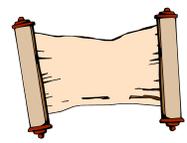


Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
March 2019

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

March 2019

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 brothers and sisters in Christ,

In worship each week we confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed, and end our statement of confession with the phrase, "and the life everlasting." What is it we say we believe when we say this statement? What is life everlasting?

Towards the end of his life, Martin Luther became gravely ill and believed he was about to die. After he recovered, he wrote about laying in his sick bed thinking about everlasting life.

As Luther explains it, he readily admits that no one has a clear picture of what or how this life will unfold. Perhaps most interesting is that what we know most about everlasting life is revealed in what it is not. Everlasting life cannot include anything that hinders or prevents the fullness of life that belongs to the children of God. Whether illness, or hurt, or shame, or hunger, or guilt, or brokenness, or sin—none of these things can exist lest the love of God for us be diminished. The fullness of God's love in everlasting life brings us freedom to live fully and completely with God and with one another. This is God's gift to each of us in the cross of Jesus Christ. In the cross of Christ we see that nothing in this world can prevent God's love from entering our lives and world. Because we have the gift of everlasting life through the grace of God, we are free to live in God's love this day, knowing it is ours for eternity.

On March 6 we will gather to celebrate Ash Wednesday. With the sign of the cross smudged on our brow, and with the words, "remember you are dust and to dust you shall return," spoken in our ears, we are reminded that our lives are temporal and transitory. We are reminded the day is coming when others will hear the word of our death. But we will also hear the words, "This is my body given for you. This is my blood shed for you.", and know our lives are immersed in the eternal love of God for us. Trusting the gift of God's love, we are free to live full in the love of God now and always!

In Christ's love,
Pastor Christine

EASTER FLOWERS

Mini Daffodils - \$4.50, Tulips, Lilies (white or colored), Hyacinths & Mums - \$9.00
Orders due March 24th

Trinity - order forms in back of church or Sharon Hartzell 570-384-4107
St Peter – Betty Tretter 570-387-1631 or Gloria Fritz 570-784-7379
Emanuel – Peggy Pickin 570-784-2633



Families & friends of: Sally (friend of Kathy Brior)

Also: Jerry Bodman, Shirley Oxenrider (Susie Spudes), Don Kelchner, Annabelle Davis, Dave Demshock Sr (Nancy Lawrence's brother-in-law), Alea Munn, Rachael Broadt, Allison Jumper (Susie Spudes), John (Kathy Brior), Jim Bankes, Janet Matyas, Alea Munn (Susie Spudes niece), Shirley Ackley (David Bankes sister), Emery Tweehues (Susie Spudes), Annette Hoffman (Nancy Chulock's cousin), Beverly J Michael, Jimmy Denoia (Ray & Nancy Chulock's brother-in-law), Olivia (Kathy Brior), Patsy Millard, Doris Schell, Dennis Crouse, Judy Boody (Janet Kelchners sister), Robert Hunsinger Sr (Sharon Hartzell's Dad), Robyn & 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 (NOTE NEW EMAIL ADDRESS)

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

Adult Bible Study



We will start up again in the Spring.

Mark your calendars:

Emanuel will be having their
annual Chicken & Waffles dinner
& bake sale on
Saturday, March 23
4:00-7:00pm

Lenten Outreach Project

During Lent we are raising money to support education around the globe. Use the brown paper bags to collect loose change throughout the forty days of Lent. \$10 (or a quarter a day) will buy school supplies for a child, \$30 will purchase a solar powered lamp so children can study at home, and \$40 will provide a school uniform and supplies. Bring your change to church on Easter Sunday and together we will help children shine through the light of education.

Donut Day is Tuesday March 5th.
Don't forget to pick up your donuts.
We will be at the church from 6am on.



Lenten worship schedule:

March 06 – Ash Wednesday – 7pm – St Peter
March 13 – soup & sandwich 6pm – service 7pm – Trinity
March 20 – soup & sandwich 6pm – service 7pm – Emanuel
March 27 – soup & sandwich 6pm – service 7pm – St Peter
April 03 – soup & sandwich 6pm – service 7pm – Trinity
April 10 – soup & sandwich 6pm – service 7pm – Emanuel
April 18 – Maundy Thursday – 7pm – St Peter
April 19 – Good Friday Tenebrae – 7pm – Trinity
April 21 – Easter Sunday services – 8:00am Trinity
9:30am St Peter - 10:45am Emanuel
Sonrise service – 6am – Bodman's farm

Reminder:

If you haven't already designated your Thrivent bonus dollars, you have until March 31st to do so.

Prayer Ventures for March 2019

1 Continue to remember, pray for and care for people who need warmth, shelter and nourishment, not just during the worst of the winter but throughout the year.

2 Pray that we lift our eyes to, recognize and respond to our neighbors in need, and follow with faith Jesus' teachings and admonitions to be attentive to others, compassionate, loving and just.

3 Lent is approaching, and our attention is being turned to Jesus' suffering, sacrifice, death and resurrection. Lift up humble, grateful prayers for God's mercy, love and forgiveness, which were fulfilled in Jesus Christ, son of God – our hope and salvation.

4 *Lutheran Schools Week*. Give thanks for the life-changing impact of Lutheran schools, early-childhood programs, teachers, staff, administrators and sponsoring congregations committed to faith-based education across our church and communities. Pray for the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association's work of supporting educators, schools and congregations as well as advocating for exceptional faith-based education.

5 Remember in prayer those college and university students who are participating in service, learning and mission experiences during spring break, especially through ELCA campus ministries.

6 *Ash Wednesday* Speak to God about the personal significance of the smudge of ash on your forehead, remembering our frailty and mortality and, at the same time, the gift of forgiveness and new life we have through Jesus Christ.

7 Pray for mercy, trusting in God's steadfast love and ability to cleanse us thoroughly – inside and out – from our sin, immorality and human failings.

8 *International Women's Day*. Today the world celebrates the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women throughout history, across nations and throughout the church. Give thanks for the bold witness, service and leadership of women and girls in our church, and for the ministries of Women of the ELCA, the ELCA Women and Justice program and the International Women Leadership initiative.

9 Our God is great and awesome, and a lover of justice. Pray that our gratitude and what we learn from the word and ways of God are reflected with clarity and brightness in our lives, endeavors and relationships.

10 Forty days of Lent can seem like a long time to ponder our human weaknesses and the things we'd rather forget or deny. Ask God for strength to face daily temptations, the strength that Jesus demonstrated while being tempted and tormented in the wilderness; pray for faith that is confident in the power of the Spirit and God's mercy.

11 Continue to pray for people and communities recovering from disasters here and elsewhere in the world, and remember that rebuilding, economic recovery, and the healing of trauma and grief often take many years.

12 We believe God calls the church – corporately and individually – to care for God's creation, pursue justice, care for people in need and seek peace. Pray that the Holy Spirit will inspire, embolden and guide us in doing God's work in the world.

13 Give thanks for our weekly opportunities to gather together for Lenten meals, worship and reflection, and for how these experiences and disciplines help nourish our faith and strengthen the body of Christ.

14 Thank God for our special relationship with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1997; pray for the church, its members and leaders, and pray that together we find strength and new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

15 Give thanks and praise to God for offering us refuge and protection, especially those of us who feel weak, vulnerable, fearful or alone.

16 We ask God to work among leaders, nations and factions in conflict throughout the Middle East region, that they will find sure paths to peace, reconciliation, healing and justice for all people. We pray that the Holy Spirit will stir within us empathy, understanding and compassion for those who are caught in the middle of, or have simply fled, the violence, chaos, persecution and uncertainty.

17 Remember throughout Lent the suffering, trials and sacrifice of Jesus Christ for our salvation. Give thanks to God for this profound, boundless, undeserved work of love and mercy for our sake.

18 Praise God for the long-standing companion relationships that 20 ELCA synods maintain with 20 dioceses of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania; pray that these communities nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, exchange of visitors and sharing of resources.

19 Call on the Holy Spirit to tune our senses to the promises and reassurances of God, especially when we are uncertain, experiencing darkness or feeling ill-equipped for the challenges of life.

20 Give thanks for the beginning of spring, with its newness, hope and increasing light, and reflect with wonder and awe on God's creation.

21 Pray for all who suffer, grieve or lose hope; ask God to grant them relief, comfort and lasting hope through the indwelling of God's spirit; and pledge them our concern, assistance, encouragement and care.

22 Pray for rostered ministers and lay leaders serving ethnic-specific and culturally diverse congregations and ministries throughout the ELCA; ask God to equip, sustain and enthuse them for serving where God is at work in the world.

23 Give thanks and praise to God, who is our light and salvation, the stronghold of our lives and the source of our courage and confidence.

24 Remember in prayer Stephen Deal (ELCA regional representative in Central America), the Lutheran World Federation's Central America program and our companion churches in Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Honduras and Costa Rica as they strive to share God's love and participate in God's mission together.

25 Pray that the Holy Spirit will teach us anew what it means to be humble, loving, hopeful and engaged with the world for the well-being of our neighbor.

26 Pray that, during Lent, our traditions, rituals and practices will be grounded in Scripture and Lutheran theology but also dynamic, connecting thoughtfully across the past, present and future.

27 What does your soul thirst for? Call on the Lord to satisfy your soul and sustain you with unwavering love.

28 Pray for farmers and ranchers, whose work follows the seasons, as spring beckons them to prepare the soil, plant and harvest crops, and tend to herds and orchards. Give recognition and thanks for all who have a hand in bringing food from field to table; pray that our abundant food resources reach those who are hungry and live in poverty; and pray that our agricultural technologies continue to evolve so we can feed the world while also stewarding creation.

29 Reflect on God's words: "My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts." Pray that, as attentive believers and disciples, we listen to and learn from God, the Spirit working to shape and reshape us throughout our baptismal journey.

30 Pray that, throughout Lent, we stay focused on the cross and Easter for the light, truth and good news of Jesus Christ that propel us forward in our baptismal journey with hope and joy.

31 Recall and give thanks for the experiences and people in daily life that shake us up, leading us to grow in faith and recenter our lives in God's grace.



March Babies

- 03/01 Leah Bankes
- 03/03 Donna Bankes
Miriam Rhody
- 03/04 Amy Matyas
Doris Longenberger
- 03/05 Sandra Robbins
Alexandra Bankes
- 03/08 Jared Keller
- 03/10 Kyle Maylath
Cynthia (Pam) Hummer
- 03/11 Matthew Davis
- 03/14 Patty Horn
- 03/15 Gloria Baylor
- 03/16 Barry Bower
- 03/18 Logan Hartzell
- 03/19 Kristina Brown
- 03/20 Pam Keller
- 03/21 Jeromie Brown
Keith Henry
- 03/22 Lauren Maylath Conston
Dawn Schell
- 03/25 Annabelle Davis
- 03/26 Colby Adler
- 03/29 Gail Horne
- 03/30 Laureen Hauck



March Anniversaries

- 03/15 Robert & Terri Mock

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for March

10:15 on March 3rd, 17th & 31st

10:45 on March 10th & 24th

Loose Change will be collected for Bloomsburg pool.
on March 10th & 24th

There will be no **Coffee Klatch** during the winter.
We will resume May 19.

Pastor contact info:

The Rev. Christine Kirchner

Contact info: pastorkirchner@gmail.com

808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC
& Communion for March is
Nancy Bauman & Lois Levan
Ushers are Jay & Peg

*Flowers on the altar at Emanuel
for the month of March are given by
Miriam Rhody in honor of her birthday*