Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504
610-845-2583 christluthchurch@windstream.net
www.christniantic.com

December 2026

Life Questions for family gatherings...

Raising Kids: What is one of the funniest things your children did when they were little?

Best Friend: Who was your best friend growing up, and what did you do together?

Childhood Home: Where did you grow up and what do you remember most about your childhood home?

Proudest Moment: What accomplishment in your life are you the proudest of?

Favorite Songs: What song or record brings back strong memories and instantly takes you back to high school or your early 20s?

Historical Events: Were there any historical events that impacted your life?

Meeting a Spouse: How did you and your spouse or best friend meet for the first time? Where did you go on your first real date?

Family Member Who Inspired You: Who in your family inspired you the most, and why?

Advice to Younger Generations: What advice would you give to younger generations?

If you would like to share your answers, anonymously is fine or provide your name for the January newsletter, please email to the office or write down and place in Melissa's mailbox by Tuesday, December 8. Thank you!

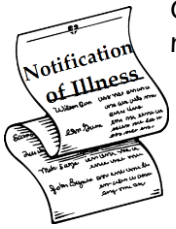
Favorite Memory: What is your favorite memory from when you were a child?

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Baptisms of Emilia and Addison Bechtel on Sunday, November 15 by Rev. Brad Mellon.

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/Pastor's 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. If you have a **Pastoral emergency need**, please call Pr. Eugene Zaiser at (610) 322-0901. Thank you.



Altar Flowers and Bulletins

The Bulletin and Altar Flower charts for 2027 are posted in the narthex. If you have a particular date you want, you will need to sign-up early. The cost of Altar Flowers is $40.00 and Bulletins are $20.00. Questions, please see or call Sandy Gehman.

Attendance

Date	Worship
October 4	42
October 1	45
October 18	48
October 25	75

2025 Sun. Avg.:	53	5 / 11
2026 Sun. Avg.:	39	- / -

[Prior year averages are based on same time period]

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 through the prayer chain, post it on Facebook, post it on WFMZ.com, 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 January issue of the Niantic News is due by **Tuesday, December 8.**

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 office;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox.

Thank you… *to Chershe who retrieved the mail and checked the answering machine messages during this year while I was on vacation. I really do appreciate it!* ***Melissa***



Thank you…

…for welcoming our family and for allowing Emilia and Addie to be baptized at your church. It means so much for our girls to begin their faith journeys where we grew up. Thank you for your kindness, support and help making this day so meaning for our family.

Zach, Mary, Emilia & Addison Bechtel

Quilt Tying
will be held on **Tuesday, December 8** beginning at **10:00 a.m.** in the room H.

Then we will join the …
Lutheran Ladies Lunch
The December Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, December 8** at **12 noon** at Peppe's, Swamp Pike, Gilbertsville. We will meet at the church at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to restaurant for a 12 noon lunch or you can meet us at Peppe's at 12 noon.

Upcoming F.U.N. Advent Extravaganza

November 29 - Join us for a light lunch and help pack gift bags for shut-ins and community members!



December 6 – Coffee hour and Cookie Exchange – Bring a dozen cookies (or two) to share and take-home a dozen different cookies to enjoy!

December 13 - Miracle on 34th Street at Steel River Theater in Pottstown. For those of you who signed up, tickets are $15 each, please make checks payable to "CLC" and put in a pew envelope or give to Lisa Heydt for deposit and payment to Steel River. Some people have shown interest in carpooling, so we will be reaching out to all of you soon.

2027 Worship Helpers Needed
Would you like to try something new in 2027?
Have you ever considered serving as a Greeter/Usher, Acolyte, Lector, or Assisting Minister at the 9 AM service?
Help is needed in these assisting positions.
Please contact the church office to sign up.
Training will/can be provided.

Music news for December:
The Advent season begins on November 29th this year. We would love to have additional singers and instrumentalists for the Advent/Christmas services. Please see, text, or email Deb Matthews if you have an interest in joining us. Preludes will begin at 2:45 for the 3:00 service on Christmas Eve. Preludes will begin at 8:30 for the 9:00 Christmas Eve service.

Christmas Eve Services



Wednesday, December 24

3:00 PM and 9:00 PM

This year, Christ Lutheran will hold two (2) Christmas Eve services at 3 and 9 PM.
The 3 p.m. service is a family service or for those who do not wish to drive at night.
Preludes will begin at 2:30 p.m.
Join us for Communion at both services and Candlelighting at the 9 p.m. service.
Preludes will begin at 8:45 p.m.
Special Music will be at both services.
Let us celebrate our Savior's birth!

Thank you…

…to the congregation for the generous donation of patriotic quilts for my upcoming Veteran's Appreciation Breakfast. I am deeply grateful for your generosity the past four years.

Tracy Pennycuick, State Senator

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

2 Adelynn Hoffman
3 James Benner, Harold Swavely
4 Emily Barr
6 Stephen Hoffman
7 James Barton
12 Marvin Steward
15 Donna Haas
16 Bristol Ziegler
20 Carolyn Hoffman* (1937)
22 Ava Novotny
25 William Roberts
26 Carole Soffa
28 Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy
29 Jeffrey Aston, Callie Hummel
30 Justin Shaner
31 Gerry Flicker, Shannon (Hoffman) Sminkey

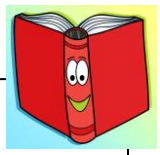


Thank you...

...for your generous donation of 40 pounds of groceries on Oct. 29 in support of Boyertown Area Multi-Service. Your contribution makes it possible for us to further our cause.

Sincerely,

Boyertown Multi-Service



Book Club

The Book Club will be reading the book: ***"Chilbury Ladies Choir"* by Jennifer Ryan.** This book can be borrowed from a local library or bought through a book store or Amazon. We will meet on **Tuesday, January 12** at **7:00 p.m.** in the Welcome Center to discuss the book. Participants are asked to come with suggestions for future reads. If you have any questions, please contact Roxanne Fox.

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.



Health & Healing:

Richard Campbell – Roberta Korsak's brother-in-law
Amelia Chalifoux - Tammy Hoffman's mother
Terry Flicker
Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
Sandy Hill – Paula Hoffman's sister
Rachel Hoffman – Aaron's wife, daughter-in-law of Denise/Philip
Tim Hoffman – Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker's brother-in-law
Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
Janet McDonough - friend of Tammy Hoffman
LaVerne (Muck) Moser
Otto Nuss
Linda Pell – Roberta Korsak's friend (10/28)
Danielle Saparito - Neighbor of Roberta Korsak
Bill Starrett – friend of Terry/Gerry Flicker, attends CLC
Mark Stofflet
Suzanne - sister of a co-worker of Nancy Fiorigilio and Lisa Heydt
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Dottie Werner – Nancy Folk's sister
Elaine Wolf – friend of Linda Hoffman

Death (Family and Friends of…):

Louis Levasseur – father of friends of Dave/Nancy Fioriglio (10/27)
Steve Jeschke - brother of Jill VanHorn (11/2)

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; 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)

Mercy Ministry:

Chershe Derr, Chairperson



Christmas Card Exchange

SHARING CHRISTMAS GREETINGS WITH CHURCH FRIENDS HELPS FUND MERCY MINISTRY PROJECTS

The annual Christmas Card Exchange begins **Sunday, November 29**. Place Christmas cards, addressed to congregation members, in the box in the Parlor. Then put the amount you saved on postage in a pew envelope and mark it "Christmas Card Exchange." Cards will be sorted by the Mercy Ministry committee. Don't forget to stop in the Parlor to pick up your cards!





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 plastic container on counter on the Narthex.

Redner's Save-a-Tape: 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 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 at (610) 367-0548. **NOTE:** a **NEW coordinator** of the Redner's Tape is being sought! Shirley has been doing this for many years. If you would like to know more, please see Shirley!

Salvation Army Christmas Food Boxes

During these difficult times, let us not forget our local food banks and donate to the Salvation Army during December. This food drive will benefit their **Christmas Food Boxes** (donations accepted through **December 7**), as well as stocking their food pantry. All types of canned goods or other non-perishable food items are needed. Items especially needed are as follows: canned vegetables, stuffing mix, instant potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, mac and cheese dinners, soups, canned chicken or tuna, cereal and pancake mix.

Donations of **hams** or turkeys for the Christmas Food Boxes may also be donated, and again should be taken directly to the Salvation Army because of the need for refrigeration. Please deliver to Salvation Army directly by December 8. If this is a problem, please contact Kay Barr. They ask that you please do not donate outdated items. All donated items will go to help people in need throughout the Boyertown Area.

Please place items in designated boxes located near the water cooler just outside the Welcome Center. Thank you!

Let us help our neighbors in need especially this year!



MERCY MINISTRY will **NOT** be participating in the **Salvation Army Bell Ringing** this year.

Important Notice:

ANNUAL REPORT

Committee and Staff Reports are due into the office by

Monday, January 4.



The Staff of Christ Lutheran Church:
Melissa Seasholtz and Deb Matthews

Wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Membership Directory Update Form

Please complete this form if you have not done so previously. This form gives permission to publicize a member's e-mail and/or cell phone number in the Membership Directory that is published in January each year. Forms are on the table in the narthex. Please complete and return to the office by Friday, December 11, if you wish to have either/both included in next year's directory. Please place a completed form in Melissa's mailbox. Thank you.

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.

Remembering our **Homebound* Members** and those in **Assisted Living** or **Retirement Communities** this Christmas season:

Mary Ache*
108 Oberholtzer Road
Gilbertsville PA 19525

Shirley Himmelberger*
286 Pilgert Street
Alburtis PA 18011-2436

Barbara Hoffman
Lodge Lane Assisted Living
1221 Lodge Lane, #226
Wilmington DE 19809

Sharon Moser
Chestnut Knoll, Room 102
120 W. 5th Street
Boyertown PA 19512

SAVE THE DATE!



3rd Annual Sportsman's Dinner
to be held on
Saturday, January 17, 2027
Church Social Hall

Doors open at 5:30 PM
Dinner at 6 PM
Entrees made with beef and wild game
Please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Speaker-Colin Temple 7 PM
Dessert and Coffee will be served

Limited seating is available for church members and their family & friends. Please sign up in the narthex by Sunday January 10 and let us know what game dish you will be bringing and if you will have any mounts that you would like to bring.

Please see any member of the FUN committee for questions or additional information.

Highlights from the September 29, 2026 Council Meeting:

1. Budget
   -3% raise to full-time employees
   -Additional Supply Pastor count to cover Holy week and other needs.

A motion was made by Roberta Korsak, seconded by Lori Ermold, to approve the budget. Set to be presented at the congregational meeting to be held on November 15th, 2026.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lot update: Estimate to appraise the lot across the street came in at 300 dollars. Motion made by to allocate 500 dollars to appraise the lot by Roberta Korsak, seconded by Marvin Steward.

Transition update: Consultant will likely become available soon but no set date.

Credits must be given for music utilized on the streamed services.

NEW BUSINESS:

Documenting administrative tasks, potentially finding congregation members to fill in if Melissa is absent.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knaub,
Council Secretary

Highlights from the October 27, 2026 Council Meeting:

1. Transition update

Dave and Bob met with transition coordinator Teri Lanan. She is going to be our coordinator for creating multi-point ministry agreement. This agreement can span across four denominations Lutheran, UCC, Presbyterian, Episcopal.

Potential opportunity to bring in Seminarians.

November Council Meeting moved to November 17th.

OLD BUSINESS:

Lot update:

- Lot update was appraised for free by Rich Zuber as a service to the church. He estimates the property is worth 40,000. Plan is to present the idea at the November Meeting, would not go to vote until February.

Live Stream Update

Plan to put copy of bulletin in the description to meet the copyright laws.

Respectfully submitted,
Dan Knaub, Council Secretary

Income & Expense as of October 2026

	Current Month	Year-to-date	Prior Year-to-date
Income	$ 7,593	$ 98,822	$ 96,898
Expenses	$ 13,531	$ 104,652	$ 123,663
Excess Income / (Expenses)	$ (5,938)	$ (5,830)	$ (26,765)

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR

CHRISTMAS CAROL SING & OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 20TH ~ 2 - 4 P.M.

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH, NIANTIC
222 NIANTIC ROAD, BARTO PA 19504



AFTERNOON ACTIVITIES:

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING IN THE WELCOME CENTER,
A CHRISTMAS CAROL SING-A-LONG OF YOUR FAVORITE CHRISTMAS CAROLS ACCOMPANIED BY JILL WATKINS AND
VISITS WITH SANTA AND MRS. CLAUSE!

WHILE YOU'RE HERE, INDULGE IN THE SWEET TREATS OF HOMEMADE CHRISTMAS COOKIES, LOVINGLY MADE BY MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH COMMUNITY.

BRING YOUR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS AS WE AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF CHRISTMAS!

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

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	$7,570.88	$97,614.63	$95,938.53
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	740.00	11,296.00	7,891.84
INVESTMENT INCOME	22.50	1,207.78	978.26
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	(18.65)
TOTAL INCOME	8,333.38	110,118.41	104,789.98
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	$2,704.23	$22,688.26	$46,229.05
OTHER STAFF	3,513.05	37,833.53	36,344.32
Subtotal Salaries	6,217.28	60,521.79	82,573.37
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	21.54	1,289.72	1,171.77
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	700.33	324.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	160.00	2,671.51	2,796.90
Subtotal Worship	181.54	4,661.56	4,292.67
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	151.18	19.99
OTHER MINISTRIES	0.00	261.00	261.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	0.00	51.42
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	475.40	215.07
STEWARDSHIP	471.05	893.44	523.78
INTERNET EXPENSES	328.09	3,314.37	3,504.44
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	818.14	4,683.21	4,294.71
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	155.98	1,555.10	2,002.44
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,227.92	1,035.24
Subtotal Church Administration	155.98	2,783.02	3,037.68
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	3,066.64	15,604.62	13,820.12
CLEANING SUPPLIES	550.00	4,822.18	4,402.19
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	147.98	143.84
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	0.00	8,393.85	11,409.86
Subtotal Building Operations	3,616.64	28,968.63	29,776.01
INSURANCE	2,541.00	10,026.00	9,543.00
FUND EXPENSES	158.84	158.84	21,748.77
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,689.42	112,215.23	155,547.20
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	($5,356.04)	($2,096.82)	($50,757.22)

Respectfully submitted
Susan Hoffman, Treasurer

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 Knaub	Treasurer:	Sue Hoffman**
Assistant Treasurer:	Nancy Fioriglio**	Financial Treasurer:	Kathy Watts**

e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Braden Bartman	Lori Ermold	Keith Folk ☑
Roxanne Fox ☑	Norm Hoffman	Roberta Korsak
Pat Moser	Marvin Steward ☑	

_____+ (5/26 – 4/27)

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

Ministry Assistants for December 2026

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/Greeters
December 6 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Pat Moser	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	_____* and _____*
December 13 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and Roberta Korsak
December 20 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt		Terry Flicker	Lisa and Bob Heydt
Christmas Eve, December 24 3:00 p.m.	Tenley Willman	Tori Willman	Sue Hoffman	_____*	_____* and _____*
9:00 p.m.	_____*	Donna Menear	_____*	Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and _____*
December 27 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio		_____*	_____* and _____*

Altar Guild: December 6: Chershe Derr / _____*; December 13: Chershe Derr / _____*
December 20: Shirley and Merle Deery; December 24 (3 p.m.): _____*
December 24 (9 p.m.): _____*; December 27: Chershe Derr / _____*

Counting Team: TEAM A – Butch Fox (capt.); Bob Heydt, Lisa Heydt, Pat Moser, Roberta Korsak

_____*Help needed – contact the church office if you can help. Thank you.

(updated since publication)



December 2026



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	**2** 7:00 Sr. Choir	**3**	**4** 5 – 9 p.m. - Festival of Trees at Boyertown Multi-Service	**5**
6 Second Sunday of Advent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Pr. David Lutcher preaching 10:00 Coffee Hour & Cookie Exchange (W/C)	**7** 6:30 Property (W/C)	**8 *January Niantic News Articles are DUE** 10:00 Quilt Tying (rm. H) 11:30 Meet in parking lot to carpool to Peppe's for Ladies Lunch at 12 noon	**9** 7:00 Sr. Choir	**10**	**11**	**12**
13 Third Sunday of Advent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. David Lutcher preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 2:00 Miracle on 34th Street/Pottstown	**14**	**15 *ALL info for Christmas Eve, Sundays Dec. 27 and Jan. 3 bulletins are DUE into the office.** 6:30 Council (parlor)	**16** 7:00 Sr. Choir	**17**	**18**	**19**
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Scott Staub preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 2 – 4 p.m. Church Christmas Open House	**21**	**22**	**23**	**24 Christmas Eve Services:** **3 PM** *Communion (2:45 p.m. - Preludes begin)* **9 PM** *Communion / Candlelight (8:30 p.m. – Preludes begin)*	**25** *Merry Christmas!* **Office Closed - Holiday**	**26**
27 Lessons & Carols 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Scott Staub preaching 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	**28**	**29**	**30**	**31** *New Year's Eve*	**January 1** **Office Closed** *New Year's Day!*	**January 2**

Office closed. Melissa Vacation ~
Mail and answering machine will be checked.