

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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www.christniantic.com

October 2026

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A message from the Care Team...

Our Care Team plays an important role in supporting members of our congregation who are homebound, experiencing health challenges or are dealing with other difficult life circumstances. Originally formed several years ago, the team was created to supplement pastoral visits and ensure that those unable to attend worship still feel connected to the church community.

In the past, the team met quarterly to coordinate visits, deliver small remembrances from the church, and occasionally provide home communion between pastoral visits.

As our congregation now navigates a pastoral vacancy, the Care Team responsibilities have been increased in order to stay abreast of the concerns and needs of our members. Meetings take place monthly and team members are assigned to assist with areas of concern. In addition, home communions are provided regularly for those unable to attend our services.

We are grateful to Pastor Eugene Zaiser of Trinity Lutheran Church in Bechtelsville, who has been appointed as our Vice Pastor. Pastor Zaiser assists with urgent pastoral needs and meets with the Care Team to remain informed about the needs our members.

If you or a family member has a concern and would like to have the support of the Care Team, please contact Sue Hoffman, Coordinator, at 610-310-8516.

Current Care Team Members: Kay Barr, Shirley Deery, Lori Ermold, Roxanne Fox, June Herb, Sue Hoffman, Roberta Korsak, Cindy Miller, Pat Moser and Kathy Watts.

Please be assured that even though Christ Lutheran Church currently does not have a regular pastor, our church family remains intact and support continues to be available to everyone in need.

Submitted by,
Sue Hoffman, Coordinator

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral service of Charles Hoffman on September 4, 2026. Pr. Eugene Zaiser officiated.

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

Pastoral Emergency Contact Info

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

If you have a **Pastoral emergency need**, please call Vice-Pastor, Pr. Eugene Zaiser at (610) 322-0901. Thank you.

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 13th**.

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.

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 6 and Wed. Oct. 7 because the Admin Assist will be attending the Parish Secretaries Seminar. Answering machine and mail will be checked.

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 2	54
August 9	42
August 16	38
August 23	46
August 30	40

2025 Sun. Avg.: 40 14

2026 Sun. Avg.:

[Prior year averages are based on same time period]



October Birthdays

- 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
- 19 Lorrie Zuber
- 21 Mackenzie Hoffman
- 25 Sandra Miller, Jackson Moser, Tenley Willman
- 30 Wendy Barton, June Herb (1938)



From the Council President...

A few weeks ago, Bob Heydt and I met with our Synod Dean, Pr. Serena Sellers to discuss our transition, obtain any updates, and talk toward next steps. Pr. Sellers indicated that she expected to be able to provide us with an Interim Consultant, a specialist in helping to work through the details of identifying and matching our congregational needs with long-term pastoral leadership, within the next month or two.

Our synod leaders continue to reach out to the Northeast PA Synod to explore multi-point and shared pastoral opportunities with other congregations that are located nearby or geographically close enough to allow a shared pastor relationship to be feasible. There are many congregations that are in a similar position to us; needing to fill a pastoral vacancy, not being able to afford the expense of a fulltime pastor and feeling the impact of the lack of candidates.

Pr. Gene Zaiser will continue to serve as our part-time Vice Pastor. His help and leadership have been invaluable during our transition. His ability to serve during unscheduled times of need and provide other pastoral support is greatly appreciated.

We are currently seeking new council members for 2027. Please consider joining us. We are also in need of a youth member for a one-year term. If you are interested or know of anyone who might be, please let us know prior to the November congregational meeting.

As always, the council recognizes the continued support of the congregation as we continue our journey. Thank you!

Dave Fioriglio
Council President

Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, October 13** beginning at **10:00 a.m.**, we will be tying quilts in the room H.

Help is always needed!!

Then we will go to the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday, October 13** at **12:00 noon**.

We will be going to Washington Grille and Pub, Rte. 100, Bechtelsville.

We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Washington Grille and Pub.

Hope you can join us!

DATE	ALTAR FLOWERS*	BULLETINS
October 4	Bruce & Diane Houck	OPEN
October 11	Steve and Ava Novotny	OPEN
October 18	Willman Family	OPEN
October 25	Linda Hoffman	OPEN

*Cost of Altar Flowers is \$40.00 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.

**Reformation Sunday: October 25**

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.

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

Brandon Ambrose – son of a friend of Amy Fluke

Baby King – baby's father, Spencer, is Pat Moser's grandson's best friend

Baby Reagan – newborn granddaughter of Amy Fluke's friend

Jim Barr

Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy

Richard Campbell – Roberta Korsak's brother-in-law

Terry Flicker

Pat Gabel – Bob's wife

Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt

Tim Hoffman – Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker's brother-in-law

Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet

Gordie Moser – cousin of LaVerne Moser

LaVerne (Muck) Moser

Mark Nicholson - father of friends of the Willman family

Otto Nuss

Bonnie Shipley - Mother of Sue Hoffman's daughter-in-law

Bill Starrett – friend of Terry/Gerry Flicker, attends CLC

Mark Stofflet

Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Wally Updegrove

Keith Weller – son-in-law of Kay Barr's cousin

Elaine Wolf – friend of Linda Hoffman

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Charlie Hoffman (8/28)

Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the

Military*:

Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;

Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;

Dustin Lowery – Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy's nephew;

Quinn Mason - Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson;

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.**

Mary Ache; Barbara Hoffman (Assisted Living in Wilmington, DE)

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. **NOTE: a NEW coordinator** of the Redner's Tape is being sought! Shirley has been doing this for many years. If you would like to know more, please see Shirley!

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

Pasta Sauce

Canned Soup

Tuna

Canned Fruit

Pasta Sides

Meat Meals (ex. Chef Boyardee, Manwich, Spam etc.)

Instant Mashed Potatoes



PERSONAL CARE

Bar Soap

Shampoo/Conditioner

Dish soap

Laundry Detergent

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Deodorant

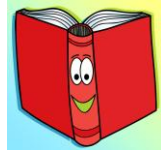
The Food Bank collection boxes are located in the coat/mailbox room.



"God's Work, Our Hands": September 13

Thank you to everyone who contributed items for the Boyertown Multi-Service "Birthday bags". We were able to assemble 32 bags on "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday, September 13. Also, a thank you goes out to everyone who helped with the assembly that day after church!

Book Club



The Book Club will be reading the book:

"The Guest List" by Lucy Foley.

The book in a bag can be borrowed from the bag that is on the table in the Welcome Center.

We will meet on **Thursday, November 5** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Welcome Center to discuss the book.

Participants are asked to come with suggestions for future reads.

If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Fox.



For our 80+ Members...

IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Invites were sent out to all those members who are 80+ years young in September!

Please come for lunch, entertainment and (of course) Ice Cream and Birthday Cake!

We're celebrating everyone's birthday including yours!

Saturday October 17th
11:00 a.m. - ?? p.m.

in the Social Hall at
Christ Lutheran (Niantic) Church –
353 Congo-Niantic Road

Please **RSVP** by **October 9th**
to Nancy Fioriglio at
(cell) 484-680-3164 or
~ (email) kratzfioriglio@comcast.net

If you need a ride, please let us know!

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



Income & Expense as of August 2026

	Current Month	Year-to-date	Prior Year-to-date
Income	\$ 11,647	\$ 91,785	\$ 86,053
Expenses	\$ 11,153	\$ 90,166	\$ 126,530
Excess Income / (Expenses)	\$ 494	\$ 1,619	\$ (40,477)

Thank you...

...for your donation of 75 lbs. of food given to The Open Link at the end of August. Your generosity means a lot in the community.

Marianne Lynch, Ex. Director

FESTIVAL OF TREES



Christ Lutheran Church Niantic is once again sponsoring a themed 7 ft decorated tree at the Boyertown Area Multi-Service "Festival of Trees" event.

Our tree theme this year is "**Bundle of F.U.N.**" to celebrate the F.U.N. committee's milestone of hosting 100 activities over the years. During the months of October and November, tree decorations and gift donations related to this theme will be collected by the tree that will be set up in the Welcome Center. All sponsored trees will be on display during the Open House on Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th taking place at Boyertown Area Multi Service at (200 West Spring Street, Boyertown, PA - near the YMCA). During the Open House, raffle tickets to win one of the decorated trees will be available for purchase. Lucky winners are selected at the end of the event on Saturday.

Please contact Bruce and Diane Houck or any member of the F.U.N. committee if you have questions.



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.

Highlights from the July Council Meeting ~ July 28, 2026:

1. Parish Secretaries Conference

-25% discount if paid before August 1st

Motion made by Roxanne to pay for Melissa attending the conference, seconded by Roberta Korsak, Motion Carried.

2. Discuss Bishop's Address from synod Assembly

New agenda from Bishop/synod, potentially not worth looking into much more given priority of trying to find a pastor.

Priority needs to remain trying to form a partnership with other congregations. Topic to be tabled until closer to finding a pastor.

Put out potential feelers to other congregations to see if they would be interested.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lot update

Butch said that someone from Zuber, said the lot may be worth up to 60k. It was suggested by Zuber that if we wanted to sell it to the people across the street offer it to them for 40k.

Need to look into disposition of an asset in the bylaws, may need a congregational vote. At least make the congregation aware this may occur.

Transition update

Bob and Dave were scheduled to meet with Pastor Serena and Pastor Zaiser. Although Pastor Serena missed the meeting, Dave received information of a consultant from the synod who may help create a partnership with a congregation in a NE synod or SE synod.

Dave plans to reach out if we could have a council representative at the meeting to gain more information.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knaub
Council Secretary

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
Consolidated - August 2026

09/13/2026 10:49 AM

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$10,452.10	\$82,716.74	\$78,994.15
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,150.00	7,906.00	6,162.84
INVESTMENT INCOME	44.99	1,162.08	879.38
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	16.93
TOTAL INCOME	11,647.09	91,784.82	86,053.30
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$1,519.35	\$18,559.80	\$35,860.45
OTHER STAFF	3,787.36	29,476.94	28,338.53
Subtotal Salaries	5,306.71	48,036.74	64,198.98
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	500.22	1,268.18	876.22
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	100.00	700.33	0.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	120.00	2,168.49	2,436.90
Subtotal Worship	720.22	4,137.00	3,313.12
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	151.18	0.00
OTHER MINISTRIES	45.00	219.00	261.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	0.00	51.42
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	437.40	168.94
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	422.39	523.78
INTERNET EXPENSES	315.43	2,664.86	2,822.74
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	334.43	3,524.65	3,566.88
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	119.37	1,280.92	1,572.34
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,227.92	968.25
Subtotal Church Administration	119.37	2,508.84	2,540.59
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	562.83	11,874.67	12,938.94
CLEANING SUPPLIES	586.17	3,807.21	3,722.19
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	147.98	143.84
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	3,478.37	8,273.55	6,932.03
Subtotal Building Operations	4,627.37	24,103.41	23,737.00
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	7,485.00	7,163.75
	0.00	0.00	21,748.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,153.10	90,165.82	126,530.09
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$493.99	\$1,619.00	(\$40,476.79)

Respectfully Submitted,
Lusan 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: Vacant ~ clcpastor@windstream.net
Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net

2026 Congregational Council

President: Dave Fioriglio Vice President: Bob Heydt ☒
Secretary: Dan Kanub Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**
Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Braden Bartman Lori Ermold Keith Folk ☒
Roxanne Fox ☒ Norm Hoffman Roberta Korsak
Pat Moser Marvin Steward ☒ _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)

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

Ministry Assistants for October 2026

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
October 4 9:00 a.m.		Donna Menear	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	_____ * and _____ *
October 11 9:00 a.m.		_____ *		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
October 18 9:00 a.m.		Bob Heydt		Denise Hoffman	Lisa and Bob Heydt
October 25 9:00 a.m.		Diane Houck	Sue Hoffman	Nancy Fioriglio	Ginnie Wilkinson and _____ *

Altar Guild: Shirley and Merle Deery

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

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 October 2026 						
(W/C) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall				1	2	3
				Melissa Vacation Days ~ answering machine and mail checked		
4 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Pr. David Lutcher preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	5 6:30 Property (W/C)	6 Melissa attending Secretaries Seminar. Answering machine and mail will be checked.	7 10:00 Mercy Ministry (room H) 7:00 Sr. Choir	8	9	10
11 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Brad Mellon preaching / Special Music by: Finely Fluted 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13 November NIAN TIC NEWS Articles DUE 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Washington Grille and Pub - meet in W/C at 11:30 AM to carpool for 12 noon lunch 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	14 7:00 Sr. Choir	15	16 Melissa Vacation Day ~ answering machine and mail checked	17 11:00 a.m. – ?? p.m. 80+ Birthday Party (S/H)
18 Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. David Lutcher preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	19 Melissa Vacation Day ~ answering machine and mail checked	20	21 7:00 Sr. Choir	22	23	24
25 Reformation Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion / Pr. Scott Staub preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	26	27 7:00 Council (parlor)	28 7:00 Sr. Choir	29	30 Melissa Vacation Day ~ answering machine and mail checked	31  Halloween