

Niantic News

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

January 2026

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A message from the Pastor...

The whole Church and every individual congregation have a story to tell. It is a story filled with faith, resilience, and love. In the past, we may have been able to assume that most people knew about the church and its story. That is no longer the case. As we reflect on ministry today, we are called to share our story with the community, inviting others to become a part of our family. Whether someone has been within the church since the beginning or are just now hearing about it, the story of church should inspire you and bring you closer to God's love.

From Sunday worship services to book groups and Bible studies, the church is a place where everyone can find friendship and support. Here we want people to feel accepted, valued, and encouraged to grow in their faith.

The church also has a commitment to serving the community. Through food drives, quilt making, and outreach programs, we seek to meet the needs of those around us. We know that faith is expressed in action, and our story should tell of those acts of kindness and compassion.

As we seek to share our story, it can seem like bragging. We know that the things we do are done in response to God's love made known in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus, not to "show off" or earn God's favor. We want to share what we do with the wider community so that we can reach out and let people know that the church exists for the sake of the world, we do not exist for ourselves.

Too often people may carry the assumption that the church and faith is at best a "private" thing or at worst a self-serving enterprise. The only way to dispel these notions is to tell others who we are and what we are about.

If we seek to expand our ministries, deepen our relationships, and continue to serve with humility and joy, then we will need to let those outside the church know our story. As we begin a new year take some time to reflect on your own story of faith and how Christ Lutheran Church has been a part of that story. Why do you devote your time and efforts toward faith? Why does the wider Church and this congregation matter to your faith?

What is the story to share about Christ Lutheran Church?

The church remains open to those who seek comfort, guidance, and a place to call home. The church helps ground our stories in the life and story of Jesus. The church invites others to join and share their own story, and to help write the next chapter of Christ Lutheran Church together.

In Christ,

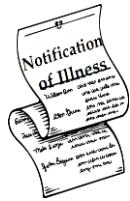
Pr. Matt



Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since November 20, 2025.

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

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.

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 the prayer chain, 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.



*From the
Church
Secretary*

Newsletter Deadline –

Information for the February issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, January 13th**. 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, which can be borrowed from the church office and returned;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Bulletin Deadline is Thursday 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.

ATTENTION!!!
2025 Annual Report
Committee and Staff Reports
are DUE by
Monday, January 4th.

If you have not submitted your article, please do so as soon as possible.

Please e-mail your reports to:

christluthchurch@windstream.net.

Thank you!

January Birthdays!!

- 2 Duane Riegner
- 5 David Delp, Donna Stifnell
- 9 Shirley Deery
- 11 Jenna Eisenhart
- 14 Dylan Lapinski
- 17 Joshua Nase, Sandy Plumley (1941)
- 19 Robert Aston (1943), Ella Hoffman
- 21 Jamie Johns
- 24 Thomas Farmer (1933)
- 27 Leonard Bendinsky, Barbara Steward, Julia Weller
- 30 Mike Knaub





Sportsman's Dinner

**Saturday,
January 17,
2026
Social Hall**

Doors open at 5:30 p.m.

*Admire animal mounts

Dinner at 6 p.m.

*Entrees made with beef and wild game

***Bring a side dish or dessert to share!**

Speaker – Jake Knaub at 7 p.m.

*Dessert and coffee will be served

Limited seating available, so please
sign-up in the narthex by **Sunday,
January 11** to reserve your seat!



2026 Council Installation

Sunday, January 18

2026 Officers:

President: TBD

Vice President: TBD

Secretary: Dan Knaub

Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**

Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** and

Financial Secretary: Kathy Watts**

(**non-Council members)

We welcome returning members: Dave Fioriglio and Roxanne Fox who are remaining on Council in 2026 for a second term and welcome Braden Bartman for serving!

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The bulletin and flower charts for 2026 are posted in the Narthex.

If you have a particular date that you want, you will need to sign-up early.

The cost of Altar Flowers is **\$40.00** and Bulletins are **\$20.00**.

Note: On Sundays in Lent (February 22 through March 29 (Palm Sunday)), we will not order altar flowers.

All questions regarding Altar Flowers or Bulletins can be directed to Sandy Gehman.

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

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.

Care and Concern

Fire on Friday, Nov. 21 at Transfiguration Lutheran Church (and then Invictus Ministries) – former church of Nancy and Dave Fioriglio

Health & Healing:

Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy

Phil Boyer – LaVere Moser's cousin's son-in-law

Pat Gabel – Bob's wife

Greg Gwisc and family – brother-in-law of Colin Temple

Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt

Leroy Heissler – friend of Denise Hoffman's family

Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet

Roberta Korsak

Addie Lorah – newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey Mason

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC

Rosalie Seasholtz – Melissa Seasholtz's mother-in-law

Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman

Marvin Steward

Andy Thomas (and family) – friend of the Menear family

Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Jason Witman

Elaine Wolfe – friend of Linda Hoffman

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Keith Barrows - friend of Cheryl Barr (11/21)

Elsie Krall – Lisa Heydt's mother (11/24)

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.

Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood);

Dorothy Willing (Frederick Living/Cedarwood);

Sue Bendinsky (Chestnut Knoll)



Quilt Tying

will be held on **Tuesday, January 13** beginning at **9:30 a.m.** in room H of the church (across from choir room).

Then we will join the ...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The January Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, January 13** at

12 noon at Main Street Pub, Bally.

We will meet at the church at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Main Street Pub for a 12 noon lunch or you can meet us there.



Book Club

Do you enjoy reading or listening to books?

We are continuing the Book Club at Christ Lutheran Church.

Our next book will be **"The Measure" by Nikki Erlick**. You might be able to borrow it from your local library, purchase it online or in a bookstore.

We invite all readers to join us on **Tuesday, February 10** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Welcome Center to share your thoughts about this book.

Also come with suggestions for future reads.

If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Fox.



Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	<u>Confirmation / Bible Study</u>
November 2	54	4 / 17
November 9	58	6 / 0
November 16	49	4 / 10
November 23	45	2 / NA
November 30	44	4 / NA


2024 Sun. Avg.: 49

5

2025 Sun. Avg.: 50

4 / 14

[Prior year averages are based on same time period]

Brown Bag Bible Study


The “**Brown Bag Bible Study**” will continue in the month of January on **Wednesdays: January 7, 14, 21 & 28** (weather permitting). The Bible Study will be held in the Welcome center at **12 noon**, and you are invited to bring along a lunch if you wish. It will be a casual discussion-based study. The book of the Bible we will be discussing is to be determined. This study is open to everyone. Bring along your own Bible or you can borrow one from the church.

Mercy Ministry:

Food Donations for January and February will be accepted and then donated to Open Link, Pennsburg. Please drop your donations off in the coat/mailroom.

See list below for the “most” needed donations.
Thank you.

Thank you...

...to everyone for supporting and donating to the Church's Festival of Tree sponsorship. It was a success because of you

....**The F.U.N. Committee**

...to Kay and all the ladies who worked and served in the kitchen for the funeral luncheon of Charlie Orner. Also a big thank you for all the delicious desserts that were prepared for us. Your kindness was so very appreciated. **Sincerely, Polly and family**

...to June Herb and the Care Committee for the nice gift bag filled with goodies and the poinsettia that was dropped off. I appreciate all of you for thinking of me.

Sandy Plumley

...to Christ Lutheran Church
Your thoughtfulness is greatly appreciated.
Thank you and Merry Christmas to everyone!

Bob and Linda Aston

URGENT PANTRY NEEDS:

- SOUPS AND STEWS
- COOKING OIL
- CANNED FRUIT IN JUICE
- FRESH PRODUCE - ORANGES, APPLES, POTATOES, ONIONS
- PANCAKE AND BAKING MIXES
- SNACK ITEMS - CRACKERS, COOKIES, CHIPS, PRETZELS
- CONDIMENTS - MAYO, MUSTARD, KETCHUP
- SALAD DRESSINGS
- CEREAL
- CANNED CHICKEN
- PEANUT BUTTER
- JELLY
- TOMATO SAUCE
- CANNED PASTA
- LONG PASTA (SPAGHETTI, LINGUINI)
- RICE & PASTA SIDES

THE OPEN LINK

2025 Lutheran World Relief Quilt Distribution

During their first year of U.S. distribution, LWR was able to send 21 shipping containers of quilts and kits to be distributed in 12 states during local disasters. Your donations are the first to arrive and the last to leave in the worst hit areas of the United States. This means over 114,000 quilts were donated to those in need in the Eastern, Western and Central United States!

Highlights from the November 17, 2025 Meeting:

1. St Paul's next steps: Nothing is official at this point. The plumbing problem has become more complicated at St. Paul's; Congregational meeting at CLC went well when discussing St. Paul's situation
2. Insurance surveys: Gerry reported that approximately 90% is completed; there is no deadline to return them and Melissa will scan and email it to the people that need it
3. December meeting: Monday, December 15th at 6:30 - bring food

OLD BUSINESS:

1. TerraPact: based on the current lease with Windstream - offering \$52,500. The lease goes to 2045 - should we keep collecting the \$4,000 per year or accept the \$52,500? General consensus was to keep it the way it is right now. The \$4,000 goes into the endowment committee. The email will be sent to the finance committee to review.
2. Vitality survey: Feedback - some questions were unclear but it is used across the whole country so some of them were nonspecific to our congregation. There is a meeting with Pastor Linda Mason on December 2nd at 6pm (zoom link will be available as well) to review
3. Safe Place Policy: council will discuss it again at January's meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Congregational meeting minutes: what is the best way to get them out before the next meeting to approve them? February and November meeting minutes will be approved during the following February meeting
2. Water tank: pressure leak was occurring in social hall; quote for the well pump and the parts that were changed \$1525 (does not include the pump if it needs to be changed); Pending the properties assessment, Danny Knaub made a motion to approve up to \$1,700 for the water system, seconded by Dave Fioriglio. The motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Sandoval
Council Secretary

Thank you...

On behalf of everyone at **Boyertown Area Multi-Service**, thank you for being a valued tree sponsor for our **19th Annual Festival of Trees**. Your generosity, creativity, and support helped make this beloved community tradition a tremendous success.

Thanks to sponsors like you, **more than 1,000 community members** attended over the two-day event, creating a festive and welcoming atmosphere for families of all ages. From beautifully decorated trees to visits from **Santa and the Grinch**, the smiles, laughter, and holiday spirit filled every corner of our building. Warm **hot chocolate and chocolate chip cookies** added to the magic, making the Festival a truly memorable experience for everyone who attended.

Because of your support, the Festival of Trees raised a **net profit of \$30,000**, directly benefiting the vital programs and services Boyertown Area Multi-Service provides to individuals and families in our community. Your sponsorship plays a meaningful role in helping us meet essential needs and bring hope to those we serve.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership and would be honored to count on your support again for **next year's Festival of Trees**. Together, we can continue to spread joy, strengthen our community, and make an even greater impact.

With heartfelt thanks and warm holiday wishes,



Frank Buttaro Jr.

Director of Development & Marketing
Boyertown Area Multi-Service

200 West Spring Street

Boyertown, PA 19512

610-367-6957, ext 230

fbuttaro@boyertownareamulti-service.org

www.BoyertownAreaMulti-Service.org



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

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$17,477.35	\$113,415.88	\$110,479.40
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,277.00	9,168.84	6,874.52
INVESTMENT INCOME	168.36	1,146.62	1,773.25
OTHER INCOME	0.00	(18.65)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	18,922.71	123,712.69	119,127.17
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,556.57	\$50,785.62	\$50,828.23
OTHER STAFF	3,239.83	39,584.15	38,015.32
Subtotal Salaries	7,796.40	90,369.77	88,843.55
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	9.12	1,180.89	1,371.39
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	324.00	600.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	160.00	2,956.90	2,746.39
Subtotal Worship	169.12	4,461.79	4,717.78
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	109.20	129.19	34.76
Subtotal Christian Education	109.20	129.19	34.76
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	0.00	261.00	204.00
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	51.42	0.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	234.07	265.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	335.15	3,839.59	3,076.62
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	354.15	4,648.86	3,741.64
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	116.39	2,118.83	1,813.93
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	18.97	1,054.21	632.88
Subtotal Church Administration	135.36	3,173.04	2,446.81
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	385.74	14,205.86	10,699.34
CLEANING SUPPLIES	0.00	4,402.19	4,184.03
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	143.84	139.56
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	2,284.59	13,694.45	20,877.92
Subtotal Building Operations	2,670.33	32,446.34	35,900.85
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	9,543.00	7,682.00
	0.00	21,748.77	7,849.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	11,234.56	166,781.76	151,420.75
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$7,688.15	(\$43,069.07)	(\$32,293.58)

Respectfully submitted
 Susan Hoffner

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

2026 Congregational Council

President: TBD Vice President: TBD
 Secretary: Dan Knaub Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**
 Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
 e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Braden Bartman Dave Fioriglio ☒ Keith Folk ☒
 Roxanne Fox ☒ Bob Heydt ☒ Roberta Korsak
 Pat Moser Steve Novotny Marvin Steward ☒

_____ + (5/25-4/26)

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



Worship Assistants for January 2026

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Greeters/Ushers
Sunday, January 4 9:00 AM		Diane Houck	Sue Hoffman	Terry Flicker	Roberta Korsak and Ian Eichinger
Sunday, January 11 9:00 AM		Donna Menear	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
Sunday, January 18 9:00 AM		Bob Heydt		_____*	Lisa and Bob Heydt
Sunday, January 25 9:00 AM	Youth/Teachers	Youth/Teachers/Parents		Denise Hoffman	Youth/Teachers/Parents

Altar Guild: Jamie Johns

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

_____ * = **Help is needed.** Please call the church office if you are able to help.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<div> <div>WC = Welcome Center</div>  <div>January 2026</div>  </div>						
				1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office CLOSED	2 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	3
4 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) 2025 Annual Report Committee/ Staff Reports Deadline	5 6:30 Property (W/C)	6 Epiphany	7 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	8	9 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	10
11 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion / Baptism of Dylan Lapinski 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) *Deadline to sign-up for Sportsman's Dinner on 1/17	12	13 February Niantic News Articles are DUE 10:00 AM Quilt Tying (room H) 11:30 AM meet in church to carpool to the Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Main Street Pub	14 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	15	16 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	17 5:30 p.m. Doors open / Sportsman's Dinner
18 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Installation of Council 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	19 Office Closed <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	20 2:00 Cemetery Board (room H) 7:00 Endowment (room H)	21 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	22	23 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	24
25 YOUTH SUNDAY 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship led by Youth 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	26	27 7:00 Council (parlor)	28 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	29	30 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	31