

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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April 2023

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A Message from the Pastor...

Holy Week stands at the center of our faith. Without the events that we commemorate during these days there would be no Church. Jesus would have lived and died without much notice and certainly would not have been remembered by history, let alone be worshipped and followed by billions throughout the centuries.

We begin with a day that moves us through extremes, Palm Sunday which is also called Passion Sunday. These dueling titles demonstrate the extremes. The joyful shouts of “hosanna” quickly become the angry shouts of “crucify him”. This abrupt change may seem unbelievable, but should instead serve as a reminder of how fickle we can be as human beings. The shouts of “hosanna” are shouts of anticipation. Will Jesus be the king that restores the throne of David to its rightful place? After his arrest it is clear that he will not be that kind of king. What good is he then?

We then back up to examine what comes between these extremes. Maundy Thursday celebrates several things. We often think of the last supper when we think of Maundy Thursday and that is certainly one of the themes, but along with the last supper comes Jesus’ washing of the disciples’ feet. This action is done to demonstrate his command to “love one another” which is where we get the term Maundy, from the Latin word *mandatum*, or commandment. This day is also a day of contrasts. While Jesus leaves us the meal that stands at the center of our life together and the command to love one another, he receives in return a betrayal of all betrayals. So the service ends in betrayal with the stripping of the altar and the recitation of Psalm 22, “my God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

Good Friday also comes to us in extremes. We call that day “good”, but it is solemn and joyless on the surface. Jesus is crucified and the earth stands silent. The deeper we look though, the more we can see the “good” present in this sad day. Christ’s crucifixion sets in motion the ultimate struggle, that between death and life. In his death, God takes on death itself, the foe that we humans cannot defeat. Jesus fights that battle for us in the way that he alone can, as fully God and fully human. We can only transcend death if God does it for us, so this death on this “good” Friday is in many ways the final death.

Holy Saturday sits at a uniquely “in between time”. We wait in anticipation for the joy of the resurrection celebration of Easter morning, but we also look back to the days of the disciples as they lived on that day of utter defeat and terror. Yes, we have the benefit of knowing how things turn out, but it is also important to try and sit in their own sense of loss. While we may not face those kind of moments on Holy Saturday we all will face those moments of loss and seeming hopelessness at some time in our lives. On that day for the disciples God seems silent; sometimes we feel the same silence. Silence also attunes our ears to hear the smaller things, the tiny sounds, and it is out of these small things that the joyous chorus of Easter Sunday is born.

These days are best experienced by walking through them. Sit through the same amount of time that the disciples did without skipping ahead to the conclusion. In the midst of that time God will show you something new. Join us as we mark these most holy days.

In Christ,
Pastor Matt

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm/Passion Sunday April 2 – 9 AM at Christ Lutheran
Maundy Thursday, April 6 (at St. Paul’s Lutheran): 7 PM
Good Friday, April 7 (at Christ Lutheran): 7 PM
Easter Sunday, April 9: 6:30 AM Sunrise Service, 9 AM Festival Service at CLC

Alleluia!
HE IS ALIVE!

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.



Thank you...

...for the beautiful quilts you donated to Project Home. They were distributed to those experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia by our homeless outreach teams. Because of your thoughtful and generous donations, people were able to experience the warm and love of you quilts.

Thank you, **The Outreach Coordination Center at Project Home**

...from the Lebanon VA Medical Center patients and staff for your donation of 20 patchwork tied quilts.

Jason Lane, Chief, Voluntary Service

...for your donation of \$103.00 (Souper Bowl Sunday) to the Pottstown Cluster of Religious Communities. Your donation will be used in the area of greatest need.

Barbara Wilhelmy, Executive Director of Pottstown Cluster

...so much for all the love and kindness you showered on me in celebration of my 90th birthday. Charlie and I have been so blessed to have each other, our families, and you our church family. Blessings,

Betty & Charlie Hoffman

From the Church Office:

Newsletter Deadline:

Information for the May issue of the Niantic News is due by **Tuesday, April 11th**. 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; or
- ✓ place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Thank you, Melissa

Sunday Attendance:

Date 9:00/Conf./Adult

February 5	43 / 3 / 4
February 12	57 / 3 / 0
February 19	37 / 0 / 0.
February 26	40 / 5 / 4
Ash Wed. (2/22):	29

2022 Sun. Avg.:	45 / 12
2023 Sun. Avg.:	44 / 4

(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
- 30 Nancy Folk



Quilt Tying

will be held on **Tuesday, April 11** 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 11** meeting in the parking lot at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Redvo (formerly Oley Turnpike Dairy), just outside of Oley for a 12 noon lunch.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:
June Herb at (610) 754-7841 or
Junerose56@aol.com

**Joy:**

Eden Beth - born to Nik and Janna Wood Christine
(relative of June Herb) (3/18)

Thanksgiving:

Betty Hoffman - (from Charlie Hoffman) - Giving thanks for
the blessing that major surgery was not necessary. We are so
grateful for all the prayers.

Health & Healing:

Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub
Barry and family – nephew of Sandy Plumley
Janet Behel – Shirley Deery's sister
Mark Belt – brother-in-law of Terry Flicker
Chris – husband of Cassie who is a co-worker of Kathy Watts
George Curry - Neighbor of Keith and Nancy Folk
Dorothy Davis - sister of Barb Hoffman
Fern Flicker
Brenda Folk – daughter-in-law of Keith/Nancy Folk
Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Betty/Charlie Hoffman
Betty Hoffman
Mae Hoffman – Norm Hoffman's mother
Katie - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister
Lindsey Mason
Sue Moser – friend of Chershe/Ernie Derr
Charlie Orner
Cole Pfeifer and family – friends of Luke and Heather Moser
Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
Janet Schaeffer
Joan Shaner
Todd (Scrufty) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise
Hoffman
Bill Starrett – friend of Terry and Gerry Flicker
Marvin Steward
Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
Joseph Werner – brother-in-law of Nancy Folk
Harold Worrall – Lisa Knaub's father
William Zearfoss – Deb Matthew's father

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; Corey
Mason – husband of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Quinn Mason
- Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson; Ian Diable-Pat Moser's
grandson; Ryan Watts – nephew of Kathy Watts; William
Zearfoss – Deb Matthew's nephew; Matthew and Joseph
Schwenk (nephews of Amy Eichinger); Tim Drabyak – nephew
of Dave/Nancy Fioriglio; 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 look in the 2023 Membership Directory.

Fern and Gerald Flicker (Sanatoga Court, Room 103);
Phyllis Hartenstine; Beatrice Lukens (Saucon Valley Manor,
Hellertown)

MUSIC MINISTRY NEWS

Church Music Sunday will be celebrated
on May 14th. The many musicians that give so
generously of their time and talent will be
recognized in the worship service.

HANDBELL CHOIR

Terry Flicker
Kathy Watts
Nancy Fioriglio
Ginnie Wilkinson

SR CHOIR

Denise Hoffman
Dave Fioriglio
Jim Barr
Diane Houck
(alternate)

TRANSFORMATION

Kathy Watts
Denise Hoffman
Diane Houck

“Choirs can never be thanked enough.
Of all the ministries of your church or parish,
those in the choir usually volunteer the
greatest number of hours all year round. So,
thank your choir now, and always.

Consider how lucky we are to have
people in our lives not only to make music with,
but to pray with. To do so at the same time is
an extraordinary privilege. Don't forget it, and
never take it for granted.

So, get on your knees and thank God
for the gift of music, through which we may sing
His praises, comfort the distressed, and
experience the boundless joy of God's love.

And while you're at it, thank your choir.

Again.”

“Five Things Directors and Choirs Must

Remember This Holy Week”

Blog published March 27, 2015

By Richard J. Clark

Holy Week Schedule:

Palm Sunday – April 2, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Week begins April 2 with our Palm Sunday services at the usual time with the Blessing and Distribution of Palms and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

Maundy Thursday – April 6, 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran, Sassamansville

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, which was the occasion for the institution of Holy Communion. The service is at 7:00 p.m. at St. Paul's Lutheran Church.

Good Friday Tenebrae Service – April 7, 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran, Barto.

The centerpiece of our Good Friday service will be a service of great liturgy and responses. The service is held at 7:00 p.m. at Christ Lutheran, Barto. We encourage you to attend this special service.

Easter Sunrise Service – April 9, time: 6:30 a.m. and Easter Festival Service – 9:00 a.m.

*Easter Sunday will be celebrated with a sunrise service (time: 6:30 a.m.) and a later service at the usual 9:00 a.m. time. In between the services, the FUN Committee will host a Coffee, Cake & Conversation in the Welcome Center. A **sign-up sheet** is posted in the narthex if you would like to bring a **breakfast treat** to share. We hope you are able to join us for fellowship time!*



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!

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.

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.



Thank you...

... to Lowell Lysinger (Johanna's brother) for delivering 35 of our bed-sized quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in Maryland. **Mercy Ministry Committee**



Highlights of January 24, 2023 Council Minutes:

- 1) **Replacement needed for Charlie Hoffman-resigning from Council:** A motion was made by Dave Fioriglio and seconded by Keith Folk to accept Charlie Hoffman's resignation. A replacement will need to be found.
- 2) **Discuss Committees and Council Representatives on those committees:** Council members should consider where their gifts and interests lie and are asked to participate on the various committees here at CLC.
Since Worship and Music could use some members, a short explanation of the committee functions was given.
- 3) **Discuss Year End results for 2022 / Historical perspective:**
We were approximately \$5600 to the good for 2022.
Synod has always requested our intent for the year for the Benevolence Fund. Monetary commitment over the last few years has not been what it used to be.
The Benevolence Fund is not part of what we budget for the year. Should we consider setting a goal again?
Some of the individual funds were mentioned from the report and their dollar amounts.
- 4) **Approval for Endowment Committee event in May:**
A temple talk has been approved for May 14th.
- 5) **Financial listing in the bulletin:** Finance has decided that the listing in the bulletin will remain as is (based on budget) on a weekly basis. Once a month the actuals will be listed. There are pros and cons to each way of listing.
The question arose concerning whether the weekly listing is really needed. The discussion was tabled for a future meeting.
- 6) **Long Range Planning Committee:** The first meeting is scheduled for Wed. January 24th.
- 7) **A coffee hour after church is planned for Youth Sunday:** Sue, Roxanne and Dawn have volunteered.

STAFF REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

Property: Music room is essentially complete and the copy room will be painted next.

Finance: Audit is coming up. Counting team schedule is being staggered. We are still waiting for offering envelopes.

Endowment: discussed in Priority items.

Pastor: has been asked to serve on the First Call Education Committee

Treasurers Report:

Financial Secretary

A motion was made by Dave Fioriglio and seconded Bob Borneman to accept the committee reports pending audit. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Church closings: Bob Heydt or Dave Fioriglio will call Butch Fox for information on road conditions. They will then call WFMZ if there is to be a delay / closure.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerry Flicker, Council Secretary

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

03/09/2023 07:10 PM

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$10,762.87	\$23,054.39	\$22,178.85
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	491.00	1,026.00	867.00
OTHER INCOME	(371.85)	(569.86)	0.00
TOTAL INCOME	10,882.02	23,510.53	23,045.85
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,350.10	\$8,604.60	\$8,472.74
OTHER STAFF	3,130.21	6,234.26	6,679.53
Subtotal Salaries	7,480.31	14,838.86	15,152.27
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	61.48	61.48	74.51
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	175.00	175.00	281.72
Subtotal Worship	236.48	236.48	356.23
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
INTERNET EXPENSES	204.07	428.42	41.70
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	86.92	189.64	225.82
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	25.98	25.98	0.00
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	97.27
Subtotal Church Administration	112.90	215.62	323.09
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	3,955.80	4,336.62	3,174.87
CLEANING SUPPLIES	369.33	369.33	0.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	36.27	271.46	0.00
Subtotal Building Operations	4,361.40	4,977.41	3,174.87
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	5,724.00	5,724.00	1,265.50
	1,280.00	1,280.00	0.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,399.16	27,700.79	20,313.66
TRANSFERS	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	0.00	0.00
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	(\$8,517.14)	(\$4,190.26)	\$2,732.19

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.

Adult Bible Study:

Adult Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. ~ Parlor

Confirmation:

Confirmation ~ 10:00 a.m. in room I.

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Matthew Finney ~ clcpastor@windstream.net
Parish Musician: Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net

2023 Congregational Council

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

Robert Borneman Merle Deery Keith Folk
Roxanne Fox Bob Gabel Dawn Sandoval
Marvin Steward Jackson Moser+ (5/22-4/23)

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

Ministry Assistants for April 2023

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/Greeters
April 2 (Palm Sunday) 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Denise Hoffman	_____*	Denise Hoffman	_____*
April 7 (Good Friday) 7:00 p.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		_____*	Sue Hoffman and Bruce Houck
April 9 (Easter) 6:30 a.m.	Callie Bartman	_____*	_____*	_____*	The Fox Family
9:00 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	Bruce Houck
April 16 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck		Terry Flicker	Ginnie Wilkinson and Gerry Flicker
April 23 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Sue Hoffman		_____*	Sue Hoffman
April 30 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Nancy Fioriglio		_____*	Nancy Fioriglio

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 style="font-family: cursive;">April 2023</h1> 						
						1
2 <i>Palm Sunday</i> 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion (Rails) / Blessing & Distribution of Palms 10:00 Adult Sunday School (parlor) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	3 7:00 Property (W/C)	4	5 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	6 7:00 Maundy Thursday Service at St. Paul's, Sassamansville	7 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours 7:00 Good Friday Service at Christ Lutheran	8
9 <i>Easter</i> 6:30 Easter Sunrise Service / Communion 7:30 Easter Coffee, Cake & Conversation hosted by the FUN committee (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Communion	10 Office Closed in observance of Easter	11 **May Niantic News Article Deadline 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Ladies Lunch – meet in church parking lot to carpool to Redvo, Oley	12 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	13	14 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	15
16 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Confirmation (room I) 10:00 Adult Sunday School (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	17	18 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	19 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	20	21 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	22
23 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Confirmation (room I) 10:00 Adult Sunday School (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	24	25 7:00 Council (parlor)	26 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir <i>Administrative Professionals Day</i>	27	28 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	29
30 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Confirmation (room I) 10:00 Adult Sunday School (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	May 1 7:00 Property (W/C)	May 2	May 3 6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	May 4	May 5 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; text-align: center;"> Synod Assembly in Franconia, PA </div>	May 6