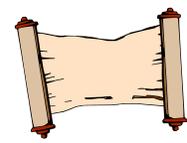


Parish Parchment



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

November 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"



Thank You, LORD!

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

It's hard to believe, but the holiday season is just around the corner. The pumpkins of Halloween will be replaced by the turkeys of Thanksgiving and Santa Claus isn't too far behind. As we enter November and begin the busyness of the holidays, I wanted to take some time to reflect on Thanksgiving.

Our Thanksgiving comes from a long tradition of giving thanks. In my childhood, I was taught the stories of the Pilgrims along with the Native Americans and the first Thanksgiving celebration. However, the first American Thanksgiving is rooted in a much deeper tradition: the tradition of God's chosen people in the Old Testament. The Hebrew people would set aside a festival to celebrate the land and the life God had given them in the covenant made with Abraham and Sarah. Giving thanks was an important element in expressing faith for the Hebrews and for us.

My professor of Hebrew told us the root for the word "thanks" has the same root as the word "think" in the Hebrew language. In the Hebrew tradition of thanksgiving, giving thanks also means re-thinking. It was a time to think anew about God and the claim God's covenant places on their hearts. It was a time to re-think their response to the call of God and the ways they gave themselves in love to the people around us. Re-thinking was as an important part of giving thanks as "counting blessings."

As we enter into our Thanksgiving celebrations, I invite you to reclaim our ancient tradition by re-thinking as we give thanks. How is God involved in your life and how do you respond to the claim God has given you in the waters of Baptism? How do you give yourself in love to the people around you?

There is much that I am thankful for this holiday season: my church family, my place here in this community, and the opportunity to witness God's work among the people of Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish.

A blessed re-thinking Thanksgiving to you!

Your's in Christ,
Pastor Christine



Families & friends of:

Also: *Robin Baker & Angela, Susie Spudes, Sandee Knecht, Pat* (Kathy Brior's friend), *Jerry Bodman, Don Bower* (Susie Spudes), *Kim & Hailey Boysha, Wyatt Laubach* (friends of Diane Derr's Aid), *John Bower* (Susie Spudes), *Kathy Schell, Shirley Oxenrider* (Susie Spudes), *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), *Patsy Millard, Doris Schell, Robert Hunsinger Sr* (Sharon Hartzell's Dad), *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-----

UPcoming EVENTS



Bible Study will be meeting at 7pm at St. Peter on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month through November. The next meeting will be Thursday, November 7th. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Christine

Harvest Home

During the month of November, we will be collecting food at each of the three churches for local food banks. On Nov 24 we will give thanks to God for all that we have been given with a Thanksgiving and Harvest Home inspired worship service. Because we are doing a Thanksgiving Sunday service, there will not be a Thanksgiving Eve service this year. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Christine.

Emanuel is having a soft pretzel and cookie fundraiser, and there are many varieties to choose from. The fundraiser forms are available at the back of the church or by requesting one from any of our Mainville members. Orders are due by November 10 and pick-up is scheduled for November 22.

SAVE THE DATE!

Re-Creation is returning to St. Peter's on Sunday Nov 10 at 7:00 PM to present their new program "Creator". Plan now to attend. As in previous years, we will start the evening with a covered dish at approx. 5:15 with the members of Re-Creation. Meat, beverages & place settings will be provided. A sign-up sheet will be posted in mid-October.

Prayer Ventures for November 2019

1 *All Saints Day* Give thanks for people passed from this life who have cared for us, inspired our dreams, nurtured our faith, and equipped and encouraged us for the challenges of life, and who have boldly exemplified compassion, justice, mercy and generosity.

2 *National American Indian Heritage Month* Give thanks for the gifts and witness of American Indian and Alaska Native members of the ELCA. Pray for native congregations and ministries and the work of the American Indian and Alaska Native Lutheran Association, all grounded in reconciliation and the mutual building up of the saints — people of all backgrounds, tribes, regions, communities, congregations and unique needs.

3 Ask God to help us be fearless and radical in our love and service, following the example of Jesus by demonstrating love, respect, empathy, mercy and active concern for all, especially for people suffering poverty, hunger and illness, those forgotten and neglected, and our enemies.

4 Pray for people living with and recovering from the devastation and loss of life in the Bahamas and along the southeastern coast of the United States following Hurricane Dorian, and for Texas communities similarly suffering from flooding caused by Tropical Storm Imelda. Ask God to give these people strength and hope, resources for recovery and, during this time of vulnerability, protection from subsequent storms. Ask the Spirit to stir our caring support, generosity and volunteer service during short- and long-term recovery efforts.

5 Pray for the leaders of our communities, states and nation, that they will ground their priorities, decisions, work and legislative actions in concern for justice, the environment, the well-being of people in need and the diverse contexts and communities in our country.

6 Entrusted with sharing the gospel and doing God's work in the world, pray that we will be faithful in our baptismal calling and encourage one another in following the word and ways of God.

7 Pray for the leaders of our church who serve on the ELCA Church Council. Ask the Spirit to guide their work of enabling and supporting our church as we strive to do God's work in the world with thoughtfulness, integrity, respect and partnerships that share a common vision.

8 Remember in prayer students who find school challenging or difficult and pray that the people in their lives will be patient, encouraging, creative and skilled in understanding the unique ways in which we each learn.

9 Give thanks that when we confess our sins, the good we have failed to do and our misbehaviors to God, we are met with mercy and forgiveness.

10 Rejoice and give thanks that in God all have life — eternal, abundant and renewed life for doing God's work in the world and serving our neighbor now.

11 *Veterans Day* Remember people who have served or are currently serving in the military, and give thanks for their service and sacrifices. Pray for military chaplains, caregivers, congregational and synod programs, and special ministries that care for veterans and their families.

12 Lutheran outdoor ministry leaders are joining with their ecumenical peers and partners in Lake Junaluska, N.C., for the Great Gathering conference. Pray for their time together, that they might build relationships, discover each other's gifts and equip vital ministries to meet the emerging needs of God's people.

13 Pray that, in the midst of the questions, distractions, hesitancy and opposition we experience in daily life, we will remain focused on the good news of Jesus Christ and on encouraging one another to share the gospel and do good in the world.

14 The ELCA is the first North American denomination to declare itself a sanctuary church body. As a sanctuary church, the ELCA is committed to serving and supporting migrant children and families in communities across the country. Pray that we and our faith communities, moved by the Spirit, will see welcoming people not as a political issue but as a matter of faith.

15 Give thanks that God is attentive to our prayers, acting as our refuge, strength and guide throughout life and in every situation.

16 Remember in prayer ELCA missionaries serving in partnership with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania to support theological education and health care in clinics and a network of 21 hospitals.

17 Anticipating Christ's return, ask for God's help to recognize and value what is important to God.

18 Give thanks for the leaders, ministries and resources of our church that deepen our understanding and practice of stewardship and generosity. Pray that we might spread the gospel, serve our neighbor and do God's work in the world with the gifts and resources entrusted to our care.

19 Pray for the vision and impact of the 26 congregations, synods, ministries and ELCA-related agencies and organizations that have been awarded mental health ministry grants. Pray that their work will inspire others as they address mental health issues and develop new approaches to advocating for and assisting people with mental illness and their families.

20 Ask the Holy Spirit to guide and shape our lives so that we might exemplify how to live and work together, care for one another, exercise generosity and tirelessly do what is right and just for the sake of our neighbor.

21 Pray for congregational and synod ministries and ELCA-related organizations that attend to the unique needs of women and men by encouraging faith, offering opportunities for service, helping develop and support leaders, creating safe environments for conversation and mutual care across generations, and affirming both our unity and our diversity in Christ.

22 Sing praises and make joyful noise for the wonderful things God has done and for God's undeserved steadfast love and faithfulness.

23 Praise God for the critical work we do together through ELCA Disaster Response and for our partners, who bring God's hope, healing and renewal to people in the United States and around the world whose lives have been disrupted by natural disaster.

24 While we profess our faith in Jesus Christ, we sometimes puzzle over who Jesus is and over his resurrection. Pray that our wisdom and faith will grow and mature as, together with our sisters and brothers in Christ, we pray, study, converse and give ourselves over to the Spirit's inspiration.

25 Remember in prayer our ELCA missionaries and young people serving as Young Adults in Global Mission as they support the programs and ministries of companion churches in Senegal, Eswatini, South Africa, South Sudan, Kenya and Zimbabwe.

26 Give thanks that — despite war, conflict, hunger, poverty, suffering, illness and injustice — “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Pray that we will be emboldened by this grace-filled promise and reality to help and strengthen our neighbors in every situation and corner of the world.

27 Pray for people who suffer hunger, food insecurity or lack of access to the nutrition necessary for life and health. Ask that the Holy Spirit will move us to bring relief, instill hope and end hunger and poverty wherever it exists.

28 *Thanksgiving Day* Give thanks for the abundant resources God has entrusted to us, and for family, friends and other people who bless and enrich our lives. Give thanks that the spirit of God is generous, compassionate and fair, and that our unique gifts and abilities are brought together in the body of Christ for the sake of the world, especially those in need who have been neglected.

29 On “Black Friday” — a day of sales, buying and consumption — take time to reflect prayerfully on the difference between wants and needs, on generosity toward our neighbors, on stewardship of wealth and abundance, on everything God has entrusted to us, and on our true identity as children of God who are loved, forgiven and granted a new vision of life.

30 Give thanks to God for rescuing us from the power of darkness and bringing us into the light of new life in Jesus Christ — our Lord and savior, head of our church and the one who has reconciled us to God.



November Babies

- 11/05 Doris Schell
- 11/08 Kayla Newhart
- 11/09 Kathy Giorgio
- 11/14 Alicia Cymbala
- 11/19 Michael Cymbala
- 11/20 Carol Shuman
- 11/21 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

Poinsettia Orders

Choice of Red, White, Pink
or Red glitter (limited quantities) ~ \$9

St Peter ~ 2 lg white for altar + 2 lg for planters ~ 15

To order call:

St P ~ Betty Tretter by Nov 24 ~ 570-387- 1631

E ~ Shirley Bodman by Dec 2 ~ 570-387-6776

T ~ Sharon Hartzell by Nov 24 ~ 570-384-4107

Order forms in back of church

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for November

10:15 on November 10th & 24th

10:45 on November 3rd & 17th

Loose Change will be collected for ARC.
on November 3rd & 17th

Coffee Klatch will resume in the spring

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 November is
Charlotte Thomas & Pam Bankes
Ushers are Jay & Jerry