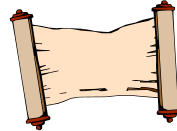


Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
August 2024

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 2024

Phone: 570-384-4125

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MISSION STATEMENT OF MOUNTAIN GROVE LUTHERAN PARISH

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



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,

As you are reading this, I am most likely hiking in the Swiss Alps with my sister while eating as much cheese and chocolate as possible. It seems like every so often my sister and I like to go out in the wilderness and doing something slightly crazy. This time it is hiking from mountain hut to mountain hut through the Alps. Four summers ago, it was a guided whitewater kayaking trip down the Salmon River in Idaho.

The kayaking trip was an amazing experience, but something I was not expecting was how much kayaking down the river reminded me of living a life of faith. Before each major rapid, the guides would pull us over and give us instructions for how we were to go down the rapid - should we stay to the right or left, where were the big rocks located, and any other unseen pitfalls we should avoid. But after getting the instructions, we weren't sent down the rapid on our own. The guide would go down the rapid first, giving us an example to follow.

When it comes to living a life of faith, we too have been given instructions on how to live our lives. We read in Exodus about the Ten Commandments. In Matthew, when asked what is the greatest of the commandments, Jesus responds, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind...[and] Love your neighbor as yourself." We read in the Bible various instructions on how to live a life of faith. But that is not all we find in the Bible. We also find an example of faithful living in the life of Jesus Christ. In Jesus we see what it looks like to completely love God and neighbor. Just like the river guides gave us an example to follow going down the rapids, Jesus gives us an example of faithful living to follow in our own lives.

Back on the river, it was time for us to go down the first rapid. We received our instructions, the guide led the way, and we were supposed to follow in a neat, single-file line. Except, we weren't very good at steering and we hadn't figured out how to back-paddle yet. Even with the instruction and example, it didn't take long for our single-file line to become a chaotic blob, bumping and jostling against each other and the rocks. Soon, multiple people were bobbing up and down in the river, unable to get back in their kayaks.

But waiting at the bottom was our guide ready to charge back into the rapid in case any of us fell out. Our guides were there to do what we could not – get us back in our kayaks so we could go down the next rapid.

We receive the instructions for living a faithful life, we have the example of Jesus, & yet so often we go through life in a chaotic blob, bumping & jostling against each other along the way. The currents of life sweep us into places we don't want to go, the route we thought we would take is no longer open, & unseen rocks knock us out of the safety of our boat.

But the amazing, grace-filled miracle is that our Savior does not leave us alone to figure it out ourselves. Jesus continues to enter the rapids of our life, pull us out, and set us back in our kayak – no matter how many times – all so that we can continue on the journey. That is part of the invitation to faithful living. Knowing that even when we try our best, we will still mess up. But our God is there, waiting to set us right, so that we can try again.

I am so grateful to be able to take this time off and recharge with my sister in the mountains. I look forward to sharing many stories and pictures when I return!

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

The family & friends of: *Todd Lightner* (July 4)(Jenn Lightner's father)

Also: *Steven Storaska, Dan Davis, Tami Wiehe* (Nancy Bauman's daughter), *Frank & Loretta Baldwin* (friends of Karen Henry), *David Frenz* (Dan Davis' son-in-law), *Loretta Baldwin* (friend of Karen Henry), *Sheri Eley* (Charlotte Thomas' niece), *Taylor Thomas* (Charlotte Thomas' granddaughter), *Diane Derr, Donald Cool Jr.* (Janet Cool's grandson), *Jayme Keller* (Jordan Keller's daughter), *Pearl Spudes, Albert Bellum* (Susan Spudes), *Elsie Buehler, Pastor Stan & Carole Bower, Dale Schoepf, Jen Beaver* (Dale Michael), *Judy Petrewicz* (Janet Cool), *Roberta Pepe* (Lois Levan's daughter), *George Lynn* (Susan Spudes), *Gloria Fritz, Lori Yutko* (Susan Spudes), *Jean Bankes, Robert Fritz, Russ Ebright* (friend of Dale Michael), *Paige Thomas, Tyson Neal* (Emily Sutherland's son), *Patsy Millard, Don Davis, Shirley Omalia* (Mark Hartzell's mother), *young people of our congregation.*

Please pray for all the people of MGLP, especially those in need of healing; suffering from chronic health issues; & members confined to their homes or long-term care facilities

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

Prayer Ventures for August 2024

- 1** Pray for those recovering in the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl in the Caribbean, the Yucatan Peninsula in Mexico and the Texas Gulf Coast region. Pray that their faith and the care and support of neighbors near and far will sustain their hope and reassure them that they are not alone in this time of suffering. Give thanks for the support of congregations, synods and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- 2** “Elisha said, ‘Give it to the people and let them eat’” (2 Kings 4:42). The food that Elisha intended for the hungry crowd wasn’t scraps or leftovers; it was from the “first fruits” — the first and best of the harvest that was offered to God. Pray that our generosity toward our neighbors in need will come from our first fruits for the sake of their dignity and well-being.
- 3** Remember our neighbors who are most vulnerable to hot weather, including older adults, children, people who are ill and those without shelter. Pray that they will find public cooling centers and neighbors offering relief.
- 4** Pray for the Spirit’s presence and work, which enable our words and actions as we stir hope, inspire faith in Jesus Christ and pursue justice and peace for all people.
- 5** Give thanks for the gift of Christian community, through which the Spirit unites us with siblings offering hospitality, encouragement, wisdom and skills for doing God’s work in the world together.
- 6** Be persistent in praying for peace, justice and reconciliation in the world, including in Ukraine, Russia, Israel, the Palestinian territories, Sudan, Yemen, Ethiopia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.
- 7** Pray that we will be mindful of our oneness — one body, one baptism, one Spirit, one Lord, one God and one faith — while also valuing our diversity, which strengthens and enriches our life together for bearing public witness to God’s boundless love.
- 8** Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner since 1999 and one of the oldest Protestant denominations in Christianity. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.
- 9** Praise God, for God provides all that is good and sustains us, imploring us to use these gifts to care for our neighbors in need.
- 10** Praise God for deacons who are called to serve as ministers of Word and Service in diverse settings and contexts — congregations, special ministries, social services, parish nursing, schools and beyond. Pray that we will identify and encourage siblings in Christ as they discern how they might serve the church, our society and the world.
- 11** Give thanks to God for the gift of faith in Jesus Christ, the bread of life and son of God, and that this faith brings a new life that stretches beyond human understanding and imagination — eternal life with God.
- 12** Pray for teachers, school staff and administrators as they prepare to welcome students to a new school year. Ask the Spirit to inspire their energy, creativity, wisdom, compassion for students and enthusiasm for their vocation; promise to affirm those involved in the education and care of our children and youth.
- 13** “Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice. Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you” (Ephesians 4:31-32). What could be more relevant than Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus? Pray that the Spirit will equip us to live by the gospel of Jesus Christ and be imitators of God in all we say and do.
- 14** Pray for congregational leaders and volunteers who will be launching Christian education opportunities, faith formation programs and community ministries for all ages and abilities this fall.
- 15** As we discern who should serve as leaders of our nation, ask the Spirit to stir within us civility, wisdom, compassion for our neighbors in need and faith that we are bound together as children of God, with abundant and diverse gifts for uplifting one another and resolving persistent problems and injustices.

16 Pray for high school, college and university athletes, that they will be safe and will embrace the values of teamwork and mutual care and respect.

17 “Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord. Lord, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplications!” (Psalm 130:1-2). Make time today to pray from the depths of your inner being about those things that weigh heavily on you.

18 Give thanks for the sacrament of Holy Communion, in which Jesus Christ comes to us with grace, love and forgiveness, nourishing and strengthening us for doing God’s work in the world.

19 Observe the world around us and give thanks for the multitude of little things that inspire our gratitude, stir our curiosity, make us smile, remind us of someone we need to reach out to, or draw our attention to God’s presence in the world.

20 Remember children and youth who will soon begin a new academic year; pray that they are filled with anticipation and will feel safe, cared for and supported by their parents, teachers and peers.

21 “Beautiful music is the art of the prophets that can calm the agitations of the soul,” wrote Martin Luther. “It is one of the most magnificent and delightful presents God has given us.” Praise God for the gift of music in your daily life and when you gather for worship.

22 Remember in prayer pastors and deacons discerning God’s call to service and accepting calls to new places where they are needed. Pray for the Spirit to open their hearts, give them wisdom and strengthen their families during their moves and transitions.

23 Pray for the work of Sumud: For Justice in Palestine and Israel (formerly Peace Not Walls), a new ELCA initiative of accompaniment, advocacy and awareness-raising with our partners in the Holy Land and in the United States, that together we will find the justice required for peace in the Middle East.

24 Pray for youth and adults who experienced the ELCA Youth Gathering and related events, that they will bear spirited witness far and wide to God’s love and presence in the world and that the Spirit will continue to nourish their faith and identity as bold disciples of Christ.

25 “Jesus asked the twelve, ‘Do you also wish to go away?’ Simon Peter answered him, ‘Lord, to whom can we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God’” (John 6:66-69). Ask the Spirit to renew and strengthen our faith in Jesus Christ, the living Word of God, especially when we grapple with the hard sayings of Jesus and wonder how to live by the gospel.

26 Give thanks for Sunday school teachers, volunteers, Bible study leaders and faith formation coordinators, who share their faith, time and gifts to build up the church and equip all ages for our baptismal journey of witness and service.

27 Give thanks and praise to God for young adults who served at Lutheran summer camps across the country, impacting the lives of children, youth and adults. Pray that they will continue to seek opportunities for ministry in response to God’s call for service and leadership.

28 Pray for understanding that the “whole armor of God” (Ephesians 6:10) is a gift from God to protect our faith in Christ when we are confronted by temptation and things that weaken our faith.


29 Pray for our siblings in Christ around the world who are baptized as children of God, and for our common journey of lifelong growth and learning as we witness to God’s mercy, care for others and celebrate God’s presence in our lives.

30 Give thanks and praise to God for responding to our cries for help — silent and spoken — in times of trouble, when our spirits are crushed.

31 Who or what has drawn your attention and inspired your prayers today? Ask the Spirit to embolden you to move forward and respond.



Adult Sunday School
 Pastor Christine will lead adult Sunday School after worship starting Aug 11.



Randall Matyas is turning 90 on August 11th!
 There will be a reception at Trinity after worship August 4th to celebrate this milestone.

The parish began holding joint Sunday morning services again. There will be one service each Sunday at 9:30am alternating between the different churches. If you have any questions or concerns, please talk to Pastor Christine. You can find the schedule below or on a handout at the back of the church.

Outreach
 On Aug 19 we will be giving away free coffee outside of Trinity as people make their way to work. On Aug 18 after worship, we will be filling bags with sugar, creamer, and a pastry to hand out with the coffee. If you can help with either day, please let Pastor Christine know.

Joint Service Schedule
 July – September 2024

7/28	Pentecost 10	St. Peter	8:30am
8/4	Pentecost 11	Trinity	9:30am (HC)
8/11	Pentecost 12	Emanuel	9:30am
8/18	Pentecost 13	St. Peter	9:30am
8/25	Pentecost 14	Trinity	9:30am
9/1	Pentecost 15	Emanuel	9:30am (HC)
9/8	Pentecost 16	St. Peter	8:30am
9/15	Pentecost 17	Trinity	9:30am
9/22	Pentecost 18	Emanuel	9:30am
9/29	Pentecost 19	St. Peter	9:30am

Be sure to check out worship times as two of the services begin at 8:30am

The third annual Bauman Memorial Walk will be held on Saturday, August 3rd. To register, please see Nancy Bauman or contact Tami Wiehe at memorialwalk24@gmail.com or 570-204-0050. All proceeds benefit the American Cancer Society.



August Birthdays

- 08/02 Joshua Huff
- 08/03 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
- 08/12 Shirley Bodman
- 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



August Anniversaries

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

St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for August

9:30 am on August 18 UCC

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for August

9:30 am on August 11

Pastor contact info:

The Rev. Christine Kirchner
pastorkirchner@gmail.com

808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC &
Communion for August is
Peggy Pickin