



Parish Parchment



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

Rev. Christine Kirchner, Pastor

August 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 siblings in Christ,

For our outreach project this summer, we have adopted Camp Mt. Luther counselor, Joey Martin. To help you get to know Joey better, I sat down with him while I was serving as a camp chaplain to see what he likes about camp and why camp is important to him. Joey graduated from Susquehanna University in 2021 and is discerning what his future might hold.

Q What are you doing at Camp Mt. Luther this summer?

A This year I am working directly with the campers either as a cabin counselor or going to different churches throughout the synod and leading their VBS programs. I'm actually leading the VBS program at The Table in Bloomsburg at the end of July.

Q What is your favorite part of camp?

A I really like the all-camp activities that we do. It is a chance for the whole camp to work together and bond. At camp we mostly practice small group camping [spending most of the time as a cabin group] and all-camp activities give the younger and older kids a chance to bond that they wouldn't normally have. I also love being creative in planning the all-camp activities and figuring out what the kids would like to do. They like going all over the camp and traveling to places their counselors don't normally get to take them.

Q Why do you think that camp is important?

A Camp is important because it allows kids to learn about God in ways that are fun. A lot of times kids hear in church that they can't play and need to be quiet, but at camp they can learn about God while running in the field or swimming in the pool or dancing. It is also important for kids to be out in nature and build communities within their groups.

Q How has being a camp counselor influenced your faith?

A It has helped me connect with other Lutherans in ways I hadn't experienced before. As a counselor, I get to have lots of conversations about the bible and faith with a bunch of different people. All those conversations, and the questions from the campers, really helped to solidify my beliefs about Jesus and the bible.

Camp has also made me wonder about pursuing a call to ministry. I majored in music performance at SU, but I realized I don't want to go for a career in that. But working with the camp and participating in the student worship community on campus has made me contemplate going to seminary. It's an intimidating thought and I'm not sure what I am going to do yet, but I never would have considered being a pastor before my summers working as a camp counselor.

Thank you for your support of Joey and Camp Mount Luther. As you can see from Joey's answers, camp is a wonderful way for kids and young adults to learn about and deepen their faith!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

The family & friends of: Marianne Michael July 5

Also: Robert Fritz, Norman Fritz, Paul Boudman, Danny Fisher, & Wayne Jr. (Susie Spudes' relatives), **Russ Ebright** (friend of Dale Michael), **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 August 2022

- 1** Pray for musicians and worship leaders as they develop and broaden their skills and explore existing and new worship resources at the Augsburg Fortress Summer Music Clinics.
- 2** Pray that we will look to God's wisdom as we ponder the world, our purpose in life and how we might live with one another in global community.
- 3** Give thanks to God for ELCA International Leadership Development Program, it provides financial support for short & long-term academic training of established & emerging leaders in global companion churches & institutions.
- 4** "Now you must get rid of all such things — anger, wrath, malice, slander, and abusive language from your mouth. Do not lie to one another" (Colossians 3:8-9a). Give thanks that, through our baptism and the ceaseless work of the Spirit, we are being transformed in *every way* to reflect the image of God in which we were created.
- 5** Pray for the leadership, wisdom and well-being of our presiding bishop, Elizabeth A. Eaton, as we and our siblings in Christ try to unify this church in a world of ever-evolving complexity, conflict and division.
- 6** Give thanks for the chance to combat hunger around the world through ELCA World Hunger's Global Farm Challenge, and for the generous donors matching our gifts to reach the fundraising goal of \$525,000.
- 7** Praise God we find true treasure in his love & mercy thru Jesus Christ, a relationship that endures for all eternity.
- 8** Pray for voting members, leaders, guests and staff of the churchwide organization participating in the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in Columbus, Ohio. Ask the Spirit to guide and inspire their decision-making and spiritual discernment together on behalf of the entire church & to strengthen & unify them for doing God's work in the world.
- 9** *International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples* There are over 476 million Indigenous people living in 90 countries around the world. They have unique languages, traditions, cultures, knowledge systems, worldviews and systems for governing themselves. Pray that we will value them as children of God; respect their rights, freedoms, dignity and lands; and ensure their right to participate fully in political and economic activities. With repentant hearts, ask God's forgiveness for our harmful and unjust actions and policies throughout history, for taking what was not ours, and for forcing our own language, culture, religious beliefs, worldview and authority upon Indigenous peoples. Pray that we will work to rectify injustices and inequities, develop new relationships of trust and respect, and do the work necessary for reconciliation and healing.
- 10** Ask the Spirit to bolster us in praying for worldwide peace and reconciliation and in supporting people, ministries and organizations committed to making peace, providing relief, bearing hope and defending the vulnerable.
- 11** Pray that God will equip, inspire and sustain new synod bishops for serving in diverse contexts across the ELCA, and pray that they will find support, care and encouragement for their ministry and personal lives.
- 12** *International Youth Day* Give thanks for the gifts, wisdom and perspectives of youth around the world, and remember in prayer young people who live in areas of war and conflict, suffer poverty and hunger, long for educational opportunities, provide care for their siblings and parents, and live in hope for a better future.
- 13** Remember in prayer and give thanks for nurses, who use their gifts and skills in global mission, responding to disasters and serving their communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Parish Nurse Association and its work supporting and equipping parish nurses, helping congregations develop new health ministries and encouraging people to pursue nursing as a vocation.
- 14** Followers of Christ can suffer criticism and opposition. Ask God for courage, boldness and patience to share the gospel and serve our neighbors in need; pray that, when people oppose or criticize us, the Spirit will give us the confidence to respond with respect, love and humility.
- 15** Give thanks to God that, following a two-year pause due to COVID-19, Young Adults in Global Mission will send 25 new volunteers into the world to serve alongside our global companions and churches.

16 Ask God to help us discern between those who speak and teach God's word faithfully and those who deceive others by preaching and prophesying for personal gain, recognition or power.

17 Give thanks for the chance to enjoy the awe and beauty of God's creation in wilderness areas and city, state and national parks. Pray that, working together, we will make these treasures more accessible to people of all ages, abilities and economic circumstances.

18 Remember and give thanks for people now and throughout history who have inspired and strengthened our faith, helped us to understand God's word and ways, encouraged our service and witness in the world, and influenced our lives and actions through their fearless pursuit of justice and healing for all people.

19 Give thanks for the gifts, leadership, service and generosity of the laity of our church, who respond to God's call to serve our communities of faith, our society and our world.

20 Pray for companions and care providers who help people deal with illness, disability or the demands of aging. Ask that they will find the spiritual, physical and emotional strength necessary for their work, and that they will be renewed by rest, sabbath, self-care and the support they receive from others.

21 Ask God for forgiveness when, intentionally or not, we have discouraged total inclusion and involvement of all people in the church or society. Pray for an open mind and a willingness to listen to the stories and needs of those who are excluded or feel unwelcome; ask the Spirit to unite us in changing our practices, traditions, facilities and institutions to remove all barriers and deterrents to full inclusion and participation.

22 Pray for the young people gathering from a variety of backgrounds, churches and geographic regions for the World Council of Churches Stewards Program assembly in Germany. Ask God to bless their time together, nurture ecumenical unity and understanding, and inspire them to bring their experiences and ecumenical enthusiasm back home to their local contexts.

23 Give thanks for ministry of the Christian Ed Network of the ELCA, which supports & encourages professional & volunteer leaders who advance lifelong faith-formation ministries through congregations & partner organizations.

24 Express awe, reverence and thanks for the new covenant God has made with humanity and sealed in Jesus Christ, an enduring covenant of unconditional love, forgiveness and restoration of our relationship with God.

25 Pray for students beginning the new school year, especially those feeling uncertain, hesitant, insecure or fearful. Ask the Spirit for opportunities to care for students with tutoring, mentoring, counseling, family support and safe programs before and after school.

26 "The Lord is merciful & gracious, slow to anger & abounding in steadfast love" Bless the Lord and give thanks!

27 The end of summer is a time of transition for many people in seasonal jobs. Pray that they will be appreciated for their skills and service, find employment and housing, have consistent and affordable access to insurance and health care, and be welcomed and supported by communities and congregations wherever they go.

28 Pray that we might not rate ourselves above others because of their life circumstances, race, ability, appearance, education, income, religion, social status or political affiliation. Ask the Spirit to fill us with respect, thoughtfulness and compassion for our neighbor, no matter who they are.

29 Remember in prayer teachers, class assistants, student teachers, counselors, coaches, staff & administrators. Ask Spirit to sustain their enthusiasm, inspire wisdom, creativity, patience & concern for students & their parents.

30 Paul's instructions to the Hebrews couldn't be more timely: "Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it" (Hebrews 13:1-2). Pray that we will turn to Scripture and the wisdom shared by our communities of faith for guidance on how to live and serve our neighbors in these times of deep division and conflict.

31 Pray that the fall programs and community ministries of our congregations will flourish, welcome guests, inspire faith, spread the gospel, respond to our neighbors' needs and equip people for doing God's work in the world.



Save the Date:

Bishop-elect Miller will be installed on September 17, 2pm at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sunbury. RSVP's are required by September 2 and carpooling is encouraged.

A big thank you to everyone who donated to the Make a Wish Foundation - thanks to your generosity we raised \$305. And another big thank you to the Lightner family for hosting us at Moyer's!

Come celebrate the life of Thomas Bauman and/or the life of your lost loved one on August 13th at 10:00 am. This will be an annual event held as a memorial to honor the loss of our loved ones. There are multiple ways to participate, walk/run or just come to socialize and honor the memories of your loved ones. There will also be a Chinese auction. All proceeds will benefit the American Cancer Society. Please register by Wednesday, July 13th to guarantee your t-shirt for the event. A limited number of t-shirts will be available the day of the event. Please contact Tami Wiehe at 570-204-0050 or memorialwalk24@gmail.com for additional information.

Outreach Project

For our August outreach project, we will be supporting the of Bundles of Blessings Ministry from Good Shepherd Methodist. This nonprofit provides diapers and pull-ups to families in need. We will be collecting diapers and pull-ups of all sizes, as well as diaper wipes throughout this month. Please place your donations in the back of the church. If you have any questions, please ask Pastor Christine. You can learn more about this ministry by visiting their Facebook page: Bundles of Blessings – Good Shepherd UMC.

From the Synod Office:

Join us as we celebrate the last six year of ministry of Rev. Barbara J. Collins as our bishop. A pizza party will be held at Camp Mount Luther on Saturday, Aug 27, 2022, starting at noon. In addition, the synod is providing Bishop Collins with two gifts, one for her and her husband and a monetary gift to Camp Mount Luther. If you or your congregation would like to add to that monetary gift, you can send a contribution to the synod office or the camp (just say it is in honor of the Bishop). To register for the pizza party, please email brenda@uss-elca.org, or call the synod office.



August Birthdays

- 08/02 Joshua Huff
- 08/03 Marie Hons
Thomas Lyons
Lauren Boyer
- 08/04 Linda Adler
- 08/07 Wilbur Knecht
- 08/08 Erika Book
- 08/09 Nancy Bauman
- 08/10 Katie Lyons
- 08/11 Randall Matyas
- 08/13 Michelle Bower
- 08/14 Tracy Longenberger
- 08/16 Shelly Petrill
- 08/19 Robbie Ruckle
Walter Gottstein
- 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

St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for August

8:30 am on August 14 & 28

9:30 am on August 7 & 21

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for August

10:15 am on August 14 & 28

10:45 am on August 7 & 21

Coffee Klatch will resume at later date.

Pastor contact info:

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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