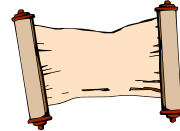


Parish Parchment



The Mountain Grove Lutheran Parish
The Reverend Christine Kirchner, Pastor
1558 Rock Glen Road
Bloomsburg, PA 17815-9207
May 2024

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

May 2024

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



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 siblings in Christ,

As we move into May and the (hopefully) warmer weather, I must admit that it feels a little odd to continue singing the Easter hymns and saying, "Christ is risen!" And yet, we will continue to do so in worship. That is because Easter is not just one day in the church year but an entire fifty day season. We will be celebrating the resurrection through the rest of May.

I think one of the reasons it feels a little odd to be celebrating Easter in May is because we often view Easter Sunday as the end goal of Lent. It is natural for Easter to feel like the finish line that needs to be crossed before things can return to normal. The extra services are over, the eggs have been found, and the Easter dinner consumed. With Easter Monday comes the return to normal life.

But what we see in the gospels is that Easter isn't so much the completion of Jesus' story, but rather the beginning of the story. This might seem counter-intuitive since Jesus' resurrection comes at the end of all four gospels. But we hear in John's gospel, "Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name." (John 20:30-31) Through statements like this and others, we see that the resurrection isn't an ending – it's an invitation. The story of Jesus in the gospels is not about relaying historic events, but about setting us up to live resurrection lives and continue the story of God's redemption of the world. Jesus' story is only the beginning of the good news of what God has done and is still doing for the world through Jesus Christ.

Easter is only the beginning; this story isn't over. It's only the beginning and we all have a part to play. It's only the beginning and if you wonder why there is still so much distress and pain in the world, it's because God is not done yet. Easter is only the beginning and we are invited to join in the story, to share it far and wide.

As we continue this Easter season, may you continue the resurrection story!

In the Risen Christ's love,
Pastor Christine

Prayer List

The family & friends of: *Judy Hagar* (4/1)

Also: Dan Davis, Dave Mormak (friend of Kathy Brior), **Karen Kirchner** (Pastor Christine's mom), **David Frenz** (Dan Davis' son-in-law), **Loretta Baldwin** (Friend of Karen Henry), **Jane Troy, Sheri Eley** (Charlotte Thomas' niece), **Taylor Thomas** (Charlotte Thomas' granddaughter), **Diane Derr, Donald Cool Jr.** (Janet Cool's grandson), **Dylan Newman** (Gail Horne), **Jayme Keller** (Jordan Keller's daughter), **Pearl Spudes, Albert Bellum** (Susan Spudes), **Elsie Buehler, Pastor Stan & Carole Bower, Dale Schoepf, Jen Beaver** (Dale Michael), **Judy Petrewicz** (Janet Cool), **Roberta Pepe** (Lois Levan's daughter), **George Lynn** (Susan Spudes), **Gloria Fritz, Lori Yutko** (Susan Spudes), **Jean Bankes, Robert Fritz, Russ Ebright** (friend of Dale Michael), **Paige Thomas, Tyson Neal** (Emily Sutherland's son), **Patsy Millard, Don Davis, Shirley Omalia** (Mark Hartzell's mother), **young people of our congregation.**

Please pray for all the people of MGLP, especially those in need of healing; suffering from chronic health issues; & members 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 May 2024

1 *Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month* Give thanks for our Asian and Pacific Islander neighbors and siblings in Christ, and for their cultures, languages and contributions to our nation and church. Pray for the well-being of Asian and Pacific Islander congregations and ministries of the ELCA as well as the work of ELCA Asian and Pacific Islander Ministries and the Association of Asians and Pacific Islanders.

2 *National Day of Prayer* Join our siblings in Christ in praying for the well-being of the church, neighbors in need & the leaders of our communities & nation. Ask God to help resolve the problems & issues that keep us from thriving in unity.

3 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Minneapolis Area, Southeastern Pennsylvania, Arkansas-Oklahoma and Southwestern Texas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

4 Pray for congregational young-adult ministries, ELCA Young Adult Ministry, Abide small-group ministry, Young Adults in Global Mission, Lutheran Campus Ministry Network, Lutheran outdoor ministries and long-term volunteer service organizations. Ask God to bless leaders who serve young adults as they seek community, strengthen their faith, find opportunities to serve, and discern their gifts and vocations.

5 “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you” (John 15:12). These words, spoken by Jesus to his followers, seem simple and unambiguous, yet we respond with resistance and stipulations. Pray that we might turn to the word of God and the example of Jesus to see the power of humility and fearless, unconstrained love.

6 *National Nurses Week* Pray for faith community nurses, who nurture and care for the whole person — body, mind and spirit — and promote wellness in Lutheran congregations, ministries and agencies; other denominations; and our communities. Give thanks for the ministry of the Lutheran Faith Community Nurse Association, which promotes health and well-being in faith communities and supports nurses serving in a variety of roles across the country.

7 Pray that our love for God will move us to seek God’s ways, wisdom and Commandments, which exist for the benefit of all humanity.

8 Give thanks for the creative gifts of church musicians and music ministry leaders, who enrich the worship experience in our congregations and help us express to God our joy, concerns and praise.

9 Remember in prayer our neighbors in Haiti, who yearn for peace, safety and hope amid persistent suffering and violence. Ask the Spirit to guide us as unwavering advocates for peace and relief of our neighbors and siblings in Christ.

10 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assembly of the Saint Paul Area Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

11 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southeastern Minnesota, Southeast Michigan, North/West Lower Michigan and New Jersey synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

12 Praise God that the truth of our faith, assurance of salvation and call to participate in God’s work in the world are revealed to us through Jesus Christ, the Spirit, and the nurture and affirmation we experience in our faith communities.

13 Ask God to strengthen and be with all mothers — biological, adoptive and foster — in the daily joys and challenges of teaching values, passing on faith, and protecting and guiding their children.

14 Thank God for the ELCA’s special relationship with the Reformed Church in America, a full communion partner since 1997. Pray for the church, its members and its leaders, that together we will find strength, resources and encouragement for the work of sharing the gospel, serving our neighbor and growing the church.

15 Give thanks for the ELCA Life of Faith Initiative, an effort to equip people of all ages to live out their faith in their families, workplaces, schools, local communities and world, serving their neighbors and working for justice in everyday life.

16 *International Day of Living Together in Peace* Our words and actions speak volumes about our faith and values. Pray that we might move past our conflicts and that the Spirit will fill us with kindness, compassion, respect and sacrificial love for our neighbors.

17 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod, Texas-Louisiana Gulf Coast Synod, Southeastern Iowa Synod, East-Central Synod of Wisconsin, South-Central Synod of Wisconsin and Greater Milwaukee Synod, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

18 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Northwest Washington and Northern Great Lakes synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

19 *Day of Pentecost* Praise God for the work of the Spirit, which calls us to faith, focuses and strengthens us, accompanies us in our baptismal journeys and unites us in a diverse, global community of siblings in Christ.

20 Remember in prayer college, university and seminary students as they prepare for final exams, graduation and vocations that will direct their gifts and passions into service to their church, communities and world.

21 “The Spirit helps us in our weakness, for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with groanings too deep for words” (Romans 8:26). Praise God for the gift of the Spirit, an advocate for us who stirs and strengthens our faith.

22 Give thanks to God that, in every corner of the world, the Spirit works to open hearts and minds to the life-changing news of unconditional love, forgiveness, renewal and salvation that we receive in Jesus Christ.

23 Ask the Spirit how God is calling us to use our faith, gifts, experience and wisdom to uplift our society, nation and world. “Could it be that we are called for such a time as this?” (*All Creation Sings* 1003).

24 Give thanks for scientists, science teachers and researchers, who stir our understanding and awe of God’s creation and seek to improve our lives, communities and natural environment. Promise to be careful with technology and new advancements, using them for the sake of justice and the well-being of humanity and creation.

25 Pray for the work we do through the ELCA’s AMMPARO strategy to accompany migrants with protection, advocacy, representation and opportunities, which is an expression of our faith and understanding of the gospel. Promise to uphold basic human rights and to work alongside immigrants, asylum-seekers and refugees that they might transition to life in the United States in safety, dignity and respect.

26 *Holy Trinity Sunday* Nicodemus came to Jesus with questions about faith, baptism and the kingdom of God. Rather than snub his curiosity, Jesus took the time to speak with him. What questions do you have about faith and theology? Share your uncertainties with God, trusting God to understand.

27 Pray for the ministry we pursue through ELCA Global Mission, and for the personnel, missionaries and volunteers who serve in long-term partnerships with our global companions in nine Latin American and Caribbean countries.

28 Sing a prayer of praise and worship to the Lord our God, creator of all that exists and sustains our lives.

29 Pray for teachers and professors in public and faith-based settings, who work with students of all ages and abilities to develop and nurture their faith, self-confidence, curiosity, creativity and caring relationships.

30 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Montana and North Carolina synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

31 Pray for the leaders, voting members and others gathering for the assemblies of the Southwest California, South Dakota, Southern Ohio, Lower Susquehanna, Western North Dakota, Southeastern and Florida-Bahamas synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and inspire them as they reflect on the mission of the church, choose leaders and encourage one another to proclaim the gospel and serve our neighbors in need.

UPcoming EVENTS

St. Peter's is hosting **Sundaes on Sunday** June 2, from 4-6pm. Join us for free ice cream and hot dogs and be sure to invite your neighbors and friends.



Celebration of Life for Judy Hagar (Trinity)
Will be May 18th from 12:00-3:00pm at Edgewood.
22 Edgewood Road Drums, Pa (570-788-1101)
Anyone wishing to go please let Kathy Brior know
by May 10th.
Her number is 570-956-3165

St. Peter's is having an outside cleanup day on May 13 at 5:30pm. Bring your gloves, hoes, clippers, buckets, etc.as we work to make the church flower beds ready for summer.

Outreach

For our April and May Outreach Project we are looking for people who can use some help with outdoor or indoor spring cleaning. If you are interested in volunteering to help with this project, or you know of someone who can use help with yardwork or otherwise, please contact Brenda Pitonyak by email: bpitonya@bloom.edu or phone: 570-204-8089.

St. Peter's Kauffman's Chicken BBQ fundraiser will be on Wednesday, June 12. It will be take out only from 4-6pm and tickets are \$13. The dinner includes ½ BBQ Chicken, baked potato, string beans, coleslaw, and cookies. For tickets, see Pastor Christine or any member from St. Peter's



May Birthdays

- 05/08 Susan Kocher
- 05/10 Beverly J. Michael
- 05/11 Chuck Henry
- 05/13 Lee Pitonyak
- 05/15 Michael Brown
Deb Thomas
- 05/18 Diane Derr
- 05/21 Ruth Diehl
- 05/29 Donald Cool



May Anniversaries

- 05/01 Dennis & Pam Starr



Happy Mother's Day



"There's no way to
be a perfect mother
and a million ways
to be a good one."

- Jill Churchill



St. Peter Worship Service Schedule for May

8:30 am on May 5 & 19 UCC

9:30 am on May 12 & 26

Emanuel Worship Service Schedule for May

10:15 am on May 5 & 19

10:45 am on May 12 & 26

Pastor contact info:

The Rev. Christine Kirchner
pastorkirchner@gmail.com

808-652-6740 or 570-384-4125

Emanuel's volunteers for Heat/AC &
Communion for May are
Charlotte & Pam