

# Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church  
222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504  
610-845-2585  
christluthchurch@windstream.net  
www.christniantic.com

April 2025

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## *A Message from the Pastor...*

*Recently, we reached the five-year anniversary of the pandemic. That dubious milestone caused me to think back to those early weeks and especially that Easter of 2020. I went back to read my Easter sermon from that year, and I thought I would share some excerpts with you here.*

...we are reminded that life is a precious, sometimes fragile, gift from God given to us for the purpose of glorifying God and loving our neighbor. We are also reminded that there are forces beyond our control in this world, and just because we wish something were so does not make it so.

We can see how we all are so desperate for a cure for this disease, one that works quickly and instantly. Now we should want a cure because that means that the suffering and death that comes with this virus comes to an end. That is unquestionably good, but I think there is also desperation for a cure because we long to make this all go away in the blink of an eye. We want to go back to the way things were, back to our plans, our way of life. Of course, we want that, who wouldn't choose to make this all go away with the flip of a switch, just like waking up from a bad dream? But part of that motivation is also that we can go back to living under the illusion that our life is under our own sole control. We do not want to be confronted with our relative helplessness in the face of disease and death.

This pandemic reminds us every day that Death is our enemy, and that is not a pleasant thought. We naturally do not want to dwell on such things. That ultimate enemy, death, comes for Jesus and as his body is laid in the tomb and the stone rolled over the opening it looks like death has won again. A perfect record.

When death seems victorious, when the future seems hopeless, when it looks like there is no way forward, God makes a way. At that moment of despair and hopelessness God redeems, restores, and resurrects.

When the women arrive at the tomb the earth shakes, lightning strikes, and the battle concludes. The angel delivers the news, Jesus is risen. God has raised him up, death will no longer have hold over him. Death's perfect record is broken. Death's ultimate power is defeated. Death's hold over us is broken.

On this side of the Kingdom, death still wreaks havoc in this world, as we see in our world so clearly right now. But because of the resurrection, death does not have the ultimate power over us. Death does not get the final say for us.

We can see the glimmers and signs of the day when death will no longer have a say in this world. We can see the signs of hope emerging all around us. We see it in those who put their own life and health on the line to serve others; the medical workers, first responders, national guard members, grocery and pharmacy workers. We see it in communities coming together to donate supplies, make masks, and support the work of the hospitals. We can see it in food donations from individuals, families, and businesses to feed those who are hungry and support

*A Message from the Pastor continued...*

those who have lost income or employment because of the virus. These are just some of the signs that death will not have the last word over us. As the days go on there will be others as some of the old ways of life are put to death through this ordeal, new life will rise in its place. Together as we remember that life is God's gift, we have a new chance to put that gift to use to God's praise and glory and for the building up of our communities and God's kingdom.

Because of all this we know that while death seems all powerful, when death is raging, new life and resurrection are not far behind. Death is here but new life is on the way because of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In Christ,  
Pastor Matt



**Official Pastoral Acts**  
(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)  
Graveside service for Harold Schoenly  
on March 13, 2025.



**Quilt Tying**  
will be held on **Tuesday, April 8** beginning at  
**9:30 a.m.**

in the social hall.

Then we will join the ...

**Lutheran Ladies Lunch**

which will be held on **Tuesday, April 8**  
meeting in the parking lot at **11:30 a.m.**  
to carpool to the Washington Grille and Pub,  
Rte. 100, Bechtelsville for a 12 noon lunch.  
If you'd prefer to meet us there, we will see you  
there by 12 noon!



**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!



**Office Hours and Pastor's Availability**

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

In case of a pastoral emergency or you need to speak to Pr. Matt, you can call him at (484) 587-6506.



**Sunday Attendance:**

Date	9:00 a.m.	Conf.
February 2	53	4
February 9	20	0
February 16	44	0
February 23	49	4
2024 Sun. Avg.:	53	
2025 Sun. Avg.:	42	2



**April Birthdays**



- 1 Barbara Hoffman, Donna Menear, Gerald Shaner
- 3 Carol Berner\*, Shelby Stevens
- 7 Judy Moser
- 8 Izabel Sandoval
- 9 Daniel Knaub, Jacob Knaub
- 12 Grant Willman
- 14 Callie Bartman, Jeff Stifnell
- 19 Dustin Lowery
- 25 Corrine Hoffman, Julissa Sandoval
- 26 Lori Brown, Tori Willman
- 27 Miles Lapinski
- 30 Nancy Folk (1945)

*(Prior year averages are based on same time period)*

# Thank you...

...it was quite a surprise to receive a very generous payment for randomly stepping in to play in January, as I had planned to be there with my good friend, Elisa Borneman, her family and friends. I was happy to be there and grateful to share my music with folks and happy to help out. I didn't expect anything, very grateful! Thank you so much. I hope to visit again sometime! Sincerely, **Suzanne Polak**

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

The prayer shawl ministry has been happening here at Christ Lutheran Church for the past 12 years. During that time, approximately 200 prayer shawls have been given to people from our congregation and community when they were experiencing times of illness and loss. Hopefully this ministry brought comfort and reassurance of our love and support to those who received them.

However at this time Mercy Ministry has decided to discontinue the distribution of the shawls. We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who has contributed to this ministry by making the shawls and taking time to distribute them by making visit to those in need of comfort during difficult times.

## Member Address Change:

The Orner's (Charlie and Polly) moved on March 19.  
Their new address is:

The Village at LifeQuest, Apt. 317  
2100 Cherry Blossom Lane  
Quakertown PA 18951

Phone number for Polly remains the same as listed in the 2025 Membership Directory.

## Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:  
June Herb at (610) 754-7841 or  
[Junerose56@aol.com](mailto: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.

## Joy:

.... Birth of Haislee June Mason - 2<sup>nd</sup> grandchild of Lindsey/Corey Mason was born 03/10.



## Health & Healing:

- Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz
- Jim Barr
- Bill Davis - Cheryl Barr's brother-in-law
- Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
- Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
- Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
- Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
- Betty Hoffman
- Charlie Hoffman
- Wilson Hoffman
- Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
- Kendel – sister of a friend of Kathy Watts (3/10)
- Barron Kistler - Husband of Kallie Carter (Herb and Diane's daughter)
- Barry McIlvee – friend of Bob Gabel
- 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
- Gail Watts – Ken Watt's stepmother
- Joe and Dottie Werner – sister and brother-in-law of Nancy Folk
- Kelly Werner – niece of Nancy Folk

## God's Presence and Comfort:

Faye Bernhard – Melissa Seasholtz's mother

## Death (Family and Friends of...):

- Harold Schoenly (2/28)
- Curt Swavely – brother of Harold Swavely (3/5)
- Forrest Fronheiser - Lindsey Mason's grandfather (3/5)

## 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 (Village at LifeQuest)

**Mercy Ministry:**

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

**Food Bank Donations**

Donations for April will go to Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Let's all make regular Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping. Your donations help the 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!

**Flip for Ronald**

Little aluminum flip top soda pop tabs can add up to dollars for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House.

Tabs can be placed in the Plastic bin on counter in the Narthex.

**Redner's Save-A-Tape Program****Shirley Deery, Coordinator**

Please continue saving your Redner's Save-a-Tape receipts BUT make sure you DO NOT cut anything off the bottom of the receipt. We need the whole receipt in order to get the 1% back. Simply get a Save-a-Tape card from Redners, shop and turn your entire receipt into the box in the narthex. We earn 1% of all receipts we receive. Any questions, please contact Shirley Deery.

**Mother's Day Collection**

We will be collecting the following items for a special donation to the Boyertown Area Multi-Service:

**Baby/Children***Baby wipes**Baby powder**Baby shampoo**Baby bath wash**Baby lotion**Diaper crème**Children's shampoo**Children's toothpaste**Children's toothbrushes***Teenager/Young Adult (male/female)***Body wash**Deoderant**Shampoo**Hair conditioner**Body lotion**Toothpaste**Toothbrushes***Deadline for donations is May 4<sup>th</sup>!****Kauffman Chicken Barbecue Fundraiser**

On **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**, Christ Lutheran Church and the FUN committee will be holding another **Kauffman Chicken Barbecue** fundraiser. The proceeds will go to Troy and Sherri Snyder to help them recover from a house fire back in November.

**Tickets** go on sale starting **March 23** until **May 4**. We are asking for baked goods for a bake sale table as well, so if you are able to bake that would be greatly appreciated. For more information, see poster in the newsletter. Any questions please see Lisa Heydt or any of the FUN committee. Thank you for your support!



**Highlights of January 28, 2025 Council Minutes:**

1. Additional name is needed to replace Sue Hoffman on Council. Danny Knaub is contemplating it at the moment.
2. Copier replacement - Dave Fioriglio has been in communication with XPO, a copier company out of Limerick. It will be \$2600 for the machine and \$800/year for the maintenance contract. It would allow 45,000 black and white copies and 8,000 color copies. The maintenance contract offers 24 hour service and if they come out and cannot repair the machine, they can bring over another one while the original one is being repaired. There is no backlog to order a machine at this time. The memorial fund can be used to purchase the copier and the maintenance contract can be from the general fund. Roxanne Fox made a motion to pass and Marvin Steward seconded it. Unanimous vote, motion passed.
3. The next Congregational Meeting is February 9, 2025, right after service.
4. The Congregational Lay Leadership Information Sheet was handed out to officers on Council. They should be completed and returned to Melissa.
5. The Endowment Committee: Norm Hoffman has agreed to take Gerry Flicker's spot. A unanimous vote was taken. Motion passed.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

1. AV Technology Update: The new owner met with Dave for a walkthrough to review the setup. He reviewed the specs, site conditions, quotes, and potential challenges. One key issue discussed was the camera mounting. Initially, the proposed location was too low, which would have captured the backs of people's heads. The new owner suggested that if it was mounted on the balcony, there probably would not be any vibrations. The quote will be adjusted to reflect minor changes, however, the overall budget approval remains under \$20,000. The adjustments are minimal, including a less powerful computer since the system will operate via a hardware-based solution. The timeline is as follows: it will take approximately two months to receive the equipment, with installation expected to take about three days.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Bob Heydt was approached with some minor complaints about the wine. No changes at this time.
2. Roberta Korsak mentioned that a member would like to have a photo directory. Council has decided to table this idea for now.
3. Handheld microphones should be used at congregational meetings to ensure everyone can hear what is being discussed.
4. If there are any events that are occurring, please let the "sign guys" know (Gerry, Pastor).
5. If anything financial is approved at council, Sue Hoffman and/or Nancy Fioriglio need to be informed.
6. Pastor will be away 2/13 - 2/15

Respectfully submitted by,  
Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

Holy Week Services

***Palm Sunday – April 13, 9:00 a.m.***

*Holy Week begins April 13 with our Palm Sunday services at the usual time with the Blessing and Distribution of Palms and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.*

***Maundy Thursday – April 17, 7:00 p.m.***

*Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, which was the occasion for the institution of Holy Communion. The members of St. Paul's Lutheran invite the congregation of Christ Lutheran for a service at 7:00 p.m. at their church.*

***Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 18***

*at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran. We invite members of St. Paul's Lutheran for a service of prayer and reverence at the cross.*

***Easter – April 20*** *at 6:30 a.m. beginning in the cemetery. A Coffee Hour will be held beginning at 7:30 a.m. in the Welcome Center then at 9:00 a.m., we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with a service of Holy Communion in the sanctuary.*

*Join us during Holy Week!*



**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.



**KAUFFMANS CHICKEN BARBECUE  
AND BAKE SALE  
TO BENEFIT THE SNYDER FAMILY**

**FRIDAY, MAY 9, 2025**

**4:00 PM - 6:00 PM**

**PICK UP OR EAT IN**



**\$15.00**

**1/2 CHICKEN, BAKED  
POTATO, BAKED BEANS,  
APPLE SAUCE AND A ROLL**

Tickets on Sale beginning March 23  
Sundays after church or in the church office  
Deadline to order Sun. 5/4/25

**CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, NIAN TIC , SOCIAL HALL**

**222 NIAN TIC ROAD, BARTO, PA 19504**

<https://www.christniantic.com/>

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
<b>INCOME</b>			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$10,813.77	\$19,115.00	\$21,151.77
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	540.00	1,202.84	886.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	101.06	212.83	330.55
OTHER INCOME	0.00	(23.07)	0.00
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>11,454.83</b>	<b>20,507.60</b>	<b>22,368.32</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>SALARIES</b>			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,556.57	\$7,265.57	\$8,798.26
OTHER STAFF	3,389.82	6,629.64	6,271.04
Subtotal Salaries	7,946.39	13,895.21	15,069.30
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
MUSIC	0.00	0.00	296.89
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	320.00	880.00	840.79
Subtotal Worship	320.00	880.00	1,137.68
<b>OTHER MINISTRIES</b>			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	87.00	87.00	68.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	20.97	99.97	130.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	315.89	599.64	489.44
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	336.86	1,223.39	1,019.46
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATION</b>			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	343.34	431.64	384.90
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	800.00	800.00	363.24
Subtotal Church Administration	1,143.34	1,231.64	748.14
<b>BUILDING OPERATIONS</b>			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	3,408.49	5,975.34	3,220.74
CLEANING SUPPLIES	1,124.00	1,220.92	680.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	110.22	110.22	463.94
Subtotal Building Operations	4,642.71	7,306.48	4,364.68
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
FUND EXPENSES	2,389.25	2,389.25	1,930.25
	2,600.00	2,600.00	7,335.91
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>19,465.55</b>	<b>29,612.97</b>	<b>31,673.42</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$8,010.72)</b>	<b>(\$9,105.37)</b>	<b>(\$9,305.10)</b>

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Susan Hoffmen*



**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](mailto:clcpastor@windstream.net)  
 Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ [debmatth@comcast.net](mailto:debmatth@comcast.net)  
 Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ [christluthchurch@windstream.net](mailto: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](mailto: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 April 2025**



	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Communion Assist</b>	<b>Assistant Minister</b>	<b>Ushers/Greeters</b>
<b>April 6 9:00 a.m.</b>	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
<b>April 13 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m.</b>	_____*	Heather Moser	Heather Moser	Terry Flicker	Shirley and Merle Deery
<b>April 18 Good Friday 7:00 p.m.</b>	_____*	Diane Houck		Denise Hoffman	Jennifer and Kevin Bomboy (greeters only)
<b>April 20 Easter 6:30 a.m.</b>	_____*	_____*	_____*	_____*	The Fox Family
<b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Tenley Willman	Bob Heydt	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	Ian Eichinger, Roberta Korsak and Lisa Heydt
<b>April 27 9:00 a.m.</b>	_____*	Diane Houck		_____*	_____ and _____*

**Altar Guild:** Kathy Watts and Chershe Derr (April 6 and 27), Shirley Deery (April 13)

**Counting Team:** TEAM C – Bruce Houck (capt.), Diane Houck, Nancy Fioriglio, Dave Fioriglio

\_\_\_\_\_ \* = **Help needed** – please call/e-mail the church office if you can help.  
 Thank you. \*updated since publication

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<h1>April 2025</h1>				
		<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 6:00 Soup Supper at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent Service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 8:30 Coffee & Conversation W/C 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	<b>7</b> 7:00 Property (W/C)	<b>8</b> <b>**May</b> Niantic News Articles are <b>DUE</b> 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Ladies Lunch – meet in church to carpool to Washington Grille & Pub, Rte. 100 7:00 Book Club (W/C)	<b>9</b> 6:00 Soup Supper at St. Paul's 7:00 Mid-week Lent Service at St. Paul's 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>12</b> 10:00 AM Easter Egg Hunt for kids at St. Paul's, Sassamansville
<b>13</b> <b>Palm Sunday</b> 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Distribution of Palms 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	<b>16</b> 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>17</b> 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's	<b>18</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours 7:00 Good Friday Service at Christ Lutheran	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> <b>Easter</b> 6:30 Easter Dawn Service / Holy Communion 7:30 Coffee Hour (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion	<b>21</b> <b>Office CLOSED</b> in observance of Easter	<b>22</b> 7:00 Council (parlor)	<b>23</b> 7:00 Senior Choir <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 7:00 Senior Choir	<b>May 1</b>	<b>May 2</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>May 3</b>