

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church

222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504

610-845-2583 christluthchurch@windstream.net

www.christniantic.com

March 2025

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A message from the Pastor...

The word "freedom" is a word we encounter frequently. It is also a word that can mean many different things to different people. The word can have different meanings in the realms of politics, law, and economics. It is also a word that comes up frequently in the church and the Bible. The problem with the word when we encounter it in the Bible is that we can bring in all these other meanings of the word and miss what the verse is trying to tell us.

So, what do we mean when we talk about "freedom" in Christianity? Martin Luther wrote about freedom in many of his works. One of his most famous works was called *The Freedom of a Christian*. In this short treatise, he explores this idea of Christian freedom and what exercising that freedom looks like in the lives of believers.

This writing builds on two themes he lays out in his introduction. They are: 1) "A Christian is lord of all, completely free of everything." 2) "A Christian is a servant, completely attentive to the needs of all."

Luther acknowledges that these themes "appear to conflict with one another." In the seeming contradiction between these two ideas Luther explores what the life of a Christian looks like both from within a person, and externally to the world. This short work is one of my personal favorites of Luther's writings and I believe it offers much to teach us about living out our faith.

During our midweek Lenten study, we will explore this short writing along with reflecting on some scripture passages that are important for Luther's thought. I will provide copies of this short work for you to study and keep.

This year our Lenten time is being held at St. Paul's, Sassamansville in the fellowship hall. We begin with a simple soup supper at 6PM and transition to a brief time of prayer and worship at 7PM before moving to our study time which will finish by 8PM. I hope you can join us for this time of fellowship, prayer, and study. I also hope you find *The Freedom of a Christian* as helpful and profound as I have found it through the years.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Official Pastoral Acts
(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since January 27, 2025



Newsletter Deadline -

Information for the April issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, March 11th**. There are several ways for you to submit your articles.



Reminder:

Don't forget to "spring your clocks ahead" on Saturday, March 8 when you go to sleep!!
You don't want to be late for church!

- ✓ E-mail it to me at: christluthchurch@windstream.net.
- ✓ Submit it on a flash drive, which can be borrowed from the church office;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday for the upcoming Sunday. Your cooperation in meeting this deadline is greatly appreciated. This allows the office ample time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Worship.

Notification in Case of Illness



Christ Niantic Lutheran hopes that all members will notify the church office if they become aware of any member who is ill or who may have other pastoral needs. Please do not assume that "someone else" has already called.

We do not mind receiving multiple notifications. Thank you!



Altar Flowers and Bulletins

The 2025 Altar Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted in the narthex.

There are Sundays still available for sponsors, so if you have that special day you'd like to honor or remember someone, please sign up. The cost of Altar Flowers is **\$40.00** and Bulletins are \$20.00. There will be no altar flowers during the Sunday's in Lent and Palm Sunday, March 9 – April 13. Questions can be directed to Sandy Gehman.

Church and Pastor's Office Hours

The Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 – 2 p.m.

All non-emergency, non-pastoral calls can be called into the church office during or after office hours.

Pr. Matt Finney will have office hours on Fridays.

If you'd like to meet/speak with Pr. Matt, or it's a pastoral emergency, please call Pr. Matt at 484-587-6506.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Patricia Moser
- 3 Chase Bartman, Steven Berner, Cathy Eldridge, Joanne Hoffman
- 4 John Francisco
- 5 Braden Bartman
- 6 Philip Hoffman, Sandra Hoffman
- 8 Kathy Drury, Holly Francisco, Elijah Novotny
- 9 Chasin Sminkey
- 13 Ellen Roberts
- 14 Susan Wilson
- 15 Gregory Moser
- 16 Bruce Bartman, Jr.
- 17 Rachel (Flicker) Lapinski
- 21 Ronald Elliott, Jr., Betty E. Hoffman (1933), Glenn Hoffman
- 22 Herbert Carter, Anna Gehman, Samantha Johns, Suzanne Moll (1945)
- 27 Diane Carter
- 29 Kade Davidheiser, Hunter Hoffman, Taylor Howard



Worship Attendance

Date	9:00 AM	Conf.
January 5	53	6
January 12	55	5
January 19	53	6
January 26	60	0 (youth led worship)

2024 Sun. Avg.: 36
2025 Sun. Avg.: 55 4

(Prior year averages are based on same time period)



**Mardi Gras Fastnacht
Coffee Hour**

Please join the FUN Committee on **Sunday March 2nd** in the Welcome Center for a **Mardi Gras Fastnacht Coffee hour!**

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services



**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE –
Wednesday, March 5
7:00PM at**

Christ Lutheran Church

On Ash Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran members are inviting St. Paul's members to join us for an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who desire to receive them.

As you receive the ashes, the words of Genesis 3:19 are spoken:
"From dust you came and to dust you shall return."



Mid-week Lenten Services

Mid-week Lenten services are being held Wednesday evenings March 12th through April 9th beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a soup supper and then at 7:00 p.m., a worship service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in the Fellowship Hall.



Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, March 11** beginning at 9:30 a.m., we will be tying quilts in the social hall. Help is always needed!! Then we will go to the...



Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The March Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, March 11, at 12 noon** At Argento's, 833 E. Phila. Ave., Boyertown. We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Argento's by 12 noon for lunch or meet us there!

Food Bank Donations

Donations for March/April will go to the Boyertown Multi-Service in Boyertown. Let's all make regular Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping. Your donations help their pantry during this time, so please think about picking up one or more items when you do your weekly grocery run and drop it off at the church to help those in need!

FOOD Items most needed are:

Pancake mix, Pancake syrup, Cereal, Crackers, Canned soups, tuna, meat meals (ex. Chef Boyardee, Manwich, Spam etc.), pasta sauce, rice, canned fruit, instant mashed potatoes, pasta sides

PERSONAL CARE items most needed are:

Shampoo, conditioner, soap bars, dish soap, laundry detergent, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorant

Thank you...

...Dear friends,

My husband, Jack, was at Encompass for some therapy. He spent Christmas there. When we returned to Chestnut Knoll, we found a beautiful quilt on Jack's bed! Your kindness really touched us and we send special thanks to everyone involved in making this lovely quilt. With sincere thanks,

Anastasia and Jack Hart

...to the person who donated and designated the money received in 2024 for the Quilting Ministry. Your donation is being used to buy fabric at the soon to be closing JoAnn Fabrics for future quilts. We really appreciate your generosity to this ministry that has touched so many lives!

CLC Quilters

Notice from the Cemetery Board

All planting of shrubs, trees or plants is prohibited. Remove all winter decorations 3 weeks **(by March 30)** before Easter. April through October all flowers and memorials will be removed 7 days after all holidays. All arrangements affixed on top of the gravestones may remain until they are unsightly.

Book Club

Our next Book Club gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 p.m.** in the Welcome Center.

Watch your bulletin and Niantic E-news for the book we will be reading.

Any questions, please contact Roxanne Fox.



Prayer Concerns
Prayer Chain Initiator:
June Herb (610) 754-7841 or
e-mail: JuneRose56@aol.com.

NOTE: Names on the prayer list remain on for one month, unless someone notifies June or the office to remain on longer.

Health & Healing:

Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz
Jay Crowe – friend of Bob/Lisa Heydt
Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy
Gerald Flicker
Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
Kelly Harring – niece of Nancy Folk
Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
Betty Hoffman
Wilson Hoffman
Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
Barron Kistler - Husband of Kallie Carter (Herb and Diane's daughter)

Charlie Orner
Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
Douglas Robinson – father of Donna Menear
Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Joe and Dottie Werner – sister & brother-in-law of Nancy Folk
Elaine Wolf – friend of Linda Hoffman

Safe Travels:

Sue Wade – Co-worker of Terry Flicker – Africa
Michael Mullen - Brother of Terry Flicker - Viet Nam
Cathy Belt - Friend of Terry Flicker – Florida

Concern:

T.J., Karen, Kathy – Co-workers of Terry Flicker

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Nancy Heydt – Bob/Lisa Heydt's sister-in-law (1/23)
Robert Haas – Sue Hoffman's cousin/son of Nancy Haas (1/30)
Rodney Moll (2/6)*
Dave Ritter – friend of Keith Folk (2/11)
Gary and Sandy Moyer – friends of Denise/Phillip Hoffman (2/16)

Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the Military*:

Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;
Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;
Dustin/Lisa Lowery – Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy's nephew/wife; Quinn Mason - Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson; William Zearfoss – Deb Matthew's nephew;
Matthew and Joseph Schwenk - nephews of Amy Eichinger; Nathan Powell – son of a friend of Amy Fluke

*If you know someone that is deployed or serving, please contact June or the church office to put them back on the list. Thank you.

Homebound Members of Christ Lutheran Church:

*For current addresses of our Homebound, please contact the church office.

Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood); Charlie Orner



Highlights from December 16, 2024 Council Minutes:

1. Election for officers for 2025:
 - a. President: Steve Novotny
 - b. Vice President: Dave Fioriglio
 - c. Secretary: Dawn Sandoval
 - d. Treasurer: Sue Hoffman
 - e. Asst Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio
 - f. Financial Secretary: Kathy Watts
2. Still need one nomination for council from Sue Hoffman
3. Date for installation of council - January 19th
4. Copier service contract with Davis has expired: Dave Fioriglio will be in contact with Altek to buy a new copier (\$3,429). Need to compare what is being offered to what we already have and will wait until January to reevaluate
5. Allocation of employee Christmas gift funds received: Gerry Flicker makes a motion that each employee (3) gets a third, Dave Fioriglio seconds it. Motion passed.

STAFF REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

- Property Committee Report: Melissa emailed the cleaning company with some complaints and Bill the owner was willing to correct issues; Pastor wants to know if they can come an extra time before Christmas because of the activity that will be occurring at the church right before the holidays. There are concerns with the zone valve for the heater. It was 42 degrees and after some manual adjustment, it is holding at 62 degrees. Hoping to get through the winter so the water does not need to be drained from the boiler.
- Pastor's Report: Ads will run until the open house
- Financial Secretary's Report
- Finance Report: Deficit of \$4,300, may turn around by Christmas service
- Mercy Ministries
- Endowment Committee: Gerry Flicker's term will be expiring and a new male member is needed
- FUN Committee - Met to discuss the Sportsman's Dinner

A motion made by Dave Fioriglio and seconded by Steve Novotny to accept the committee reports pending audit. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Nothing is happening with the av approval yet - Dave will reach out after the 1st of the year; each piece of equipment has a manufacturer warranty and the company warrants their work for one year.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Melissa received an email stating that someone attended and wanted to know how they can donate money. It could be a scam and will wait for a second email.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Sandoval
Council Secretary

**ENDOWMENT –
Grants to be awarded-
We need your proposals!**

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission of Christ Lutheran Church.

In 2025, we have a total of **\$4,988** available for distribution broken down (by set percentages) in the following categories:

- Christian Education (10%) - \$499.00
- Capital Improvements (15%) - \$748.00
- Scholarships and Grants (25%) - \$1,247.00
- Outreach (30%) - \$1,496.00
- Missions (20%) - \$998.00

The Endowment Fund Committee invites any member of Christ Lutheran Church or committee to submit a grant proposal on the next page of the newsletter or pick up in narthex by **March 31, 2025**. Please thoughtfully consider the needs of the church and our community, by sharing a need, submitting a grant proposal, help the Endowment Committee to fulfill our purpose and give glory to God with these gifts.

If you have any questions about this, please contact any committee member: Mike Knaub, Lisa Knaub, Bob Heydt, Dawn Sandoval, Denise Hoffman, new member; Norm Hoffman, Pastor Matt Finney or Gerry Flicker, who will continue to be the Endowment Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hoffman
Recording Secretary for Endowment



Easter Flowers

Tulips, to celebrate Christ's resurrection, may be ordered through **Sunday, April 6, 2025** by completing this form, attaching a check for the proper amount payable to Christ Lutheran Church, and place it in the offering plate OR mail it to the church at 222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504.

I would like to order _____ Tulips at \$9.00 per tulip.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

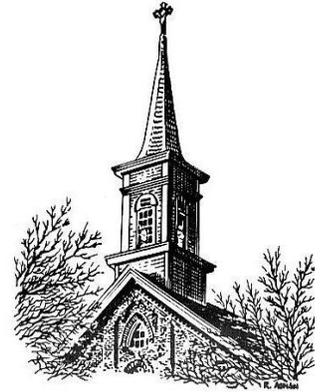
Your Name: _____

*Note: Any flowers not picked up by Wednesday, April 30 will be planted at the church. Thank you.



Endowment Fund Grant Proposal

(Grant Proposals must be submitted to the Endowment Fund
Committee by March 31, 2025)



Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Phone No.: _____

Your E-mail address: _____

Submit to:
Endowment Fund
Christ Lutheran Church
222 Niantic Road
Barto, PA 19504-9314
(610) 845-2583
christluthchurch@windstream.net

1. Name of person or organization for Grant Proposal:
2. Description of project for proposed Grant:
3. Amount of Grant Requested:
4. Total cost of project (if this Grant will not fund entire project, identify source of balance of funding):
5. To whom should the check be made payable?

Total Funds available for 2025 disbursement: \$4,988 (Place an "X" in the category for which this proposal is being submitted)

_____ (10% = \$499) Funding for ongoing Christian programs within Christ Lutheran Church.

_____ (15% = \$748) Funding for Capital improvements, building programs and / or reduction of debt incurred by Christ Lutheran Church in connection with such improvements or programs.

_____ (25% = \$1,247) Scholarships or grants to members of Christ Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending seminary; for church related camping or leadership conferences; or other such training which enables members of the congregation to grow in a Christian faith and service to God's people.

_____ (30% = \$1,496) Outreach into the community including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA colleges, seminaries, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and / or economic need.

_____ (20% = \$998) Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at home and overseas, including but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for new mission development in North America, professional leadership, education ministries, world mission and ecumenism, media evangelism and capital financing.

_____ *For Fund Committee Use Only* _____

Date Received _____ Accepted _____ Yes ___ No _____ Amount Pledged \$ _____

Date Distributed _____ Amount Distributed \$ _____ Check # _____

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - January 2025

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$8,301.23	\$8,301.23	\$8,870.51
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	662.84	662.84	450.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	111.77	111.77	170.65
OTHER INCOME	(23.07)	(23.07)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	<u>9,052.77</u>	<u>9,052.77</u>	<u>9,491.16</u>
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$2,709.00	\$2,709.00	\$4,399.13
OTHER STAFF	3,239.82	3,239.82	3,125.28
Subtotal Salaries	<u>5,948.82</u>	<u>5,948.82</u>	<u>7,524.41</u>
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	0.00	0.00	231.89
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	560.00	560.00	553.00
Subtotal Worship	<u>560.00</u>	<u>560.00</u>	<u>784.89</u>
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	79.00	79.00	130.00
STEWARDSHIP	523.78	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	283.75	283.75	244.67
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	<u>886.53</u>	<u>886.53</u>	<u>774.69</u>
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	88.30	88.30	135.19
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	363.24
Subtotal Church Administration	<u>88.30</u>	<u>88.30</u>	<u>498.43</u>
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	2,566.85	2,566.85	2,894.23
CLEANING SUPPLIES	96.92	96.92	0.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	10.00
Subtotal Building Operations	<u>2,663.77</u>	<u>2,663.77</u>	<u>2,904.23</u>
FUND EXPENSES	<u>0.00</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>7,124.41</u>
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>10,147.42</u>	<u>10,147.42</u>	<u>19,611.06</u>
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	<u>(\$1,094.65)</u>	<u>(\$1,094.65)</u>	<u>(\$10,119.90)</u>

Respectfully submitted
Susan Hoffman

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Worship:

9:00 a.m. ~ The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month and on all festivals.

Church Staff

Pastor: Rev. Matthew Finney ~ clcpastor@windstream.net
Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net

2025 Congregational Council

President: Steve Novotny Vice President: Dave Fioriglio
Secretary: Dawn Sandoval Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**
Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Gerry Flicker Keith Folk Roxanne Fox
Bob Heydt Danny Knaub Roberta Korsak
Pat Moser Marvin Steward _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)

(*non-council member / +youth member / second term)

Ministry Assistants for March 2025

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/Greeters
Sunday, March 2 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	_____*
Wednesday, March 5 (Ash Wednesday) 7:00 p.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	Lisa and Bob Heydt
Sunday, March 9 9:00 a.m.	Tenley Willman	Heather Moser		Denise Hoffman	The Willman Family
Sunday, March 16 9:00 a.m.	_____*	_____*		_____*	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
Sunday, March 23 9:00 a.m.	_____*	_____*		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
Sunday, March 30 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		_____*	Jennifer and Kevin Bomboy

Altar Guild: March 2: _____*; Ash Wednesday ~ March 5: _____*
March 9: Shirley Deery; March 16: Chershe Derr; March 23: Shirley Deery;
March 30: Chershe Derr

Counting Team: TEAM B – Mike Knaub (capt.); Kathy Watts, Keith Folk, Bob Borneman

_____ * = help is needed. If you can help, please e-mail or call the church office. Thank you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY		
			<h1>MARCH 2025</h1>					
(W/C) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall						1		
2 Transfiguration of Our Lord 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Mardi Gras Fastnacht Coffee Hour (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	3 7:00 Property (W/C)	4 10:00 AM Mercy Ministry (room H)	5 6:30 Senior Choir 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service at Christ Lutheran	6	7 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	8 "Spring" your clocks ahead when you go to bed.		
9 First Sunday in Lent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) <i>Daylight Savings Time Begins</i>	10	11 *April Niantic News articles are Due 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Ladies Lunch – meet in parking lot to carpool to Argento's, Boyertown	12 6:00 Lent meal at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	13	14 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	15 National Quilting Day		
16 Second Sunday in Lent/ Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	17 <i>St. Patrick's Day</i> 	18	19 6:00 Lent meal at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	20 <i>1st Day of Spring</i>	21 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	22		
23 Third Sunday in Lent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	24	25 7:00 Council Meeting (parlor)	26 6:00 Lent meal at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	27	28	29		
30 Fourth Sunday in Lent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	31 *Endowment Grant Proposals are DUE	April 1	April 2 6:00 Lent meal at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	April 3	April 4 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	April 5		