

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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April 2024

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A Message from the Pastor...

It is common to talk about the season of Lent as a time of preparation for the celebration of Easter. How do we celebrate? Yes, we have special features to our worship on Easter morning, but we fail to remember that the forty days of preparation in Lent are preparation for a fifty-day celebration of Easter.

The retired Anglican Bishop and theologian N.T. Wright writes about this subject in his book, *Surprised by Hope*.

"But my biggest problem starts on Easter Monday. I regard it as absurd and unjustifiable that we should spend forty days keeping Lent, pondering what it means, preaching about self-denial, being at least a little gloomy, and then bringing it all to a peak with Holy Week, which in turn climaxes in Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and then... We have a *single day* of celebration."

What does this mean for the mission and witness of the Church? Wright continues, "Is it any wonder that the world doesn't take much notice if Easter is celebrated as simply the one-day happy ending tacked on to forty days of fasting and gloom." He urges the whole Church to look at the way we keep Easter in the congregation, in our homes, and in our personal lives.

The resurrection of our Lord Jesus is the central event of our faith. Without it there is no Christian faith. As Christians our lives are to bear witness to the resurrection. Do we consider our lives to be a witness to the resurrection?

Now this does not mean we sneak up on people and surprise them by yelling "Christ is risen, alleluia" in their ear (let me know how that works out if you happen to try it). In more subtle ways, however, we should proclaim the truth of the resurrection in our own lives. This can be done through simple honesty. We can be honest about our own stories and our own circumstances. There is a great temptation to "put our best foot forward" when it comes to life, especially in church, but it is difficult to share about the power of Christ's resurrection in our lives if we don't let people know from what depths Christ has raised us.

We can proclaim this through a simple, "I once was lost but now am found" or the story of a difficult moment or time that God has seen us through. We don't necessarily need to share these things with everyone we meet, but God will put you in the place to share and minister to those who need to hear from you most. Remember as Christians we are not perfect people, but we are forgiven, redeemed, and most importantly resurrection people. When we share in these ways we are proclaiming and celebrating Easter with our whole lives, throughout the year, not with a one-day feast to cap off forty days of self-denial.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since February 23.



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 Pastor's Availability

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

In case of a pastoral emergency or you need to speak to Pr. Matt, you can call him at (484) 587-6506.



Sunday Attendance:

Date	9:00 / Lent Service
February 4	58
February 11	55
February 18	52 / 23
February 25	47 / 16



2023 Sun. Avg.: 44 / 4
2024 Sun. Avg.: 53

(Prior year averages are based on same time period)



April Birthdays

- 1 Barbara Hoffman, Donna Menear, Gerald Shaner
- 3 Carol Berner*, Shelby Stevens
- 7 Judy Moser
- 8 Izabel Sandoval
- 9 Daniel Knaub, Jacob Knaub
- 12 Grant Willman
- 14 Callie Bartman, Jeff Stifnell
- 19 Dustin Lowery
- 25 Corrine Hoffman, Julissa Sandoval
- 26 Lori Brown, Tori Willman
- 27 Miles Lapinski
- 30 Nancy Folk

Quilt Tying

will be held on **Tuesday, April 9** beginning at **9:30 a.m.**

in the social hall.

Then we will join the ...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The April Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, April 9**

meeting in the parking lot at **11:30 a.m.**

to carpool to Peppes Pizza & Grill, 2485 Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville for a 12 noon lunch.



COME HELP US ESCAPE FAMINE IN THE WILDERNESS!!

Please join us for an afternoon of fun on **Sunday, April 14th** at **3:30 pm** in the social hall, as we all work to unlock some mysteries of the Bible, using only teamwork and brain power, to answer questions and solve puzzles within the 60 minute time limit. This is an activity for all ages and no experience is necessary!! Everything you need will be given to you and no physical activity or special skills are needed!

Bring your friends and family because the more people, the more brain power and the more fun! But please sign up in the narthex so we make sure we have enough supplies. Snacks will be provided and prizes for those who escape!

If you have any questions, please contact any member of the FUN committee (Bruce Houck, Diane Houck, Ginnie Wilkinson, Lisa Heydt, Bob Heydt, Dave Fioriglio or Nancy Fioriglio)

and

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. Please **sign-up** in the narthex by **Monday, April 29th** and money is due by May 1st. For more information, please contact Nancy or Dave Fioriglio.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:

June Herb 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:

Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub

Mark Belt - Terry Flicker's brother-in-law

Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy

Brett Boyer - junior at BASH/grandson of LaVerne Moser's cousin

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

Giuliano Paludi - 5-1/2 year old son of Giovanni Paludi, grandson of Giannino and Theresa Paludi who are friends of Diane/Bruce Houck

Heather - daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
 Barbara Hoffman

Betty Hoffman

Roy Hoffman

Wilson 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

Rayne - Niece of friends of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio

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

Joseph Werner - brother-in-law of Nancy Folk

Alma Willard - friend of Nancy and Keith Folk

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Rev. Arlene Greenwald - aunt of Mark Stofflet/former member of Niantic (2/29)

Robert Kershaw - husband of Andrea, admin assist at St.

Paul's /colleague of Melissa Seasholtz (3/10)

Stephanie Wallace - Roberta Korsak's niece (3/20)

Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the

Military*:

Owen Dietrich - cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;

Anthony Lester - friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason;

Dustin/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;

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS



We are past Easter, but not yet done the choir year. On April 21, otherwise known as "Shepherd Sunday", Psalm 23 will be read and the music and other readings will center on Jesus describing himself as the good shepherd and how he cares for his sheep.

Music rehearsals continue for the choirs as they prepare to share special music for Church Music Sunday on May 12th. The Handbell Choir will ring "*Now the Green Blade Riseth*" and "*Nyanyisanlah*". *Nyanyisanlah* is an Indonesian melody whose title is translated as *Hallelujah!* The Senior Choir will share "O Sing a Song Unto the Lord" and "*Tumefurahi*". *Tumefurahi* is a Swahili word translated as *We Rejoice!*

On May 19th, we will have a brass quintet playing music to listen to and music to sing along with in the service.

Looking forward to June - In 1524, Martin Luther published first hymnal, the so-called ***Achtliederbuch***. It documented what was sung in the young congregations of the Reformation movement. To celebrate the 500th anniversary of this hymnal, The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) will release a hymnbook in 2024 titled ***Of Pilgrimage, Freedom and Belonging - A Global Achtliederbuch***. It will contain music, prayers, and blessings expressing the hopes and visions, from a global perspective, of being Christian in the Lutheran communion. The collection will stem from the 7 regions of the LWF, and new arrangements and settings of Luther's chorales will be included as a shared global heritage.

It's not too early to submit hymn requests for our summer hymn sings. In addition to all of your favorites that you have already submitted, take a few moments to see if you discover a hymn or two in our new ELW hymnal that you know or would like to learn.

Musically yours,

Deb Matthews

Mercy Ministry:

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

Food Bank Donations

Donations for April will go to Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Let's all make regular Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping.

Your donations help the pantry during this time, so please think about picking up one or more items when you do your weekly grocery run and drop it off at the church to help those in need!

Flip for Ronald

Little aluminum flip top soda pop tabs can add up to dollars for the Philadelphia Ronald McDonald House. Tabs can be placed in the "can" in the Narthex. We also collect the UPC labels from Kimberly-Clark products, such as Kleenex, Scott, Depends, and Huggies. A list is available in the Narthex as is a collection box for the UPC's.



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.



The FUN Committee in collaboration with the Onward Niantic committee would like to sponsor a **Community Cookout** with carnival like fun **BUT** we cannot do this without you!

There will be a sign-up sheet for **Helpers** in the narthex.

The date of the Cookout would be Saturday, June 15 from 3 – 7 p.m.



"Spice It Up" for Spring

The Mercy Ministry Committee will be collecting the following items during the month of April:

- Any Spice
- Ketchup
- Mustard
- Mayonnaise
- Barbeque Sauce
- Hot Sauce
- Garlic Powder
- Onion Powder
- Salt
- Pepper
- Parsley Flakes



This collection will benefit the **Booth-Lessig Center** in Pottstown.

The Center provides meals for 36-46 people every day.

Their annual budget is only \$8,000.

Please consider helping by picking up one or two of the needed items the next time you are shopping and dropping them in the box downstairs by the water cooler.



Need a break from cooking?
Would you like to support a local non-profit?

You can do just that!

Join in for **"Dine Out for a Cause"** which will benefit the Boyertown Multi-Service from **Monday, April 1** through **Sunday, April 7**. A portion of the proceeds from these eateries: The Grill Shop, Gramia's, Brakeman's Café, Toss of the Town, and Jukebox Cafe will be given back to The Boyertown Multi-Service. Poster on bulletin board!

Highlights of January 23, 2024 Council Minutes:

1. Snow removal: Roxanne stated that Butch does snow removal as a "gift" and will not be sending a bill
2. Review process of canceling a church service: message on answering machine, post on channel 69 WFMZ
3. Items for the upcoming congregational meeting on February 11th
 - o Council is not authorized to vote on the proposal for painting (only approve expenditures up to 5% of total budget)
 - o A new youth council member will be discussed
 - o Annual report: planning committee report (use the church sign more often); work on the rolls of the church; began to look at the constitution of the church; the pastor's discretionary fund
4. Changes to the constitution: Roxanne, Bob and Dave compared the old version (2014) to the current (2022) version;
 - o Streamline the terminology
 - o Allow for the creation of a parish: should meet with St. Paul's to oversee pastors role in both places – we need cooperation between CLC and St. Paul's
 - o Addition of a seasonal membership - can be a member at two locations but cannot vote at both locations within a 60 day period
5. Changes to the endowment fund plan of operation - should be a continuing resolution part of the bylaws
 - o Keep percentages the same but would have the discretion to distribute up to 50% in any one of the three last categories (Scholarships and grants, outreach, or missions); will hold a "special" congregational meeting to make adjustments
6. Endowment yearend report: Accrued \$5,067 in dividends - 90% (\$4,560) available for the year 2024
7. Re-energize the planning committee to follow up with people who visit (some sign the visitor book and others fill out the visitor cards - might be better to have one location)

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Cleaning Social Hall/Church: How thorough is the cleaning? Is it a matter of you getting what you pay for?
2. Policy for Social Hall Rental: Gerry asked how does Melissa know who is a voting member versus a non-voting member (it makes a difference in price of rental); Rely on the honesty of the person renting

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Heating system
 - a. Steve Novotny asked if we can start "planning" for potential failures with the boiler
 - b. Bob Heydt stated that we do not currently have money stashed away but could possibly obtain financing
 - c. Idea will be referred to Property Committee to review after the heating season is over, check last time it has been serviced

Respectfully submitted by,
Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

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

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$12,281.26	\$21,151.77	\$23,054.39
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	436.00	886.00	1,026.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	159.90	330.55	0.00
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	(569.86)
TOTAL INCOME	<u>12,877.16</u>	<u>22,368.32</u>	<u>23,510.53</u>
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,399.13	\$8,798.26	\$8,604.60
OTHER STAFF	3,145.76	6,271.04	6,234.26
Subtotal Salaries	<u>7,544.89</u>	<u>15,069.30</u>	<u>14,838.86</u>
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	65.00	296.89	61.48
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	287.79	840.79	175.00
Subtotal Worship	<u>352.79</u>	<u>1,137.68</u>	<u>236.48</u>
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	130.00	0.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	400.02	0.00
INTERNET EXPENSES	244.77	489.44	428.42
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	<u>244.77</u>	<u>1,019.46</u>	<u>428.42</u>
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	249.71	384.90	189.64
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	363.24	25.98
Subtotal Church Administration	<u>249.71</u>	<u>748.14</u>	<u>215.62</u>
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	326.51	3,220.74	4,336.62
CLEANING SUPPLIES	680.00	680.00	369.33
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	453.94	463.94	271.46
Subtotal Building Operations	<u>1,460.45</u>	<u>4,364.68</u>	<u>4,977.41</u>
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	1,930.25	1,930.25	5,724.00
	211.50	7,335.91	1,280.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	<u>12,062.36</u>	<u>31,673.42</u>	<u>27,700.79</u>
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	<u>\$814.80</u>	<u>(\$9,305.10)</u>	<u>(\$4,190.26)</u>

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 April 2024



	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/Greeters
April 7 9 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Nancy Fioriglio	_____*	_____*
April 14 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt		_____*	Ginnie Wilkinson Lisa Heydt
April 21 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Terry Flicker		Terry Flicker	Shirley and Merle Deery
April 28 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		_____*	Roberta Korsak Bruce Houck

Altar Guild: Kathy Watts

Counting Team: TEAM B – Mike Knaub (capt.), Kathy Watts, Keith Folk, Bob Borneman

_____ * = **Help needed** – please call/e-mail the church office if you can help.
Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<h1>April 2024</h1>				
	1 Office CLOSED in observance of Easter 7:00 Property (W/C)	2	3 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	4	5 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	6
7 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion / Baptism of Mac Temple 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	8	9 **May Niantic News Articles are DUE 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Ladies Lunch – meet in church parking lot to carpool to Peppe's Pizza & Grill, Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville	10 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	11	12 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	13
14 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 3:30 PM FUN Escape Room Event (S/H)	15	16 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	17 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 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)	22	23 7:00 Council (parlor)	24 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	25	26 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	27
28 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Baptism of Miles Lapinski 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	29	30	May 1 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	May 2	May 3 <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">Synod Assembly in Franconia, PA</div>	May 4