 *Parish Parchment* 

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# The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish

# The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor

# 1558 Rock Glen Road

# Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207

# May 2019 Return Service Requested

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#  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

May 2019

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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”*

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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,

Christ is risen! He is risen, indeed. Alleluia!

It is always such a joyful relief when we are able to finally say that phrase. After the heaviness of Lent and the preparations of Holy Week, we move into the celebration of Easter. Our focus shifts from why we need Jesus (namely our sinfulness and inability to live as God’s people) to what Jesus does for us (that our inability to live as God’s people will not stop us from being God’s people).

This shift in our focus from sadness to joy, negative to positive, made me think of that old test to determine whether someone has a positive or negative outlook on life. I was in elementary school when someone first presented me with a glass of water and asked if it was half full or half empty. I carefully studied the glass comparing the empty space to the full. And after serious consideration, I confidently proclaimed that the glass was half empty.

My friend, who was conducting the test, let out a triumphant, “Hah!” and proclaimed that I was a pessimist. After I found out what a pessimist was, I was heartbroken. I didn’t want to have a negative outlook on life - I wanted to be happy. But there was no denying that I thought the glass was half empty. I was a pessimist, not an optimist.

As I think back on that time, I realize how often we tend to classify and define ourselves in either/or terms. We are either rich or poor, educated or uneducated, city or country, Republican or Democrat, saint or sinner, optimist or pessimist. But the challenge with this kind of thinking is that it doesn’t leave room for a third way of viewing ourselves - God’s way. If the glass is half full, it is God’s. If the glass is half empty, it is still God’s. So whether the glass is half full or empty it is God’s.

No matter how we classify ourselves, no matter how we divide ourselves, we are still God’s children. Even the ultimate classification of living or dead is not enough to keep us from being claimed by God. Paul writes in Romans, “If we live, we live to the Lord, and if we die, we die to the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord’s.” (Romans 14:8)

When we open our eyes to this third way of thinking, God’s way, we are then able to shift our focus. Rather than focusing on whether the glass is half full or empty, we are freed to see what God is doing with the glass.

This Easter season, I invite you to look beyond all the different classifications we carry and ask yourself, what is God doing in my life and what is God doing with my life. For whether we are living or dying, we are the Lord’s. And God will use us.

Easter blessings,

Pastor Christine

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***Families & friends of : John*** (Kathy Brior),  ***Lilian Fisher*** (Susie Spudes sister-in-law), ***Roger Hartman*** (friend of Susie Spudes),  ***Jim Bankes & Judy Boody*** (Janet Kelchner’s sister)

***Also:*** ***John Bower*** (Susie Spudes),  ***Jane Whiteside, Lucele Slusser*** (Ruth Diehl’s sister), ***Kathy Schell, Jerry Bodman, Shirley Oxenrider*** (Susie Spudes), ***Don Kelchner, Annabelle Davis, Dave Demshock Sr*** (Nancy Lawrence’s brother-in-law), ***Allison Jumper*** (Susie Spudes),  ***Janet Matyas, 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, 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

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



**Adult Bible Study**  

We will start up again in the Spring.

Trinity’s annual Mother’s Day pork dinner

will be cancelled for this year due to some much-needed repairs to the floor in the banquet hall.

ST. PETER'S SUNDAY SCHOOL -- HOAGIE SALE
SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019
$4 EACH--REGULAR OR NO ONION
TO ORDER:
CONTACT BETTY TRETTER - 570-387-1631 NO LATER THAN SUNDAY, MAY 4.



Pastor Christine will be going to Texas to visit her family May 23-June 6. If there is a pastoral emergency, she can be reached by her cell phone (808) 652-6740

Prayer Ventures for May 2019

**1** Throughout Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, give thanks for the rich history, gifts, influence and contributions to our nation of our Asian and Pacific Islander brothers & sisters. Ask God to bless & further the work & witness of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific.

**2** *National Day of Prayer* Encourage individuals, congregations & communities to pray, asking the Spirit to help us - & our nation — follow Jesus’ instruction to “Love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12).

**3** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Southeastern Pennsylvania, Rocky Mountain, Northeastern Minnesota and Minneapolis synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**4** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin, Western Iowa and Arkansas-Oklahoma synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**5** How will we react when God calls us to do something or go someplace new and unfamiliar? Pray that we will follow where the spirit of God leads, find companions in ministry to work with and invite others to join in doing God’s work in the world.

**6** Pray for students who are taking final exams and anticipating employment, further education, or vocations of leadership in the church or military service. Ask God to grant them comfort and reassurance in times of stress and uncertainty, and to provide supportive, attentive and loving people in their lives.

**7** Ask God to bless andenergize our church’s commitment to wholeness for creation in collaboration with ecoAmerica and its Blessed Tomorrow program, which helps faith-based organizations care for creation and elevate their leadership on climate change as a moral, religious and justice issue.

**8** The ELCA International Camp Counselor Program, partnering with Lutheran Outdoor Ministries & ELCA Global Mission, trains up to 40 Lutheran young adults from Europe, Asia, Africa & Latin America. Pray for these young adults, who serve as leaders & global partners in our summer camp programs. Give thanks for the faith, gifts, leadership skills & global perspectives they bring to their work with children, youth & adults.

**9** God worked miraculous changes in the heart, mind and life of Saul that he might spread the gospel, grow the church and serve his neighbor as the reborn apostle Paul. Give thanks for how God calls us by name, equips us for ministry and service, and reaffirms that there is a place and purpose for everyone in the church, the body of Christ.

**10** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Oregon, Pacifica and Southeastern Iowa synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**11** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assembly of the Sierra Pacific Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**12** Pray that we will trust that Jesus is the true son of God and will be faithful and fearless in following his examples and teachings revealed to us in Scripture.

**13** Remember in prayer the ELCA’s work of using innovative models for starting new congregations and ministries in a diverse and changing world as we seek to grow God’s church, welcome all God’s people and equip our neighbors with both spiritual and physical sustenance.

**14** Thank God for being a loving and ever-present shepherd who restores us, stirs our courage, strengthens our faith and guides us through the challenges and joys of life.

**15** Give thanks for ELCA campus ministry, communities of faith that accompany students in their journeys of faith, education, service and discerning vocation at more than 180 state and private colleges and universities and at an additional 400 schools nationwide with assistance from congregations.

**16** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, North/West Lower Michigan and Metropolitan New York synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**17** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Saint Paul Area, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast and Southeast Michigan synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide & encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**18** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington and Eastern Washington-Idaho synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.

**19** Pray that, as the body of Christ, we encourage one another & work together to follow Jesus’ words in our daily lives: I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you should love one another. By this everyone knows that you’re my disciples, if you have love for one another.

**20** Remember in prayer people who are traveling across the country in search of seasonal employment. Pray that they find employment, fair wages, fulfillment of basic needs for housing and food, and welcoming congregations that understand the unique needs of seasonal workers.

**21** Give thanks for the special skills, creativity and enthusiasm of people who write blogs, online stories, social media posts and newsletters that help communicate how congregations, synods, the churchwide organization, ecumenical partners and related organizations are sharing the good news of Jesus Christ,serving our neighbor and working together for justice, peace, mercy and healing in the world.

**22** Ask God to make us bold, persistent advocates and agents in society to end gun violence across our nation, for the sake of our neighbor’s well-being and out of gratitude and respect for the fragile gift of life.

**23** Pray that our vision of the church and its mission will be broadened by the knowledge that the word of God and the good news of Jesus Christ are meant for all people and all nations.

**24** Pray that the ELCAGuardian Angel and Welcoming Congregation programs will flourish and continue to expand across our nation as part of our church’s strategy to support and accompany — physically and spiritually — migrant children and families through their immigration court process.

**25** Praise God’s infinite power, glory and presence as reflected in our life experiences and every aspect of nature and creation.

**26** Give thanks for the gift of the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, sent to remind us of Jesus’ teachings and God’s love, and to stir our faith, peace and courage when we are troubled or fearful.

**27** Give thanks and praise God for the significant and lasting impact of *Always Being Made New: The Campaign for the ELCA.* Pray that we will build upon what it has accomplished and continue to be generous in supporting new and existing programs and ministries that serve our neighbor, nurture new leaders and grow the church.

**28** Pray with joy and thanksgiving, for God is gracious and generous in blessing us, and God’s saving power stretches to every corner of the earth.

**29** Pray for more than 3,500 summer camp staff and volunteers as they prepare to serve in ELCA outdoor ministries as role models, affirming and encouraging the faith of campers — of all ages and abilities — and guiding them toward the paths and ways of God throughout life.

**30** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathered for the assemblies of the South Dakota, Nebraska, Upstate New York, Delaware-Maryland and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in doing God’s work in the world, proclaiming the gospel and growing the church.



May Babies

05/10 Beverly J. Michael

05/11 Chuck Henry

05/13 Lee Pitonyak

05/15 Michael Brown

 Deb Thomas

05/17 Janet Matyas

05/18 Diane Derr

05/21 Ruth Diehl

05/22 Jerry Bodman

05/29 Donald Cool

05/30 Pastor Jenn Kopacz

 

May Anniversaries

Emanuel’s volunteer for Heat/AC & Communion for May is

Brenda Pitonyak & Wendy Gearhart

Ushers are Lois & Gayl

05/01 Dennis & Pam Starr

05/11 Teresa & Jimmy Pennington

05/31 Tom & Nancy Bauman

**Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for May**

10:15 on May 12th & 26th

10:45 on May 5th & 19th

***Loose Change*** will be collected for Main Twp. Fire Co.

 on May 5th & 19th

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***Coffee Klatch*** will resume May 19 at 10:00am

**Pastor contact info:**

**The Rev. Christine Kirchner**

**Contact info:****pastorkirchner@gmail.com**

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