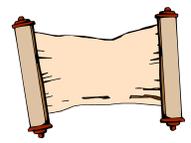


Parish Parchment



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

October 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

On October 29 we will be commemorating the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation. It is shaping up to be a fun and exciting day. Not only are we having a joint parish celebration, but we are also partnering with the New Beginnings UCC Parish for a five church worship service. There will be a joint choir, special music, decorations, and a covered dish lunch following worship. I hope to see to see you there.

As we approach this milestone in our denomination's history, I wanted to reflect on what we will be celebrating that last Sunday of October. Many see the Reformation as the time to celebrate Martin Luther's break from the Roman Catholic Church and the beginning of all things Lutheran. While this is certainly a time to remember our history, that is only one aspect of what this day represents.

One of Martin Luther's most well-known quotes is: "Here I stand. I can do no other." He said this during his heresy trial at the Diet of Worms. Luther was asked to recant his criticisms of the Roman Catholic Church and in response he issued this famous line telling the Catholic Church he would not renounce his position. This story has often been used as a call to stand behind one's beliefs without a willingness to even hear differing views.

But this often quoted line is incomplete. The entire quote goes, "Unless I am convinced by the testimony of the Holy Scriptures or by evident reason-for I can believe neither pope nor councils alone, as it is clear that they have erred repeatedly and contradicted themselves-I consider myself convicted by the testimony of Holy Scripture, which is my basis; my conscience is captive to the Word of God. Thus I cannot and will not recant, because acting against one's conscience is neither safe nor sound. Here I stand, I can do no other. God help me. Amen."

Looking at the entirety of Luther's refusal to recant, we see that this famous saying is actually an invitation to engage in discussions about Scripture and faith. Luther is not saying that he is unwilling to change his opinions, but that he must first be convinced by Scripture. This is the true gift and celebration of the Reformation - the invitation and calling to faithfully discuss, question, and challenge what we believe. When we engage in these conversations our doctrines becomes more than memorializing past historical events, but a dynamic and evolving faith that continues to have relevance in our daily lives.

This Reformation Sunday yes we remember past events, but we also celebrate how the Holy Spirit continues to work in our lives and in the Church. The work of the Reformation is not over, but rather has continued for five hundred years and will continue on into the future.

**In Christ's love,
Pastor Christine**

PRAYER LIST UPDATE:



The families and friends of Cole Moyer (Young boy from our area).

Also: Annabelle Davis, Nancy Lawrence, Lee Rupert, Wade Buehler, Ken Davis (Alice Fritz's cousin), Deana & Donna Midway (Susie Spudes), Tim Spudes (Susie Spudes son), Judy Boody & Marilyn Broadt (Janet Kelchner's sisters), Wilbur Knecht, Laurie Gunther, Wayne Michael, Dan Pitonyak, Butch Mordon, 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), Robyn Baker, Donna Dalesandro (Bill Brior's sister), Joe & Cathy Petruncio (Dale Michael), John Adler, Elaine Stauffer (Dale Michael), Dick Baker, Julia Galatis (Kathy Brior), Denise Zaruta (Michelle Bower's sister), Wayne Spudes Jr., Rita Kenna, Richie, Pastor Jenn & Rob Kopacz, 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 Millard, 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-----

UPcoming EVENTS

Thursday Night Adult Bible Study

The adult bible study will only be meeting on the third Thursday of this month due to Pastor's vacation – October 19.

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



SAVE THE DATE

Re-Creation will be returning to St Peter's, Sunday, November 26, 2017 at 7PM.
More details will follow as they become available.



The Blessing of the Animals service will take place at 1 pm on Oct. 22 at Emanuel. You are welcome to bring any and all pets for a blessing. If your pets do not travel well or get along with others, feel free to bring a picture of them and they will be blessed from afar.
Any questions, please ask Pastor Christine.



OCTOBER OUTREACH PROJECT

JOIN US!
GAMES, TREATS, CRAFTS AND FUN

OCTOBER 29, 2017
MAINVILLE PARK
5:00pm-7:00pm

Contact Nancy Chulock 570-784-2254 with questions.

We need volunteers to decorate their cars or trucks, we will supply all the treats, so anyone wanting to participate all you have to do is show up.

Prayer Ventures for October 2017

- 1** *World Communion Sunday* (Global Church Sundays) Each year, more than 225 ELCA missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, serve in more than 40 countries around the world. We remember in our prayers and support these servants of Christ working alongside companion churches proclaiming the gospel, raising up leaders, caring for people in need and developing new ways of being church together.
- 2** Give thanks for our sisters and brothers – bishops, pastors, deacons, people of God – who walk the way of the cross with other courageous and faithful people to stand against bigotry, hatred and violence; to stand with those who are intended victims; and to stand for justice and mercy, peace and equality for all people – beloved children of a just, merciful and loving God.
- 3** We remember in our prayers congregations, church-related organizations, rostered ministers and candidates for rostered ministry engaged in the call process, a time of thoughtful assessment and prayerful discernment about their work together in ministry and mission.
- 4** *Francis of Assisi* We pray our daily lives reflect humility, generosity, love and respect for our neighbor, all living things, natural resources that sustain us and the environment – gifts from our loving God, source of all that exists.
- 5** Give praise and thanksgiving for God's mercy and forgiveness, and pray for a deepening, clear understanding of God's ways and word.
- 6** Ask God to bless and guide the Ethnic Specific and Multicultural Ministries team working within the ELCA – in all its expressions, agencies and institutions – toward full partnership and participation of African Descent, American Indian and Alaska Native, Arab and Middle Eastern, Asian and Pacific Islander, and Latino people in the life and mission of this church.
- 7** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global church companions in Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Russia and Scotland, and ask God to move us to support and encourage their work in sharing the good news of the gospel, caring for the needs of the human community and equipping leaders.
- 8** Through baptism we are joined with Jesus, Son of God, our Savior and hope, and the community of all believers in a new life and reality grounded in the good news of forgiveness, mercy and salvation. Give thanks!
- 9** Pray for ELCA missionaries serving with our global church companions in Chile, Colombia, Bolivia, Costa Rica and Jamaica. Pray 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.
- 10** Give thanks for our elders. Pray for openness to understanding the changing needs and dynamics of adults as they age. Pray for wisdom on how to best accompany and care for elders in ways that safeguard their dignity, recognize and utilize their gifts in the church and communities, encourage their journey of faith and attend to their physical, spiritual, intellectual and social needs.
- 11** God's caring presence and attention is not deterred by our times of unfaithfulness, hypocrisy, selfishness or forgetfulness. As sinners and saints, we ask God's forgiveness and pray for renewed faith.
- 12** Lutheran Services in America represents over 300 health and human services organizations reaching 6 million people annually, touching the lives of 1 in 50 people in the U.S. each year. Pray the work of these organizations will thrive and their staff and volunteers be encouraged, supported and equipped for serving the needs of families, individuals and communities.
- 13** In God's word and Scripture we find commandments, guidance and examples for living in God-pleasing ways, making decisions that consider the needs of others and loving God and neighbor with all our heart. Pray that our minds and hearts are open to God's word and teachings and that we are eager to follow God's ways – no matter how difficult or uncomfortable.
- 14** Give thanks for the beauty of fall, the signs of seasons changing and the abundance of creation entrusted to our use and care.
- 15** We pray that we are eager, articulate witnesses to God's love and mercy, never hesitating to share the good news of Jesus Christ with friends and strangers alike.

16 Give thanks for ELCA Mission Builders, people who travel the country using their God-given skills to help ELCA congregations, schools, outdoor ministries and social ministry organizations construct or improve their facilities for the sake of mission and serving their communities.

17 Pray for mindfulness to include in our thoughts and prayers the positive things we see and experience in the world, inspiring examples of people serving others and the little signs of light that give us hope and reassure us of God's loving presence and activity in the world.

18 We remember in our prayers the 340 ELCA new-start ministries under development in the United States and the Caribbean, and the local leaders, directors for evangelical mission, bishops and synods seeking to grow God's church and extend a welcome to all God's people.

19 As the media and our attention are drawn to and distracted by situations unfolding daily in the world, pray that we never forget or neglect the places of ongoing struggle and conflict, people in great need who live beyond our communities, and communities working to recover from disasters – natural and human made.

20 With joy and awe, recount God's wondrous works from the beginning of time, and give thanks for God's enduring love.

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

22 Often torn between the pressures to choose sides in society, politics, relationships and the world, pray that the Spirit works in us to remind us daily of our responsibilities in the world to one another, and that our ultimate loyalty is to God and God's ways.

23 Pray for peaceful, diplomatic resolutions to current conflicts and wars in the world and for reconciliation, healing, relief and solutions that work toward the end of suffering and injustice.

24 Pray for the publishing ministry of our church – 1517 Media – and its publishing partners; give thanks for their resources developed in support of the mission and ministry of congregations, schools, leaders and members.

25 Rejoice and be glad in the Lord's creative work, magnificence, strength, mercy and justice.

26 Pray for the work of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA*, our opportunity to invest in the future of this church, deepen relationships and expand ministry opportunities that serve our neighbors and communities in the United States and around the world. Give thanks for the generosity of our members and the sharing of gifts that help us realize the goals of the campaign.

27 We ask God to inspire us through the Spirit to support one another as brothers and sisters loved by God and to encourage one another to go into every corner of the world as witnesses to the hope and love we experience through faith in Jesus Christ.

28 Pray for the Spirit to stir our wisdom and vision as a church that we will move into the future with a commitment to God's work in the world, growing the church, equipping new leaders, serving our neighbor and excitement for sharing the gospel in creative ways we have yet to imagine.

29 *Reformation Sunday* With humility and gratefulness, give thanks to God that we are justified and saved by grace through faith in Jesus Christ and that our salvation isn't dependent on our actions, attitudes or quality of faith.

30 The truth and light of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has set us free from sin and all that holds us back from living as children of God. Rejoice and praise God for giving us the gift of forgiveness and new life and gathering us together in the body of Christ!

31 *Reformation Day* Give thanks for how God has shaped and guided the church throughout history, especially as a result of the Reformation movement and Martin Luther's faith and teachings. Pray that we continue to reflect, learn and change with the guidance of the Spirit and God's word, for the sake of our neighbor, to be faithful to God's mission in the world.



October Babies

10/01 Donna Colosimo
 10/02 Brandon Bankes
 10/04 Marlin H. Boehmer
 10/05 Marlin V. Boehmer
 10/07 Brittany Bankes
 Glenn Ferry
 10/08 Francis Sorber
 10/10 Nancy Chulock
 10/13 Judy Hartranft
 10/15 Keira Huff
 10/17 Allen Kotansky, Jr.
 Connor Hartzell
 10/20 Alice Fritz
 10/21 Judy Brown
 10/22 Carol Davenport
 10/24 Steven Storaska, Jr.
 10/25 Timothy Storaska
 10/26 Emily Pitonyak
 10/27 Andraya Davenport
 10/28 Tess Solenberger
 Jamie Coombe

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for October

10:15 on October 1st & 15th

10:45 on October 8th & 22nd

9:30 on October 29th Joint Worship @ St Peter

Loose Change will be collected for Veterans of Orangeville Manor on October 8th & 22nd

Coffee Klatch will be held October 8th at 10:00am.

Pastor contact info:

The Rev. Christine Kirchner

Contact info: pastorkirchner@gmail.com

808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125



October Anniversaries

10/03 Franklin & Patricia Newhart
 10/04 Jay & Mary Jane Derr
 10/11 Jack & Jane Troy
 10/16 Jack & Patsy Millard
 10/18 Jerry & Shirley Bodman
 10/21 Dale & Marqueen Davenport
 10/23 Rob & Pastor Jenn Kopacz
 10/25 Dan & Brenda Pitonyak
 10/26 Kerry & Irene Fisher
 10/30 Robert & Alice Fritz

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC
 & Communion for October is
 Nancy Bauman
 Ushers are Lois and Pam

Bingo Fundraiser



To help raise funds for the National Youth Gathering in Houston next summer, the youth group is hosting a bingo fundraiser Nov. 5 at the Bloomsburg Firehall. The youth are selling tickets for the fundraiser, \$20 for 20 games. Each game will have a \$100 gift card or cash prize. There will also be food and a bake sale before the games begin.

The doors open at noon and bingo starts at 2. If you would like to support the youth group with this fundraiser there are several opportunities. 1) Purchase a ticket and play bingo! 2) Invite your friends to play; 3) If bingo isn't your thing, you can donate money to help offset the cost of the prizes; 4) Provide food to sell before the game; 5) Help the day of the game collecting tickets, selling food, or passing out the prizes during the game. There are sign-up sheets at the back of the church with a list of the donations and food needed. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Christine.

Reformation Sunday

Oct. 29 is Reformation Sunday. To commemorate the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, there will be one festival service of communion at St. Peter starting at 9:30. This will be a joint service with Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish and New Beginnings UCC Parish. The service will include a joint choir, confirmation of Lauren Boyer, and a covered dish lunch after the service. The parish will be providing the meat and ask that you bring a side or desert to share. There are sign-up sheets in the back of the church so we have a rough idea of how many people to expect. If you have any questions, please talk to Pastor Christine.



Joint Choir

If you would like to sing in the service, you are more than welcome to participate regardless of whether your home church has a choir. Any questions please contact Gloria Fritz or Pastor Christine.



Join the Choir...
You'll Be Glad
You Did!

Choir for the Reformation worship service is welcome! Choir practices are held on Wednesday night at St. Peter at 7:00 pm. All are welcome to come whether your home church has a choir.

All Saints Sunday

Nov. 5 is All Saints Sunday, the day we remember all those who have died and are now part of the Church Triumphant. As a part of the service we read the names of those who have died this past year. If you have a loved one who has died in the past year and would like their name read during worship, please contact the office or fill out one of the forms in the back of the church and give it to Pastor Christine.