

Niantic News

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

January 2024

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A message from the Pastor...

It's the New Year and it's time for a fresh start. It's the time when we break out the new calendar with all its empty squares. The expanse of white space on the pages symbolizes new beginnings, new possibilities, and new hope.

Hope is a funny thing. We have a way of citing hope during those times when life seems most difficult. We may say things like, "well there's always hope" or "we still have hope" but we say those things when we have nothing else to say or nowhere else to turn.

It is common this time of year to hear someone say, "happy New Year, let's hope it's better than last year". They're trying to be positive, but there is something about the way they say that word, *hope*. Their tone of voice betrays their true thoughts. There is an unspoken corollary to their New Year's wish, "let's hope the New Year is better, but I have no reason to believe it will be". As a society, we speak of hope frequently, but I don't know if we really grasp on to true hope. Maybe hope is just one of those things we speak off when no other words will do.

The hope of faith is very different from the halfhearted hopes for the New Year. In scripture the prophets speak and act in hope in the midst of circumstances that look hopeless, yet they have a hope that is true, strong, and real. The early Church leaders like Paul write of hope even while imprisoned for preaching the Gospel. What is the difference? Hope without faith to match is empty hope. We can have hope because we have faith in God and faith that God will keep his promises.

Hope for better times without faith in One who can bring true renewal and new life becomes an exercise in frustration and disappointment. To have the kind of hope in the face of adversity that the prophets and saints had, we have faith in the ultimate love of the Father made known in the Son. The hope of new years and new beginnings are ultimately empty. We cannot have faith in the promise of time or in the goodness of a change of the calendar.

The true renewal and true hope are only possible with faith in the God who promises to gather, restore, and redeem his people, the God who promises life eternal through Jesus Christ. Only with that faith can we face an uncertain future with real hope.

In Christ, Pr. Matt

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since November 27, 2023.

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

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.

ATTENTION!!!**Annual Report Committee
and Staff Reports
were DUE by Monday,
January 8th.**

If you have not submitted your article, please do so as soon as possible.

Please e-mail your reports to:

christluthchurch@windstream.net.

Thank you!

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, 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.

Newsletter Deadline –

Information for the February issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, January 9th**.

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, which can be borrowed from the church office and returned;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

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

**January Birthdays!!**

- 2 Duane Riegner
- 5 David Delp, Donna Stifnell
- 9 Shirley Deery
- 11 Jenna Eisenhart
- 16 Beatrice Lukens (1932)
- 17 Joshua Nase, Sandy Plumley (1941)
- 19 Robert Aston (1943), Ella Hoffman
- 21 Jamie Johns
- 24 Thomas Farmer (1933)
- 27 Leonard Bendinsky, Barbara Steward, Julia Weller
- 30 Michael Knaub

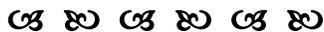
Quilt Tying

will be held on **Tuesday, January 9** beginning at **9:30 a.m.** in the social hall.

Then we will join the ...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The January Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, January 9** meeting in the church parking lot at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Argento's, Boyertown for lunch at 12 noon.



2024 Council Installation

Sunday, January 14

2024 Officers:

- President: Bob Heydt
 - Vice President: Steve Novotny
 - Secretary: Dawn Sandoval
 - Treasurer: Sue Hoffman
 - Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** and
 - Financial Secretary: Kathy Watts**
- (**non-Council members)

We welcome new members: Roberta Korsak, Pat Moser, and Steve Novonty to Council in 2024!

A little church humor...



"I downloaded them from a cloud."

Flower and Bulletin Charts

The bulletin and flower charts for 2024 are now posted in the Narthex. If you have a particular date that you want, you will need to sign-up early.

The cost of Altar Flowers is \$35.00 and Bulletins are \$20.00.

Note: On the Sunday's in Lent (February 18 through March 24 (Palm Sunday)), we will not order altar flowers.

All questions regarding Altar Flowers or Bulletins can be directed to Sandy Gehman.

Thank you...

...for your donation of \$150.00 to the Salvation Army. These donated funds help us serve the Boyertown community and beyond. With much gratitude,
Lt Jared Starnes,
Corps Officer/Pastor
Boyertown Salvation Army

...to our Niantic church family for the cards, flowers, the Care team package, prayers and well wishes you have extended to Charlie and myself. We especially want to thank Pr. Matt for all his visits to the hospital and our home. We are truly blessed to have such wonderful friends. Again, thank you.
God Bless, Polly and Charlie Orner

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:

June Herb: (610) 754-7841 or
e-mail: JuneRose56@aol.comHealth & Healing:

Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub
 Mark Belt – Terry Flicker's brother-in-law
 Al Brown – husband of a co-worker of Nancy Fioriglio
 Joan Brunner – June Herb's sister-in-law
 Dorothy Davis - sister of Barb Hoffman
 David Fioriglio – Dave's father
 Gerald Flicker
 Roxanne Fox
 Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin
 Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman
 Don Gerhart – brother of Sue Hoffman's friend, Mary
 Clifton Gray – Fioriglio's daughter-in-law's father
 Rev. Arlene Greenwald – former member of Niantic
 Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
 Betty Hoffman
 Roy Hoffman
 Wilson Hoffman
 Dorothy Houser
 Ted Jarsocrak - Pat Moser's cousin
 Katie - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
 Mark Kengle - family friend of the Fioriglios
 Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister
 Charlie Omer
 Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
 Aaron and Christy Roberts – friends of June Herb
 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

God's Presence: Marion Miller – Sue Hoffman's sisterGod's Comfort for...: Glenn and Liz Fronheiser - friends of the BennersDeath (Family and Friends of...):

Abe Gehman – father-in-law of Diana Gehman (12/18)
 Lindsey Greene – close friend of Colin/Kayla Temple (12/18)
 Pauline Weller – friend/relative to the Hoffman/Bernhard family (12/17)
 Harold Worrall – Lisa Knaub's father (11/26)

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 look in the 2023 Membership Directory or contact the
 church office.

Gerald Flicker (Grandview Manor in Fleetwood); Phyllis Hartenstine; Beatrice Lukens

Highlights from the November 28, 2023 Meeting:

- 1) Next Council Meeting: Monday December 18th at 6:30 (Reception for new members and nomination of Officers for 2024)
- 2) Memorial Gifts – New hymnals from Steve Novotny, in memory of Karlene Novotny
 - a. Motion by Sue H. seconded by Roxanne F., approved.
- 3) Discuss items from November Congregational Meeting
 - a. Joint ministry with St. Paul's, table until 2024
 - b. Overtime pay for employees: refer to Mutual Ministry
- 4) Convene committee to review updates to Congregation's constitution and by-laws based on current model constitution: Bob H., Dave, F., Roxanne F.
 - a. Will review and give recommendations to Council before February Congregational Meeting
- 5) Social Hall Rental: January 28, 2024
 - a. Members do not need council approval to reserve, just fill out form with Melissa
 - b. Cleaning of Social Hall? Need to clean before use, revisit with Property Committee
 - c. Update signage/ décor in Social Hall?

Respectfully submitted,
Pr. Matt

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - December 2023

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$3,875.01	\$123,327.14	\$135,930.43
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	101.00	6,068.00	46,088.14
INVESTMENT INCOME	0.00	1,503.02	0.00
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.60	(17,059.33)
TOTAL INCOME	3,976.01	130,898.76	164,959.24
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$1,218.90	\$50,982.00	\$53,594.57
OTHER STAFF	1,631.27	39,465.42	40,818.25
Subtotal Salaries	2,850.17	90,447.42	94,412.82
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	0.00	1,787.53	974.63
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	300.00	740.68
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	175.00	2,079.49	3,099.72
Subtotal Worship	175.00	4,167.02	4,815.03
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	127.50	112.00
SUPPLIES	0.00	232.63	0.00
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	360.13	112.00
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	0.00	274.00	362.50
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	400.98	0.00
INTERNET EXPENSES	0.00	2,671.30	2,590.69
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	0.00	3,072.28	2,590.69
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	59.09	1,895.81	1,893.23
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,363.29	1,489.40
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	194.55
Subtotal Church Administration	59.09	3,259.10	3,577.18
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	0.00	13,238.45	17,224.22
CLEANING SUPPLIES	75.64	4,154.34	3,498.54
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	134.37	128.55
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	3,008.71	4,100.61
Subtotal Building Operations	75.64	20,535.87	24,951.92
INSURANCE	0.00	5,724.00	4,823.00
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	3,385.71	2,372.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,159.90	131,225.53	138,017.45
TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$816.11	(\$326.77)	\$26,941.79

Respectfully submitted
Jessan Hoffman

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<h1>January 2024</h1>					
WC = Welcome Center		1 NEW YEAR'S DAY Office Closed	2	3 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	4	5 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	6 Epiphany
7 Baptism of Our Lord 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion / Baptism of Miles Lapinski 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	8 Annual Report Committee/ Staff Reports Deadline 7:00 Property (W/C)	9 February Niantic News Articles are DUE 9:30 AM Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 AM meet in parking lot for the Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Argento's, Boyertown	10 6:30 Handbells 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 / Installation of Council 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	15 Office Closed <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	16 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	17 6:30 Handbells 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 6:30 Cemetery Board (room H) 7:00 Council (parlor)	24 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	25	26 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	27	
28 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	29	30	31 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	February 1	February 2 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	February 3	