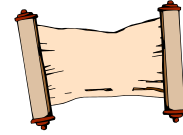


Parish Parchment



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

November 2022

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.

PASTORS PAGE

Dear siblings in Christ,

During the last few weeks, I have been talking to many of our members about their favorite stories of the church. And in those stories, I have heard why many of them attend their specific church. Some, have family ties to the church that go back generations. Some, like the sense of community. Some, like the music and worship style. Regardless of the answer, it is clear that these three churches hold a special place in members' hearts.

While much of our 75th anniversary celebrations are focused on the parish, I wanted to use this space to reflect on what it means for us to be part of the larger Lutheran worshipping community. Just as each individual congregation does not stand completely on its own, our parish is also part of a larger community – specifically the ELCA.

The term *Lutheran* was originally meant to be derogatory, suggesting we followed Martin Luther and not Christ. But nothing could be further from the truth. We do not follow Martin Luther, for he was a man and a sinner like all others.

Yet, we seek to follow what Martin Luther rediscovered (with the help of St. Paul and St. Augustine): the nature of God is gracious, forgiving, and loving. In Luther's day, the common image of God was a judge who decided who was good enough to enter the kingdom heaven and those who were condemned. The stress on the judgment of God left people fearing God, and uncertain of what God's verdict would be over their lives. Just how good do you have to be to receive God's benefits?

There is a simplistic truth to this understanding of God and it structures much of our lives. How often do we hear: if you study hard and do your homework, you will get a good grade? Or, if you meet your company's requirements and work hard, then you will be promoted. Or, if you take care of yourself and watch your diet and exercise, you will have better health. It is the way of the world. If you are good enough, then . . .

But it also leaves us with a sense of uncertainty - am I ever really good enough? And there are times when we have done everything right, but things still do not work out the way they should. The pink slip shows up, the rejection letter comes, the test results were not what we were hoping for.

In the midst of an uncertain world, the reforming gift Luther rediscovered was that the benefits of God come to us not because we are good enough, but because God loves us enough. It is not that we have done enough to qualify for God's grace, but in love, God will not declare us disqualified. That is the solid ground we stand on when everything around us seems to tilt. That is the certain hope to which we cling.

It is by God's grace that we are here today. The 75th anniversary of our parish is certainly something to celebrate. Enjoy this time and give thanks to God for all he has done!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

The family & friends of:

Also: *Norman & Gloria Fritz, Ruth Fisher, Shirley Ackley* (Susan Spudes), *Lori Yutko* (Susan Spudes), *Christine Linde* (Mark Hartzell's great Aunt), *Jean Bankes, Robert Fritz, Paul Boudman, Danny Fisher* (Susie Spudes' relative), *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 November 2022

1 *All Saints Day* Give thanks and praise to God for saints who have helped enrich our faith in Christ, inspired us to lives of service, cared for us, demonstrated grace when we needed it most, taught us life skills, influenced our values and stirred our hope and joy.

2 *Native American Heritage Month* Praise God for Native American and Alaska Native neighbors and siblings in Christ, who represent a rich diversity of gifts, backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities and congregations, and whose history long predates the colonization of North America. Pray for the work of ELCA Indigenous Ministries and Tribal Relations in seeking justice and reconciliation for all people, celebrating diversity within Christ's unifying love and supporting Native congregations and ministries.

3 "Learn to do good; seek justice, rescue the oppressed, defend the orphan, plead for the widow. Come now, let us argue it out, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be like snow" (Isaiah 1:17-18). Pray that we will respect the word and desires of God, seek the Spirit's guidance in responding to our neighbors in need, and trust God to create and renew a spirit of compassion and generosity within us.

4 Pray for those affected by wildfires, flooding, droughts and hurricanes, especially people struggling through immediate & long-term recovery. Ask the Spirit to inspire our generosity toward & involvement in the work of Lutheran Disaster Response & its partners to bring relief, support, hope & resources to our neighbors in need.

5 "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble" (Psalm 46:1). Pray that, in every challenge we face, the Spirit will increase our trust and confidence in God's presence, care and help in our lives.

6 Praise the teachings and example of Jesus, who calls for us to be caring disciples, unafraid of being involved in the lives of those suffering injustice, persecution, isolation, grief, poverty or illness.

7 Pray for our outdoor ministry leaders as they gather for the Lutheran Outdoor Ministry conference in Boise, Idaho. Pray their time together in the presence of the Spirit will be rich in mutual care and encouragement, ideas and resources, & opportunities to nurture their skills for serving in camp & retreat ministries.

8 *Election Day* Pray that our elected leaders will respect and serve all people, and that the Spirit will inspire and guide them in mending divisions, creating unity and encouraging constituents to work together for the well-being of all.

9 Ask the Spirit to deepen our understanding of Jesus and how the gift of God's son has the power to transform our lives and identities in amazing and unimagined ways.

10 Give thanks and pray for leaders of our church as they gather for the ELCA Church Council, that the Spirit will inspire faithfulness, wisdom, vision and creativity in their deliberations, decisions and guidance.

11 *Veterans Day* Honor and give thanks for those who have served in the military to secure freedom, justice, peace and security for our country and other nations. Remembering the sacrifices they have made on our behalf, pray for their families, their congregations, federal chaplains, and organizations that support and care for returning veterans.

12 Give thanks for the ELCA Lay Schools for Ministry Network and for the Select Learning program, through which our church and its partners provide laity with opportunities to deepen their faith, study Scripture and apply their skills & life experiences to following Christ & serving the church, their communities and the world.

13 Pray that the Spirit will help us live our baptismal journeys in anticipation of the return of Christ, with confidence in God's grace and without fear, worry or obsession over when or how that day will come.

14 Reaffirm to God our commitment to equal employment opportunity for all citizens, especially our neighbors and siblings in Christ who live with disabilities but whose gifts enrich our communities and nation.

15 Pray for a peaceful end to the war in Ukraine, & that the millions of people displaced from their homes and communities might find comfort, healing, hope & stability, returning to the daily lives & routines they knew.

16 Pray for the ELCA's Homeless and Justice Network, a coalition of ministries called to serve those on the margins who experience homelessness, poverty and injustice.

17 "Do not be weary in doing what is right" (2 Thessalonians 3:13). Pray that our assurance of eternal life in the kingdom of God will free us to live in the here and now, fully engaged with our lives and vocations, sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and working for justice.

18 Pray that we might confess our role in the climate change wreaking havoc throughout the world and might grasp the urgency of managing and caring for the earth, its resources and all living things — fragile gifts that God has entrusted to our use, care and restoration.

19 Pray ELCA's advocacy network & the work it empowers us to do for justice, equity & well-being of society.

20 The love and mercy of God, which we experience in the life, suffering and sacrifice of Jesus, are for our sake and salvation. Pray that the Spirit will deepen our faith in Christ and help us reflect God's unconditional, sacrificial love for humanity.

21 Give thanks for Lutheran Men in Mission, Women of the ELCA and congregational ministries that attend to the spiritual, physical, emotional and relational needs of all ages, and that nurture leaders for the church, our communities and society.

22 Remember the people of Puerto Rico, who've suffered multiple natural disasters & endure ongoing, extensive recovery work. Ask the Spirit to renew their faith, hope, stamina & resilience; pray that they'll make progress restoring the infrastructure & regaining access to food, water, shelter, sanitation & medical services.

23 Give thanks to God for rescuing us from the power of darkness through the gift of Jesus Christ—our teacher, our truth and the light illuminating our complicated lives.

24 *Thanksgiving Day* Remember that everything we have to sustain and renew us, physically and spiritually, comes from God. Let us promise to be generous with all we have and to tirelessly bear the good news that Jesus Christ, the bread of life for the world that is never depleted, is our hope and salvation.

25 *Native American Heritage Day* Give thanks for the cultures, values, accomplishments and spirituality of Native Americans that have shaped our nation and church. We commit to learning more about Indigenous people and tribal nations and to working together to correct inaccuracies of history.

26 Pray that we will be responsible in what we consume and how we spend our money, knowing that our neighbors suffer hunger and poverty amid abundance.

27 *First Sunday of Advent* We will not be disappointed in our confidence in God's love and forgiveness, our anticipation of Christ's return or our welcome in the kingdom of God. Praise God!

28 Give thanks for the diverse work of the 28 ELCA missionaries accompanying 18 church bodies and 18 companion organizations in Latin America and the Caribbean. Ask God to bless and guide our ministry together so that we might respond to the needs of our neighbors in need who are most vulnerable and might spread the good news of Jesus Christ, far and wide.

29 Pray that the Spirit will deepen our generosity in sharing our resources and financial assets for the sake of our neighbors and the well-being of the world.

30 Pray that we will be generous and respectful in responding to and caring for those who cannot find secure shelter, pay for food or medical care, or support the children or older adults dependent on them.

All Saints' Sunday

November 6 is All Saints' Sunday, the day we remember all those who have died and are now a member of the Church Triumphant. As a part of the service we'll read the names of those who have died this past year. If you have a loved one who died in the past year & would like their name read during worship, please give the name to Pastor Christine.

Save the date:

*Emanuel's Chicken & Waffle Supper
November 5*

*Tickets are \$12 and available from
members of the respective churches.
Dinner is take-out only
from 4-6pm*



Seafarers Bags

Thank you to everyone who donated to this cause. There were 17 bags were collected from the parish and delivered to the synod office this week.

A big thank you to everyone who helped with the parish's 75th Anniversary Celebration! Thank you to the planning committee and everyone who helped with pictures, food, and decorations. We could not have done it all without your help! Thank you!!!

TRINITY UCC, ROCK GLEN

is having their
Annual Thanksgiving
Pumpkin Roll Sale
The cost is \$14.00 per roll.
The deadline to order is
November 15, 2022.
To Order, please call
Bonnie 570-384-3300 or
Kay 570-384-4441.



November Birthdays

- 11/08 Kayla Newhart
- 11/09 Kathy Giorgio
- 11/14 Alicia Cymbala
- 11/19 Michael Cymbala
- 1/21 Andy Boudman
- 11/23 Sharon Gottstein
- 11/27 Lindsay Huff VanDyke
Michelle Rupert
Hunter Thomas
- 11/28 Lindsay Huff
- 11/29 (Big) Bruce Brown



November Anniversaries

- 11/04 Karen & Chuck Henry
- 11/05 Betty & Don Tretter
- 11/07 Gloria & Dan Davis
- 11/08 Ray & Nancy Chulock
- 11/13 Karen & Ralph Bankes
- 11/14 Janet & Don Kelchner

St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for November

- 8:30 am on November 6 & 20
- 9:30 am on November 13 & 27

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for November

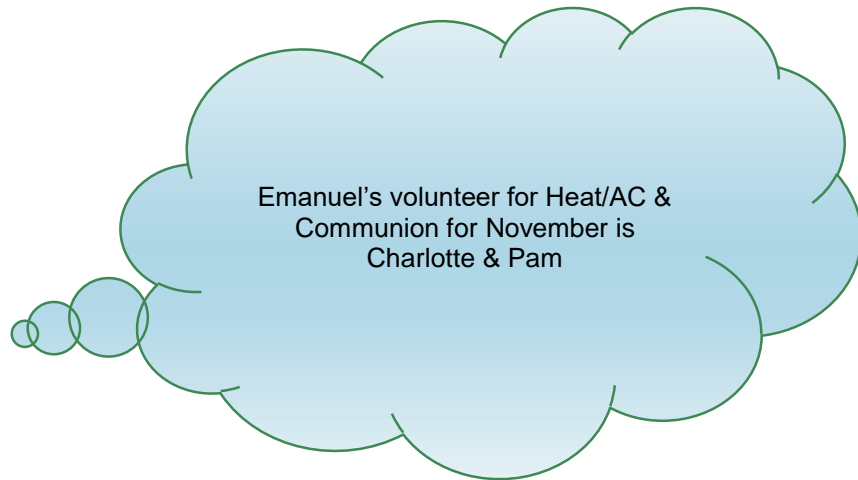
- 10:15 am on November 6 & 20
- 10:45 am on November 13 & 27

Coffee Klatch will resume at later date.

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 November is
Charlotte & Pam