

Alternative April Moon Names

In April, Moon names reference spring abound!

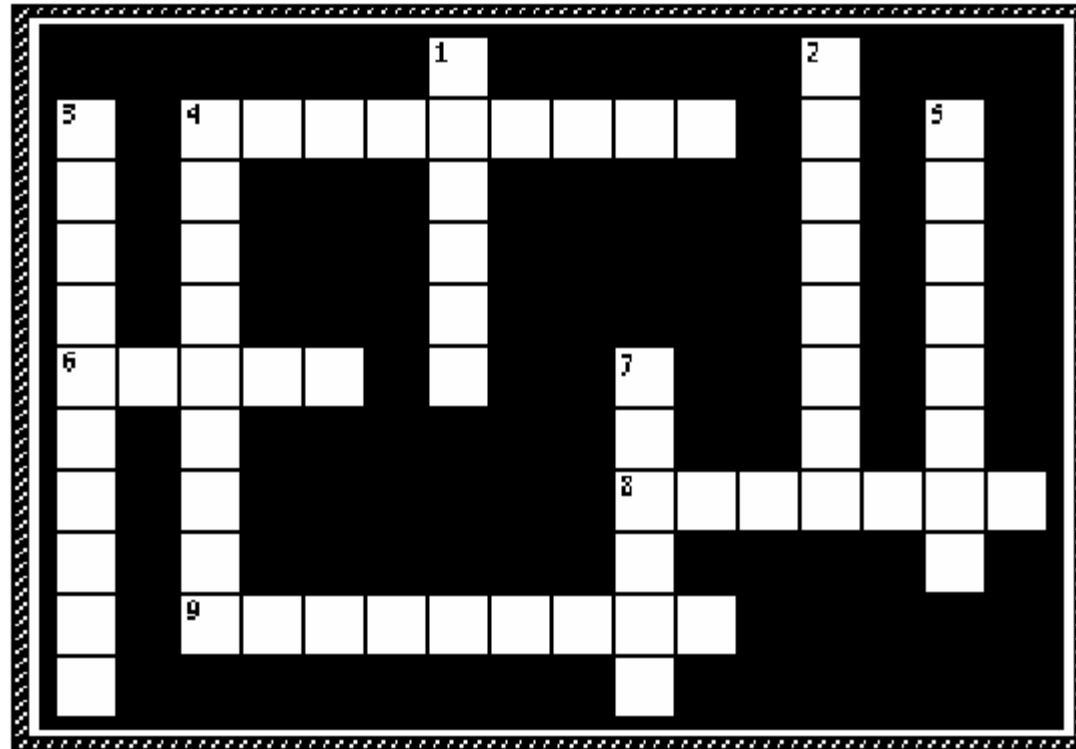
Breaking Ice Moon (Algonquin) and **Moon When the Streams Are Again Navigable** (Dakota) reference the melting ice and increased mobility of the early spring season.

Budding Moon of Plants and Shrubs (Tlingit) and **Moon of the Red Grass Appearing** (Oglala) speak to the plant growth that will soon kick into high gear.

Other names refer to the reappearance of certain animals, including **Moon When the Ducks Come Back** (Lakota), **Moon When the Geese Lay Eggs** (Dakota), and **Frog Moon** (Cree).



235. PETER'S DENIAL (JOHN 18:15-18, 25-27)



- 4 ACROSS "Therefore whoever _____ Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." **MATTHEW 10:32**
- 5 DOWN "And Simon Peter _____ Jesus, and so did another disciple..." **JOHN 18:15**
- 4 DOWN "...Now that disciple was known to the high priest, and went with Jesus into the _____ of the high priest." **JOHN 18:15**
- 6 ACROSS "But _____ stood at the door outside..." **JOHN 18:16**
- 3 DOWN "Then the other disciple, who was known to the _____, went out and spoke to her who kept the door, and brought Peter in." **JOHN 18:16**
- 9 ACROSS "Then the servant girl who kept the door said to Peter, 'You are not also one of this man's _____, are you?' He said, 'I am not.'" **JOHN 18:17**
- 2 DOWN "And the servants and _____ who had made a fire of coals stood there, for it was cold, and they warmed themselves. And Peter stood with them and warmed himself." **JOHN 18:18**
- 1 DOWN "...Therefore they said to him, 'You are not also one of his disciples, are you?' He _____ it and said, 'I am not!'" **JOHN 18:25**
- 7 DOWN "One of the servants of the high priest, a relative of him whose ear Peter had cut off, said, 'Did I not see you in the _____ with Him?' " **JOHN 18:26**
- 8 ACROSS "Peter then denied again; and immediately a _____ crowed." **JOHN 18:27**

The crowds were amazing. Paula waited 20 minutes to check out at the department store makeup counter. A woman behind her was swearing a blue streak and Paula couldn't wait to get out of there.

She and Nick passed the line of parents and kids waiting to have their picture taken with the Easter Bunny. One mother yanked her son back in line and demanded that he stand still. Another grabbed her frightened daughter. "You will too sit on that *#@! Bunny's lap. I want your picture. Now straighten up." What a ritual, Paula thought.

Lunch was no better. The food court was packed. And today people seemed so unfriendly, so pressed for time. It was spring. The flowers were in bloom. Tomorrow was Easter. But everybody was so grumpy. Kids fussing. Parents fussing. People pushing. Smiles few and far between.

Paula was glad to get home. "I'll never do that again. Something's missing."

"First service is almost over. Let's get this breakfast on the road." Mrs. Gallant, the youth group counselor, was giving orders again.

Bob had been up since 5:00 am and at church since 6:00 am. He and the other kids were getting ready for the annual Easter breakfast.

As the Easter trumpets sounded the opening hymn at the sunrise service, Bob and Freddy were setting up tables. When the choir was singing their Easter anthem, Bob and Mary were pouring juice into paper cups. While Bob and Carol laid out pastries in neat arrangements on borrowed silver trays, the pastor was preaching the Good News of the resurrection. As the Easter Communion was distributed, Bob was stirring the first of many batches of scrambled eggs. Just about the time the Benediction was announced, Bob sat down ready to welcome folks to breakfast and take their money.

"Best breakfast ever," Mrs. Gallant announced proudly. "I've never seen such a large crowd. Now, let's get this place cleaned up."

So, as the second service began, the Easter trumpets again sounding the opening hymn, Bob pushed the crumbs of uneaten scrambled eggs and pastry into the waiting garbage can. As the

choir sang the Easter anthem, Bob and Freddy were taking down tables. While the pastor shared the Good News of the resurrection, Bob took the garbage sacks out to the trash bin. Through the distribution, Bob and Carol swept the floor of the fellowship hall. "Good job!" Mrs. Gallant gushed.

Bob, Paula, Julie, Barry, Carol, Nick and the others got to the back of the church just as the pastor was announcing the blessing. "May the Lord bless and keep you . . . and give you peace."

Bob looked at the rest and without really thinking said, "I feel like I missed Easter." Each in his or her own way knew exactly what Bob meant. Somehow, they had missed the news.

Easter is the Good News that Christ is alive. He is risen. A grave could not contain the living God. And because He lives, His people will also live.

In a world too busy and often despairing, empty, sad and lonely, the good, joyful, happy news of the resurrection gives comfort, reassurance and hope.

It is also news easily missed. It's not that we intentionally miss it. We just end up busy or distracted. We do good work for our bosses. We enjoy the company of our friends. We complete our errands and chores. We even work hard at church events.

Fortunately for us, God's grace and mercy do not ever miss us. We are always loved, always forgiven, always renewed in Christ's love.

That's the Good News of Easter. Because Christ lives, we shall live also. That's too good a message to miss. In Christ, there is life and hope and happiness.

Hear the words: "He is risen! He is risen indeed!" For you!



DON'T MISS EASTER!

Maundy Thursday 6:00pm

Good Friday 6:00pm

Sunday 7:00am and 9:00am

An Easter Story

A holy man was having a conversation with the Lord one day and said,
“Lord, I would like to know what Heaven and Hell are like.”
The Lord led the holy man to two doors.
He opened one of the doors and the Holy man looked in.
In the middle of the room was a large round table. In the middle of the table was a large pot of stew, which smelled delicious and made the holy man’s mouth water.

The people sitting around the table were thin and sickly. They appeared to be famished. They were holding spoons with very long handles that were strapped to their arms and each found it possible to reach into

the pot of stew and take a spoonful. But because the handle was longer than their arms, they could not get the spoons back into their mouths.

The holy man shuddered at the sight of their misery and suffering.

The Lord said, “You have seen Hell.”

They went to the next room and opened the door.



It was exactly the same as the first one. There was the large round table with the large pot of stew which made the holy man’s mouth water. The people were equipped with the same long-handled spoons, but here the people were well nourished and plump, laugh-

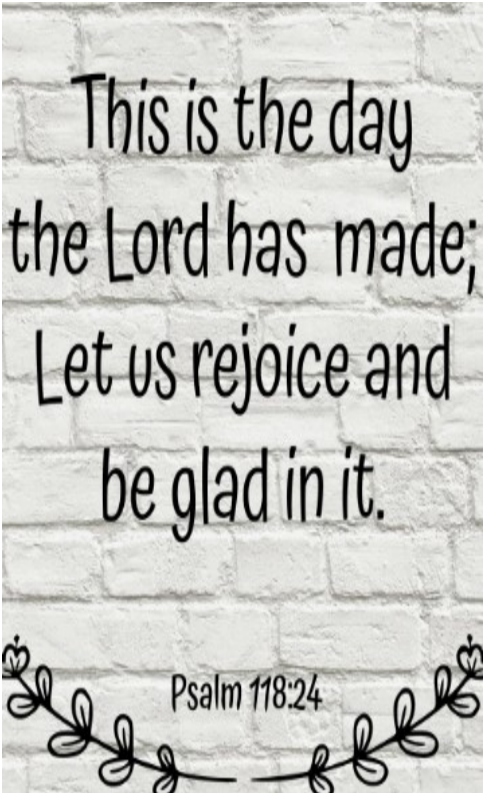
ing and talking.

The holy Man said, “I don’t understand.”

“It is simple,” said the Lord. “It requires but one skill. You see, they have learned to feed each other, while the greedy think only of themselves.”

“Remember this, when Jesus died on the cross, he was thinking of you.”

HAPPY EASTER, EVERYONE!



Matthew 28:1-20

X H U D I S C I P L E S B B U E P E R Z Y T X H
F T B Y H E J Y X Y W O K D M S C B A H U M Q X
K V N F J Z L C B S L I G A W Z E V S U S E J V
E K D J L O M M T B A U N K T D E F R X V U Q Z
Z H V C H A X S S D X V J B K W L J L C D T O Z
T U S Q M T E A C H I N G V Q O I F N N G W A S
H Y Y Z R I Q T D R R H U K A Q L W C D J D Y D
O H Y J R I X C M Y G N W L J D A G O Y Q J T V
F B S P D E S G Q K A K F A E I G R M N S J I W
Z Z E V C I U E U W V Z C T U Y G N M N C F R G
H J K Y W S W O N L H S R R S A H O A W Z K O L
K U Q T Q O R B N L V O C Q P J B I N F G A H C
V R R V S N D Q E A P J N C Z M E W D G K N T N
A S Q R N Y V Q K E L N J A X S E E E R W X U Z
E G B V I T A U R F P P S K T V C N D A M N A W
G Y R B X E I W R H A M I H G I L K E J L I T U
S J R E J S D R L T H A X T U I O Y Z X V H Z X
E A C J E C O K I A D H O D M Y S N U Z E U Z K
N Y L D L T D S U P L J N R U O S Y S B Y I U A
A E F T W N I H T L S Y F X U J Z J K M B X Z Q
F A T H E R I N R M Z B A P T I Z I N G B V L F
D N E K H E U L G W G D E P I H S R O W W L V L
D W N S O S N Q N S N A L A O E F I J F E Z R C
D C E H S E L X X J J P C T J M M U F T A U O D

commanded	baptizing	authority	worshiped	greetings
disciples	teaching	reported	nations	Galilee
priests	hurried	always	Spirit	Father
Jesus	risen	obey	Holy	name
plan	tell	Son	saw	Him
ran	joy	go		