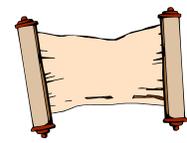


Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
August 2017

Return Service Requested



This newsletter is sent with a prayer for...

The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish Newsletter

News and Information About Emanuel, Saint Peter's,
and Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Churches

Rev. Christine Kirchner, Pastor

August 2017

Phone: 570-384-4125

E-mail: mglp@frontier.com or pastorkirchner@gmail.com

MISSION STATEMENT OF MOUNTAIN GROVE LUTHERAN PARISH

"To spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ through a ministry of worship and outreach"



O Lord, we pray that the visitation of your grace may so cleanse our thoughts and minds that your Son Jesus, when he shall come, may find in us a fit dwelling place; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ

It's hard to believe, but this is my twelfth newsletter article that I am writing to you. I have had the honor of serving as your pastor for one year. As I reflect on the time that I have spent here, it simultaneously feels as though I have just started and been here forever. The year has certainly sped by.

During this past year my main focus has been getting to know you - as a parish, as separate congregations, and as individual members. I have had the privilege of baptizing three children into the faith and burying two of the faithful who now wait for the promise of the resurrection. We have engaged in deep and challenging conversations about faith through bible study, Lenten dinners, and visits. We have worked together as a parish helping each other make ham and turkey suppers, doughnuts, and chicken and waffles. We have engaged with the community through various outreach programs such as trunk or treat as well as collecting food and money. It has been an eventful year.

As I look to the future, I am excited for the things coming up. The 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be October 29, 2017 and the youth group is going to the ELCA National Youth Gathering in Houston during the summer of 2018. We are already hard at work planning for the joint Reformation worship service and lunch and the youth are fundraising to help with the costs of the traveling to Houston.

But one of the things that excites me the most about looking to the future is how well you all work together as a parish. I know at times the future of the church can seem uncertain. But when I see everyone worshipping together at the church picnic or I show up to help with one church's fundraiser and I see people from all three churches working together, it gives me hope. Hope that regardless of what the numbers are Sunday morning, we are doing the work of God. We are not called to live isolated lives of faith, but rather to love and support each other as a community of faith. When I reflect on the time I have spent here, that is what I see - a community of faith.

As we embark on another year of ministry together, I am looking forward to seeing how God works among us and through us as we continue living in this community of faith.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christine

PRAYER LIST UPDATE:



The families and friends of Laune Fenstemaker (Chuck Henry's sister). Brian Houseknecht (Wendy Gearharts's ex-brother in-law).

Also: *Judy Boody (Janet Kelchner's sister), Wilbur Knecht, Laurie Gunther, Wayne Michael, Misty Leitner (Sharon Hartzell's neice), Nancy Bauman, Glen Diehl, Dan Pitonyak, Butch Mordon & Oxenrider family (Susie Spudes), Jeannette Chulock (Ray Chulock's mom), Diane (friend of Kathy Brior), Robert Hunsinger Sr. (Sharon Hartzell's Dad), Linda Adler, Don Davis, Rose Casazza & family (Dale Michael), Dakota (Dale Michael), Tracy (Susie Spudes), Robyn & Dick Baker, Donna Dalesandro (Bill Brior's sister), Joe & Cathy Petruncio (Dale Michael), John Adler, Elaine Stauffer (Dale Michael), Dan Davis, Julia Galatis (Kathy Brior), Marilyn Broadt, Denise Zaruta (Michelle Bower's sister), Wayne Spudes Jr., Rita Kenna, Richie, Pr Jenn & Rob Kopacz, Donna Midway (Susie Spudes), Kyle Foster, Sandy Ortman (Dale Michael), Carol Ann, Buddy & Wendy Jastremsky Day, Mary Isabel Phillips (Vicki Bolinsky's mom), David Pooley (Dale Michael), Janet Matyas, Cindy Shuman, Karen Baylor, Sandee Knecht, Carol & Debbie Chyko, Lindsay, Jerry Fisher (Susie Spudes brother), Jack & Patsy Millard, Heather Hetherington, Jim Bankes, young people of our congregation. Please pray for all the people of MGLP, especially: those in need of healing; those suffering from chronic health issues; & members who are confined to their homes or long-term care facilities.*

UPDATES: Notify Sharon Hartzell at 384-4107 or shartzell@epix.net

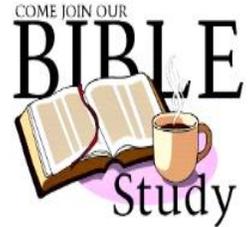
-----PLEASE REVIEW PRAYER LIST AND UPDATE AS NECESSARY-----



Thursday Night Adult Bible Study

The adult bible study will continue meeting on the first and third Thursdays of the month - August 3 and 17.

Everybody is welcome to attend.
Any questions, please contact Pastor Christine



WORKSHOP FOR COUNCIL

**We will be having a council workshop at 6:00pm on Wednesday, August 9th, at the parsonage.
Please bring your ideas, appetites and a side or dessert to share.
Also bring a chair if you have.**

Future Youth Group Meetings

The Youth Group will be taking a break from regular meetings during the summer. Be sure to keep an eye out in the announcements for youth events like lock-ins and tubing.

Please talk to Pastor Christine if you have any questions.



AUGUST OUTREACH PROJECT

The youth group will be selling walk-away tacos at Agape Palooza to raise money to attend the National Youth Gathering next year. Come on down to Bloomsburg Town Park on Sat. Aug. 26 between 11:00am – 6:00pm to support the youth and get a tasty taco!

Prayer Ventures for August 2017

- 1** Ask God to bless communities, neighborhoods and military bases observing National Night Out this evening to help them be safe, caring places in which neighbors and law enforcement work together for the well-being of all.
- 2** We remember in our prayers ELCA missionaries Robin Strickler, the Rev. Kate Warn and the young adults serving in the Young Adults in Global Mission program in Rwanda. Pray that their ministries will be blessed as they work alongside companion churches and institutions sharing the gospel, strengthening and growing the church, serving communities, and striving for reconciliation, healing and justice.
- 3** Give thanks for the generosity of ELCA congregations supporting domestic and global ministries through Mission Support.
- 4** Remember and give thanks for the rich partnership and relationship we have with The Episcopal Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999, and ask God to further our work together sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.
- 5** Pray for leaders, teachers and volunteers preparing for fall programs in congregations that the Spirit will stir their enthusiasm, creativity, confidence and a desire to share the gospel and nurture the faith of children, youth and adults.
- 6** When the disciples wanted to send hungry crowds away, Jesus said no, we can feed them. Ask God to stir our empathy, compassion and faith that, drawing on our collective resources and abundance, we have enough to share and will not turn away, ignore or disparage our neighbors who are hungry and in need.
- 7** Pray for leaders of our congregations and church gathered for the first ELCA Rostered Ministers Gathering in Atlanta, an opportunity for rostered ministers to meet colleagues for fellowship, share ideas and be refreshed and renewed for serving the church.
- 8** We pray – we plead – with God to help us end terror and violence in the world and to lift from us any fear, suspicion, anxiety, anger and even apathy that dwells in us.
- 9** Give thanks and praise to God for being attentive to our prayers, for being slow to anger, compassionate, loving and merciful with us.
- 10** Pray that every congregation will discover, use and carefully manage their diverse assets, resources of their community and abundance for growing the church, serving their neighbors, equipping and nurturing their members, and doing God's work in the world.
- 11** On this observance of International Youth Day, pray for children and youth that they experience the benefits of education, health care, clean water and stable food sources, and safe and caring environments to grow up in. Pray that they may know the joys of living, playing and dreaming as young people unencumbered and undiminished by persistent worry, violence or hopelessness.
- 12** We remember in prayer children and youth beginning a new school year and pray that with the help and inspiration of parents, teachers and caring adults in their lives, they will grow in faith, intellect, wisdom, confidence, curiosity and hope as maturing children of God.
- 13** Pray that when we are overcome by fear and terror, feel vulnerable and alone, helpless and ill-equipped, we remember and trust that God is ever-present, powerful and active in our lives and world.
- 14** Give thanks for nurses who attend with skill and compassion to our physical, emotional and spiritual needs in diverse communities, contexts and situations.
- 15** *Mary, Mother of our Lord* We are in awe of how God uses people like Mary who are humble and poor to reveal God's presence in the world and accomplish great things. Give thanks, praise and glory to God for the many ways in which we are called and sent into the world to share the good news of Jesus Christ and serve as humble witnesses of our faith.
- 16** Writers, poets, editors & bloggers inspire and inform us and stir our faith; praise God for the diversity of the body of Christ and for the gifts, insights & imagination they exercise and share with the church & world.

17 Ask God to help us understand and value the spirit of the teachings, movements, insights and leaders throughout history that have contributed to the shaping and growth of the Lutheran church. Pray that we continue to be dynamic, growing and unafraid of change as we listen to God's word, discern God's will and strive to be nimble and faithful in our plans, preparation and work as disciples – today and for the future.

18 Elijah listened for God in a wind storm, earthquake and fire but instead heard God in the silence and calm that followed. Pray for patience and discipline that amid our busy, loud, attention-grabbing world we also create places and times for stillness and calm in which we do nothing but listen and talk with God.

19 There is hope in the progress being made to halt the spread of HIV through prevention, treatment and care and in eliminating the stigma and discrimination experienced by those who are HIV-positive. Give thanks for the progress and pray for generous support and continuing commitment for the work of supporting children who've lost parents or guardians to the disease, training pastors in HIV and AIDS counseling, getting medicines to remote rural health clinics, making free HIV testing available, preventing new infections and transforming this church into a safe space for people living with HIV and AIDS.

20 Ask God to help us be persistent and faithful in prayer for our own lives and for the needs of the world.

21 We unite in prayer, fasting & advocacy with our brothers & sisters in Christ of The Episcopal Church that our nation, elected leaders, public-service agencies & communities will address with compassion, wisdom & concern for justice the cuts to public programs that are vital to hungry people who are living in poverty.

22 The Lutheran church has a rich history of education for children, youth and adults. Give thanks to God for our early childhood education centers, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, seminaries, lay schools of theology and lifelong education programs related to the ELCA. Pray they flourish and continue to influence and enrich the lives of the people they touch.

23 Pray to God with a joy-filled and grateful heart, knowing that God's promises and mercy are immeasurable and trustworthy with life-giving blessings to savor and share.

24 We give thanks to God for the challenging work of teachers, principals, custodians, cooks, student teachers, administrative staff, counselors, librarians, nurses, bus drivers and all who play influential and supportive roles in the education, well-being and development of our children and youth.

25 We remember in our prayers the Rev. Phillip Baker and the Rev. Rosanne Swanson, ELCA missionaries serving in Indonesia. Pray that their ministries will be blessed as they work alongside companion churches and institutions sharing the gospel, training leaders, strengthening and growing the church, and serving the needs of communities.

26 We pray that God's saving power through Jesus Christ will be known throughout the world, that all may praise God and sing for joy.

27 Pray that when asked about our faith or who Jesus is, with the help of the Spirit, we reply enthusiastically in our own words – imperfect or insufficient as they may be – that Jesus is our Savior and the Son of the living God through whom we are loved, forgiven, opened to God's word and ways, set free on a new path in life and promised eternal life.

28 The world is vast and its people often unknown to us, despite technology and worldwide media. Trusting that we all have one Creator and Savior, we pray that the Spirit of God will move in us and among us, bringing us closer together that we will no longer be strangers but familiar and welcoming brothers and sisters in Christ.

29 Sing and shout prayers of thanks and praise to God for all God has done, taught us, blessed us with, revealed to us for the strengthening of our faith, and the countless ways in which God is present with us and equipping our congregations for every challenge and opportunity we encounter.

30 We remember in our prayers the ELCA missionaries serving in Hong Kong: the Rev. Jenna Bergeson, the Rev. Wayne Niemen, the Rev. Christa Vonzychlin and the Rev. Carolyn Schneider. Pray that God will bless and further their ministries working alongside companion churches and institutions training and encouraging leaders for ministry, sharing the gospel, and strengthening and growing the church.

31 Pray to God with humility as a servant and living sacrifice, asking for insight into the gifts and skills we each bring to the church and how – together – we can put them to use for the growth of the church and for the sake of our neighbors who cry out for good news, hope, comfort, connection and healing.



August Babies

08/02 Joshua Huff
08/03 Marie Hons
Thomas Lyons
Lauren Boyer
08/04 Linda Adler
Melissa Furuglyas
08/07 Wilbur Knecht
08/08 Erika Book
08/09 Nancy Bauman
08/10 Katie Lyons
08/11 Randall Matyas
08/12 Brandon Gottstein
Shirley Bodman
08/13 Michelle Bower
08/14 Tracy Longenberger
08/16 Shelly Petrill
08/19 Robbie Ruckle
Walter Gottstein
08/20 John Angus
08/22 Candace Rogers
08/23 Kyle Furuglyas
Van Michael
Bo Bolinsky
08/26 Kerry Fisher
08/28 Cielo (Sky) Holdren
08/29 Taylor Thomas
08/30 Lucille Ruckle
08/31 Emma Judge

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for July

10:15 on August 6th & 20th

10:45 on August 13th & 27th

Loose Change will be collected for Mainville Fire Co.
on August 13th & 27th

Coffee Klatch will be held August 13th at 10:00am.

Pastor contact info:

The Rev. Christine Kirchner

Contact info: pastorkirchner@gmail.com

808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125



August Anniversaries

08/06 Bill & Kathy Brior
08/10 Marlin & Vivian Boehmer
08/17 Barry & Michelle Bower

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC
& Communion for August is
Peggy Pickin
Ushers are Jeff & Paul