

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504
610-845-2583 christluthchurch@windstream.net
www.christniantic.com

October 2024

Page 1

A message from the Pastor...

Each week as we gather to worship and praise God, we take a moment to reaffirm our faith through the recitation of the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. As we continue to explore the "why" of some of our worship practices, this one can be misunderstood. This act is not merely a tradition we do because "that's the way we've always done it", but a profound declaration of belief that unites the community and connects us to centuries of faithful who have come before. The creed is not so much what "we believe" as individuals but what the Church confesses as the core aspects of the faith that we share.

Often, we might view the creed as the set of beliefs that one must affirm in order to be a member of the Church in good standing. The doctrines in the creed certainly help define the faith, but I don't think it is helpful or good to think of the creed as a "test" of an individual to determine who lives up to the standards of the Church. Instead, we look to the creed as what the whole Church lifts up as true and central. In this, the focus is on the belief of the whole Church not the understanding of individuals within it. Therefore, it is not essential that each person in the Church be able to give a dissertation on what the phrase "begotten not made" means in the Nicene Creed. That would be a difficult task indeed. Instead, it is a reminder to us that Church has confessed that Jesus is "begotten not made" for a reason. We look to that confession and all the others like it as the faith that the whole Church upholds and places at the center of our life together. Understanding all of it perfectly should not be a barrier to entry.

This weekly reminder of the central beliefs of the whole Church also helps us keep the "main thing the main thing." Too often congregations and denominations get into conflicts and disputes over issues that are not central to those doctrines outlined in the creed. This is not to say that anything that is outside of the creed is unimportant, but being a "creedal" church helps us to put things in perspective. If we can agree on these big things, then differences in how to interpret scripture, worship, or engage our faith in the world need not be church dividing.

For any one congregation, the creed is also a link to the global community of believers, beyond geographical boundaries and cultural differences. It is a reminder that we are part of something greater than themselves, a community of faith that stretches across time and space. Reciting the creed is an act of remembrance, a declaration of community, and affirmation of the teachings that form the whole Church.

Reciting the creed is also a promise made by the congregation, both to ourselves and to the world, that we will continue to uphold the central principles of the faith. We confess with the whole Church those same beliefs that the Church has confessed for centuries. As the congregation looks forward to the future, the creed remains a vital part of our worship, a foundation upon which we build our community of faith.

In Christ,
Pr. Matt

Official Pastoral Acts
(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since August 26, 2024

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!

Church Office Hours and Pastor Matt's Contact Info

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

If you need to speak to Pr. Matt regarding a pastoral emergency, please call him at (484) 587-6506.

Pr. Matt's Office Hours are Friday's from 10 AM – 1 PM.

All other calls can be called into the church office or left on the answering machine.

From the Church Office

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the November issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, October 8th**.

There are several ways for you to submit your articles:

- E-mail it to me at christluthchurch@windstream.net;
- Submit it on a borrowed church's USB flash drive;
- Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

MEMBERSHIP AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

VISITORS are always welcome to the Table!

MEMBERS (two types)
Voting & Non-voting

The only way you can ever be removed from the membership roll at Christ Lutheran, or any ELCA congregation:

- You request a transfer
- You ask to be removed
- You depart this life

VOTING members must make a record of having:

- Filled out a communion card and received the Lord's Supper ONE time per year

Contributed ONE time per year, making sure your name or envelope number is included

Attendance

Date Worship (9:00 AM)

August 4 49

August 11 58

August 18 50

August 25 50

2023 Sun. Avg.: 50

2024 Sun. Avg.: 52

[Prior year averages are based on same time period]



Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, October 8** 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

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, October 8** at **12:00 noon**.

We will be going to Tosco's on Main Street, Pennsburg.

We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to restaurant.

Hope you can join us!

October Birthdays

- 1 Charles Orner (1933)
- 3 Kenneth Moser
- 4 Ernest Fox
- 5 Michael Appold (1938)
- 6 Amy Eichinger, Grant Stevens
- 7 William Floyd (1942)
- 9 Zoe Eichinger
- 11 Susan Bendinsky (1942), Drew Hoffman
- 12 Tirrell Hoffman, John Moll (1937)
- 14 Matt Bauer, Lisa Heydt, Bruce Houck, Alexandra Nester
- 16 Phyllis Ingram
- 19 Lorrie Zuber
- 20 Wilson Hoffman (1935)
- 21 Mackenzie Hoffman
- 25 Sandra Miller, Jackson Moser, Tenley Willman
- 28 Linda Quinn
- 30 Wendy Barton, June Herb (1938)



| DATE | ALTAR FLOWERS* | BULLETINS |
|------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| October 6 | Bruce & Diane Houck | OPEN |
| October 13 | Steve and Ava Novotny | OPEN |
| October 20 | Terry & Gerry Flicker | OPEN |
| October 27 | Linda Hoffman | OPEN |

*Cost of Altar Flowers is \$35.00 per week and Bulletins is \$20.00 per week. OPEN Sundays: sign up in narthex or call office. Please contact Sandy Gehman if you have questions or concerns.

2025 ALTAR FLOWER NEWS: Due to the price of flowers going up at Red Hill Florist, the altar flower cost, beginning in January 2025, will be **\$40.00** for two bouquets.



Reformation Sunday: October 27



Lutherans join all Protestant churches in celebrating Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday in October. We remember the day, October 31, 1517, on which Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the door of the Castle Church in

Wittenburg, Germany. This marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a huge milestone in the history of the church and also an event that changed secular history.

Nominating Committee

Council

Have you ever considered serving on the Congregational Council? Every year, we are looking for leaders to fill some needed vacancies. Are you the one to serve God in this capacity? Please feel free to **contact any member of Council (see Council list in newsletter)** if you have an interest in leading our church into the future.

****updated since publication**

Thank you...
Thank you...

...for our generous donation of 105 lbs. of non-perishable food items for our pantry that was dropped off on August 28. Together we help our friends and neighbors flourish!

Marianne Lynch,
Executive Director at Open Link

Prayer Concerns



Prayer Chain Initiator: June Herb
Contact her at: (610) 754-7841 or
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
Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub
Bob Aston
Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy
Dave – friend of Nancy and Keith Folk
Merle Deery
Gerald Flicker – Gerry and Denise Hoffman's father
Gerry Flicker
Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
Gil – friend of Kathy and Ken Watts
Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
Betty Hoffman
Roy Hoffman
Sarah Hoffman – Steve Hoffman's sister
Wilson Hoffman – associate member of Niantic
Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister
Janet Kratz – wife of Nancy Fioriglio's cousin
Lou Levasseur - 101 year old father of friend of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio
Sue Lorish – sister of Melissa Seasholtz
Maria's brother – Maria is a coworker of Kathy Watts
Deb Matthews
Lyla Moulin – Janet Schaffer's granddaughter
Charlie Orner
Mary Lou Oswald – neighbor of the Barr's
Hayden Peifer - young friend of the Moser Family
Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
Debbie Pienta
Ricky Plumley – Sandy's son
Douglas Robinson – father of Donna Menear
Ethan Schoenly - 10 yr. old cousin of Lindsey Mason
Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman
Mark Stofflet
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Carol Laimer – cousin of Pat Moser's son-in-law (9/3)
Marie Hillegass – Janet Schaeffer's Aunt (9/22)

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; Ryan Watts – nephew of Kathy Watts; 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 or the 2024 Membership Directory.

Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood);
Phyllis Hartenstine; Charlie Orner

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Mercy Ministry is still collecting Redner's Save-a-Tape BUT when submitting your receipts, I have to have the bottom part that says "Today's Contribution - \$XX.xx" or Save-a-Tape with the dollar figure. Without this on the bottom, Redner's will not give us the 1% back. So, all you need to do is get a Save-A-Tape card from Redners, go shopping at Redner's and deposit your complete receipt in the box in the narthex. Redner's will send us a check for 1% of the receipts! It's that easy! Any questions, please contact Shirley Deery at (610) 367-0548.

BOYERTOWN AREA MULTI-SERVICE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

During October, the Mercy Ministry Committee will be collecting items for the pantry. Non-perishable items of all kinds are always needed and appreciated.

The following items are current priority food pantry needs at the current time:

FOOD

| | | |
|--------------|--|------|
| Pancake Mix | Pancake Syrup | Rice |
| Cereal | Crackers | Tuna |
| Pasta Sauce | Canned Soup | |
| Canned Fruit | Instant Mashed Potatoes | |
| | Meat Meals (ex. Chef Boyardee, Manwich, Spam etc.) | |
| Pasta Sides | | |

PERSONAL CARE

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bar Soap | Shampoo/Conditioner |
| Hand soap | Dish soap |
| Laundry Detergent | Toothpaste |
| Toothbrushes | Deoderant |

The Food Bank collection boxes are located in the coat/mailbox room.



"God's Work, Our Hands": September 8

On Sunday, September 8, we celebrated "God's Work, Our Hands" during the service with the Blessing of the Hands and Blessing of the Hygiene products collected during August for the Boyertown Multi-Service. Immediately following the service, a Coffee Hour was held in the Welcome Center with displays from the Mercy Ministry Committee. Highlighted items were the Quilt Ministry that Johanna and Wilhelmina Lysinger started in 1972. During the years of 2018 - 2023, 1,605 quilts were distributed to various organizations near and far. Mercy Ministry also collects Redner's tapes, collects cost of postage for Christmas card exchange as well as non-perishable food for local food pantries throughout the year.

We thank all those who used their "hands" to help in the making, tying, and crocheting of these beautiful quilts and afghans.

The Endowment Committee has also given much needed funds to the following organizations and many more that are not listed: Operation Christmas Child, Cemetery board, Bear Creek Camp, Mission Trip, SPCA, Crop Walk and the list goes on! We are so blessed at Niantic that "our hands" can continue to do "God's Work"!

Highlights from the August Council Meeting ~ July 23, 2024

1) Windstream /Kinetic Lease Extension:

Windstream is requesting to increase the lease to a 5 year term with 3 renewals. Pastor Matt received a call from Terrapact.com who is interested in buying our lease. During discussion, it was mentioned that Finance would like to give the D&E lease money back to Endowment. When will the five year lease begin? Discussion was tabled until questions get answered by Windstream.

2) Capital Campaign for exterior painting:

Announce campaign in August Newsletter. Property should provide a paint bucket to advertise campaign.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a) Property – access / seating in nave for wheelchairs / walkers. Pastor will bring up possible changes prior to Sunday's service.
- b) Property – Lighting / power in parking lot.
- c) Technology committee – meeting being scheduled

NEW BUSINESS:

Pastor will be on vacation Friday 8/2 and 8/12 to 8/18.

Provide envelopes to nonmembers that are in church regularly was discussed:

Envelopes are available since extras are always ordered. This would provide non-members with documents for their taxes. If needed, the possibility of a membership class was also mentioned.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Flicker

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - August 2024

09/19/2024 05:06 PM

Page: 1

| | Current Period | Year to Date | YTD Prior Year |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------|
| INCOME | | | |
| CONTRIBUTIONS | \$8,557.77 | \$80,369.84 | \$87,728.10 |
| OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS | 410.00 | 3,802.00 | 4,847.00 |
| INVESTMENT INCOME | 172.63 | 1,350.96 | 459.12 |
| OTHER INCOME | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.60 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 9,140.40 | 85,522.80 | 93,034.82 |
| EXPENSES | | | |
| SALARIES | | | |
| PASTORAL MINISTRY | \$4,399.13 | \$36,411.94 | \$35,637.30 |
| OTHER STAFF | 3,145.76 | 27,293.91 | 26,830.63 |
| Subtotal Salaries | 7,544.89 | 63,705.85 | 62,467.93 |
| WORSHIP | | | |
| MUSIC | 100.00 | 1,135.89 | 1,587.97 |
| ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE | 0.00 | 300.00 | 300.00 |
| WORSHIP SUPPLIES | 271.15 | 2,239.51 | 1,395.55 |
| Subtotal Worship | 371.15 | 3,675.40 | 3,283.52 |
| CHRISTIAN EDUCATION | | | |
| CURRICULUM MATERIALS | 0.00 | 34.76 | 127.50 |
| Subtotal Christian Education | 0.00 | 34.76 | 127.50 |
| OTHER MINISTRIES | | | |
| SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH | 68.00 | 204.00 | 206.00 |
| ADVERTISING EXPENSE | 0.00 | 265.00 | 0.00 |
| STEWARDSHIP | 0.00 | 400.02 | 400.98 |
| INTERNET EXPENSES | 293.95 | 2,212.48 | 1,852.96 |
| Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach | 293.95 | 2,877.50 | 2,253.94 |
| CHURCH ADMINISTRATION | | | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE | 99.84 | 1,263.20 | 1,309.53 |
| EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE | 45.59 | 632.88 | 242.08 |
| Subtotal Church Administration | 145.43 | 1,896.08 | 1,551.61 |
| BUILDING OPERATIONS | | | |
| HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS | 410.51 | 8,754.02 | 9,344.26 |
| CLEANING SUPPLIES | 765.00 | 3,043.73 | 2,633.70 |
| REAL ESTATE TAX | 0.00 | 139.56 | 134.37 |
| BUILDING MAINTENANCE | 8,603.98 | 19,052.92 | 468.82 |
| Subtotal Building Operations | 9,779.49 | 30,990.23 | 12,581.15 |
| INSURANCE | | | |
| FUND EXPENSES | 0.00 | 5,768.75 | 5,724.00 |
| | 0.00 | 7,701.66 | 3,385.71 |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 18,202.91 | 116,854.23 | 91,581.36 |
| TRANSFERS | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 |
| TOTAL TRANSFERS | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES | (\$9,062.51) | (\$31,331.43) | \$1,453.46 |

Respectfully submitted
Suzanne Hoffmann

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

2024 Congregational Council

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

Dave Fioriglio Gerry Flicker Keith Folk
Roxanne Fox Roberta Korsak Pat Moser
Marvin Steward _____ + (5/24-4/25)

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




Ministry Assistants for October 2024

| | Acolyte | Lector | Communion Assist | Assisting Minister | Ushers/Greeters |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|
| October 6 9:00 a.m. | _____* | Bob Heydt | _____* | _____* | Lisa & Bob Heydt |
| October 13 9:00 a.m. | _____* | _____* | | Terry Flicker | Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak |
| October 20 9:00 a.m. | Tenley Willman | Tori Willman | | _____* | The Willman Family |
| October 27 9:00 a.m. | _____* | Diane Houck | _____* | Denise Hoffman | Ginnie Wilkinson and _____* |

Altar Guild: Sue & Norm Hoffman

Counting Team: TEAM A – Butch Fox (capt.); Bob Heydt, Lisa Heydt

_____ * = Help is needed. Please call/e-mail the church office if you can help. Thank you!

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------|---|--|---|--|
|  | | <h1>October 2024</h1> | | | |  | |
| (W/C) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall <i>*change since publication</i> | | 1 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; margin: 5px 0;">Melissa attending Secretaries Seminar. Answering machine and mail will be checked.</div> 6:30 Mercy Ministry (room H) | 2 7:00 Sr. Choir | 3 | 4 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours | 5 | |
| 6 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) | 7 6:30 Property (W/C) | 8 November NIAntic NEWS Articles DUE 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Tosco's, Pennsburg – meet in parking lot at 11:30 AM to carpool for 12 noon lunch 7:30 Finance (W/C) | 9 7:00 Sr. Choir | 10 | 11 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours | 12 | |
| 13 Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) | 14 <i>Columbus Day</i> | 15 7:00 Endowment (W/C) | 16 7:00 Sr. Choir | 17 | 18 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0; text-align: center;">Melissa Vacation Day</div> | 19 | |
| 20 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) | 21 | 22 7:00 Council (parlor) | 23 7:00 Sr. Choir | 24 | 25 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours | 26 | |
| 27 Reformation Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) | 28 | 29 | 30 7:00 Sr. Choir | 31  Halloween | Nov. 1 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin: 5px 0; text-align: center;">Melissa Vacation Day</div> | Nov. 2 | |