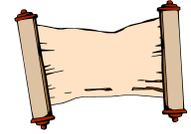


# Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish  
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor  
1558 Rock Glen Road  
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207  
June 2021

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**

**June 2021**

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 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,

One of the more important things we do in our lives of faith is read the Bible. It seems like it should be one of the easier things we are called to do as Christians and yet *how* we read the Bible is an often debated subject. Simply read different English translations of the same Bible story, and you will notice discrepancies in how the stories are told. Or, simply read the same story as recorded in Matthew, Mark and Luke, and you will see differences in how they describe the events. Given these differences, how then do we read scripture and still say it holds the authority of God's Word for us?

As a girl, I was taught to read the Bible at the same time I was taught to read other books. It was basically a **monologue** form of communication which is speaking in one direction. The author wrote the words, I read them verbatim, and then I would be able to repeat what the author wrote to show that I knew the text. It is a good and necessary form of communication. When giving instructions to your children on how to learn to drive it is good to have monologues. Here are the rules of the road; you learn them and then you have the right to drive. If you break them, there are consequences you will bear. No discussion.

But is this the way God intends to communicate with us as we read the scriptures? Perhaps parts of the Bible could be & should read this way. But monologues aren't a loving way to communicate with people. Monologues are controlling, domineering & one-sided. The more I read scripture the more I see the love of God, & God's intent to recreate loving relationship with God's children - with me.

Love is created in **dialogue** not monologue. How do we read scriptures in dialogue?

When people begin dating and they sense they are falling in love with each other, dialogues are involved. Dialogues are conversations beginning as one person reveals things about themselves: their hopes and dreams, their hurts and disappointments. Then there is space for the other person to respond and in a growing awareness of each other your relationship is born. It is not one person or the other, but the interaction between the two that takes on life. One of the amazing things we discover in the dialogue of relationships is that the more you think you know the other person, the more you become aware of what you don't know. There is always more to share and learn.

I am trying to read scripture more as a dialogue than a monologue. It is not just the words on the page (*as important as they are, for they are the words of the one that loves you*) but it is what happens between you and God's Word, as you bring your hopes, dreams and fears to the text and the text brings God's presence to you. It is not one or the other, but the new reality that is being created between you.

Have you ever had the experience of reading a Biblical text you have known all your life, but for some reason, this time when you read it there was a new insight or understanding you had not known before. You knew the text (monologue) but this time something new was communicated between you and the text (dialogue).

It is the work of the Holy Spirit allowing the Scriptures to speak anew to us, as we continue to speak to God's Word in our lives. It is not just one or the other, but what happens between us. This is the language of love as God continues the dialogue begun in the waters of Baptism.

Happy reading!

Pastor Christine



## Prayer List

**The family & friends of:** *Gloria Baylor* (May 28), *Carol Shuman* (May 25)

**Also:** *Lisa Shultz* (Sharon Hartzell's sister), *Keith Henry, Lance Book, Melissa Steenburg* (Susie Spudes friend), *Janet Matyas, Caroline* (Kathy Brior's friend), *Lloyd Fisher* (Susie Spudes brother), *Bonnie Book, Diane Derr, Annabelle Davis, Pulmonary Critical Care Unit & medical workers at Geisinger, Joseph Fisher* (Susan Spudes brother), *Carl Rittenhouse, Charlie and Danny Fisher* (Susie Spudes nephews), *Shirley Omalia* (Mark Hartzell's mother), *Susie Spudes Audrey Bronson Danny Hale* (Chuck Henry's friend), *Elsie Buehler, Tom Bauman, Tara Carr Erney* (Linda Adler's friend), *Donna* (Bill Brior's sister), *Emily Sutherland & Tyson, Minnie Hess, Randy Hack* (friend of Dale Michael), *Robin Baker, Marie Welsh* (friend of Janet Cool), *Sandee Knecht, Pat* (Kathy Brior's friend), *Jerry Bodman, Kim & Hailey Boysha, Wyatt Laubach* (friends of Diane Derr's Aid), *Annette Hoffman* (Nancy Chulock's cousin), *Jimmy Denoia* (Ray & Nancy Chulock's brother-in-law), *Patsy Millard, Dick Baker, Carol & Debbie Chyko, 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](mailto:shartzell@ptd.net)

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

## Prayer Ventures for June 2021

**1** Give thanks for the ELCA's commitment to being an inviting and welcoming church that reflects and embraces the diversity of our communities and the gifts and opportunities it brings. Pray that we will always be learning and reforming, discerning how to do God's work in a diverse world, and inviting and equipping one another for this essential work.

**2** Pray for seasonal workers who depend on summer income for their livelihood, that they will find safe, fulfilling employment that pays a fair wage. Pray that we will express our gratitude and respect for their work and service.

**3** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Upstate New York and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**4** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Western North Dakota, Southwest California, Central/Southern Illinois, Montana, Delaware-Maryland, Metropolitan Washington, D.C., South Dakota, Central States, Southern Ohio, Allegheny and Lower Susquehanna synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**5** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Nebraska, Northeastern Pennsylvania, Southwestern Texas, Southeastern and Metropolitan Chicago synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**6** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assembly of the Southwestern Minnesota Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**7** Give thanks that — through grace, faith in Christ and obedience to the will and ways of God — we are embraced as children of God, siblings in Christ.

**8** Pray for nations experiencing repeated waves of COVID-19 infection & communities impacted & struggling, & pray their health care workers, medical facilities & efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible will slow the pandemic.

**9** Pray that we will be patient & attentive to how God answers our prayers and speaks to us, especially in ways we do not seek or expect.

**10** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assembly of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**11** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Grand Canyon, Northeastern Ohio, La Crosse Area, Indiana-Kentucky, and Northwestern Pennsylvania synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**12** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the New England, Virginia and Northeastern Iowa synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

**13** When we read the parables of Jesus, we sometimes default to rote explanations of their meaning. Pray that we will hear and read Scripture with hearts and minds open to learning, insight and fresh connection to our daily life.

**14** Give thanks for ELCA resources that nurture our faith and spiritual growth during times of physical distancing, including *Living Lutheran* magazine, blogs and newsletters, daily Bible readings and ELCA World Hunger's at-home vacation Bible school program guide.

**15** “So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!” Give thanks and praise to God for reminding us that we are made new each day through God’s mercy and grace.

**16** Pray for the Spirit to inspire us to create and share new expressions of our faith and theology through art, music and writing that speak to all generations and the diverse contexts of people in our communities.

**17** Give thanks all day long to God for God’s unwavering love and the joy and hope it stirs within us, which overflows to the people around us.

**18** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the assemblies of the Northern Illinois and Caribbean synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God’s work in an ever-changing world.

**19** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Upper Susquehanna Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God’s work in an ever-changing world.

**20** Pray that God’s power, presence and love will ease our fears and uncertainties, calm the storms in our lives and strengthen our faith so that we will be bold and tireless disciples who do God’s work in the world, share the gospel and serve our neighbor.

**21** Remember in prayer fathers who strive to be loving, caring, wise and influential parents, including fathers who are new parents or single parents, who are deployed in the military or incarcerated, or who experience separation from family while traveling for their work.

**22** Give thanks and praise for God’s great works and attention to our prayers, both when we are alone and when we gather as a community of faith.

**23** Pray for the 300-plus health and human service organizations of the Lutheran Services in America alliance, which serve 6 million people every year across our country in response to God’s call to love our neighbors of all ages, needs and circumstances.

**24** We acknowledge that it is not always easy to follow Christ, bear the gospel or do God’s work in the world. Give thanks that together, as siblings in Christ, we can turn to one another with our burdens and receive support and encouragement.

**25** Pause today and take in the wonders of God’s creation. Give thanks for the joy, wonder and awesome complexity of nature and the universe, and ask God to help us be mindful, responsible and respectful stewards of creation.

**26** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the South Carolina Synod Assembly, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God’s work in an ever-changing world.

**27** Pray that we will serve our neighbors and invite others to believe and to join our communities of faith without bias, judgment, hesitation, obstruction or condition.

**28** Pray for God’s strength, comfort and vision when we are weary or overwhelmed or cannot see beyond times of despair; ask the Spirit to fill us with faith, hope and empathy so that we can support, care for and encourage our neighbors who are struggling.

**29** Guided by the generous, compassionate and kind actions of Jesus, ask the Spirit to fill us with eagerness to work together and share our abundance with our neighbors so that all will have the resources, food and opportunities needed to thrive and be well.

**30** Ask God to help us reflect on our nation, its history, its institutions and this church with honesty, humility, repentance and gratitude, united in our vision and determined to be more just, equitable, inclusive and responsive to our neighbors in need.

# UPcoming EVENTS

## Save the Date!

On Sunday, July 18, we will be having our Parish Picnic at Moyer's Campground, just outside of Nescopeck. More details will follow, but it is sure to be a fun time with plenty of activities after worship and lunch!

Given the new guidance from the CDC, council is loosening the mask requirements during worship. We ask that you wear your mask while entering and exiting the church. If you are fully vaccinated, you may remove your mask once you are seated in the pew. If you are not fully vaccinated, we ask that you continue to wear your mask while in the building. Please continue to practice social distancing regardless of vaccination status. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Pastor Christine.



## Adopt a Camp Counselor

This summer we are adopting a counselor from Camp Mount Luther. We will support them by sending a care package, notes of encouragement, and prayers. Watch the bulletin announcement sheet for their name, address, and care package items.

## *Attention*

*To those of you who may not be aware but June 18<sup>th</sup> marks the 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Pastor Christine's Ordination. We are truly blessed to have her here and we pray for another 5 + years. Make sure to wish her a Happy Anniversary when you see her.*



## June Birthdays

- 06/02 J. J. Yurick
- 06/03 Robert Mock
- 06/05 Vicki Bolinsky
- 06/06 Sarah Bower
- 06/09 Jeff Bankes  
Janet Kelchner  
Gayl Klingerman
- 06/11 Cassandra Book  
Graydon Book
- 06/22 Teresa Pennington
- 06/23 Minnie Hess  
Karen Baylor  
Vivian J. Boehmer
- 06/25 Michelle Bagnata
- 06/27 Ken Henry
- 06/27 Don Davis  
Audrey Bronson
- 06/28 John W. Cool  
Donna Hons
- 06/29 Wendy Davis  
Mark Hartzell
- 06/30 Scott Knecht

## St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for June

8:30 am on June 6 & 20

9:30 am on June 13 & 27

## Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for June

10:15 am on June 6 & 20

10:45 am on June 13 & 27

**Coffee Klatch** will resume at later date.

*Pastor contact info:*

*The Rev. Christine Kirchner*

*Contact info: [pastorkirchner@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkirchner@gmail.com)*

*808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125*



## June Anniversaries

- 06/12 Sandra & Wilbur Knecht
- 06/23 Darlene & Gary Modlesky
- 06/24 Don & Wendy Davis

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC &  
Communion for June is  
Sharon Gottstein