

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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610-845-2583 christluthchurch@windstream.net
www.christniantic.com

September 2026

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Pictures from the Outdoor Worship Service and Church Picnic...



Altar flowers for the morning.

The Kehs and Houck families providing special music during worship.



Jenga anyone?



All this delicious food to choose from ~ yum!



Enjoying the FUN!



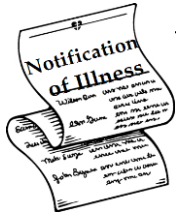
Breaking bread together in fellowship!



Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral of Hilda Kolb on Monday, August 3
with Pr. Eugene Zaiser officiating.



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.

Pastoral Emergencies can be made to our Vice-Pastor, Pr. Eugene Zaiser, at (610) 322-0901.

From the Office:

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the October issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, September 8**. 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 (1945), 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



NOTE from Council: As some may know, over the past few years we have considered various uses for, or possibly selling, the lot across from the church on Niantic Road. We have been approached by the new owners of the house adjacent to the lot and asked if we would be willing to sell the lot to them so that they could expand their small yard. An informal exploration into the value of the lot has been completed and the council is recommending that we follow up with negotiating the possible sale. These discussions are still preliminary and ongoing. If anyone has any questions, please let me know or reach out to any council member.

Dave Fioriglio, Council President

ALTAR FLOWER & BULLETIN SPONSORS

	Altar Flowers	Bulletins
Sunday, Sept. 6	Denise & Philip Hoffman	OPEN
Sunday, Sept. 13	Ralph & Sandy Gehman	OPEN
Sunday, Sept. 20	Willing family	OPEN
Sunday, Sept. 27	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.

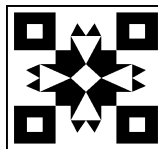
Attendance

<u>Date</u>	<u>Worship</u>	
July 5	39	
July 12	36	
July 19	32	
July 26	35	
2025 Sun. Avg.:	41	10
2026 Sun. Avg.:	36	-
<i>(Prior year averages are based on same time period)</i>		



"God's Work, Our Hands" **September 13, 2026**

We will be celebrating "God's Work, Our Hands" on Sunday, September 13th. The Mercy Ministry committee is hosting a "Birthday Bag" Party assembly in the parlor for Boyertown Multi-Service. The Birthday Bags will be filled with items for families to celebrate their child's birthday will be assembled on Sunday, September 13 as part of "God's Work, Our Hands" initiative by the ELCA. They will then be blessed on September 20th!



Quilt Tying - September 8th

There will be quilt tying in the Room H on **Tuesday, September 8th** starting at 10:00 A.M. then...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our monthly lunch date will be held on **Tuesday, September 8** at 12 noon. We will be going to Vincenzo's, Old Swede Road (Rte. 662), Douglassville! We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Vincenzo's!

Thank you...

...to the Endowment Committee for their donation to the Union Cemetery Association. Your thoughtfulness and generosity are very much appreciated.

Union Cemetery Board

Thank you...

...to everyone who expressed concern while I was hospitalized and during my recovery. From the texts, emails, calls, cards, prayers and visits, they all meant so much to me. I am blessed to be a part of the Niantic Church Family.

In appreciation,
June Herb



Choir rehearsals will begin on Wednesday evening, September 9th 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 worship services on the first, second, and fourth Sunday of the month.



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 Redner's, 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.

BOYERTOWN AREA MULTI-SERVICE "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

Canned Vegetables

Pancake Mix	Pancake Syrup
Rice & Rice Sides	Oatmeal
Crackers	Peanut Butter
Mixed Nuts	Jelly
Soups (all kinds)	Pasta Sides

Stuffing

Instant Mashed Potatoes

PERSONAL CARE

Bar Soap

Shampoo/Conditioner

Body Wash

Deodorant

Toothpaste

Toothbrushes

Baby Wipes

Hand Soap

Laundry Detergent

Paper Towels

Body Lotion



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

*No open or expired items, please.

**updated since printed*

Income & Expense as of July 2026

	Current Month	Year-to-date	Prior Year-to-date
Income	\$ 8,105	\$ 80,138	\$ 76,207
Expenses	\$ 8,581	\$ 79,013	\$ 109,622
Excess Income / (Expenses)	\$ (476)	\$ 1,125	\$ (33,415)

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 in the birth of Kora Lynn Bauer – daughter of Devin Bauer and wife, grand-daughter of Alicia and Matt Bauer (7/31)

Health & Healing:

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
Charlie Hoffman
Tim Hoffman – Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker's brother-in-law
Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
LaVerne (Muck) Moser
Otto Nuss
Bill Starrett – friend of Terry/Gerry Flicker, attends CLC
Mark Stofflet
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Tom Witman

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

Margaret Schoenly - Sue Hoffman's niece-in-law (8/8)
Steve Wanders –brother-in-law of Roberta Korsak's sister (8/23)

Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the Military*:

Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Dustin 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)

Harvest Home

Our annual observance of Harvest Home will be held on **Sunday, September 27**. 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

Dave Fioriglio, Council President

The Nomination Committee is in the process of gathering information for selecting nominees for the 2027 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 Dave Fioriglio at (610) 367-0668 or (484) 680-3162 if you have an interest in leading our church into the future.

Pictures from Sundaes at Sunset...



YUM!



Our Sundaes at Sunset was a great activity even though we didn't see the sunset that we hoped for....but we did see a sunset! Several people brought friends and we had about 40 people attend. Everyone enjoyed Ryan Houck's music along with Longacre's ice cream! This may be an annual event! This proves that, "we need to be patient because God works on God's time not our time!!"



Picture taken by Ginnie Wilkinson on 8/17.

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.

Highlights from the Council Meeting on June 23, 2026:

1. September meeting changed from September 22nd to 29th
2. Meeting with Pr. Linda Manson
 - a. New workbook from Synod Assembly
 - b. Goal to watch highlights from assembly during monthly council meetings
3. Information and updates from synod assembly
4. Discuss Transition
 - a. Multi point ministry is likely the best option
 - b. Would like to form partnership with another congregation

OLD BUSINESS:

Terra pact reached back out to Steve Novotny to offer more money. Perpetual easement is still the language in the offer. Will not be pursuing it further.

NEW BUSINESS:

House across the street is currently for sale, we own a small parcel of land next to the house. The land cannot be built on, could potentially be sold to the new homeowners.

Melissa put a notice in the newsletter that if people are not going to count, they need to find substitutes.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knaub
Council Secretary

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$6,100.07	\$72,264.64	\$70,705.15
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,985.00	6,756.00	4,717.84
INVESTMENT INCOME	44.95	1,117.09	766.78
OTHER INCOME	(25.50)	0.00	16.93
TOTAL INCOME	8,104.52	80,137.73	76,206.70
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$494.20	\$17,040.45	\$31,303.88
OTHER STAFF	3,837.36	25,689.58	25,098.68
Subtotal Salaries	4,331.56	42,730.03	56,402.56
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	150.00	767.96	770.18
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	600.33	0.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	160.00	2,048.49	2,027.40
Subtotal Worship	310.00	3,416.78	2,797.58
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	151.18	0.00
OTHER MINISTRIES	0.00	174.00	174.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	0.00	51.42
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	7.60	418.40	149.94
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	422.39	523.78
INTERNET EXPENSES	321.15	2,349.43	2,482.08
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	328.75	3,190.22	3,207.22
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	198.42	1,161.55	1,280.44
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,227.92	831.48
Subtotal Church Administration	198.42	2,389.47	2,111.92
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	449.70	11,311.84	10,731.03
CLEANING SUPPLIES	440.00	3,221.04	3,226.24
REAL ESTATE TAX	114.91	147.98	143.84
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	4,795.18	1,915.07
Subtotal Building Operations	1,004.61	19,476.04	16,016.18
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	2,408.00	7,485.00	7,163.75
	0.00	0.00	21,748.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	8,581.34	79,012.72	109,621.98
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$476.82)	\$1,125.01	(\$33,415.28)

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: 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: clcffinancial@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 September 2026**

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
September 6 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Donna Menear	Sue Hoffman	_____*	_____ * and _____ *
September 13 9:00 a.m.	Tenley Willman	Tori Willman		_____*	The Willman Family
September 20 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
September 27 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Sue Hoffman		Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak

Altar Guild: September 6: _____; September 13: _____;
 September 20: Shirley and Merle Deery; September 27: _____

Counting Team: TEAM C – Bruce Houck(capt.); Diane Houck, Nancy Fioriglio,
 Dave Fiorigio, Steve Novotny

Help needed*: if you are able to help, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 September 2026 						
		1	2	3	4	5
6 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Holy Communion worship / Pr. Dave Lutcher presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	7 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED <i>Labor Day</i>	8 October Niantic News Articles are DUE 10:00 Quilt Tying (room H) 11:30 Meet in Welcome Center for Ladies Lunch at Vincenzo's, Old Swede Road (Rte. 662), Douglassville at 12 noon	9 7:00 Senior Choir	10	11	12 6:35 p.m. Iron Pigs Game
13 "God's Work. Our Hands" / Blessing of Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Dave Lutcher presiding 10:00 Assemble Birthday Bags (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	14 6:30 Property (W/C)	15 7:00 Book Club (W/C) 7:30 Finance (W/C)	16 7:00 Senior Choir	17	18 Melissa Vacation Day	19
20 Blessing of the Birthday Bags 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Thomas Kochenderfer presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	21	22	23 7:00 Senior Choir	24	25	26 Time: TBA Harvest Home Set-up/decorate
27 HARVEST HOME 8:30 Coffee & Conversation W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Brad Mellon presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	28	29 7:00 Council (parlor)	30 7:00 Senior Choir	October 1	October 2 Melissa Vacation Day	October 3