

Niantic News

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

February 2025

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A message from the Pastor...

I recently read an article about church "trends" for 2025. You might not think our congregation is "trendy" but according to this article we are. I want to highlight two of the trends below.

More congregations will employ part-time pastors.

This is something that we have been experiencing over the past few years as I serve both Christ Lutheran and St. Paul's. More and more congregations will find themselves utilizing similar arrangements in the future. As we know, most congregations have this type of ministry arrangement in their history. It was the norm for the first 150 to 200 years of the church in the United States. This trend is also closely related to another trend.

Collaborative forms of ministry allow smaller churches to remain viable.

After part-time or shared pastors, the next step is toward collaborating in ministry with more aspects of the congregation. How can congregations and other community organizations work together for a shared purpose or goal? The article states, "As churches seek to maximize resources and strengthen community ties, collaborative forms of ministry such as cooperative parishes, hubs, and multisite charges are increasing. In these models, multiple congregations work together to share ministries, staff, and/or facilities for more effective outreach and discipleship." By forming partnerships we pool our resources, share best practices, and support each other in our mission to serve our communities. Together, we can achieve more than we ever could alone, demonstrating the power of unity in Christ's work. We have taken steps here at Christ Lutheran toward a more collaborative model, but I believe we should explore this even more.

In 2025, I would like to see the congregation here at Christ Lutheran look at our strengths, resources, and signs of vitality to see how we can partner both with St. Paul's and other congregations and organizations to build up the whole body of Christ in our local area. Working together we can make an impact in spreading the good news of Jesus Christ and ministering in his name to those who need to know and experience the goodness of God.

If you would like to take a look at the article I referenced it can be found here:

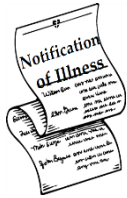
<https://www.churchleadership.com/leading-ideas/7-trends-impacting-church-leadership-for-2025/>

Finally, I would like to thank the congregation for the Christmas bonus. Thank you for your generosity and care.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt



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’s Contact Information

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. Thank you. Pr. Matt’s church e-mail is: clcpastor@windstream.net.

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral of Roy Hoffman on Saturday, December 21, 2024.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Evan Fluke
- 2 Dorothy Willing (1944)
- 3 Karen Hoffman
- 11 Hunter Francisco, Ginnie Wilkinson
- 13 Cheryl Barr
- 15 Matthew Knaub
- 17 Terry Hoffman, Eloise Swavely
- 18 Sandra Hoffman
- 20 Mark Stofflet, Dominick Witman
- 21 Lou Ann Howard
- 25 Ronald Asplen



Attendance

	<u>9:00</u>	<u>Conf.</u>
December 1	56	6
December 8	57	4
December 15	68	4
December 22	54	3
December 29	34	0

2023 Sun. Avg.: 46 0
 2024 Sun. Avg.: 54 3
(Prior year averages are based on same time period)

Christmas Eve service attendance:
 3:00 PM – 101; 9:00 PM - 67



Newsletter Deadline – Information for the March issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, February 11th**. There are several ways for you

to submit your articles:

- ✓ E-mail it to me at christluthchurch@windstream.net
- ✓ Submit it on a flash drive that can be borrowed from the church office, or
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox in the mail/coat room.

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

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The 2025 bulletin and flower charts are posted in the Narthex. If you have a particular date that you want, you will need to sign-up early. Please complete the charts fully with your name, as sponsor, and also the reason for the sponsorship. Use the envelope on the counter in the narthex for your payment and drop in the offering plate. Thank you. The cost of **Altar Flowers** is **\$40.00** and Bulletins are \$20.00.

Snow, Blizzards and Ice!

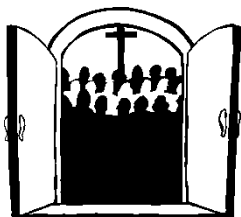
Just a reminder - During inclement weather, we will always try to have worship for those who can make it. When we cancel worship due to impassable roads, we will change the answering machine message, send that message thru on the prayer chain, post on Facebook, or in severe conditions it will be shown on Channel 69 TV. Even if we manage to have worship or some other program, never risk life and limb to attend! It is not uncommon for two inches of snow to fall in Niantic and 8 inches in the hills above Bally and Hereford. It is **okay** to stay home and enjoy your family in such situations, BUT when you are able – practice the discipline of worship! Leaders – please let the office know of cancellations and postponements so we can notify others.



On **Sunday, February 9** is Super Bowl Sunday, where all across the country we watch two teams play for the title of Super Bowl Champion. Here at Christ Lutheran, we will also have “**Souper Bowl Sunday**” to help our neighbors with much needed non-perishable food donations, as well as monetary donations. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item to church, as well as a \$2.00 or more to throw into the “soup” pot as you come or as you leave church to help support the Pottstown Cluster, February’s Food Pantry selection. During the past few years, we have seen a higher number of our neighbors needing our local food pantries. Your help in this will help those in need.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 9th



Congregational MEETING

The February Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 9, 2025**, following the service at **9:00 AM**. We will hold the meeting in the sanctuary.

As we did in 2024, annual reports of committees and organizations as well as the new membership directory are not mailed, but are available for pick up in the church office or on the counter in the narthex. We will also be voting on a Youth Council Member at this meeting and the open Council member position.

Reminder - to be eligible to vote at any congregational meeting a confirmed member

must have BOTH communed of record AND contributed of record within the past two years.

The next Communion will be on Sunday, February 2!

Quilt Tying

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

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The February Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, February 11** meeting at church at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Doc’s Irish Pub, Rte. 73, Gilbertsville for lunch at 12 noon.

If you prefer to meet us at Doc’s, we will see you there at 12 noon.

Christ Union Cemetery Guideline News:

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.

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.

Birth of...

Dylan Gerald Lapinski to Rachel (Flicker) and Drew Lapinski on Tuesday, January 14. Proud grandparents are Terry and Gerry Flicker.

Health & Healing:

- Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz
- Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub
- Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy
- Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
- Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
- Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
- Karen Haas – Denise Witman's sister
- Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
- Hilary - Friend of Willman Family
- Betty Hoffman
- Wilson Hoffman
- Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
- Barron Kistler - Husband of Kallie Carter (Herb and Diane's daughter)
- Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister
- Charlie Orner
- Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
- Dave Ritter – friend of Keith Folk
- 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
- Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
- Joe and Dottie Werner – sister and brother-in-law of Nancy Folk
- Zaniah – a girl waiting at bus stop with Lori Ermold's grandson

Death (Family and Friends of...):

- Joe McChessney – Pat Moser's daughter's father-in-law (1/13)
- Mike Letnaunchyn – friend of Denise/Philip Hoffman (1/21)
- Nancy Heydt – Bob/Lisa Heydt's sister-in-law (1/23)

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.

- Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood);
- Charlie Orner

WANTED:
Acolytes; Lector; Assistant Ministers; Communion Assists; and Usher/Greeters
Would you like to serve in any of these positions on a Sunday morning? No experience necessary as you will be trained.
If you are interested, please contact the church office.



CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES
YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in California are growing every hour as wildfires completely destroy homes and communities. Houses, schools, churches, grocery stores, businesses ... all reduced to ashes.
Our partners at Lutheran World Relief are already preparing a response, including sending LWR Quilts and Kits to affected families. The destruction and need are overwhelming.

Right now, the number one need is financial gifts so that the team at Lutheran World Relief can reach our neighbors as quickly as possible.

HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at lwr.org/fires, by scanning the QR code below or by mailing a check to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write **FIRES** in the memo line.

Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Designate **"LWR FIRES"** when making your gift and we will rush a gift from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

Thank you for sharing God's love with our neighbors when and where they need it most.

Until your love reaches every neighbor.



Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson



Food Bank

Donations for February will go to Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center. Let's all make regular Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping. The Food Bank collection box is located in the mail/coat room. The collection is ongoing throughout the year helping various food banks.



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 box in the Narthex.

REDNERS! REDNERS! REDNERS!

Thank you everyone for making the Redner's Save-a-Tape a success. And it's so easy....just stop by Redners and get a Save-A-Tape card. 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.

Food Bank Donation Locations for 2025:

- January & February - Pottstown Cluster Outreach
- March & April – Boyertown Multi-Service
- May & June – Salvation Army
- July & August – Open Link, Pennsburg
- September & October – Boyertown Multi-Service
- November & December – Salvation Army

**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 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, Gerry Flicker, Denise Hoffman or Pastor Matt Finney.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hoffman
Recording Secretary for Endowment

Thank you...

...to the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church who so generously give to the Employee Christmas Gift at the end of each year. I personally appreciate the generosity of those who give and want to thank everyone for the gifts from this over the past seventeen years! You are all so kind and thoughtful! Love,

Melissa Seasholtz

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 2024 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 - December 2024

01/08/2025 11:48 AM

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$15,879.52	\$126,358.92	\$138,105.14
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,645.00	8,519.52	7,002.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	121.01	1,894.26	1,673.85
OTHER INCOME	23.04	23.04	0.60
TOTAL INCOME	17,668.57	136,795.74	146,781.59
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,477.13	\$55,305.36	\$54,162.23
OTHER STAFF	3,145.76	41,311.08	41,007.83
Subtotal Salaries	7,622.89	96,616.44	95,170.06
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	29.10	1,400.49	1,862.53
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	600.00	300.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	140.00	2,886.39	2,079.49
Subtotal Worship	169.10	4,886.88	4,242.02
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	34.76	127.50
SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	232.63
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	34.76	360.13
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	87.00	291.00	274.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	265.00	0.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	400.02	400.98
INTERNET EXPENSES	288.10	3,364.72	2,912.89
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	288.10	4,029.74	3,313.87
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	115.73	1,929.66	1,963.08
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	81.10	713.98	1,363.29
Subtotal Church Administration	196.83	2,643.64	3,326.37
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	286.26	10,985.60	15,216.36
CLEANING SUPPLIES	0.00	4,184.03	4,665.44
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	139.56	134.37
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	20,877.92	3,008.71
Subtotal Building Operations	286.26	36,187.11	23,024.88
INSURANCE	0.00	7,682.00	5,724.00
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	7,849.36	3,385.71
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,650.18	160,220.93	138,821.04
TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$9,018.39	(\$23,425.19)	\$7,960.55

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
Roberta Korsak Bob Heydt Pat Moser
Marvin Steward _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)

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



Ministry Assistants for February 2025



	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/ Greeters
February 2 9:00 AM	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	Sue and Norm Hoffman
February 9 9:00 AM	Tenley Willman	Tori Willman		Terry Flicker	The Willman Family
February 16 9:00 AM	_____*	Sue Hoffman		Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
February 23 9:00 AM	_____*	Diane Houck		_____*	Jennifer and Kevin Bomboy

Altar Guild: Shirley Deery

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

_____ * = if you are able to help, please contact the church office. Thank you.

*updated since publication

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<i>February 2025</i>				
						1
2 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	3 6:30 Property (W/C)	4 7:00 Endowment (W/C) *rescheduled from January 21	5 7:00 Senior Choir	6	7 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	8
9 "Souper Bowl of Caring" 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Souper Bowl Sunday 10:00 Feb. Congregational Meeting – Confirmation students attend 10:30 Confirmation (room I)	10	11 *March Niantic News Article Deadline 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Lutheran Ladies Lunch meet at church then carpool to the Doc's Irish Pub for 12 noon lunch	12 7:00 Senior Choir	13	14 <i>Valentine's Day</i> ♥ 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	15
16 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	17 Office Closed – President's Day	18	19 7:00 Senior Choir	20	21 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	22
23 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 (parlor)	26 7:00 Senior Choir	27	28 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	