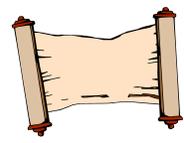
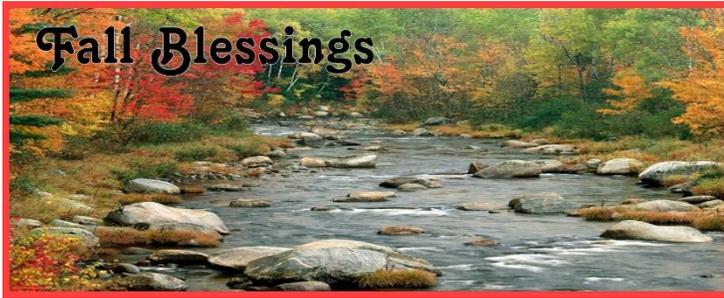


Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
October 2020

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

October 2020

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,

Growing up in East Texas, I often heard my father refer to our town as the buckle of the Bible Belt. Most people in town identified as Christians and the churches held an impressive amount of influence. But in spite of identifying as a Christian and going to church every Sunday, I found myself an outsider (as one of my friends kindly pointed out while we were on the playground one day) because I had not accepted Jesus Christ as my personal savior. In other words, I was not “saved.” Understandably upset, when I got home after school, I asked my dad what my friend meant, and he explained to me what it means to be Lutheran. He talked about how much God loves us and because of that love, we as Lutherans focus on how God has claimed us, rather than how we claim God.

While this focus on the grace and love of God is certainly not unique to the Lutheran denomination, it is a cornerstone of our theology. Consequently, it shapes the way we view God, ourselves, and the world. In college, I took a class on Luther and one of the books I read was Luther’s Freedom of a Christian. It was in reading this book that I began to see that God’s grace and radical love shaped not only my own self-perception (as a beloved child of God), but my perception of and interaction with others as well. Since I can radically love myself because I am loved by God, I am also able to extend this love toward others because they are also beloved children of God. This love allows me to live my life in service to my neighbor, not because I am afraid of God’s retribution, but because I have experienced the all-encompassing nature of God’s love.

This concept of radical love resulting in loving service is clearly seen for me in John 13. It is the night before the crucifixion and Jesus and his disciples have gathered for one last meal. In the middle of their dinner, Jesus, who is free to do anything he wants, chooses to strip off his outer robe and wash his disciples’ feet. He chooses the path of sacrificial love, not for future reward or because the disciples earned it through their faithfulness, but because it is the love of God bringing the fulness of life into that moment. Truly, this is the in-breaking of God’s Kingdom. In the radical freedom we experience through the gospel we are invited to choose the path of loving service as God continues the in-breaking of the Kingdom in our midst. This invitation to participate in God’s mission can be both daunting, humbling, and exciting all at the same time. I always love seeing the ways that you respond to this invitation and look forward to the new ways we live into this calling.

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

Families & friends of : **Fred Feese** (friend of Chuck Henry), **Roland Diebel** (Pastor Christine’s grandfather)

Also: **Shirley Omalia** (Mark Hartzell’s mother), **Susie Spudes Audrey Bronson Danny Hale** (Chuck Henry’s friend), **Beth Karnes** (Mark Hartzell’s sister), **Elsie Buehler, Gloria Baylor, Tom Bauman, Tara Carr Erney** (Linda Adler’s friend), **Donna** (Bill Brior’s sister), **Emily Sutherland & Tyson & Karrson, Minnie Hess, Randy Hack** (friend of Dale Michael), **Justin Gonzales** (friend of Chuck Henry), **Kathy Brady** (friend of Susie Spudes), **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), **Kathy Schell, Shirley Oxenrider** (Susie Spudes), **Annabelle Davis, 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, 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-----

Prayer Ventures for October 2020

- 1** Give thanks for the gifts, witness, leadership and faith of our LGBTQIA+ siblings in Christ. Pray that we will continue to grow as a church centered in the gospel and committed to the inclusion of all people. Pray that we will recognize and challenge the dynamics of bias, fear, power and privilege that discourage participation and equity in this church and in society.
- 2** Ezekiel confronted the Israelites for their resistance to change and to God's ways of fairness. He rejected their arguments that change was too difficult, that they were acting only as they were raised and that he needed to live in the real world. Pray that we will repent, embrace God's peace and justice, and heed God's command, through Ezekiel, to "get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!"
- 3** *Francis of Assisi, renewer of the church (1181-1226)* Pray that we will greet each day with a sense of awe, gratitude and respect for creation, for the organisms and creatures that inhabit the earth and for humanity in all its diversity and complexity — the handiwork of God.
- 4** The Lutheran World Federation's Season of Creation 2020 invites us, through prayer and activism, to give thanks for creation and renew our human vocation for its care. Join Lutherans around the world in the online meeting and closing prayer today.
- 5** Persist in praying for all affected by Hurricane Laura, by wildfires in the western United States and by flooding and severe weather. Pray that we will generously assist relief and reconstruction efforts and support the work of Lutheran Disaster Response.
- 6** Give thanks and praise to God that our righteousness and salvation come not through our own efforts but through faith in Jesus Christ.
- 7** Ask forgiveness for our involvement — consciously or unconsciously — in perpetuating the racism, laws and structures that benefit the majority through inequality and oppression. Pray for the Spirit to stir our humility, wisdom and persistence as we reflect on our lives and society and strive for racial justice, reform, reconciliation and unity as children of God.
- 8** Ask God to strengthen our faith and deepen our roots in the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray that we will draw on God's strength through our faith, especially when we grow weary or doubtful in the face of the world's challenges, criticism and ridicule.
- 9** Pray that we will actively engage with our communities and neighbors, developing the resilience and hope needed to absorb, endure and recover from the spiritual, medical, social and economic impacts of natural and human-caused disasters.
- 10** Remember in prayer those who have lost jobs or are furloughed from work, that they will have the resources and support to meet their daily needs as they seek employment. Pray that our congregations will be welcoming, supportive and ready to help, concerned for their dignity and their spiritual, physical and emotional needs.
- 11** Give thanks and praise to God for welcoming us into the kingdom of God, an undeserved gift to be shared with the world. Pray that we will never take the joy and blessings of this gift for granted or hide it from our neighbor.
- 12** The Lutheran Office for World Community (LOWC), a joint ministry of the ELCA and the Lutheran World Federation, represents Lutherans at the United Nations. Give thanks for the LOWC's work in monitoring issues of concern to the church, sharing our perspectives and speaking for peace, justice, human rights, respect for international law, and better standards of living for all people.
- 13** Pray that we, too, will hear Paul's assurance to the Philippians in difficult times, that "the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Ask that the Spirit fill our lives with peace, love and mercy that will shine brightly in the world.
- 14** Pray for our companion-synod relationships throughout the world, especially during this time of physical separation, that we will continue to nurture and strengthen one another for life and ministry through prayer, study, communication, and sharing resources for doing God's work in the world together.

15 Throughout our baptismal journey, Psalm 23 encourages, calms and nourishes us with the reassurance that we are never without God's love, attention and guidance. Give thanks to God and pray that we will reflect God's loving presence and care in all that we do and say.

16 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathered, in person and online, for the Northeastern Pennsylvania 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.

17 Pray for active-duty military and their families, especially in times of deployment, transition and separation, that their faith will comfort and strengthen them and that they will have confidence knowing they are always connected with the love, support and concern of their home community of faith.

18 Remember in prayer newly elected synod bishops. Ask the Spirit to give them the wisdom, vision and faith to meet the challenges of their ministries, helping congregations and special ministries spread the gospel, serve our neighbors in need and grow the church.

19 Ask God to help us provide comfort, support and hope to our neighbors who feel helpless and overwhelmed amid the pandemic, natural disasters, economic struggles and social unrest.

20 Pray that we will experience God's love, encouragement and unity in the body of Christ through worship and the sacraments — in person, online or however we gather.

21 Give thanks to God for one another and pray for our siblings in Christ, that we will be steadfast in our faith, proclaim the gospel in our daily lives and serve as examples of God's mercy and love in the world.

22 Thank God for our special relationship with the United Methodist Church, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 2009. Pray for the church, its diverse ministries & its members & leaders, that together we will find mutual support, new partnerships & new resources for the work of sharing the gospel and serving our neighbor.

23 "Let the heavens be glad, and let the earth rejoice; let the sea roar, and all that fills it," for God is great, powerful and wondrous. Sing praise to God!

24 Pray for students, teachers, school staff and parents as they continue to adapt to the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on school environments and distanced learning.

25 *Reformation Sunday* Praise God for the gift of grace that sets us free to change and be changed, to form and reform as the body of Christ for the sake of humanity, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in the world.

26 Pray for the Spirit to deepen our understanding of what being a Lutheran Christian means, through prayer, Scripture, reflecting on our creeds and teachings, being renewed and united through the sacraments, and opening ourselves to God's voice and guidance in an ever-changing society and world.

27 Give thanks that, though we have sinned and fallen short of God's expectations, God has set things right with us and restored our relationship through the gift of grace we have in Jesus Christ. Pray that throughout our baptismal journeys we will spread the hope and good news of God's merciful love for humankind.

28 The ELCA Fund for Leaders scholarship program supports students of promise attending ELCA seminaries. Pray that we will generously support this program to make seminary more affordable, to enable more future ministers to study and to help them graduate with less debt as they respond to God's call to serve as the church needs and the Spirit leads.

29 "God is our refuge and strength." Give thanks and praise to God and reflect on how God sustains you, gives you courage, influences your decisions and actions, and equips you for living as a follower of Christ in the world.

30 Pray for the Spirit to guide and inspire our discernment and decisions in the upcoming presidential election, and to help us prioritize the needs of our neighbors, the well-being of communities in turmoil and the task of healing the deep divisions in our society.

31 *Reformation Day* Give thanks and praise to God for the ministry, teachings and impact of Martin Luther and other church reformers, who took great risks to refocus our faith, institutions and practices on the word of God and the good news of Jesus Christ. Pray that we will continue to be a reforming church, mindful of the Spirit's guidance as we discern how to follow Christ — now and in the future.

UPcoming EVENTS



Eat TONS and
take a nap.

ST PETER'S TURKEY SUPPER OCTOBER 17 FROM 4 TO 6 PM. TAKE-OUT ONLY

**ADVANCE TICKET SALES—\$10
DINNER INCLUDES TURKEY,
STUFFING, GRAVY, GREEN
BEANS, CRANBERRY SAUCE
AND DESSERT.**

**LOIS WILLIAMS 570-799-5708
BEVERLY J MICHAEL 570-784-5774
DEADLINE FOR TICKETS OCTOBER 5**

Trinity UCC, Rock Glen will hold their annual
Pork & Sauerkraut Supper & Bake Sale on Sat.
Oct. 10th from 12- 5pm. TAKE-OUTS ONLY.
Cost is \$8.50

Joint Reformation Service

On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25, we
will have a joint worship service at
Trinity at 10 am in the parking lot. You
are welcome to either remain in your
car and listen through the radio or bring
a lawn chair and sit outside. Please set
up chairs six feet away from other
families and wear a mask while outside
your car. If you have any questions,
please contact Pastor Christine.

Worship Services

During the month of October, Trinity will
continue to worship in the parking lot and St.
Peter and Emanuel in the sanctuary. Thank
you for your flexibility as we continue to
assess how best to worship during this time.

If you have any questions or concerns,
please let Pastor Christine know.

All Saints' Sunday

November 1 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 will
read the names of those who
have died this past year. If
you have a loved one who
has died in the past year and
would like their name read
during worship, please give
their name to Pastor
Christine.

**SUNDAES ON SUNDAY
FREE ICE CREAM SUNDAES ON
OCTOBER 4th AT ST. PETER'S
4 TO 6 P.M.**



St. Peter's is collecting Seafarer bags this year. If you would like to participate, place the items in a bag and bring them to St. Peter's before the last week of October. You do not need to have the special Seafarers bag to participate since they are changing bag types and did not have enough. We will place the items in the proper bags when we drop them off at synod. If you have any questions, please ask Betty Tretter.



October Babies

10/01 Donna Colosimo
10/02 Brandon Bankes
10/04 Marlin H. Boehmer
10/05 Marlin V. Boehmer
10/07 Brittany Bankes
Glenn Ferry
10/08 Francis Sorber
10/10 Nancy Chulock
10/13 Judy Hartranft
10/15 Keira Huff
10/17 Allen Kotansky, Jr.
Connor Hartzell
10/20 Alice Fritz
10/21 Judy Brown
10/22 Carol Davenport
10/24 Steven Storaska, Jr.
10/25 Timothy Storaska
10/26 Emily Pitonyak
10/27 Andraya Davenport
10/28 Tess Solenberger



October Anniversaries

10/03 Franklin & Patricia Newhart
10/11 Jack & Jane Troy
10/21 Dale & Marqueen Davenport
10/25 Dan & Brenda Pitonyak
10/26 Kerry & Irene Fisher
10/30 Robert & Alice Fritz

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for October

10:15am on October 11 & 25

10:45am on October 4 & 18

Coffee Klatch will resume at later date.

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
October are
Brenda & Wendy
Ushers are Lois & Gayl