

# Eye on Zion

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## EMMANUEL ENLIGHTENER

Emmanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church  
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## APRIL 2024

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*This month we are combining the newsletters of Emmanuel and Zion.*

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*From the Desk of Pastor Lee... April 2024*

*“As [Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome] entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, ‘Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him, just as he told you.’ So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid.” – Mark 6:5-8*

This is how the Gospel according to Mark ends. There are some other verses that are printed after, but the earliest manuscripts we have for Mark has the Gospel ending at verse eight. The overwhelming opinion of scholars recognizes that the verses that follow verse eight, which are usually indicated in our Bibles as different endings for Mark, are later additions to Mark’s original work.

Speculation exists as to why these verses were added. It was not uncommon in the years when the Bible was being compiled for students or followers to complete unfinished works of their masters. It could have been that the last part of Mark was lost and that the added verses were an attempt at a restoration. However, it could have been that people were just uncomfortable with Mark’s original ending and felt in needed to be “finished.”

I lean to the later explanation because of the overall structure of Mark’s Gospel. The way we record history today is usually through a set of dates and chronological facts. This was not necessarily the case 2,000 years ago, and Mark is a prime example of this. Unlike Matthew and Luke, Mark begins just as abruptly as it ends. There is no birth narrative in Mark and no genealogy. The beginning of Mark is Jesus’ baptism, the ripping open of the heavens for the descending Holy Spirit, and Jesus beginning his proclamation that the Kingdom of God has come near. Indeed, Mark’s Gospel is the exploration and a revealing of this coming kingdom that culminates with Jesus’ journey to the cross. And Mark, unlike a history textbook, writes his account in such a way that he invites us not simply to hear the story, but to be part of the story. And as we hear Mark’s account, remember that early Christians were not exposed to all four Gospel accounts as we have today. Each account is unique in its details and emphasis.

And so, on that Easter morning, Mark brings us along with Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome to the tomb, surprising us as we find it open. When we go into the tomb, a young man dressed in a white robe (not an angel as in some of the other accounts) addresses us, revealing the news that Jesus has risen from the dead. Our job is to go tell the disciples that Jesus will meet them in Galilee as the young man said. The women, however, flee in terror and say nothing to anyone. Now of course, historically, the women did say something, otherwise there would be no Christianity. But the truth with which Mark confronts us is not rooted in historical fact, but in faith. Now we are at the tomb. Now we hear the voice of the young man in white. We see the women flee and say nothing because of terror. Mark’s ending asks the question of us who stand alone at the empty tomb, “Will you tell that Jesus goes ahead of us Galilee, or will we flee in fear, too?” This is the “truth” in which Mark leaves us, not the facts of a story but how we will respond as part of the story. This unique ending is what makes Mark my favorite.

This year is the year of Mark, although the lectionary gives us the option of substituting John’s account every year. I challenge us to stay with Mark. It does not give us the poetic and familiar resurrection story to which we may be accustomed since the resurrected Jesus never actually appears in the original Mark ending, but Mark challenges us to respond to the Kingdom of God that still breaks into our world through Jesus who goes before us and who promises to meet us, not just at the tomb, but in the world that God so loves.

May you have a blessed Easter season! Your Friend in Christ, Pastor Lee.

## **2024 Vacation Bible School**



Zion and Emmanuel will be joined together this to offer Vacation Bible School to our community. The dates for VBS will be May 20, 21, and 22, from 6 to 8 pm, at Zion Lutheran in Phillipsburg. If you wish to help being by being part of the VBS team, please inform Pastor Lee or Alissa Krafft. Keep watch for announcements when online registration is available on our congregational and parish web pages.

### **THANK YOU!**

to all who participated and contributed to the youth Maundy Thursday Spaghetti Supper and Good Friday Soup Supper. Your support is vital and appreciated.

### **CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR CONFIRMANDS!**

We celebrate with Blayne Johnson of Emmanuel, Carter Grote of Zion, and Jacob Driggs of Zion, who will affirm their baptism in Christ during Sunday worship at their respective churches.



### *Baccalaureate Service*

The Phillips County Ministerial Alliance will host a community baccalaureate service for Phillips County high school graduates on Sunday, April 14, 2024, at 3:00 pm, at First Christian Church in Logan. If your senior has not yet received an invitation from the PCMA, please call the Care Phone at (785) 533-2273.

### **GRADUATE RECOGNITION**

Zion will recognize graduates during Sunday worship on April 28. Our known high school graduates are Bella Keese and Patrick Driggs. Please inform Pastor Lee if there are others. Emmanuel will recognize during Sunday worship on May 12.

### **CARE PHONE AND FOOD PANTRY**

The Phillips County Ministerial Alliance does offer financial and other assistance for rent, utilities, medicine, and fuel for out-of-town doctor's appointments through the Care Phone (785) 533-2273. The Phillips County Ministerial Alliance also supports the Phillips County Food Pantry, which is open from 10 am to 1 pm on Tuesdays. Donations or after-hours access to the Food Pantry can be coordinated through the Food Pantry director, Benny Bennight, at (928) 300-2314. Benny is also in charge of the federal commodities program.

### **ZION SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS**

Zion scholarship applications will soon be distributed in the Narthex. The need to be completed and returned to the Zion office by May 31, 2024.

### **PRAYER LIST PROCEDURE**

To ensure our printed prayer list is up to date and accurate, Janice Giedd has generously agreed to coordinate a list for both congregations. If you announce a prayer to the pastor to be recognized during Sunday worship, please also send the prayer request to Janice by either calling (785) 543-6705 or [jgiedd@ruraltel.net](mailto:jgiedd@ruraltel.net). At Emmanuel, prayers can also be written down on a physical list in the narthex that Janice will note each week. Thank you!

### **TEXTCASTER**

Remember that you can stay informed about prayer requests, schedule changes, and weather cancellation from all four congregations of our parish with Textcaster. You can sign-up by going to the Disciples of the Plains Lutheran Ministry website at [www.disciplesoftheplains.com](http://www.disciplesoftheplains.com) and choosing the sign up for Textcaster link. You may also change your notification settings by following this link if you already have signed up.

## **ZION APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 7 @ 9:00 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Musician – Jean Ann Wagner
- Lector – Christina Dettmer
- Acolyte – Jacob Driggs
- Greeters – Jordan & Christina Dettmer
- Usher – Doug Zillinger
- Altar Guild – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Media – Pastor Lee

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 14 @ 9:00 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Musician – Jean Ann Wagner
- Lector – Christina Driggs
- Acolyte – Emerson Grote
- Greeters – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Usher – Janet McCall
- Altar Guild – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Media – Pastor Lee

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 21 @ 9:00 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Musician – Jean Ann Wagner
- Lector – Christina Driggs
- Acolyte – Emerson Grote
- Greeters – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Usher – Janet McCall
- Altar Guild – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Media – Pastor Lee

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 28 @ 9:00 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Musician – Jean Ann Wagner
- Lector – Marci Rust
- Acolyte – Carter Grote
- Greeters – Jeff & Tamra Griffey
- Usher – Bob Lamp, Jr.
- Altar Guild – Brad & Shellie Lare
- Media – Pastor Lee

## **EMMANUEL APRIL WORSHIP LEADERS**

### **2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 7 @ 10:30 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Assisting Minister – Anthony Kirchhoff
- Musician – Sub. Organist Service
- Lector – Alyssa Stites
- Acolyte – Bella Stites
- Greeters – Louis Beyerlein
- Bell Ringer - Volunteer
- Altar Guild – Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites

### **3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 14 @ 10:30 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Assisting Minister – Bob Jackson
- Musician – Vesta Jo Still
- Lector – Mildred Hadley
- Acolyte – Need Volunteer
- Greeters – Blaine & Candy Krafft
- Bell Ringer – Blaine Krafft
- Altar Guild – Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites

### **4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 21 @ 10:30 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Assisting Minister – Sean Cravens
- Musician – Sub. Organist Service
- Lector – Janice Giedd
- Acolyte – Kinley Krafft
- Greeters – Virgil Ehm
- Bell Ringer – Glenn Weinman
- Altar Guild – Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites

### **5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter (April 28 @ 10:30 am)**

- Presiding Minister – Pastor Lee
- Assistant Minister – Brock Johnson
- Musician – Sub. Organist Service
- Lector – Eric Krafft
- Acolyte – Wyatt Terry
- Greeters – Mike & Lynette Ehm
- Bell Ringer – Volunteer
- Altar Guild – Jane Kirchhoff & Alyssa Stites

## ZION APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

04/01 – Karin Patton  
04/03 – Tom Weinman  
04/06 – Adam Kipp  
04/09 – Shannon Lare  
04/09 – Kristin Wagner  
04/15 – Justin King  
04/27 – Ceshalyn Rust  
04/28 – Beth Zillinger  
04/29 – Madison Solida

04/06/2019 – Hunter & Jaysa Ewing (5 years)  
04/11/2011 – Jordan & Christina Dettmer (13 years)  
04/24/2021 – Tori & William Patton (3 years)  
04/30/1983 – Stan & Jean Ann Wagner (41 years)

Please notify of corrections or additions through  
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## EMMANUEL APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

04/06 – Tim Beim  
04/07 Merlyn Shick  
04/08 – Carter Dusin  
04/08 – Cordell Dusin  
04/10 – Emilie Kaiser  
04/10 – Christopher Whitney  
04/11 – Shane Kinter  
04/11 – Ethan Shelito  
04/12 – Tara Conn  
04/13 – Jon Yocum  
04/14 – Maggie Krafft  
04/15 – Rachel Jones  
04/22 – Denton Krafft  
04/23 – Jhett Johnson  
04/23 – Greta Preuss  
04/24 – Angela Jobe  
04/24 – Blaine Krafft  
04/27 – Chelsey FitzPatrick  
04/28 – Wyatt Terry  
04/29 – Corey FitzPatrick

04/10/1993 – J.P. & Whitney Shaw (31 years)  
04/25/1953 – Dorothy & Wayne Hanke (71 years)  
04/25/1976 – Johnny & Dee Yocum (46 years)

Please notify of corrections or additions through  
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## **COMBINED APRIL 2024 EMMANUEL & ZION CALENDAR**

Updated calendar information can be found on our congregational websites at

[www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org](http://www.zionlutheranchurchofphillipsburg.org)  
[www.emmanuellutheranchurchofstuttgart.org](http://www.emmanuellutheranchurchofstuttgart.org)

### **April 2, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts (Zion Basement)
- 7:00 pm - 2024 Youth Gathering Bible Study at Zion

### **April 3, 2024 – Wednesday**

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

### **April 7, 2024 – SECOND SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 9:30 am – Emmanuel Sunday School

- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 5:00 pm – 2024 VBS Planning Meeting at Zion

### **April 9, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts (Zion Basement)

### **April 10, 2024 – Wednesday**

- 7:00 pm – Confirmation Class at Zion

**April 11, 2024 – Thursday**

- 5:30 pm – Mutual Ministry Committee at St. John, Kensington
- 7:00 pm – Gospel of Mark Bible Study at Zion

**April 13, 2024 – Saturday**

- 5:00 pm – Baptism of Kori Faye Wagner at Zion

**April 14, 2024 – THIRD SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship & Confirmation Service of Carter Grote and Jacob Grote
- 9:30 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship & Confirmation Service for Blayne Johnson
- 3:00 pm – PCMA Baccalaureate Service at First Christian Church in Logan
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Council Meeting

**April 15, 2024 – Monday**

- 5:30 pm – Zion Worship Committee Meeting
- 7:00 pm – Zion Church Council

**April 16, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts (Zion Basement)
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Worship Committee

**April 17, 2024 – Wednesday**

- 6:30 pm – Confirmation End of the Year Celebration

**April 21, 2024 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 9:30 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship

**April 23, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts (Zion Basement)

**April 24, 2024 – Wednesday**

- 2:00 pm – PCRC Worship & Bible Study

**April 25, 2024 – Thursday**

- 7:00 pm – Gospel of Mark Bible Study at Zion

**April 28, 2024 – FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship & Graduate Recognition
- 9:30 am – Emmanuel Sunday School
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- 2:00 pm – PCRC Holy Communion Worship
- 5:30 pm – Parish Council Meeting at Zion

**May 4, 2024 – Saturday**

- All Day – Graduate Reception Set-up.

**May 5, 2024 – SIXTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship
- Afternoon – Graduate Receptions at Zion

**May 7, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion (Basement)

**May 9, 2024 – THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD**

- 7:00 pm – Ascension Holy Communion Worship at Zion

**May 12, 2024 – SEVENTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**(Mother's Day)**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship & Graduate Recognition
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Church Council

**May 13, 2024 – Monday**

- 7:00 pm – Zion Church Council

**May 14, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion (Basement)

**May 19, 2024 – PENTECOST SUNDAY**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship

**May 20, 2024 – Monday**

- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – VBS Day One at Zion

**May 21, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm – VBS Day Two at Zion
- 7:00 pm – Emmanuel Worship Committee

**May 22, 2024 – Wednesday**

- 2:00 pm – PCRC Worship & Bible Study
- 6:00 pm to 8:0 pm – VBS Day Three at Zion

**May 23, 2024 – Thursday**

- 7:00 pm – Gospel of Mark Bible Study at Zion

**May 24, 2024 – Friday**

- Time TBA – Jonte & Vogel Wedding Rehearsal

**May 25, 2024 – Saturday**

- Time TBA – Jonte & Vogel Wedding

**May 26, 2024 – TRINITY SUNDAY**

- 9:00 am – Zion Holy Communion Worship
- 10:30 am – Emmanuel Holy Communion Worship

**May 27, 2024 – Monday**

- 5:30 pm – Zion Worship Committee

**May 28, 2024 – Tuesday**

- 6:30 pm – Boy Scouts at Zion (Basement)

## 2024 APRIL LESSER FESTIVALS & COMMEMORATIONS

Date	Event Name	Introduction
Monday, April 1, 2024	<b>Annunciation of Our Lord</b>	The angel Gabriel announces that the love of God for humanity will take shape in the body of the blessed virgin Mary. The letter to the Hebrews announces that humanity has been hallowed “through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” Isaiah announces Immanuel, whose name means “God with us.” That God would take on human form, offer his life for ours, and keep company with us our whole life long overshadows any other love. Celebrate the announcement!
Thursday, April 4, 2024	<i>Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589</i>	Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.
Saturday, April 6, 2024	<i>Albrecht Dürer, died 1528; Matthias Grünewald, died 1529; Lucas Cranach, died 1553; artists</i>	These great artists revealed through their work the mystery of salvation and the wonder of creation. Dürer's work reflected the apocalyptic spirit of his time. Though he remained a Roman Catholic, he was sympathetic to Martin Luther's reforming work. Grünewald's paintings are known for their dramatic forms, vivid colors, and depiction of light. Cranach's work includes many fine religious examples and several portraits of Martin Luther. Cranach was also widely known for his woodcuts.
Tuesday, April 9, 2024	<i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian, died 1945</i>	Bonhoeffer was a German theologian who wrote profoundly, yet in an accessible manner. In the Second World War, he became a leader of the Confessing Church in Germany that resisted the Nazi movement. Linked to a plot to kill Hitler, he was hanged shortly before the end of the war.
Wednesday, April 10, 2024	<i>Mikael Agricola, Bishop of Turku, died 1557</i>	Consecrated bishop of Turku, Finland, without the approval of the pope, Agricola began a reform along Lutheran lines. In only three years, he translated the New Testament and worship texts into Finnish, in the process establishing the rules of Finnish writing that are still used today.
Friday, April 19, 2024	<i>Olavus Petri, priest, died 1552; Laurentius Petri, Bishop of Uppsala, died 1573; renewers of the church</i>	These two brothers studied with Luther at the University of Wittenberg and then returned to their native Sweden to introduce the Lutheran reforms. Olavus published a catechism and hymnal; Laurentius was a professor who defended the office of bishop and later became one.
Sunday, April 21, 2024	<i>Anselm, Bishop of Canterbury, died 1109</i>	This eleventh-century monk was one of the greatest theologians of the Middle Ages. He is remembered for emphasizing the maternal aspects of God, and for the theory that the Son of God became human in order to make the necessary payment for our sin.
Monday, April 22, 2024	<i>Day of the Creation (Día de la Creación) (LLC)</i>	This observance invites us to notice and give God thanks for the wonders of the created universe. As stewards of that creation, we are also challenged to be careful in our use of it.
Tuesday, April 23, 2024	<i>Toyohiko Kagawa, renewer of society, died 1960</i>	Born in Kobe, Japan, Kagawa was orphaned as a young child. Later, when he became Christian, he was disowned by the rest of his family. Wishing to bring Christian principles into society, he worked among poor people, established schools and hospitals, and worked for peace.
Thursday, April 25, 2024	<i>Mark, Evangelist</i>	He was not numbered among the twelve apostles, yet Mark was probably a member of the early church community. The gospel that bears his name is the shortest and most direct, and many scholars think it was the first to be written.
Monday, April 29, 2024	<i>Catherine of Siena, theologian, died 1380</i>	This theologian was the first woman among Roman Catholics to receive the title "Doctor [teacher] of the Church." Catherine was a Dominican sister known for her mystical visions as well as her work on behalf of people who were poor and imprisoned.

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