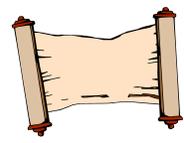


Parish Parchment



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

September 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"

LABOR DAY

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 family in Christ,

Growing up on Kauai, there were a variety of beaches that I enjoyed visiting. Some because of the waves, others because of the sea life, and others because of the views. But one of my favorite beaches actually had none of the normal allures of a Hawaiian beach. There were no picturesque mountain views, the beach was near a landfill, so it wasn't safe to swim in, and it didn't even have the traditional white sand. So why did I love going to this beach? I loved it because it was a powerful reminder of what God can do.

The beach is called Glass Beach. It has this name because its shores are covered with small, smooth glass pebbles rather than sand. The local landfill, which is a few miles away from the beach, is also a popular illegal dumping ground and some of the trash ends up in the ocean. While this is, of course, problematic, something amazing has also come of it. The glass that is dumped in the ocean is battered around by the current, until all that is left are smooth glass pebbles. These pebbles are then carried by the current until they wash up on Glass Beach.



This beach is a wonderful reminder of the amazing things that God can do – even with things that we consider trash and have thrown away. In God's hands, even trash can be transformed into something beautiful.

But this transformation process is not a gentle one. The glass is broken and ground down until all the sharp edges are worn smooth. If the glass could talk, I imagine it would describe a traumatic process as it journeyed from the landfill to Glass Beach. And yet that process was necessary for the transformation to occur.

I don't know about you, but it feels as if our world is undergoing immense change right now. We are in the midst of a presidential election year, there are protests for racial justice, and the Corona virus has modified nearly every part of our public lives. Some of the changes are minor and do not feel like a burden, like having wider aisles in the grocery store. But other changes, like how schools should reopen, are fraught with difficult decisions and no right answers. It can be terrifying when it feels like our world has been turned upside down and we have no control over the changes that are affecting our lives. Like we are being tossed about by the ocean waves. And yet even in the upheaval, God is at work.

This isn't to say that God is causing the upheaval. I do not believe God sent the Corona virus as some sort of divine retribution, just like I do not believe God forces people to pollute the ocean. But that doesn't mean that God cannot work through these difficult times – times of pain and fear, chaos, and even death – and create new life through them.

And so, whenever it feels like the changes are too much and the waves are overwhelming, remember Glass Beach. God did not abandon the trash discarded in the ocean and God will not abandon you. Rather than focusing on all the ways that things are changing, look for what God is doing because of those changes. Just like in the waters of Kauai, God is at work in your life.

I wish I could tell you that if you just hold onto God during these chaotic times, then everything will be okay, but we all know that is not how these things work. But what I can tell you is that even in the chaos when you can no longer hold onto God, God will hold onto you. God will not abandon you. And God will continue to work through you. I look forward to seeing what God creates through you.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Christine

Prayer Ventures for September 2020

- 1** Give thanks and take comfort in knowing that God is trustworthy and unwavering in remembering and accompanying us every moment of our lives — in our joy, suffering and complicated situations.
- 2** September often marks a time of beginning, with students starting school, congregations launching programs and creation transitioning into a new season. But due to the pandemic, this year is different, presenting challenges we have not faced before. Pray that the Spirit will grant us wisdom, creativity and patience as we seek new ways of being church together, attend to the needs of children and youth, care for one another and fight the spread of COVID-19.
- 3** There is no better time than right now for us to hold on to what is good, treat one another with respect, extend hospitality to strangers & those different from ourselves, seek peace, & care for our neighbors, including our enemies. Pray for strength, empathy, compassion & boldness in our faith & daily life as we follow Jesus.
- 4** In the name of the God who creates every human being out of love, and remembering the ELCA social teaching that “the God who justifies expects all people to do justice,” pray that more Christians will enter into public conversation about and take action to safeguard the dignity due to all children of God.
- 5** Pray that, as Election Day grows closer, our conversations, deliberations & decisions will be guided by our faith, the teachings of Jesus, our concern for justice, reconciliation, unity & the well-being of all people and communities.
- 6** Conflict and hurtful actions are part of our human nature and experience — in the church, in society and in the world. Ask God to grant us humility, concern for one another and, when there is conflict, the courage to foreswear vengeance, engage each other and work toward truth, understanding, reconciliation and unity.
- 7** Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers as they struggle through the pandemic. Ask God to bless every aspect of their work, from planning and planting to tending crops and animals to harvesting and distributing their bounty, which feeds the world.
- 8** Pray that the Spirit might help us understand and follow the ways and commandments of God for the well-being of humanity, and that our life together might shine with justice, compassion, unity, care for those who suffer and a vibrant faith in Jesus Christ.
- 9** Remember in prayer our siblings in Christ & companions in Latin America & the Caribbean region. Pray that we will support each other — through prayer, generosity & sharing of resources — to spread the gospel, train & support leaders, respond to the needs of communities, work for justice and grow the church.
- 10** During this anniversary year, marking a half century of Lutheran women being ordained in the United States, give thanks for the gifts and service that women pastors have brought to our church and our world; lament that women have been barred from serving and have been bullied, dismissed and excluded; ask forgiveness; and resolve that we will welcome, encourage and respect women of all ages and backgrounds as they respond to God’s call to ministry and service.
- 11** Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Northeastern Ohio 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.
- 12** Pray that, with the assurance of God’s forgiveness and our salvation, we will experience the freedom to love and value our neighbor, living with purpose and a sense of each day’s importance.
- 13** *“God’s work. Our hands.” Sunday* Pray that our congregations, together with neighboring congregations, ecumenical and interreligious partners, community organizations and Lutheran agencies, will respond daily to the endless opportunities for serving our neighbor and addressing critical social needs, loving our neighbors and making our communities stronger, healthier and more hopeful.
- 14** Pray for our pastors, our youth and family ministers, our congregational leaders and our synod staff as they learn new things amid difficult times. Give thanks for the work of the Spirit in equipping leaders with new skills, new perspectives and renewed creativity for sharing the gospel, building up the church and doing God’s work in the world.

15 *National Hispanic Heritage Month* Give thanks to God for the gifts, history, contributions and rich cultural diversity of our Latino brothers and sisters, and pray for the growth and vitality of the 147 ELCA Latino ministries and the Latino Association (Asociación Ministerios Latinos ELCA) as they share the good news of Jesus Christ, encourage our unity in him and promote Christian values that unite Latinos of the ELCA as a “community of communities.”

16 As children of God, give thanks and bless the Lord for being “merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”

17 Give thanks for the good we do together through ELCA World Hunger and our partners, responding to the critical needs of people everywhere. Pray that our work will bring hope and relief to communities in need and will foster sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty.

18 When forgiving someone is difficult, pray for the patience and mercy toward others that Jesus describes to Peter — the same inexhaustible patience and mercy God has demonstrated toward us.

19 Reflect on members of your congregation and community and pray for specific people who are grieving, celebrating or trying to sort out their lives right now, or who simply could use our thanks and gratitude.

20 Pray that our acts of generosity will be driven by our faith, without partiality, restraint, the promise of reward or recognition, or the expectation of earning God’s favor.

21 Thank God for our special relationship with the Moravian Church in America, a full communion partner with the ELCA since 1999. Pray for the church, diverse ministries & its members & leaders, & pray that together we’ll find mutual support, new partnerships & resources for the work of sharing the gospel & serving our neighbor.

22 Pray that reflecting on the ways and word of God will help us understand how God’s amazing grace and forgiveness are directed toward all humanity, including people we judge to be undeserving or beyond saving. Remember the undeserved gifts of love, forgiveness, new life and salvation we have received through Jesus Christ, and give thanks and praise to God.

23 Ask the Spirit to help and inspire us as we deliver messages of hope, joy, truth, unity, positive change and God’s kindness in the world.

24 Pray for our siblings in Christ in Asia and the Pacific region, that we might support each other, share our resources and spread the gospel across diverse cultures and languages, growing the church by working for justice, training and supporting leaders, and responding to the needs of communities.

25 Remember in prayer the leaders, voting members and others gathering online for the Saint Paul Area 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.

26 “Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised; his greatness is unsearchable.” Give thanks to God and tell everyone about God’s grace, mercy and wonderful works for the sake of the world — works we are called to join in together as children of God.

27 Pray for the Spirit to help us recognize, trust and appreciate God’s authority and power over all creation, the universe and our everyday lives.

28 Pray for our seminaries, colleges, universities & campus ministries as they work to create new approaches to education, fostering community among students & faculty when they can’t be physically present. Pray we will be generous in supporting ELCA educational institutions & student ministries that are vital to our church & society.

29 *Michael and All Angels* There is so much we do not fully comprehend about heaven, earth and the means — including angels and divine beings — by which God has interacted with us throughout human history. Pray that our faith and the inspiration of the Spirit will open our minds, hearts and imaginations to the infinite, mysterious and awesome ways that God is present and at work in the world.

30 Pray for individuals and families trying to immigrate to our nation or seeking asylum and safety as they face changing laws, complicated procedures and unwelcoming situations and people. Pray that the love of God dwelling within us will move us to step forward and practice hospitality, compassion, understanding and empathy as bold advocates who accompany immigrants and refugees during their difficult and confusing experiences.



Prayer List

Families & friends of : Don Swartz (friend of Chuck Henry)

Also: *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-----



**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 17
4 TO 6 PM. TAKEOUT ONLY
TURKEY SUPPER AT
ST PETER'S**

**ADVANCE TICKET SALES--\$10
EACH INCLUDES TURKEY,
STUFFING, GRAVY, GREEN
BEANS, CRANBERRY SAUCE
AND DESSERT. TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT ST. PETER**

Worship Services

During the month of September, 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.

The Parish is updating our member directory. If you have not already, please email or call Pastor to give her your contact information for the directory.

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





September Babies

- 09/01 Allen Hons
- 09/04 Kaitlyn Henry
- 09/09 Lauren McGinty
- 09/10 Julie Wolhforth
- 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 Livziey, 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



September Anniversaries

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

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for September

10:15am on September 13 & 27

10:45am on September 6 & 20

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
September are
Cheech & Jelly