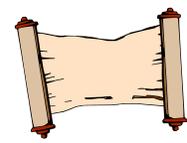


# Parish Parchment



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

**September 2019**

Phone: 570-384-4125

E-mail: [mglp@frontier.com](mailto:mglp@frontier.com) or [pastorkirchner@gmail.com](mailto: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

Last month, I had the honor and privilege of participating in the ELCA's Churchwide Assembly (CWA). Much like our synod's annual assembly, this was a chance for members of the church to gather together to learn about the current ministries of the church and to discern the future direction of those ministries. Unlike our synod assembly, CWA meets once every three years and lasts for six days.

Six years ago, the CWA voted to embark on a massive capital campaign to raise \$198 million dollars over the next five years. As of Feb 1, 2019, the Always Being Made New Campaign officially ended and we received the final campaign report at CWA. The campaign far exceeded its original goal and raised over \$250 million dollars in actual and planned giving. The money raised is already helping to revitalize ELCA communities, educate future church leaders, overcome malaria, confront hunger and poverty worldwide, and accompany our global church partners. Each Lent, we have raised money to support this campaign through God's Global Barnyard. It is amazing to see how our collective \$3,000 (over three years) can combine with the rest of the church's resources to create a quarter of a billion dollars dedicated to ministry. Thank you for your support of this campaign.

In looking to the future of the church, we elected Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton to a second term and Deacon Sue Rothmeyer as the new ELCA secretary. We also passed memorials and resolutions to promote diversity within the church, raise awareness of sexism and gender violence worldwide, and foster relationships with our ecumenical partners.

While it was awe inspiring to be a part of the work of the assembly, my favorite part of CWA was worship. Each day in between the morning and afternoon plenary sessions, we came together for worship and communion. While we were not always in agreement as an assembly, these opportunities for worship were a powerful reminder that our differences did not prevent us from being the Church together. On Friday, we celebrated the 50th anniversary of the ordination of women in the Lutheran church. As part of the celebration, all female ministers were invited to process in worship. I joined 200 of my sisters in ministry in a joyous procession that seemed to never end. Being born in the 1980's, I have never known a church where women could not be pastors. Processing with women who have not all had my experience, the oldest of whom was 100, was an incredibly humbling and hopeful experience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to attend CWA. It was an incredible glimpse into the workings of Churchwide and a powerful reminder that we are not alone in our ministry in the world. If you have any questions regarding the assembly, I would love to talk about them.

Your's in Christ,

Pastor Christine



***Families & friends of:*** Donna Minnick (Dale Michael)

***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](mailto:shartzell@ptd.net)

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

# UPcoming EVENTS

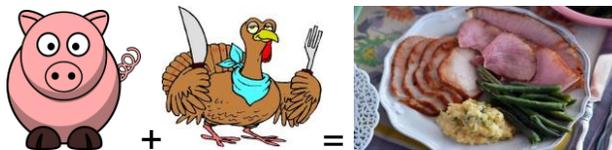
**Outreach Project September will  
be collecting for AGAPE**

Dish soap for hand-washing of dishes  
and Spray Bottles of  
Multi-Purpose Cleaners.



Bible Study will be starting back up on Thursday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be meeting at 7pm at St. Peter on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month through November.

If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Christine



**St Peter's Annual Fall Ham & Turkey Supper** will be held Saturday, Sept 7<sup>th</sup>.  
Serving will be from 4-7 PM and takeouts will be available at 3:30PM.  
More details will follow.

## Prayer Ventures for September 2019

1 Pray that we learn humility, respect and hospitality from the example and teachings of Jesus and the Spirit at work in the lives of people around us, and that we exercise in daily life this regard for others without bias, reluctance or feeling that we deserve something in return.

2 *Labor Day* On this day we recognize and pray for the work and service people do to sustain their families and benefit their communities and society. Pray that all receive fair wages, work in safe environments, are renewed through times of sabbath, and experience joy and fulfillment in their labor; pray that all those who seek employment will find work and for the well-being, care and support of people unable to work.

3 Give thanks to God for our early-learning centers, K-12 schools, lay schools for ministry, colleges and universities, and seminaries, and for the significant role they serve in faith formation, education and equipping leaders throughout life.

4 Praise God for filling us with mercy, compassion, joy, a sense of justice, and a bold, confident faith that spills over into the world.

5 Give thanks and praise to God as we celebrate with the 2019 graduates of the ELCA International Women Leaders initiative: Sthela Gun Holly Hanitrinirina (Malagasy Lutheran Church); Yuen Ching Lee, Abby Lai and Melissa Neo (Lutheran Church in Malaysia); and Elisa Pérez-Trejo (Mexican Lutheran Church). Give thanks for all who have supported them throughout the program, and ask God to bless their service and ministry as they move forward.

6 Pray that our actions, words, work, service and concern for our neighbors in need — be they strangers, friends or forgotten — bear witness to the word and ways of God made known to us through Jesus Christ and instilled in us by the Holy Spirit.

7 Give thanks for the ministry and witness of ELCA missionaries serving alongside our global companions in Senegal, South Africa and Eswatini, as well as the six young people serving in Senegal and the four serving in Southern Africa as part of the ELCA's Young Adults in Global Mission program.

8 *"God's work. Our hands."* *Sunday* Pray for children, youth and adults involved in volunteer community service across the country in partnership with neighboring congregations, Lutheran agencies and community organizations. Give thanks for the living, daring confidence in God's grace from which our every act of service throughout life flows!

9 Continue to pray for peace, justice, reconciliation and economic opportunity for the people and countries of Central America, and pray that the United States and other nations will respond to their needs with humanitarian and economic assistance, collaborative efforts to find effective, lasting solutions to the crises they are experiencing, and prayerful, enduring support.

10 Praise God for knowing us better than we know ourselves and assuring us that we are loved and are never forgotten or alone in the world.

11 Pray that the peace, confidence and grace of God given to us in Jesus Christ will prevail and calm our every fear and anxiety in these turbulent and uncertain times.

12 As members of the body of Christ we are like "trees planted by streams of water," sustained in all that we do, nurtured to bear fruits of the Spirit and strengthened to follow the word and ways of God. Pray that we are not shy about inviting others to have faith in God's redeeming love through Christ and enjoying the life-enriching blessings of being in a community of faith.

13 Approximately 1 in 10 people around the world can't access the food he or she needs to live an active, healthy life; more than 40 million people in the United States are unsure where their next meal will come from; and 10% of the world's population lives in extreme poverty on less than \$1.90 per day. Remember in prayer those who suffer with poverty and hunger, and give thanks for the work of ELCA World Hunger, our congregations and other partners as they respond to communities in need, striving for sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

14 *Holy Cross Day* Today, give thanks and lift up words of celebration for Jesus' self-sacrificing, redemptive, life-giving offering on the cross for the sake of all humanity.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks for the gifts, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino brothers and sisters and pray for the work and growth of the 147 ELCA Latino ministries in the United States as they share the gospel, encourage our unity in Christ, support pastors and lay leaders, and serve their neighbors in many community contexts.

16 Pray for God's mercy, forgiveness and guidance when we stray from God's ways or find ourselves worshipping wealth, earthly possessions, power or status more than we worship God.

17 Pray that our church in all its expressions — congregations, synods and the churchwide organization — are guided by the wisdom and enthusiasm stirred by the Holy Spirit to implement and live into decisions made during synod assemblies and the ELCA Churchwide Assembly for the sake of doing God's work in the world, sharing the gospel, growing the church and serving our neighbor.

18 Pray that we might be persistent and caring in seeking, inviting and welcoming people who have left our congregations, feel unwelcome because of who they are or what they've done, have been hurt by conflict or feel they have no place in the church, the body of Christ.

19 Pray for relief & access to clean water where people are suffering from extreme heat & drought in the world; ask God to help us work with one another to care for our environment & precious water resources, find ways to ease & prevent the impact of climate change, & share generously our resources to provide for the essential needs of people everywhere.

20 With grateful hearts, thank God for the mercy and grace we receive through Jesus Christ, who embraces who we are in all our humanness and shortcomings and transforms us for service and faithful leadership in the world.

21 *Matthew, apostle and evangelist* Pray that we will serve as willing, faithful and bold followers of Christ even though our backgrounds, life experiences, professions and gifts are diverse and may seem incongruent with what we imagine God desires in a disciple or evangelist.

22 Pray that the Holy Spirit will work in us and guide us to be faithful, trustworthy and responsible with all God has entrusted to us in this life, that we may serve our neighbors in need, care for creation and honor God.

23 Remember in prayer ministry candidates who have responded to God's call to ministry & leadership through the church & are involved in the process of preparation, discernment & waiting for assignment. Pray for candidates & their families during this time that can be both joyful & anxious; & pray that leaders and ELCA staff involved in the assignment process will be guided by the Holy Spirit in their discernment and decision-making.

24 Pray for the 15 ELCA missionaries serving in parish ministry and education as they work alongside our companions in Slovakia and Russia.

25 Praise God who exists throughout the universe and all time yet has compassion and concern for people who are poor and in great need; pray that we will be moved by God's ways, examples and commands to show attentiveness, mercy, compassion and love for our neighbors in need.

26 Pray for the ministry of ELCA Advocacy, its Washington office & its state public policy offices as they work with ELCA members to develop/advance legislation that'll overcome poverty, defend God's creation and promote peace, dignity and justice.

27 Give thanks that God is slow to anger and inclined to forgive our sins, shortcomings, mistreatment of our neighbors and deliberate wrongdoings, and to treat us with mercy and compassion for the sake of restoring our relationship with God and setting us back on track in our daily lives.

28 Pray for Bible study leaders, teachers and volunteers serving in our congregations who share their faith, help us study and explore Scripture, join us in prayerfully and thoughtfully wrestling with spiritual questions, and help us connect the word of God with everyday life.

29 Reflect on the gifts, abilities and courage of faith we have received from the Holy Spirit, and on the joy and confidence we have in the promise of eternal life through Jesus Christ; give thanks for who we have become in Christ for the sake of mission and service in the world.

30 Give praise and glory to God that through our worship and liturgy we will be reminded of the promises spoken at our baptisms, the forgiveness and new life we receive through the washing with water and the word of God, and the call we receive to pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness — as individuals and communities of faith.



## September Babies

09/01 Allen Hons  
09/04 Kaitlyn Henry  
09/09 Lauren McGinty  
09/10 Julie Wolforth  
09/12 Brent Book  
Patsy Millard  
09/14 Jordan Keller  
Tyler Chulock  
09/15 Elsie Buehler  
Paul Boudman  
09/16 Dan Davis  
Robert Thomas  
09/18 Lisa Book  
Garth Book  
Thomas Bauman  
Dan Pitonyak  
09/19 Irene Fisher  
09/20 Kay Rossachaj  
09/21 David Creasy  
09/22 Thomas Livziewy, Jr.  
Nathan Huff  
09/23 Bill Brior  
09/27 Charlotte Thomas  
09/28 Zoe McKenna Bankes  
Tara Bauman-Seely  
09/29 Robert Fritz  
Virginia Rupert

## Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for September

10:15 on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>

10:45 on September 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>th</sup>

**Loose Change** will be collected for AGAPE.  
on September 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>

**Coffee Klatch** will be held October 6 at 10:00am

*Pastor contact info:*

*The Rev. Christine Kirchner*

*Contact info: [pastorkirchner@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkirchner@gmail.com)*

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



## September Anniversaries

09/10 Matt & Lindsay Huff  
09/23 Amy & Connie Minzola, Jr.

Emanuel's volunteer for Heat/AC &  
Communion for September is  
Nancy Bauman & Lois Levan  
Ushers are Jerry & Shirley