

Niantic News

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

May 2024

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A Message from the Pastor...

On Sunday May 5, we will celebrate the blessing of the seeds. In the past, the occasion for blessing seeds and agricultural lands was known as Rogation Sunday. What is the history of this day? Marking days according to the seasons and the cycles of planting and harvest is common in many different cultures and religions. Several of the major feasts in the Jewish calendar are centered on the traditional harvest periods in the holy land. Christianity, however, does not recognize an explicit harvest or planting connection to the major feasts of the church year. Historically there have been days set apart within the church year, which look to the seasonal changes and the activities associated with the different seasons (planting and harvest). The rogation days within the Easter season are days where the church prays to God asking for blessing of human work and have traditionally been associated with springtime agricultural work.

The old Roman Catholic calendar (pre-Vatican II) contained both major and minor rogation days. As the observance of rogation days became officially recognized the celebrations associated with the days became formalized. The epistle text was from James (5:16-20) and the gospel from Luke (11:5-13). The gospel lesson concerns asking things of God, and is the origin of the term rogation, from the Latin "to ask" (*rogare*). A procession and the litany of the saints would precede the celebration of the mass on the rogation days. The procession begins at the high altar and may travel through the streets of the city or through the agricultural fields.

In 1969, the Roman Catholic Church reformed the church year calendar, and the church no longer keeps the rogation days on specific days. Rogation days can still be celebrated; the local bishops, however, now declare rogation days. This is especially helpful to the churches in the southern hemisphere as they can adjust a rogation day to their own local seasonal cycle. In the U.S., the memorial of St. Isidore the Farmer on May 15 has become the occasion for the blessing of farmers and farmlands.

In Lutheran churches, the fifth Sunday after Easter was known as *Rogate*. This also was derived from the gospel lesson appointed for the day, this time from John (16:23-30). In rural areas, it became customary to include a blessing of seed, soil, and water and possibly a procession out of the church to a local field. The Episcopal Church lists the minor rogation days before Ascension as commemorations in the church year calendar and provides three prayers for rogation days each with a different theme (fruitful seasons, commerce and industry, and stewardship of creation). In 1946, an ecumenical effort in the US south led to the designation of the fifth Sunday after Easter as "Soil and Soul Sunday".

The celebration of rogation services provides Christian congregations with an opportunity to deepen the role of faith in everyday life. In asking God's blessing on our daily work, we can see that a rogation service can reconnect the "everyday" with the "religious". These occasions remind us that God is present and active in all aspects of life, not just on Sunday mornings inside the church building.

Blessings, Pr. Matt

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Baptism of Mac Temple on Sunday, April 7.

From the Church Office

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the June issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, May 14th**. There are several ways for you to submit your articles.

- ✓ E-mail it to me at:
christluthchurch@windstream.net;
- ✓ Submit it on a USB flash drive, which can be borrowed from the office and returned;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.



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!

Pastor's Office Hours and Availability

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.

May Birthdays

- 1 Kendra Ziegler
- 5 Ian Eichinger, Ralph Roberts, Richard Terkowski, III
- 6 Kay Barr
- 7 Roy Hoffman (1943)
- 10 Charles Hoffman (1929)
- 12 Robert Heydt
- 13 Eric Novotny
- 16 Kaitlin Bomboy, Rebecca Sandoval
- 17 Al Menear
- 21 Zachary Hoffman
- 26 Tristen Hoffman
- 27 Nancy Bernhard (1943), Giovanni Sandoval
- 28 Ralph Gehman, Brianna Patt, Lucie Terkowski
- 30 Scott Hoffman
- 31 Kevin Drury, Rodney Moll (1943)



Altar Flowers and Bulletins

Altar Flowers, Special Flowers and Bulletins

There are a few Sunday's still open for both flowers and bulletins. Please sign-up for that special day or to remember a loved one. Altar flowers are \$35 and Bulletins are \$20.

All questions should be directed to Sandy Gehman regarding the Altar Flowers/Bulletins/Special Flowers.

Attendance

Date	Worship (9:00)
March 3	52
March 10	48
March 17	47
March 24 (PS)	73
March 31 (E)	19 / 92

Lent Service atten.: March 6: 16; March 13: 16; March 20: 14
Maundy Thurs. March 28: 27

2023 Sun. Avg.: 45 7
2024 Sun. Avg.: 66 0

(Prior year averages are based on same time period) (PS = Palm Sunday; E = Easter)



Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, May 14** 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

The May Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, May 14, at 12 noon** to Jenn & Jessie's, Rte. 73, Oley.

We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Jenn & Jessie's for a 12 noon lunch or you can meet us there!

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
Junerose56@aol.com or (610) 754-7841

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 Luke Philip Hoffman, Jr. to Luke and Chelsea Hoffman on 4/9. Proud Grand-parents are Denise and Philip Hoffman.

Health & Healing:

Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub
Bob Aston
Mark Belt - Terry Flicker's brother-in-law
Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy
Dorothy Davis - sister of Barb Hoffman
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
Roy Hoffman
Katie - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Tricia Korutz - Lisa Knaub's sister
Lou Levasseur - 101 year old father of friend of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio

Charlie Orner

Pr. Jennifer Phelps - former member at CLC
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

Bill Starrett - friend of Gerry and Terry Flicker
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Lawrence Weller - Alicia Bauer's father (4/2)
Joseph Werner - brother-in-law of Nancy Folk
Alma Willard - friend of Nancy and Keith Folk

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Carl Snyder - Bob Gabel's former business partner's father (3/30)

Melissa Richardson - aunt of Pat Moser's children (4/14)

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; Beatrice Lukens (Saucon Valley Manor)

Council Highlights from February 27, 2024 meeting:

1. Finance report minutes from the meeting on 2/20
 - a. There was a question about the accuracy of the "expenses and contributions for year to date" in the bulletin. Sue Hoffman made a motion to remove the statistical information and only include it in the monthly newsletter. Roxanne Fox seconded the motion. Bob Heydt will communicate with Melissa to implement this change.
 - b. Memorial Fund: Bob Heydt suggested exploring reclassification, possibly directing some funds to the building fund or a sound system. Steve Novotny raised concerns about potentially offending donors if funds were not used according to the memorial fund guidelines. Bob Heydt suggested that committees create a new list for consideration, re-publicize it, and seek input from donors.
 - c. Should members get credit for choice dollars - if you are a Thrivent member you can donate your choice dollars to a contribution; tax information about charitable contributions are between the member and their tax advisor
 - d. Sue Hoffman has only paid the first quarter of the insurance policy; shopping around for a new policy
2. Synod assembly: registration is open; election for new bishop and budget will be passed
3. Special congregational meeting: May 5th or 19th: discuss constitution and endowment plan changes, and youth council member
4. The heating and AC systems - discuss maintenance; Steve Novotny offered to investigate the efficiency of the system because of its age; a new one may be burn less fuel and be more cost-effective
5. Planning committee: Bob Heydt suggested that each committee to come up with a goal for 1 year; 3 year and 5 year outlook; might be helpful to look at other groups that are underserved
6. A member proposed installing a basketball hoop in the parking lot, raising concerns about potential liability for injuries, even though we are covered by insurance, filing claims could increase rates or lead to policy cancellation
7. Publicity - offer to post congregation updates on Instagram for a broader publicity strategy
8. Advertising for Easter in Southern Berks News and Boyertown Times; list service times; "activities for children"

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cleaning of social hall: Melissa gives a reminder about social hall activity - we can clean it up right before hand

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Steve Novotny noted neglected sites post-funeral, outsourced company handles this; Butch addresses holes while mowing
2. Gerry apologized about the Christmas Eve ceremony with candles - maybe more training about light switches
3. Safety Concern: if downstairs doors are locked at the start of the service, a sign indicating front door availability after 9 must be displayed.
4. Visitors: one signed card (given to Melissa), one signed book: contact information will be given to Melissa
5. Council viewed "If I were a devil" from 1965 - a 3 minute YouTube video

Respectfully submitted by,
Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

Council Highlights from March 26, 2024 meeting:

1. Insurance coverage - council members reviewed a comparison between Church Mutual (current) and Brotherhood Mutual (proposed); When viewing the policies side by side, there are some differences; more information is needed before committing to anything at this time; Roxanne Fox wrote down questions for when the agent calls back; council will revisit this at the next meeting
2. Synod assembly is May 3-4: registration is open for another week
3. Bally Community Center Golf Outing (May 11th): if we do a community cookout we can sponsor/advertise at the event: a sign at the hole is approximately \$100
4. Special Congregational Meeting will be postponed until the fall (no objections); the Constitution is ready to be circulated; a new youth council member (if one can be found) can serve May 1st
5. Council members viewed a page from St. John's (Boyertown) newsletter about "keeping membership simple"; Pastor Matt has agreed to type up a similar posting for Melissa to add to the newsletter on a regular basis; once a member - you remain a member; just cannot vote if they do not fill out a communion card and contributed one time per year
6. Heating and AC system update: Steve Novotny stated that there was no new information on the ac unit but was able to get some information about the boiler. After finding the model number, taking photos and dimensions of the boiler, Steve stated that the company wants to come out and actually look at it before giving any recommendations or a quote to replace it; there might be other changes or connections that need to be done; they know that we are planning for the future; Steve will pass along information to council as he receives it,
7. Planning Committee: Community Cookout on June 15th (3-7 pm) is under consideration (subject to have enough people to staff it); a signup sheet is up; yard games; free food; divine entertainment

OLD BUSINESS:

1. The issue of the cleaning of social hall has been resolved - clean as needed
2. The topic of charitable contributions and tax information has been clarified; any tax concerns regarding donations should be discussed between the member and their tax advisor

Respectfully submitted by,
Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

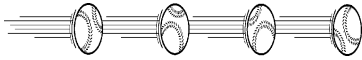
Thank you...

... to the Church Council for giving me this beautiful flower, card, and gift card on Administrative Professional's day, April 24!
I truly am blessed to be working here at Niantic!

Melissa



PLAY BALL!!



TAKE ME OUT TO THE BALL GAME, TAKE ME OUT WITH THE CROWD!

Let's go "Root, Root, Root" for the Reading Fightin' Phils on **Saturday, May 11th** at **6:45 pm**. If we have a group of 20 or more, tickets will be \$14 for seats in the blue section behind home plate. You can also add on the All You Can Eat Buffet for \$22 per person or reserved parking for \$7. If you **signed-up** to attend, money is due by **May 1st**. For more information, please contact Nancy or Dave Fioriglio.

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson



Food Bank

Donations for May and June will be going to the Salvation Army in Boyertown. 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 parlor. The collection is ongoing throughout the year.

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.



2024 GRADUATES!

Are you graduating in 2024 from high school, college, a trade school etc.?

We'd like to know if you or a family member who's a member of Niantic is!

Forms are available in narthex!

Deadline for form to be returned to office is Sunday, May 26.

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 9!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

for the

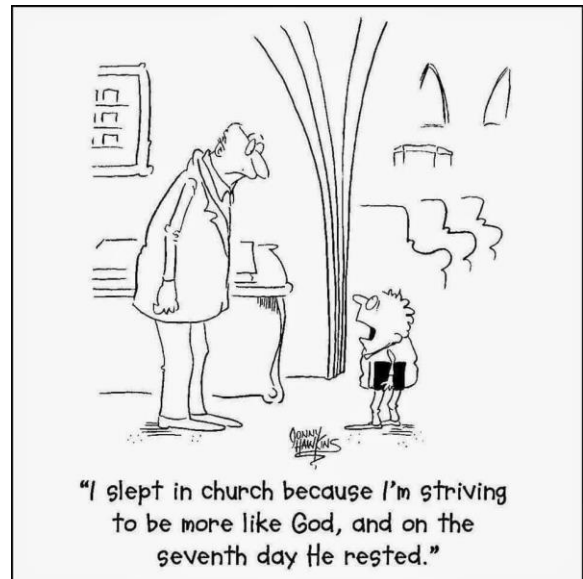
COMMUNITY COOKOUT

The Community Cookout is happening!

Please mark your calendars for **June 15** from **3 to 7 pm**.

There will be a planning meeting scheduled soon.

Stay tuned for more details!



Church Humor!

“Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord.”

Ephesians 5:19

As we are coming to the end of another choir year, I must share what a joy and privilege it has been to work with these talented groups of musicians. When it's Wednesday nights (or Thursdays nights during Lent), we rehearse and enjoy each other's company as we prepare music for upcoming services. To accommodate the availability of both choirs, Church Music Recognition will be held on May 12th and May 19th.

On May 12th, the Handbell Choir will share:

- “Now the Green Blade Riseth” which is a traditional French carol arranged by Larry Sue,
- “Nyanyikanlah (Hallelujah!)” which is a traditional Batak melody from Indonesia arranged by Larry Sue,
- A singalong with the children, no matter what their age, which will include “Jesus Loves Me” and “Jesus Loves the Little Children”.

On May 19th, Transformation will share:

- “Holy Spirit” by Bryan and Katie Torwalt.

The Senior Choir will share -


- “Come, O Holy Spirit, Come” by Zebulon M. Highben
- “Tumefurahi (We rejoice!) by Dave and Jean Perry.



On May 19th, we will have a brass quintet presenting music throughout the service.

Musically yours,

Deb

<u>HANDBELL CHOIR</u>	<u>SR CHOIR</u> 	<u>TRANSFORMATION</u>
Kathy Watts	Denise Hoffman	Denise Hoffman
Nancy Fioriglio	Dave Fioriglio	Diane Houck
Ginnie Wilkinson	Jim Barr	Jim Barr (sub)
Sue Hoffman (sub)	Diane Houck	

Thank you!!

Make Music Upper Perk is pleased to invite you to the 12th annual event, always held on the first day of summer. On **Friday, June 21st**, musicians and music lovers will come together for a day of songs and smiles. The event is always FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!



We will be part of a world-wide celebration of music, joining more than 700 cities who host a big musical party on that day. Nobody does it quite like we do though! MMUP meets people where they are, in parks and coffee shops and local businesses. The first notes of the day will begin around 9 a.m. and the festivities will continue till after dark. With a wide variety of musical styles, ages, and abilities, there is certainly something for everyone.

Watch for the printed program, which will include the schedule of events and locations, available mid- May.



80+ Birthday Party Celebration

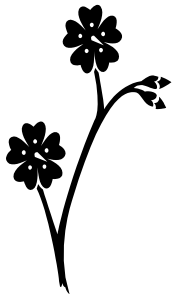
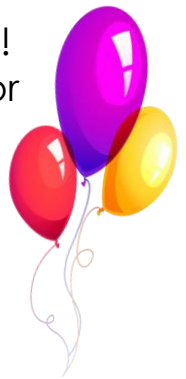
It's "Everyone's Birthday" for everyone who is or will be 80 years or older in 2024! On **Saturday, May 18th** from **11:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**, we will celebrate those who are 80+ years young with a birthday party in the social hall!

An invite to the party was handed or mailed out to those who fall into this category.

There will be lunch, entertainment, and of course cake and ice cream! If you plan on attending, please contact Pat Moser at (610) 845-3731 or e-mail: patmoser102@gmail.com by Friday, May 10!

If you need a ride to the party, please contact Pat.

Hope to see all you 80+ members at the "party"!



Geraniums for Pentecost: Sunday, May 19

Red "cultured" Geraniums to celebrate Pentecost may be ordered for \$4.50 each until **Sunday, May 5, 2024** by completing this form and attaching a check, for the proper amount, payable to Christ Lutheran Church and placing it in the offering plate; or mailing it to the church at 222 Niantic Road; Barto, PA 19504.

I would like _____ red geraniums.

_____ I will pick up*

_____ Leave to plant at Church

Your Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

**Any plants not picked up by May 31st will be planted at the church.*

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

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$12,954.76	\$34,106.53	\$33,590.91
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	663.00	1,549.00	1,343.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	171.21	501.76	0.00
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	(569.86)
TOTAL INCOME	13,788.97	36,157.29	34,364.05
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,399.13	\$13,197.39	\$12,906.90
OTHER STAFF	3,295.76	9,566.80	9,302.94
Subtotal Salaries	7,694.89	22,764.19	22,209.84
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	100.00	396.89	186.48
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	300.00	300.00	0.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	167.93	1,008.72	345.92
Subtotal Worship	567.93	1,705.61	532.40
OTHER MINISTRIES	0.00	68.00	68.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	130.00	0.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	400.02	0.00
INTERNET EXPENSES	285.34	774.78	669.13
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	285.34	1,304.80	669.13
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	144.95	529.85	679.09
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	82.67	445.91	71.57
Subtotal Church Administration	227.62	975.76	750.66
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	339.10	3,559.84	4,653.85
CLEANING SUPPLIES	425.00	1,105.00	1,049.33
REAL ESTATE TAX	30.07	30.07	28.07
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	463.94	453.94
Subtotal Building Operations	794.17	5,158.85	6,185.19
INSURANCE	0.00	1,930.25	5,724.00
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	7,335.91	2,007.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	9,569.95	41,243.37	38,146.99
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$4,219.02	(\$5,086.08)	(\$3,782.94)

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.

Children’s Chapel: Sunday, May 5

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 Izzy Sandoval+ (5/23-4/24)

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

Ministry Assistants for May 2024

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
May 5 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Tori Willman	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	_____ * and _____ *
May 12 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Terry Flicker		Terry Flicker	Shirley and Merle Deery
May 19 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck	Nancy Fioriglio	_____*	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
May 26 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck	_____*	Denise Hoffman	Bruce Houck and _____

Altar Guild: Kay and Jim Barr

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.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">May 2024</h1> 						
			1 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	2	3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; display: inline-block;">Synod Assembly in Franconia, PA</div>	4
5 Blessing of the Seeds & Soil 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion / Children's Chapel 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	6 7:00 Property (W/C)	7	8 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	9	10 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	11 6:45 Reading Fightin' Phils Game
12 Church Music Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) "Mother's Day" 	13	14 **June Niantic News Article Deadline 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 AM Meet in parking lot to carpool to Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Jenn & Jessie's	15	16	17 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	18 11:30 a.m. – 3 p.m. 80th Birthday Party (S/H) 
19 Pentecost / Church Music Sunday Take 2 / Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	20	21	22	23	24 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	25
26 Holy Trinity 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	27 Office Closed <i>Memorial Day</i>	28 7:00 Council (parlor)	29	30	31 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	