

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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www.christniantic.com

July 2024

Page 1

A Message from the Pastor...

There are things we do in life and especially in the church because "that is the way we have always done it." These traditions, both formal and informal, can be a great gift. Sometimes those traditions have outlived their usefulness and need to be changed. Other times they need to be "rediscovered" so that we can appreciate what they have to offer for a new time.

We have many traditions in the course of worship. While there is a reason for all of them, we might not be aware of the reason even if we have participated in these for years. One of these traditions we do each week is the sharing of the peace.

Why do we do this? It is a short portion of the service and may seem insignificant. On the surface it serves as a time of greeting or recognition of our fellow worshipers, but its meaning is far deeper than just a greeting.

The most basic meaning of the word peace is the absence of war or conflict. While we praise God for this kind of peace this is not the main thrust of the sharing of peace in the service.

An absence of conflict does not relate only to nations and armies. It can also refer to peace within families, communities, or between individuals. Here we begin to see the importance of the peace within worship. We gather for worship at peace with one another in the church. Here the peace serves as a fulfillment of a direct instruction from Jesus.

So when you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. (Matthew 5:23-24)

Jesus gives a direct command to his followers to be reconciled, that is at peace, with our sister or brother in Christ before we come to worship God with our offering. What good does it do us to make an offering to God while willfully maintaining a grudge against our family in Christ? Such a grudge will keep us from knowing peace.

Related to the command to reconciliation among the church is yet another meaning of peace from the scriptures. Jesus tells the apostles after the Last Supper, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid." (John 14: 27)

Here we are reminded that when we share a sign of peace with one another it is not a general peace, but the peace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This peace is set apart from the world's peace. Jesus, when he appears to the disciples after his resurrection, greets them with "Peace be with you." The peace of the Lord is more than the absence of conflict between nations or individuals, it is peace with God. We can live with untroubled hearts because we are reconciled to God through Jesus. On this level, the sharing of peace is a communal reminder

A Message from the Pastor continued...

to us of Jesus and what he has done on our behalf. He has brought us into right relationship with God and therefore we can live with untroubled hearts and free from the fear of eternity. As you can see, the sharing of peace within worship is far more than a time of greeting our neighbor or a short break in the service. It is at the heart of our worship and an expression of the deepest truths of our Christian faith. I hope you have a renewed appreciation for all that it entails. The peace of the Lord be with you always!

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral service of
Garry Dierolf on
Tuesday, May 28, 2024



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!



Summer Offerings

Before you go off on your summer vacation, remember that our congregation's mission and various ministries continue while you are away. That means that the expenses associated with our ministries go on as well. So before you head off on that "get away," place your weekly offering in the plate, drop it off or mail it into the church office.

July Birthdays (*non-member)

- 1 Tanner Willman
- 3 Kole Davidheiser
- 4 Alicia Bauer
- 7 Pr. Matt Finney
- 8 Steve Novotny
- 9 Mary Asplen, Dawn Sandoval
- 10 Michael Fluke
- 13 Randy Shaner, Anthony Suriano
- 14 Jason Hoffman, Dorothy Houser
- 15 Tammy Hoffman, Otto Nuss (1938)
- 17 Linda Hoffman
- 19 Dylan Drury
- 21 Nancy Haas (1943), LaVerne Moser (1944)
- 22 Kalyn Bartman, Julia Menear
- 25 Alexis Brown
- 27 Kallie Carter
- 28 Merle Deery
- 29 Olivia Fluke, Harley Hoffman, Michael Stevens II*
- 30 Ruth Weller
- 31 Cindy Miller



From the Church Office

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the August issue of the Niantic News is due by **Tuesday, July 9th**. If you have something to submit, PLEASE DO YOUR BEST TO MEET THIS DEADLINE! It takes time to type, layout, proofread, and print the newsletter BEFORE it gets assembled. 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, which will be returned for reuse;
- Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Thank you, Melissa

Thank you...

...to all that planned, worked, or helped in any way for the 80th Birthday Party. Thank you! It was very nice and a fun day!

Sandy Plumley

..to everyone who worked so hard and gave their time to give us 80'ssss people a very nice Birthday Celebration Party! It was great and entertainment was delightful. Love the angel (beautiful)! Thank you so much,

Pat Schaeffer, friend of Charlie/Betty Hoffman

... for your generous donation of 52 quilts to support Lutheran World Relief. Your donation helped us send 291 quilts and 400 kits to the LWR Warehouse in Maryland. We could not have done it without you!

Blessings,

**Carolyn Edwards
WELCA/SEPA
Board**

QUILT TYING

Join us on **Tuesday, July 9 at 9:30 a.m.** (note time change) for quilt tying in the social hall.

Followed by the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our July lunch date will be on **Tuesday, July 9 at 12 noon.**

We will be going to Longacre's Dairy, Rte. 100, Barto for a 12 noon lunch.

Please meet in parking lot by 11:30 a.m. for lunch at 12 noon.



BLOOD DONORS WANTED:

Upcoming Keystone-Miller Blood Drives will be held on:

Wednesday, July 3 from **12:30 – 6:30 p.m.** at the Boyertown Community Library, 24 N Reading Ave. Boyertown

Friday, July 5 from **8 a.m. – 1 p.m.** at the Boyertown Ambulance, 2 E. 2nd Street, Boyertown

Saturday, July 27 from **9 a.m. – 1 p.m.** at Calvary UCC, Rte. 100, Barto

If you would like to donate blood, call Keystone-Miller Blood bank at 1-800-223--6667 to sign-up or log into www.giveapint.org to find the location.

2025 Budget Requests DUE!

The 2025 Budget Requests are DUE to the Finance Committee by Sunday, August 11. If you are a committee or an employee with a budget line, please make sure your request gets in by Sunday, August 11th!

Hymn Sing Sundays:

**Sunday, July 28
and
Sunday, August 25**

If there is a particular hymn you'd like to sing, please talk to or e-mail Deb Matthews, well in advance, to let her know.





2024 Graduates



Dawn Sandoval graduated on December 15, 2023 from Liberty University with a Masters of Arts in Teaching Secondary Science. Dawn's accomplishments while in college are: graduating with highest distinction (Summa Cum Laude) and she was a member of Kappa Delta Pi – Honor Society in Education. Dawn obtained a job teaching forensics at Reading High School.



Jacob Knaub, son of Mike and Lisa Knaub, graduated from West Virginia University in December 2023. Jacob received a Bachelor Degree in Wildlife and Fisheries Resources. His accomplishments while in college include: Davis College Ambassador and the Alpha Gamma Rho Fraternity for agriculture. Jacob was recently hired as an environmental consultant for a firm in Wind Gap, Pa.



Daniel Knaub, son of Mike and Lisa Knaub, graduated from East Stroudsburg University in May. Daniel earned his Bachelor degree in Health and Physical education. While in college, Daniel graduated Summa Cum Laude and was the treasurer and vice president of the Health & PE club. Daniel's future plans are to look for a teaching position as a health and physical educator.



Stephanie Bauer, daughter of Alicia and Matt Bauer, graduated from Manor College on May 16, 2024 with an Associate's degree in Science and an Associates in Expanded Functions Dental Assisting. While in college, Stephanie made the Dean's list, was Vice President of Student Senate, ESAC – all American athlete for soccer, basketball and volleyball, orthodontics and general dentistry proficiency award. Stephanie plans on finding a job to be in Expanded Functions Dental Assisting.



Julissa Sandoval, daughter of Dawn and Sergio Sandoval, graduated from Boyertown Area High School on May 30, 2024 with a high school diploma. While in school, she was on the Honor Roll and obtained a scholarship to continue her education. Julissa plans on attending Montgomery County Community College for two years and then transfer to a four year university to study psychology.



Jackson Moser, son of Heather and Mark Moser, graduated from Boyertown Area High School and Berks Career and Technical Center (BCTC) on May 30, 2024 with a high school diploma. Jackson plans to attend Harrisburg University of Science and Technology in the fall.



Rebecca Johns, daughter of Dave and Jamie Johns, graduated from Brandywine Heights High School and will be attending Reading Hospital School of Health and Sciences for medical imaging starting January of 2025.

Congratulations to all of the graduates!
We, the members, at Christ Lutheran wish all of you the best in the future ahead!

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

FOOD PANTRY COLLECTION

The July/August collection of food for local food banks will be donated to Open Link in Pennsburg.

Any item is appreciated, but there is a special need for the following:

Food:

canned fruit in juice and applesauce; peanut butter & jelly; pasta & spaghetti sauce (jar); cereal; canned chili; canned chicken; pork n beans

Cleaning Supplies and Paper Products:

toilet paper; paper towels; all-purpose cleaner etc.

Baby Items:

diapers size 5 & 6; Baby wipes

Personal Care Items:

shampoo/conditioner; body wash; toothpaste

Place items in designated boxes located in the coat/mail room.

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 at (610) 367-0548.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:

June Herb at (610) 754-7841 or junerose56@aol.com

Joy

...Birth of identical twins Dorothy Louise and Adeline Marie on Thursday, June 13 to Cara & Derrick Houck. and grand-children of Bruce and Diane Houck.

Health & Healing:

Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz
 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
 Merle Deery
 Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
 Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
 Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
 Stella Hatgiannis - Friend of Pat Moser
 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
 Sandy Plumley
 Douglas Robinson – father of Donna Menear
 Ethan Schoenly - 10 yr. old cousin of Lindsey Mason
 Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker/Denise Hoffman
 Bill Starrett – friend of Gerry and Terry Flicker
 Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Care and Concern for...

The Bruckner Family - house fire Saturday afternoon, June 1 (off County Line Rd., Barto).

Death (Family and Friends of...):

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)

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

Save-the-Dates!!

Church Picnic/Outdoor Worship

Our annual church picnic/outdoor worship will be held on **Sunday, August 25** at Butch and Roxanne Fox's home! Watch for more details to come in July!!

AND

"God's Work, Our Hands"

Sunday, September 8



The **Mercy Ministry Committee** will be collecting personal care items (such as shampoo etc.) for the Boyertown Area Multi-Service from August 4th through September 8th. These items will be placed in front of the Altar on Sunday, September 8th and receive a special blessing before being distributed to Multi-Service. There will also be a special coffee hour that day. Watch for more info soon.

Highlights from the April 23, 2024 Council Meeting:

1. Received an "updated" bid from Jim Hasson Painting: scheduled to be done in May/June; Deposit: ½ down, balance upon completion: \$19,250.00
2. Each of the ten grants submitted to the endowment committee were approved for either all or a partial amount that was requested. A motion was made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Dave Fioriglio.
3. A member mentioned the removal of the attendance numbers in the bulletin; they are updated in the monthly newsletters and the yearend report
4. Insurance coverage and quote - originally looked elsewhere because of the change in the deductible; the finance committee needs to compare them because there are significant differences in coverages and the policy we have is not accurately comparable to the quote from the other company
5. Update on boiler: Steve Novotny stated they were at the church to look at it, no new information yet.
6. Planning Committee: cookout scheduled for June 15th (3-7pm); there are volunteers and the endowment committee gave \$461 towards the cookout to help with food and maybe some entertainment
7. It was mentioned that members/guests that have disabilities may have problems seeing what is going on from the back row where it is handicapped accessible. A few members from Council have agreed to see what can be done to improve different aspects of the church to allow all members to actively participate in the church service. A guidance on accessibility in churches will be reviewed to create a more comprehensive look at the situation from the parking lot to the bathrooms and elevator to complete a checklist to see if there are any areas that can be improved upon.
8. May 18th is the birthday party for older than 80 members - get out and enjoy the companionship with one another

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Reminder: suggestions are needed for items to place on the memorial fund list; a recommendation to look into the cost of a technology system to stream the service better was brought back up; further details are needed at this time

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Sandoval
Council Secretary

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

06/11/2024 11:12 AM

Page: 1

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$9,294.01	\$53,411.55	\$56,388.55
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	566.00	2,424.00	2,579.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	171.77	839.49	165.19
OTHER INCOME	(306.67)	(306.67)	(13.66)
TOTAL INCOME	9,725.11	56,368.37	59,119.08
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$5,618.03	\$23,214.55	\$21,511.50
OTHER STAFF	4,644.13	17,356.69	15,440.30
Subtotal Salaries	10,262.16	40,571.24	36,951.80
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	0.00	1,035.89	482.62
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	300.00	300.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	196.64	1,513.86	1,072.62
Subtotal Worship	196.64	2,849.75	1,855.24
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	34.76	34.76	0.00
OTHER MINISTRIES	68.00	136.00	68.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	265.00	0.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	400.02	400.98
INTERNET EXPENSES	287.40	1,349.58	1,143.93
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	287.40	2,014.60	1,544.91
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	109.59	690.56	817.62
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	445.91	71.57
Subtotal Church Administration	109.59	1,136.47	889.19
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	339.37	7,488.00	7,914.33
CLEANING SUPPLIES	718.00	1,853.73	1,814.33
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	30.07	28.07
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	79.00	542.94	468.82
Subtotal Building Operations	1,136.37	9,914.74	10,225.55
INSURANCE	0.00	3,849.50	5,724.00
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	7,335.91	2,945.72
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,094.92	67,842.97	60,204.41
TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$2,369.81)	(\$11,474.60)	(\$1,085.33)

Respectfully submitted
Jesson 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

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 _____ + (5/24-4/25)

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

Ministry Assistants for July 2024


	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
July 7 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Heather Moser	Heather Moser	Denise Hoffman	Bruce Houck and _____*
July 14 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Terry Flicker✓	Shirley and Merle Deery
July 21 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Rebecca Sandoval		Terry Flicker✓	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
July 28 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Sue Hoffman		_____*	Sue and Norm Hoffman

Altar Guild: Terry & Gerry Flicker

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

_____ * = Help is needed. If you can help, please contact the church office or just volunteer on that Sunday morning. Thanks.

✓updated since publication

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">July 2024</h1>						
	1 7:00 Property (W/C)	2	3	4 Independence Day	5 Office Closed –	6
Pr. Matt on vacation through July 6. Pastor on call for <u>emergencies</u> is: Pr, Scott Staub (484) 955-5093.						
				Office Closed	Melissa Vacation	
7 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	8	9 August Niantic News Article Deadline 9:30 AM Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 a.m. Ladies meet at church to carpool to a 12 noon lunch at Longacre's Dairy, Rte. 100. 7:30 Finance (W/C)	10	11	12 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	13
14 Quilt Blessing 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	15	16 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	17	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 6:30 Cemetery Board (room H) 7:00 Council (parlor)	24	25	26 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	27
28 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Hymn Sing 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	29	30	31	August 1	August 2 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	August 3