

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church

222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504

610-845-2583 christluthchurch@windstream.net

www.christniantic.com

February 2026

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A message from the Pastor...

Even though it seems like we just put away the Christmas decorations, Lent is here. This month, we begin our Lenten observance on February 18th with Ash Wednesday. This year the evening service will take place at St. Paul's, Sassamansville at 7PM. There will also be a shortened, simplified Ash Wednesday observance here at Christ Lutheran Church during our normal Bible study time at noon.

The following Wednesday evening at 7PM we will begin our midweek Lenten services. This year our time will invite us into a deeper conversation with Jesus. These services, following the lectionary readings for Lent, are designed to provide opportunity for reflection, encourage honest questioning, and nurture spiritual healing on our journey toward Easter.

Each week, we will meditate on one of the encounters Jesus has in our Lenten gospel readings. We begin with Jesus facing temptation in the wilderness. The following week, we meet Nicodemus, the seeker who approaches Jesus in the night, full of questions and uncertainty. As Lent unfolds, we encounter the Samaritan woman at the well, who discovers new life through her conversation with Jesus; the man born blind, who receives both sight and spiritual insight; and finally, Martha and Mary, who mourn the loss of their brother Lazarus and find hope in Christ's presence. These encounters remind us that Lent is a season of renewal and transformation for all who seek God.

In these services, we are invited to join the conversation between Jesus and his biblical partners. Through guided reflection questions and extended moments of silence, we are encouraged to place ourselves in each story: What questions might we ask Jesus today? Where are we seeking understanding, comfort, or healing? How do these ancient voices shape our practice of discipleship in a contemporary world?

We invite everyone to join us for these midweek services throughout Lent. Lent is our yearly journey toward the cross and empty tomb. Together, we will walk the Lenten road, supported by the love of God, the grace of Christ, and the power of the Holy Spirit. As we walk, we can be confident that Christ meets us and speaks words of life, healing, and hope.

Lenten blessings,
Pr. Matt





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 and Pastor's Contact Information

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.

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Baptism of Dylan Gerald Lapinski on Sunday, January 11.



Attendance

	9:00	Conf. /Bible Study
December 7	47	5 / 11
December 14 (snow / worshiped canceled)		
December 21	51	7 / N/A
December 28	42	5 / N/A

2024 Sun. Avg.: 54 3
 2025 Sun. Avg.: 47 6 / 11
(Prior year averages are based on same time period)

Christmas Eve service attendance:
 3:00 PM – 98; 9:00 PM - 79



Newsletter Deadline – Information for the March issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, February 10th**. 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 that can be borrowed from the church office, or
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox in the mail/coat room.

Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday for the following Sunday. Your cooperation in meeting this deadline is greatly appreciated. This allows the office ample time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Worship.

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

- 1 Evan Fluke
- 2 Dorothy Willing (1944)
- 3 Karen Hoffman
- 11 Hunter Francisco, Ginnie Wilkinson
- 13 Cheryl Barr
- 15 Matthew Knaub
- 17 Terry Hoffman, Eloise Swavely
- 18 Sandra Hoffman
- 20 Mark Stofflet, Dominick Witman
- 21 Lou Ann Howard
- 25 Ronald Asplen



Flower and Bulletin Charts

The 2026 bulletin and flower charts are posted in the Narthex. If you have a particular date that you want, you will need to sign-up early. Please complete the charts fully with your name, as sponsor, and also the reason for the sponsorship. Use the envelope on the counter in the narthex for your payment and drop in the offering plate. Thank you. The cost of **Altar Flowers** is **\$40.00** and Bulletins are **\$20.00**.

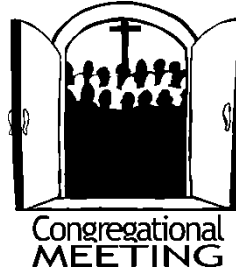
Snow, Blizzards and Ice!

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 on the prayer chain, post on Facebook, 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.



Congregational Meeting

Sunday, February 8th



The February Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, February 8, 2026**, following the service at **9:00 AM**. We will hold the meeting in the sanctuary.

As we did in 2025, annual reports of committees and organizations as well as the new membership directory are not mailed, but are available for pick up in the church office or on the counter in the narthex. We will also be voting on the open Council member position.

Reminder - to be eligible to vote at any congregational meeting a confirmed member

must have BOTH communed of record AND contributed of record within the past two years.

The next Communion will be on Sunday, February 1!



Brown Bag Bible Study



The **“Brown Bag Bible Study”** will continue in the month of February on Wednesdays: **February 4, 11, 18 & 25** (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 Isaiah. This study is open to everyone. No prior knowledge is required. Please feel free to invite friends, family, and neighbors. Bring along your own Bible or you can borrow one from the church.

YOUTH SUNDAY

Join us on **Sunday, February 8** at 9:00 a.m. for Youth Sunday!

This had to be rescheduled due to a snowstorm!

The two Confirmands: Tenley Willman and Gio Sandoval will lead us in worship with help from teachers, parents and others!



On **Sunday, February 8** is Super Bowl Sunday, where all across the country we watch two

teams play for the title of Super Bowl Champion. Here at Christ Lutheran, we will also have **“Souper Bowl Sunday”** to help our neighbors with much needed non-perishable food donations, as well as monetary donations. We invite you to bring a non-perishable food item to church, as well as a \$2.00 or more to throw into the “soup” pot as you come or as you leave church to help support the Open Link (Pennsburg), February’s Food Pantry selection. During the past few years, we have seen a higher number of our neighbors needing our local food pantries. Your help in this will help those in need.

Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, February 10** beginning at 10:00 a.m., we will be tying quilts in room H of the church.

Help is always needed!!
Then we will have the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The February Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, February 10** meeting at church at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Frederick Living, Zieglerville for lunch at 12 noon.

If you prefer to meet us at Frederick Living, we will see you there at 12 noon.

If you plan on attending, please

RSVP to June Herb by Thursday, February 5.

Ash Wednesday and Lenten Services

ASH WEDNESDAY

**ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE –
Wednesday, February 18
7:00PM at**

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

On Ash Wednesday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m., Christ Lutheran members are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran to join them for an Ash Wednesday service of Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes on the foreheads of those who desire to receive them.

As you receive the ashes, the words of Genesis 3:19 are spoken:

"From dust you came and to dust you shall return."

NOTE: During the Brown Bag Bible Study, a shortened Ash Wednesday service will be held for those who do not wish to drive at night.

Mid-week Lenten Services

A Mid-week Lenten services will be held Wednesday evenings February 25th through March 25th at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran Church in the parlor.

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.

Joy:

...Birth of Gabriel Dakota Campbell - son of Danaka Ruyak and Josh Campbell - born 01/08 at Phoenixville Hospital. Gabriel is the Great-great nephew of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman.

...Birth of Reese Anne Dowey to Kassie and Josiah Dowey born on 1/24. Proud great-grandparents are Pat and LaVerne Moser.

Health & Healing:

Pat Gabel – Bob's wife

Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt

Leroy Heissler – friend of Denise Hoffman's family

MaryLou Heissler (wife of Leroy) – friend of Denise Hoffman's family

Richard Hoffman - Charlie's son

Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet

Denny Kriczky - Wife is a friend of Pat Moser

Addie Lorah – newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey Mason

Donna Moulin – mother-in-law of Janet Schaeffer's daughter (

Leonard Norris - Neighbor/friend of the Stofflet Family

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC

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

Faye Slonaker – aunt of Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker

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

Jean Sumrall – Donna Menear's aunt

Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Steve Wanders – brother-in-law of Roberta Korsak's sister

Elaine Wolfe – friend of Linda Hoffman

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Nettie – Pat Moser's daughter's friend's mother (1/16)

Helena Lindquist - Diane Carter's mother (1/22)

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 (Room 1301A);

Sue Bendinsky (Chestnut Knoll - MC);

Hilda Kolb (Frederick Living/Cedarwood Rm. 1309B);

Barbara Hoffman (Assisted Living in Wilmington, DE)

WANTED:

Acolytes; Lector; Assistant Ministers; Communion Assists; Usher/Greeters and Altar Guild

Would you like to serve in any of these positions on a Sunday morning? No experience necessary as you will be trained. If you are interested, please contact the church office.

Thank you

...for putting me on your prayer list. It has worked and helped me renew my faith. Have a blessed Holiday and God bless.

**Elaine and Carl Wolf,
Neighbors on Niantic Road
and friend of Linda Hoffman**

...for taking the time to share your beautiful afghans for the families at The Salvation Army Lessig Booth Family Residence shelter. We thank you for your years of wonderful support to help our families here at the shelter and in their new home!

**Wendy Egolf, Director of
Housing Programs at The
Salvation Army, Pottstown**

Christ Union Cemetery Guideline News:

All planting of shrubs, trees or plants is prohibited. Remove all winter decorations 3 weeks (**by March 15**) before Easter. April through October all flowers and memorials will be removed 7 days after all holidays. All arrangements affixed on top of the gravestones may remain until they are unsightly.

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson



Food Bank

Donations for February will go to Pottstown Cluster Outreach Center. 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 mail/coat room. The collection is ongoing throughout the year helping various food banks.



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 box in the Narthex.

REDNERS! REDNERS! REDNERS!

Thank you everyone for making the Redner's Save-a-Tape a success. And it's so easy....just stop by Redners and get a Save-A-Tape card. 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 Deery.

Food Bank Donation Locations for 2026:

January & February - Open Link, Pennsburg
March & April - Boyertown Multi-Service
May & June - Salvation Army
July & August - Open Link, Pennsburg
September & October - Boyertown Multi-Service
November & December - Salvation Army

ENDOWMENT –
Grants to be awarded-
We need your proposals!

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission of Christ Lutheran Church.

In 2026, we have a total of **\$5,193** available for distribution broken down (by set percentages) in the following categories:

Christian Education (10%) - \$519.00
Capital Improvements (15%) - \$779.00
Scholarships and Grants (25%) - \$1,298.00
Outreach (30%) - \$1,558.00
Missions (20%) - \$1,039.00

The Endowment Fund Committee invites any member of Christ Lutheran Church or committee to submit a grant proposal by **March 31, 2026**.

Please thoughtfully consider the needs of the church and our community, by sharing a need, submitting a grant proposal, help the Endowment Committee to fulfill our purpose and give glory to God with these gifts.

If you have any questions about this, please contact any committee member: Mike Knaub (Chairperson), Bob Heydt, Dawn Sandoval, Gerry Flicker, Denise Hoffman, Heather Moser or Pastor Matt Finney.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hoffman
Recording Secretary for Endowment

Thank you...

...to the congregation of Christ Lutheran Church who so generously give to the Employee Christmas Gift at the end of each year. I personally appreciate the generosity of those who give and want to thank everyone for the gifts from this over the past seventeen years! You are all so kind and thoughtful! Love, **Melissa Seasholtz**

Endowment Fund Grant Proposal

(Grant Proposals must be submitted to the Endowment Fund
Committee by March 31, 2026)



Date: _____

Your Name: _____

Your Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Your Phone No.: _____

Your E-mail address: _____

Submit to:
Endowment Fund
Christ Lutheran Church
222 Niantic Road
Barto, PA 19504-9314
(610) 845-2583
christluthchurch@windstream.net

1. Name of person or organization for Grant Proposal:
2. Description of project for proposed Grant:
3. Amount of Grant Requested:
4. Total cost of project (if this Grant will not fund entire project, identify source of balance of funding):
5. To whom should the check be made payable?

Total Funds available for 2026 disbursement: \$5,193 (Place an "X" in the category for which this proposal is being submitted)

_____ (10% = \$519) Funding for ongoing Christian programs within Christ Lutheran Church.

_____ (15%) = \$779) Funding for Capital improvements, building programs and / or reduction of debt incurred by Christ Lutheran Church in connection with such improvements or programs.

_____ (25% = \$1,298) Scholarships or grants to members of Christ Lutheran Church for the purpose of attending seminary; for church related camping or leadership conferences; or other such training which enables members of the congregation to grow in a Christian faith and service to God's people.

_____ (30% = \$1,558) Outreach into the community including, but not limited to, grants to ELCA colleges, seminaries, social service agencies, institutions and agencies to which this congregation relates, and to special programs designed for those persons in our parish area who are in spiritual and / or economic need.

_____ (20% = \$1,039) Missions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America at home and overseas, including but not limited to, grants to the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America for new mission development in North America, professional leadership, education ministries, world mission and ecumenism, media evangelism and capital financing.

_____ *For Fund Committee Use Only* _____

Date Received _____

Accepted _____ Yes _____ No _____

Amount Pledged \$ _____

Date Distributed _____

Amount Distributed \$ _____

Check # _____

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,324.30	\$126,740.18	\$126,358.92
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,294.00	10,462.84	8,519.52
INVESTMENT INCOME	46.77	1,193.39	1,894.26
OTHER INCOME	0.00	(18.65)	23.04
TOTAL INCOME	14,665.07	138,377.76	136,795.74
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,556.57	\$55,342.19	\$55,305.36
OTHER STAFF	3,239.84	42,823.99	41,161.08
Subtotal Salaries	7,796.41	98,166.18	96,466.44
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	50.00	1,230.89	1,400.49
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	324.00	600.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	200.00	3,156.90	2,886.39
Subtotal Worship	250.00	4,711.79	4,886.88
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	129.19	34.76
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	129.19	34.76
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	51.42	0.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	253.07	265.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	523.78	400.02
INTERNET EXPENSES	363.90	4,203.49	3,364.72
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	382.90	5,031.76	4,029.74
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	182.82	2,301.65	1,929.66
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	105.99	1,160.20	713.98
Subtotal Church Administration	288.81	3,461.85	2,643.64
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	3,465.00	17,670.86	10,985.60
CLEANING SUPPLIES	859.78	5,261.97	4,184.03
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	143.84	139.56
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	680.35	14,374.80	20,877.92
Subtotal Building Operations	5,005.13	37,451.47	36,187.11
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	9,543.00	7,682.00
	0.00	21,748.77	7,849.36
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,810.25	180,592.01	160,070.93
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$854.82	(\$42,214.25)	(\$23,275.19)

Respectfully submitted,
Juan 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

2026 Congregational Council

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

Braden Bartman Keith Folk ☒ Roxanne Fox ☒
Roberta Korsak Pat Moser Steve Novotny
Marvin Steward ☒ _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)
(**non-council member / +youth member / ☒ second term)

*updated since publication



Ministry Assistants for February 2026





	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/ Greeters
February 1 9:00 AM	_____*	Diane Houck	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	_____ * and _____ *
February 8 9:00 AM	Tenley Willman	Danny Knaub		Tenley Willman and Gio Sandoval	Tori and Tanner Willman; Corinne Hoffman
February 15 9:00 AM	_____*	Donna Menear	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and _____ *
February 22 9:00 AM	_____*	Bob Heydt		Denise Hoffman	Lisa and Bob Heydt

Altar Guild: February 1: Chershe Derr and _____*; February 8: Chershe Derr and Shirley Deery; February 15: Chershe Derr and _____*; February 22: Chershe Derr and _____*

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

_____ * = if you are able to help, please contact the church office. Thank you.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div>   </div> <div> Updated since publication February 2026 </div>						
1 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	2 6:30 Property (W/C)	3	4 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	5	6 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	7
8 YOUTH Sunday / "Souper Bowl of Caring" 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Youth Sunday / Souper Bowl Sunday 10:00 Feb. Congregational Meeting – Confirmation students attend 10:30 Confirmation (room I)	9	10 *March Niantic News Article Deadline 10:00 Quilt Tying (rm H) 11:30 Lutheran Ladies Lunch meet at church then carpool to the Frederick Living for 12 noon lunch 7:00 Book Club (W/C)	11 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Senior Choir	12	13 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	14 Valentine's Day ♥
15 Transfiguration Sunday 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	16 Office Closed – President's Day	17 7:00 Finance (W/C)	18 Ash Wednesday 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study / Ash Wednesday Mini-Service 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service at St. Paul's	19	20 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	21
22 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	23	24 7:00 Council (parlor)	25 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Mid-week Lent Service at CLC 7:30 Senior Choir	26	27 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	28