Miantic Mews

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

October 2025 Page 1

A message from the Pastor...

As the weather turns cooler and the leaves begin to turn and fall, we think of those Autumn celebrations that mark the time and progression of the year. The big day in October comes at the end, Halloween. While Halloween is a fun season for kids of all ages it also tends to overshadow another important day for the church. On October 31 (All Saints Eve or All Hallows Eve), we also celebrate Reformation Day. On that day in 1517, Luther posted his call for debate over the practice of selling indulgences commonly known as the 95 Theses. We celebrate this day as the beginning of the Reformation even though what came to be known as the Reformation was likely far beyond the imagination of Dr. Luther when he put out the call for debate.

We normally transfer the celebration of the Reformation to the last Sunday in October as we observe Reformation Sunday. On this day, we celebrate the lasting impact of Luther and the other reformers. The significance of Reformation Day goes far beyond the history of a single church or nation. The Reformation altered the religious landscape of first Europe and then the world, paving the way for new forms of worship, church governance, and theological study. The Reformation promoted the translation of the Bible into many languages, making scripture accessible to ordinary believers. It encouraged literacy, education, and critical thinking.

This year, we will celebrate the heritage of the Reformation in a new way. We are delighted to announce a special celebration: our congregation will join with our neighbors at St. Paul's, Sassamansville for a joint worship service on Reformation Sunday. United by the Spirit, we will come together to remember our shared heritage and rejoice in the transformative power of God's Word.

On October 26 at 9AM, we will welcome members of St. Paul's to Christ Lutheran that they may join us in celebrating our Lutheran identity and unity. Reformation Sunday is not only a celebration of our past, but a call to unity and renewal. Our joint worship will be a testament to the bonds we share, reminding us that in Christ, we are one people, and one Church called to serve and love our neighbors.

Please mark your calendars, invite your friends, and join us for this memorable occasion. Let us come together in faith, honoring our heritage and looking ahead with hope.

In Christ, Pr. Matt

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since August 25, 2025

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 Matt's Contact Info

The Church Office Hours are Monday through Friday, 9 – 2 p.m.

If you need to speak to Pr. Matt regarding a pastoral emergency, please call him at (484) 587-6506.

Pr. Matt's Office Hours are Friday's from 10 AM – 1 PM.

All other calls can be called into the church office or left on the answering machine.



Ī	Attendance					
	<u>Date</u>	Worship) (9:00 AM	Bible Study	181		
 	August 3 August 10 August 17 August 24 August 31	37 34 50 46 35	13 12 15 15			
	2024 Sun. Avg.: 2025 Sun. Avg.: <i>[Prior year averag</i>]	52 40 es are based	14 on same time period	 		

From the Church Office

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the November issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday**, **October 14**th.

There are several ways for you to submit your articles:

- ☑ E-mail it to me at christluthchurch@windstream.net;
- ☑ Submit it on a borrowed church's USB flash drive:
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

NOTE: The church office will be closed on Tuesday, Oct. 7 and Wed. Oct. 8 because the Admin Assist will be attending the Parish Secretaries Seminar. Answering machine and mail will be checked.

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

October Birthdays

- 1 Charles Orner (1933)
- 3 Kenneth Moser
- 4 Ernest Fox
- 5 Michael Appold (1938)
- 6 Amy Eichinger, Grant Stevens
- 7 William Floyd (1942)
- 9 Zoe Eichinger
- 11 Susan Bendinsky (1942), Drew Hoffman
- 12 Tirrell Hoffman, John Moll (1937)
- 14 Matt Bauer, Lisa Heydt, Bruce Houck, Alexandra Nester
- 19 Lorrie Zuber
- 21 Mackenzie Hoffman
- 25 Sandra Miller, Jackson Moser, Tenley Willman
- 30 Wendy Barton, June Herb (1938)



Quilt Tying

On **Tuesday, October 14** beginning at **9:30 a.m.**, we will be tying quilts in the social hall.

Help is always needed!!

Then we will go to the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

Our next lunch will be **Tuesday**, **October 14** at **12:00 noon**.

We will be going to Toss of the Town,
E. Phila. Ave., Boyertown.
We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to
carpool to Toss of the Town.
Hope you can join us!

DATE	ALTAR FLOWERS*	BULLETINS	
October 5	Bruce & Diane Houck	OPEN	
October 12	October 12 Steve and Ava Novotny		
October 19	Terry & Gerry Flicker	OPEN	
October 26	Linda Hoffman	OPEN	

*Cost of Altar Flowers is \$40.00 per week and Bulletins is \$20.00 per week. OPEN Sundays: sign up in narthex or call office. Please contact Sandy Gehman if you have questions or concerns.



Reformation Sunday: October 26



Lutherans join all Protestant churches in celebrating Reformation Sunday on the last Sunday in October. We remember the day, October 31, 1517, on which Martin Luther posted his 95 Theses on the

door of the Castle Church in Wittenburg, Germany. This marked the beginning of the Protestant Reformation, a huge milestone in the history of the church and also an event that changed secular history.

Thank you...

...to the Endowment committee for funding my week at Cross Roads Camp this summer! It truly is an amazing ministry for all ages, and my camp tuition helps to support all the great things they do. With gratitude, **Helena Finney**

...to the Endowment committee for paying for me to go to camp. It is a really great experience and I learned a lot. I had an amazing time. From, **Jane**

...I'd like to thank everyone who came out for the Community Day on September 6! It turned out to be a nice day and I think everyone who joined us that day had fun, ate well and enjoyed the great music. First place in the baking contest went to Jennifer Lowery Bomboy, second to Bruce Houck and third to Carole Soffa. I'm wondering if Pastor Matt is still full from taste testing! (He really didn't know who baked which dessert!!) Sue Hoffman and Kay Barr did a wonderful job on the food with Bob Heydt and Bruce Houck on the grills. Kevin and Jennifer Bomboy donated water and Jennifer led the baking contest. Dave and Nancy Fiorialio took charge of games and Ginnie Wilkinson took on crafts. Diane and Ryan Houck introduced our next project for Boyertown Multi Service Festival of Trees and also had free hymnal angels, prayer shawls and cookbooks available for the community. Fox's once again supplied ice and coolers. There were many more volunteers that helped that day with set up, cleanup up and supported us the whole day and I just wanted to thank you all for making it a nice Thank you, Lisa Heydt at day at Niantic!

... for your generosity of 101 lbs. of food that we received on September 3 to our food pantry. We are so appreciative of your support to The Open Link and the Upper Perkiomen Valley Community.

Marianne Lynch, Executive Director

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator: June Herb

Contact her at: (610) 754-7841 or 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:

Angie – a friend of Melissa Seasholtz Calli – a student of Pat Moser's daughter

Pat Gabel - Bob's wife

Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt

Holly – niece of Melissa Seasholtz Betty Hoffman

Charlie Hoffman

Samantha Hoffman

Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet

Barbara Johns – Jamie Johns mother-in-law

Roberta Korsak

Addie Lorah – newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey
Mason

LaVerne (Muck) Moser

Charlie Orner

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC

Sara – co-worker of Kathy Watts

Janet Schaeffer

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

Carole Soffa

Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter Elaine Wolfe – friend of Linda Hoffman

Direction:

David - Kathy Watts' brother

Safe Travels:

Maria and Fernando – friends of Kathy Watts

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Jim Ludt – neighbor/friend of Charlie/Betty Hoffman (9/1) Gil Marrero – very good friend of Ken Watts (9/7) Ben Delp – friend of Aaron Hoffman (9/14) Glenn Hoffman – Denise Witman's cousin (9/16) Hilton Johnson – friend of Matt and Laurie Stofflet (9/12) Dylan McConnor – friend of Matt and Laure Stofflet (9/21)

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); Charlie Orner (Village at LifeQuest); Dorothy Willing (Frederick Living/Cedarwood); Sue Bendinsky (Chestnut Knoll)

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson

Redner's Save-A-Tape Program

Mercy Ministry is still collecting Redner's Savea-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.

BOYERTOWN AREA MULTI-SERVICE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK

During October, the Mercy Ministry Committee will be collecting items for the pantry. Non-perishable items of all kinds are always needed and appreciated.

The following items are current priority food pantry needs at the current time:

FOOD

Pancake Mix Pancake Syrup Rice Cereal Crackers Tuna

Pasta Sauce Canned Soup

Canned Fruit Instant Mashed Potatoes Meat Meals (ex. Chef Boyardee, Manwich, Spam etc.)

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Pasta Sides

PERSONAL CARE

Bar Soap Shampoo/Conditioner
Dish soap Laundry Detergent
Toothpaste Toothbrushes

Deodorant

The Food Bank collection boxes are located in the coat/mailbox room.

God's work. Our hands.



September 7, 2025

"God's Work, Our Hands": September 7

On Sunday, September 7, we celebrated "God's Work, Our Hands" after worship with the assembly of "Kids Kits" for Church World Services (CWS).

The kits were blessed on Sunday, September 14 before being shipped back to CWS.

We thank everyone who helped in the assembly!

Congregational Vitality Survey

The Congregational Vitality Survey is a tool to help congregations assess where they see themselves as a congregation. The survey will begin on Sunday, September 28 and will conclude on Sunday, October 12. The council is asking that each member of our congregation please take a moment and complete the survey either online, on one of the paper forms that will be made available, or in the parlor after church on any Sunday during the survey period. Online surveys can be done at any time by simply going to the "to be provided" site link and completing the form. Paper surveys will need to be completed and returned to either Dan Knaub or Dave Fioriglio for entry before 10/12. If you prefer, we will have a computer and assistance available after church on 9/28, 10/6, and 10/12. The site link and paper forms will be made available beginning on Sunday, 9/28.



Book Club

The Book Club will be reading the book:

"Thursday Murder Club" by Richard Osman.

The book in a bag can be borrowed from the bag that is on the table in the Welcome Center.

We will meet on Tuesday, October 21

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.

For our 80+ Members... IT'S BIRTHDAY TIME AND YOU'RE INVITED!

Invites were sent out to all those members who are 80+ years young in September! Please come for lunch, entertainment and (of course) Ice Cream and Birthday Cake!

We're celebrating everyone's birthday including yours!

Saturday October 25th 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

in the Social Hall at Christ Lutheran (Niantic) Church – 353 Congo-Niantic Road

Please **RSVP** to Pat Moser by **October 14**th 610-845-3731 or patmoser102@gmail.com. If you need a ride, please let us know!

We can't wait to celebrate with you!



FESTIVAL OF TREES

"All God's Creatures" is the theme for Christ Lutheran Church Niantic's sponsored tree in this year's "Festival of Trees", a yearly event to raise funds for the many programs offered by Boyertown Area Multi-Service. During the months of October and November, please donate theme related decorations and gifts by the tree set up in the Welcome Center. Our tree will be on display with other sponsored trees during the "Festival of Trees" Open House on Friday, December 5th and Saturday, December 6th at Boyertown Area Multi-Service, located at 200 West Spring Street, Boyertown PA (near the YMCA). During the Open House, raffle tickets can be purchased to win a tree. Winners are contacted at the end of Saturday's Open House.

Unlock your inner creativity to adorn our "All God's Creatures" themed tree with items that reflect our warm and loving culture here at Niantic. Tree decorations, handmade gifts, gift cards, books, puzzles, and games are all suitable donations. Although the possibilities are endless, listed below are a few ideas to spark your imagination.

- Anything related to Biblical stories with God's creatures including: the Nativity, Noah's Ark, Jonah and the Whale, Daniel in the Lion's Den
- Handmade items such as quilts, prayer shawls, hats, scarfs, mittens, or socks with God's creatures on them
- Tree ornaments, games, stuffed toys, puzzles, and books relating to farm or wild animals, fish, birds, reptiles, or bugs/insects
- Non-perishable items made from living creature by-products: wool, beeswax, leather, silk
- Small Advent calendar wrapped gifts pertaining to God's creatures which are hung on the tree with the intent to open one daily until Christmas arrives
- Turkey and duck calls, wild game cookbook, birdhouses and feeders
- Gift certificates/cards from local dairy and meat markets: Longacre's Dairy, Burt's Farms,
 Andre Farms

Please contact Bruce and Diane Houck or any member of the F.U.N. committee if you have questions.





The "Brown Bag Bible Study" will continue in the month of October on Wednesdays; October 1, 8, 15, 22 &29. 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 that will be discussed will be forthcoming. 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.



Nominating Committee

Council

Have you ever considered serving on the Congregational Council? Every year, we are looking for leaders to fill some needed vacancies. Are you the one to serve God in this capacity? Please feel free to contact any member of Council (see Council list in newsletter) if you have an interest in leading our church into the future.

Highlights from the July Council Meeting ~ July 22, 2025

- Safe Place Training: Should the policy that requires training be changed? One should look into the state requirements first. Lisa Knaub and Dawn Sandoval will look into how training can be done for free.
- 2. "Articles of Incorporation Nonprofit" Pastor was unable to find an entity number and mailed in the paper form. Unfortunately, it was returned due to no entity number. Their recommendation is to file as a new entity (it won't change anything). Another option would be to find something that contains the corporate seal on it that might contain the entity number.
- 3. A/V System: Dave printed out step-by-step instructions on how to use it but someone has to be here with the key to open the office and not too many people have the key to open the office.

STAFF REPORTS, COMMITTEE REPORTS & FINANCIAL REPORTS

• Endowment: wanted to divert the balance of the Christian Ed funds in \$377.86 to Lutheran Disaster Response. We finalize the safe place training first before we send the money to Texas; table it for another month until we figure out the safe place training.

A motion made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Roberta Korsak to accept the committee reports pending audit. Motion passed.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Vitality Survey Report: The council discussed plans for launching the Vitality Survey. It will consist of 36 questions and be shared through a dedicated Google Form link, posted only on internal communication channels. The survey will be promoted in advance and remain open for 2–3 weeks. Paper forms will be available if needed, and any handwritten responses will require manual data entry. Danny Knaub and Dave Fioriglio will help coordinate the process. The Council will use a separate survey link with identical questions, and results will be kept separate.
- 2. Danny Knaub might be able to be the stand in pastor for August 31. He will let the pastor know by the first week of August.
- 3. Altar flowers are good for July, August, September. The cost of the bulletins is \$20 and it is not necessary to decrease the price.
- 4. Grief Counseling: Pastor spoke with Sylvia Havlish, who is interested in leading another grief counseling group starting in mid-September. The program will consist of five sessions held in the late afternoon or early evening. The cost is \$600, and the group is open to the community. Pat Moser has agreed to reach out to local funeral homes for sponsorship. A motion to move forward with the program was made by Roxanne Fox and seconded by Roberta Korsak. Motion passed.
- 5. Quote to refresh exterior sign: Nothing has been received yet because Gerry's computer is getting updated.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Does the church own the property where the shed sits? Melissa has six different deeds. Butch will meet up with Bob Heydt to review.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Sandoval, Council Secretary

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year	* *
INCOME CONTRIBUTIONS OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS INVESTMENT INCOME OTHER INCOME	\$8,289.00 1,445.00 112.60 0.00	\$78,994.15 6,162.84 879.38 16.93	\$80,369.84 3,802.00 1,350.96 0.00	
TOTAL INCOME	9,846.60	86,053.30	85,522.80	
EXPENSES SALARIES PASTORAL MINISTRY OTHER STAFF	\$4,556.57 3,239.85	\$35,860.45 28,338.53	\$36,411.94 27,293.91	
Subtotal Salaries	7,796.42	64,198.98	63,705.85	
WORSHIP MUSIC ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE WORSHIP SUPPLIES	106.04 0.00 409.50	876.22 0.00 2,436.90	1,135.89 300.00 2,239.51	- 4
Subtotal Worship	515.54	3,313.12	3,675.40	
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION CURRICULUM MATERIALS OTHER MINISTRIES SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY ADVERTISING EXPENSE STEWARDSHIP	0.00 87.00 0.00 19.00 0.00	0.00 261.00 51.42 168.94 523.78	34.76 204.00 0.00 265.00 400.02	
INTERNET EXPENSES Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	340.66 359.66	2,822.74 3,566.88	2,212.48	',
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	291.90 136.77	1,572.34 968.25	1,263.20 632.88	8 v
Subtotal Church Administration	428.67	2,540.59	1,896.08	
BUILDING OPERATIONS HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS CLEANING SUPPLIES REAL ESTATE TAX BUILDING MAINTENANCE	2,207.91 495.95 0.00 5,016.96	12,938.94 3,722.19 143.84 6,932.03	8,754.02 3,043.73 139.56 19,052.92	
Subtotal Building Operations	7,720.82	23,737.00	30,990.23	
INSURANCE FUND EXPENSES	0.00 0.00	7,163.75 21,748.77	5,768.75 7,849.36	
TOTAL EXPENSES	16,908.11	126,530.09	117,001.93	
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$7,061.51)	(\$40,476.79)	(\$31,479.13)	

Respectfully submitted Lusan 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 ~ <u>clcpastor@windstream.net</u>
Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ debmatth@comcast.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net

2025 Congregational Council

President: Steve Novotny Vice President: Dave Fioriglio Secretary: Dawn Sandoval Treasurer: Sue Hoffman**
Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio** Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Gerry Flicker ☑ Keith Folk ☑ Roxanne Fox
Bob Heydt ☑ Danny Knaub Roberta Korsak

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

Ministry Assistants for October 2025

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
October 5 9:00 a.m.		Nancy Fioriglio	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	* & *
October 12 9:00 a.m.		Bob Heydt		Terry Flicker	Lisa and Bob Heydt
October 19 9:00 a.m.	Tenley Willman	Diane Houck		Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson and Tori Willman
October 26 9:00 a.m.		Sue Hoffman	Nancy Fioriglio	Terry Flicker	Gerry Flicker and*

Altar Guild: Shirley and Merle Deery

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

* = Help is needed. Please call/e-mail the church office if you can help. Thank you!

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	,	Octob	ogr 20)25		
(W/C) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall *updated since publication			1 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Sr. Choir	2	3 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	4
5 8:30 Coffee & Conversatio (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion	n 6	7 Melissa attending Secretarie Answering machine and mo		9	10 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	11
10:00 Vitality Survey (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	6:30 Property (W/C)	10:00 AM Mercy Ministry (room H)	12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Sr. Choir		Melissa Vacation Day	
8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Vitality Survey (parlor) 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	Columbus Day	14 November NIANTIC NEWS Articles DUE 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Toss of the Town – meet in W/C at 11:30 AM to carpool for 12 noon lunch 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	15 12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Sr. Choir	16	17 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours Melissa Vacation Day	18
19 Blessing of the Quilts	20	21	22	23	24	25
8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)		7:00 Book Club (W/C)	12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Sr. Choir		10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. 80+ Birthday Party (S/H)
26 Reformation Sunday	27	28	29	30	31	Nov. 1
8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Joint Worship w/ St. Paul's / Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)		7:00 Council (parlor)	12 noon Brown Bag Bible Study 7:00 Sr. Choir		10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours Halloween	