

Niantic News

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

September 2025

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A Message from the Pastor...

As the dog days of summer give way to the crisp weather of autumn, our schedules turn toward new beginnings. September brings not only a return to school for our children and youth, but also an invitation for all of us to reconnect, renew, and rejoice together as a church family. The church program year gets busier as we move into fall. In essence, it is "Back to School, Back to Church."

Our church community finds renewal as we gather after the summer's scattered adventures. For some, summer is a time of travel or rest; for others, it is a quieter season of contemplation. Regardless, as September dawns, we return to our spiritual home with new stories to share, new lessons learned, and a readiness to be present with one another again.

On Saturday September 6, we will have our Community Cookout and Fall Festival. This is a great outreach to the community, where we have the opportunity to welcome our neighbors to our church grounds and spend some time getting to know them. We will have food, live music, games, crafts, and many opportunities for fellowship. This day also requires a team of volunteers. If you can help out in any way, let the church office know. Thank you in advance for all those working to make this a wonderful event.

On Sunday September 7, we will celebrate "God's Work, Our Hands" Sunday as we recognize and celebrate all the ways the people of God in this congregation serve God and neighbor through various kinds of service. The Mercy Ministry Team will have an opportunity after worship for the people of the congregation to serve directly that Sunday by assembling Kids Kits for Church World Service. Join us and celebrate all the ways we use our hands to do God's work.

On Sunday September 28, we will celebrate Harvest Home with a collection of food and money for local food banks. In addition to these special events, September also marks the return of choir and confirmation class. Our Brown Bag Bible Study, that began in July, will continue in September. We meet Wednesdays at noon in the Welcome Center, all are welcome.

As we journey through the changing of the seasons, may we be reminded that God's love for us does not waver. Whether you are stepping into a new classroom, returning to a familiar pew, or simply seeking a place to belong, you are part of our story and God's story.

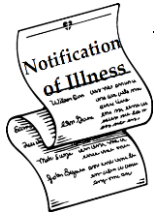
Let us move forward together, with faith and hope, into the beautiful unknown of the fall. Welcome back to school, and welcome back to church—where every heart has a home.

In Christ, *Pr. Matt*

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since July 24, 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!

**Office Hours and
Pastoral Emergency Info:**

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.

From the Office:**Newsletter Deadline**

Information for the October issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, September 9**. There are several ways for you to submit your articles.

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

September Birthdays

- | | |
|----|--|
| 1 | Mac Temple |
| 3 | James Barr, Diana Gehman*, Susan Hoffman, Rebecca Johns |
| 5 | Lori Nester-Ermold, Rain Hernandez-Hoffman |
| 8 | Corinne Hummel |
| 9 | Dale Reichert* |
| 13 | Matthew Hoffman |
| 14 | Abigail Eichinger |
| 20 | Ryan Soffa |
| 21 | Roberta Korsak (1944) |
| 22 | Stephanie Bauer, Keith Folk (1943), Sandra Gehman, Luke Moser, Karen Soffa |
| 23 | Brian Barr |
| 24 | Robert Gabel |
| 25 | Patricia Gabel |
| 28 | Jeremy Lowery |
| 29 | Roxanne Fox |



*Associate Member

**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



ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN **SPONSORS**

	Altar Flowers	Bulletins
Sunday, Sept. 7	OPEN	OPEN
Sunday, Sept. 14	Ralph & Sandy Gehman	OPEN
Sunday, Sept. 21	Dorothy Willing & family	Dorothy Willing
Sunday, Sept. 28	Linda Hoffman	OPEN

*Altar flowers cost \$40.00 and bulletins are \$20.00. Please use the envelope upstairs, on the counter in the narthex, for your donation. If you would like to sponsor any of the OPEN Sunday's, please sign up on that chart or call the church office. Thank you.

Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
July 6	42	
July 13	37	
July 20	50	
July 27	34	
	<u>Bible Study</u>	
	<u>Avg.</u>	
2024 Sun. Avg.:	46	
2025 Sun. Avg.:	41	10
<i>(Prior year averages are based on same time period)</i>		



Happy 50th Anniversary!

to
Chershe and Ernie Derr
who will be celebrating this
milestone on
Saturday, September 20!
Congratulations!



"God's Work, Our Hands" **September 7, 2025**

We will be celebrating "God's Work, Our Hands" on Sunday, September 7th. The Mercy Ministry committee is hosting a CWS (Church World Services) Kids Kits Party Pack assembly in the parlor. The kits are school supplies that will be going to children in need of such supplies for the school year.

On September 14th, we will place the items in front of the altar for a special blessing before shipping back to CWS.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025



Quilt Tying - September 9th

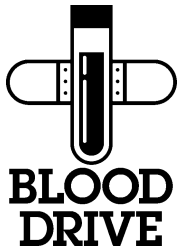
There will be quilt tying in the Social Hall on **Tuesday, September 9th** starting at 9:30 A.M. then...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our monthly lunch date will be held on **Tuesday, September 9** at 12 noon. We will be going to Tosco's, 824 Main Street, Pennsburg!
We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Tosco's!

Thank you...

... to everyone who assists with the quilt ministry. Jim and Johanna were able to deliver 63 bed-sized quilts and 1 bed-sized crocheted quilt to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in August.

**BLOOD DONORS WANTED:**

Upcoming Keystone-Miller Blood Drive will be held on:

Tuesday, September 2 from 12 noon till 4:45 p.m. at Boyertown Library, 24 N. Reading Ave. Lower Level, Boyertown

Sunday, September 14 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. at Dairy Queen – Gilbertsville, 1050 E. Philadelphia Ave., Gilbertsville.

Tuesday, September 16 from 1 – 7 p.m. at Butter Valley Community Church, 2600 Old Route 100, Gymnasium, Barto.

Call 1-800-223-6667 or log into https://donor.giveapint.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/85771 to sign up to give!

Thank you...

...for your generous donation from your Endowment fund to the "Mission Trip Birdsboro & Beyond" team! We thank you for your support of serving people in our local area. You are a blessing to this community!

MTBB ♥

...to everyone for your concerns, kindness, and cares during this difficult time. We would like to thank the "church ladies" who helped with the funeral luncheon. **The Family of Wilson Hoffman**

...for your prayers and love over the past several months as I was going through my health issues. Our family really appreciates your thoughtfulness.

Muck Moser and family

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Social 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 Dee Deery at (610) 367-0548.

BOYERTOWN AREA MULTI-SERVICE COMMUNITY PRESTON'S PANTRY

During September and 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
Deoderant	

The Pantry collection boxes are located in the coat/mailbox room downstairs. Thank you.



Prayer Concerns**Initiator:**

June Herb ~ (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.

Joy and Birth of...

Milo Colden Ramseyer - born to Gabby and Ben - Proud Grandparents are Kathy Bittner and Dale Reichert. Kathy says Hello to everyone at Niantic - we miss you.

Health & Healing:

Angie - a friend of Melissa Seasholtz
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
Rachel Hoffman - Denise/Philip's daughter-in-law (8/4)
Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
Addie Lorah - newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey Mason
LaVerne (Muck) Moser
Charlie Orner
Pr. Jennifer Phelps - former member at CLC
Janet Schaeffer
Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker - cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Elaine Wolfe - friend of Linda Hoffman

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

Eileen Haring - friend/relative of Denise/Philip Hoffman, prior organist at Calvary (8/5)
Tatsy Fulmer - Jim and Kay Barr's neighbor (8/20)

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);
Charlie Orner (Village at LifeQuest); Dorothy Willing (Frederick Living/Cedarwood);
Sue Bendinsky (Chestnut Knoll)

Harvest Home

Our annual observance of Harvest Home will be held on **Sunday, September 28**. Gifts of food and money are encouraged to help variety of local area efforts.



Gifts of smaller canned goods, cereals, etc. are given to the Boyertown Multi-Service, recipient of our Food Bank donations for September & October (see list on page 4 for the most needed items).

Remember to bring your gifts of food and flowers to the church early so that it can be arranged for worship. Whether or not you have had a harvest of fresh food from a garden this year, we all enjoy the harvest of the bounty of living in this great land. Let us share our bounty in this way.

Nomination Committee

Steve Novotny, Council President

The Nomination Committee is in the process of gathering information for selecting nominees for the 2026 Congregational Council. In the upcoming weeks, you may receive a phone call from a Nomination Committee member on stepping forward to serve the church on Council. Please take a few minutes after reading this article and ask yourself if you are interested in 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 call Steve Novotny at (610) 745-2357 if you have an interest in leading our church into the future.



FESTIVAL OF TREES

Christ Lutheran Church Niantic is sponsoring a themed 7 ft decorated tree at this year's "Festival of Trees", an event to raise funds for the many programs offered by Boyertown Area Multi Service. Sponsored trees will be on display and raffle tickets can be purchased during the Open House in December taking place at Boyertown Area Multi Service (200 West Spring Street, Boyertown, PA - near the YMCA).

Your help is needed as follows:

- During the month of August, submit your suggestion(s) for the theme of our tree on the "Festival of Trees" poster located in the church narthex.
- During Community Day on Saturday, September 6th or before/after worship on Sunday, September 7th, vote for the theme of our tree from the suggestion list. The winning theme will be announced the following Sunday. By the end of November, donate gifts and decorations by the tree that will be set up in the Welcome Center.
- Come to the "Festival of Trees" Open House at the Multi Service Center in Boyertown on Friday, December 5th or Saturday, December 6th to view all the sponsored trees and purchase raffle tickets. Lucky winners are contacted at the end of Saturday's Open House.

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



Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday evening, September 3rd from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Whether you are a seasoned singer or simply enjoy singing for pleasure, all are welcome. We sing at the worship services on the first, second, and fourth Sundays of the month.



Brown Bag Bible Study



The "**Brown Bag Bible Study**" will continue in the month of September on Wednesdays: **September 3, 10, 17, & 24**. 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 studying will be announced. This study is open to everyone. No prior knowledge is required. Please feel free to invite friends,

Confirmation 2025 – 2026

Confirmation Students and Parents are invited to attend the Orientation Picnic on **Sunday, September 14th** from **4-6 PM** at the home of Denise Hoffman.

A light supper, games and information about the Confirmation (Affirmation of Baptism) Program will be provided.

Grief Group Meeting

will meet **Thursdays** beginning on **Thursday, Sept. 25** through **October 23** from **4 - 5:30 p.m.** in the parlor. Sylvia Havlish, grief counselor, will once again lead the group.



COMMUNITY COOKOUT & FALL FESTIVAL



SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2025

11 am - 3 pm

FREE • FOOD • GAMES • MUSIC BY STEVEN SOTTUNG
• BAKING CONTEST • MAKE & TAKE CRAFTS

AT

Christ Lutheran Church Parking Lot
222 Niantic Road, Barto PA

Bring your lawn
chair and join us
for our Cookout &
Fall Festival!



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

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$9,154.07	\$70,705.15	\$71,812.07
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	960.00	4,717.84	3,392.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	112.48	766.78	1,178.33
OTHER INCOME	40.00	16.93	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,266.55	76,206.70	76,382.40
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,556.57	\$31,303.88	\$32,012.81
OTHER STAFF	3,589.83	25,098.68	24,148.15
Subtotal Salaries	8,146.40	56,402.56	56,160.96
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	0.00	770.18	1,035.89
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	300.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	340.00	2,027.40	1,968.36
Subtotal Worship	340.00	2,797.58	3,304.25
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	0.00	34.76
OTHER MINISTRIES	0.00	174.00	136.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	51.42	0.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	149.94	265.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	472.45	2,482.08	1,918.53
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	472.45	3,207.22	2,583.55
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	184.47	1,280.44	1,163.36
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	831.48	587.29
Subtotal Church Administration	184.47	2,111.92	1,750.65
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	398.13	10,731.03	8,343.51
CLEANING SUPPLIES	680.00	3,226.24	2,278.73
REAL ESTATE TAX	112.77	143.84	139.56
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	813.00	1,915.07	10,448.94
Subtotal Building Operations	2,003.90	16,016.18	21,210.74
INSURANCE	2,379.25	7,163.75	5,768.75
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	21,748.77	7,701.66
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,526.47	109,621.98	98,651.32
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$3,259.92)	(\$33,415.28)	(\$22,268.92)

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

(**non-council member / +youth member / ☒ second term)**Ministry Assistants for September 2025**

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
September 7 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt	Sue Hoffman	_____*	Lisa and Bob Heydt
September 14 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wikinson and Gerry Flicker
September 21 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
September 28 9:00 a.m.	Tenley Willman	Tori Willman		_____*	The Willman Family

Altar Guild: Sue & Norm Hoffman**Counting Team:** TEAM D – Jim Barr (capt.); Norm Hoffman, Sue Hoffman, Gerry Flicker, Marvin StewardHelp needed*: if you are able to help, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1>September 2025</h1> 						
*updated since publication	1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>Labor Day</i>	2 7:00 Community Day/Fall Festival Committee Meeting	3 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study (W/C) 7:00 Senior Choir	4	5 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours <div>Melissa Vacation Day</div>	6 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Community Cookout/Fall Festival
7 “God's Work, Our Hands” 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion 10:00 Assemble Kids Kits 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	8 6:30 Property (W/C)	9 October Niantic News Articles are DUE 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Meet in church parking lot for Ladies Lunch at Tosco's, Pennsburg at 12 noon 7:30 Finance (W/C)	10 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study (W/C) 7:00 Senior Choir	11	12 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	13
14 Blessing of the Quilts / Blessing of CWS Kits 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 4 – 6 p.m. Confirmation Picnic at Denise Hoffman's home	15	16	17 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study (W/C) 7:00 Senior Choir	18	19 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	20
21 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (rm. I)	22	23 7:00 Council (parlor)	24 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study (W/C) 7:00 Senior Choir	25 4 – 5:30 Grief Group (parlor)	26 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours <div>Melissa Vacation Day</div>	27 Time: TBA Harvest Home Set-up/decorate
28 HARVEST HOME 8:30 Coffee & Conversation W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (rm. I)	29	30	October 1 7:00 Senior Choir	October 2 4 – 5:30 Grief Group (parlor)	October 3 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	October 4