

Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
April 2022

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

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April 2022

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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.

PASTORS PAGE

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

To everything there is a season. As Christians, we are entering the season of Holy Week and Easter. This is the most sacred time for believers in Jesus Christ. In the services of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter, we move from the intimacy of Jesus with his disciples gathered around the last supper, to the public anguish of the crucifixion, to the eternal promise of resurrection. Within these services we are reminded of Jesus' love and passion for us.

But I have not forgotten the story from last year. So, why should we go through it all again this year?

We do not attend these services because we do not know the story. Most of us have been told the story since childhood. Attending these services is not simply a matter of knowing the story with our minds, but knowing we continue in the story. God's story of resurrection is still going on and we are participants. As we attend these services, we bring with us the intimate center of our lives, our deepest grief and hurts, and we experience how God brings new life and a new future in the midst of these realities. This is God's promise, and why it is important we participate in it!

To this end, I invite and encourage you to attend "The Great Three," three of the most important services of the Christian faith.

April 14	Maundy Thursday	7:00pm	Emanuel
April 15	Good Friday	7:00pm	St. Peter
April 17	Festival Service of the Resurrection	8:00am 9:30am 10:45am	Trinity St. Peter Emanuel

It is a joy for me to be part of the continuing story of God's on-going resurrection in our lives and our churches.

With prayers for a blessed Holy Week and Easter,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

The family & friends of:

Also: *Danny Fisher, Richard Yost & Wayne Jr.* (Susie Spudes' relatives), *Russ Ebright* (friend of Dale Michael), *Arlene Lesnefsky* (Kathy Giorgio's aunt), *Jack Henry and family* (Chuck Henry's brother), *Paige Thomas, Tyson Neal* (Emily Sutherland's son), *Sandee Knecht, Patsy Millard, Don Davis, Shirley Omalia* (Mark Hartzell's mother), *Audrey Bronson, 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: Sharon Hartzell at 384-4107 or shartzell@ptd.net

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

Prayer Ventures for April 2022

1 Arab American Heritage Month Remember in prayer the diverse gifts, cultures, heritages and stories of our Arab and Middle Eastern neighbors and siblings in Christ, who remind us of the rich history and tradition of Christ's church in the world. Ask God to bless and advance the advocacy, witness, leadership development and support for ministries provided by ELCA Arab & Middle Eastern Ministries & the Association of Lutherans of Arab & Middle Eastern Heritage.

2 Give thanks for the resources of our church, including ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving, which guides us through Lent and helps us pray, study Scripture, respond to our neighbors in need and give generously for the good of communities around the world.

3 Pray that we will each use our unique gifts and passions as disciples of Christ, called to share the gospel and serve our neighbors, & that we will trust the Spirit to equip, inspire & embolden us for doing God's work in the world, together.

4 Give thanks for the commitment and work of planning team leaders, volunteers, youth ministry leaders in congregations and churchwide organization staff who prepared for the now-canceled 2022 ELCA Youth Gathering and are now refocusing their attention on the 2024 event; ask the Spirit to guide, strengthen and enliven their work.

5 Remember in prayer our neighbors in countries and regions beset by conflict, civil unrest or violence, including places we have forgotten because they have slipped from the headlines. Pray for healing, hope and strength for our neighbors who suffer trauma, loss, displacement or uncertainty, and pray that leaders will work to resolve conflicts, reconcile enemies and forge new relationships based on justice, respect for human life and mutual concern.

6 Pray that God will comfort and stir hope and joy in those who suffer grief; ask God to help us be present with them in their sorrow, bringing empathy, respect, support and patience.

7 Give thanks for Women of the ELCA and women of all ages who gather in more than 4,500 locations in the United States and the Caribbean for service, study, advocacy and fellowship, mobilizing women to act boldly on their faith in Jesus Christ.

8 Ask the Spirit to make us purveyors of grace, joy and unexpected generosity, especially to people who live with worry, despair, turmoil or loneliness.

9 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, theologian (1906-1945) Remember and give thanks for our siblings in Christ — past and present — who risk their lives for justice, the well-being of our neighbors and the truth of the gospel. Pray that their witness, courage and sacrifice will inspire and guide our pursuit of justice and peace in the world.

10 Palm Sunday Jesus endured false accusations, betrayal by his closest followers, an unfair trial, public humiliation and the pain of death on a cross for our salvation and the fulfillment of God's promises. Give praise and thanks to the Son of God, the promised Messiah!

11 Pray for pastors and seminary students serving as chaplains for the armed forces, Veterans Affairs hospitals and federal correctional institutions, and for pastors serving in other contexts, including hospitals, nursing homes, hospice programs, social ministry programs, state and local correctional facilities, and organizations serving people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

12 Give joyful thanks that God's boundless, unimaginable love is made known to us in ways that we can grasp: through Jesus Christ's humble birth, life of service, suffering, death and resurrection.

13 Ask God to renew and strengthen our commitment and courage to face the painful truth of gun violence in our country — to prevent gun violence; attend to individuals, families and communities traumatized by it; advocate for common-sense gun safety laws; and care for the perpetrators of violent acts.

14 Maundy Thursday "Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35). Pray that we will be mindful of how we bear witness to Jesus through our humility, sacrificial service, words of love and Spirit-inspired actions.

15 Good Friday Reflect on what we see in the cross, the feelings it evokes and what it represents in our faith and life. Pray that through the symbol of the cross we might see God's unconstrained power over death and God's awesome gift of grace that gives us life — both new life in the present and life eternal.

16 Pray that we will bear God's grace, mercy, hope and kindness to incarcerated youth and adults who experience isolation from society, our communities and the church.

17 *Easter Day* "This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it" (Psalm 118:24). Hallelujah! Shout prayers of joy and thanksgiving for the enduring, trustworthy gifts of love, forgiveness, healing and new life fulfilled by God in the resurrection of Jesus Christ — our Savior, teacher, hope and salvation.

18 Give thanks for faith-based preschools and day care centers that encourage faith, support parents and serve communities. Pray that their teachers, staff and administrators will be strengthened for their work providing safe and nurturing care for children.

19 Pray that the gifts of forgiveness, love and new life we receive through Jesus will fill us with joy, moving us to share the good news and work for healing and justice in the world.

20 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Western Iowa Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

21 Pray that the Spirit will lead us into conversations about faith and the good news of Jesus Christ with people we encounter in our daily lives; pray that we will see God working through us even when we feel uncomfortable or imperfect in expressing our faith.

22 *Earth Day* The mysteries and awe of creation defy our comprehension and stir wonder in us. Give praise, gratitude and recognition for all God has made for our sustenance and joy; pray that we will be wise, generous, responsible stewards and restorers of the earth's resources for the glory of our Creator.

23 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Alaska Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

24 What nagging questions do you have about Scripture, faith or God's actions in the world? Amid a life of doubt and uncertainty, ask God to grant us reassurance and insight; pray that our faith and belief will grow deeper and stronger through the work of the Spirit, the support of our siblings in Christ and the opportunities for study, prayer and discernment in our communities of faith.

25 Pray for church leaders and congregations participating in Valparaiso University's Institute of Liturgical Studies, a source of renewal and re-creation through worship, music, study and reflection on the church's challenges and opportunities after the pandemic.

26 "Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord!" (Psalm 150:6). Consider how each thing you do today can glorify God.

27 Pray for congregations and communities preparing for severe weather, that they might preserve human life, respond to community needs, and prove resilient in the face of natural disaster. Give thanks for our ability to respond to disasters through Lutheran Disaster Response in collaboration with companion churches, disaster response organizations and ecumenical partners.

28 Give thanks for ELCA Young Adult Ministries, Young Adults in Global Mission and their work of providing inspiration, opportunities, connections and resources to young adults and people facilitating young adult ministries.

29 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northern Texas-Northern Louisiana, Northeastern Minnesota and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

30 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area Synod, Southeastern Pennsylvania Synod and Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders, proclaim the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world.

UPcoming EVENTS

Trinity's Easter Egg Hunt will be held at 1:00pm on Saturday, April 16th. Any donations of filled eggs or candy to be put in eggs would be greatly appreciated.

If you shop on Amazon, you can now designate Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish as your charity of choice. Simply go to www.smile.amazon.com and search for Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish or type in <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/23-2544401>. The Parish will then receive .5% of your purchase as a donation from Amazon. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Christine.



Midweek Lenten Worship Schedule

March 30 ~ 7pm ~ Emanuel
April 6 ~ 7pm ~ Trinity

Holy Week Worship Schedule

Maundy Thursday ~ 7pm ~ Emanuel
Good Friday ~ 7pm ~ St Peter

Easter Sunday:

8am ~ Trinity
9:30am ~ St Peter
10:45 ~ Emanuel

40 Days of Giving

Given the current crisis in Ukraine, council decided to change the designation for this year's Lenten offering. **Money collected during the 40 Days of Giving will now go to help those in Ukraine as well as Ukrainian refugees in boarding Eastern European countries.** The money will go through Lutheran Disaster Response. If you would like to donate immediately, you can do so through the Lutheran Disaster Response website (Eastern European Crisis). If you have any questions, please see Pastor Christine.



April Birthdays

- 04/03 Rob Kopacz
- 04/04 Douglas Matyas
- 04/10 Gavin Huff
- 04/16 Derrick Hartzell
- 04/17 Gloria Davis
- 04/20 Lance Book
Les Splain
- 04/21 Chasity Hartzell
Karen Henry
Justin Bankes
- 04/22 Paige Thomas
- 04/23 Gary Modlesky
- 04/28 Billy Engel
- 04/30 Jack Troy



April Anniversaries

- 04/05 Dale and Denise Hartranft

St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for April

8:30 am on April 10 & 24
9:30 am on April 3 & 17

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for April

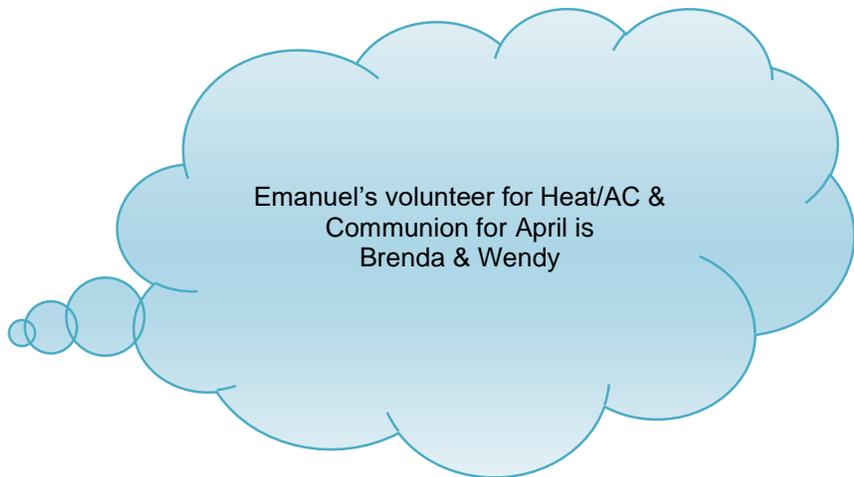
10:15 am on April 10 & 24
10:45 am on April 3 & 17

Coffee Klatch will resume at later date.

Pastor contact info:

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Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC &
Communion for April is
Brenda & Wendy