

# Niantic News

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

January 2023

Page 1

## *A message from the Pastor...*

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Back when we used to write checks on a regular basis (I know some still do), at the beginning of each new year it was easy to make a mistake by continuing to write the previous year on the date line. It always took some time to get in the habit of writing the correct year and to break the habit of writing the previous year. Habits take some time and intention to form and take just as much time and intention to break or change.

The conventional wisdom is that it takes three weeks to form a new habit or break an old one, but this might be overly optimistic. Other studies have shown that it can take up to 250 days or more to form a new habit. This is the time of year we turn our attention to our habits as we reflect on the past year and look to the new one. Whether or not we form “New Year’s resolutions” most of us do think about ways we would like to live differently in the New Year. The lesson of the checkbook reminds us that habits do not come quickly, nor are habits broken quickly. It takes time and consistency. Only rarely and with certain people can a habit take root in as little as three weeks. The rest of us must persist even longer than that.

This need for persistence is why there is no shortage of New Year’s resolutions, while true lasting change is hard to come by in this world. We may start out with good intentions but soon enough we are taking a little break, and before we even realize it, the potential new habit is gone before it even becomes a “habit”. It is easy to become frustrated when we think a new habit should have taken root, but things still are a struggle. In most cases, we underestimate how long it takes.

So, what new habits might we work on this year; daily prayer and scripture reading, treating our families and neighbors with more grace and kindness, or gathering with other Christians to worship God every week? All of these are good habits to bring into our lives, but like all habits, they will not happen easily or without persistence.

When it comes to persistence, we have the greatest help and example possible in our Lord Jesus Christ. He promised his followers (including us) that he would be with us *always*. If forming a new habit is left only to us, then we know how it will go. Long before the habit takes root it has fallen away, but with God we have the constant strength and encouragement to keep going. God is always there and present with us to give us the grace and strength we need for the new day or New Year.

While God is a God of persistence and always present to us, God is also a God of change. True change is hard to come by in this world, but God is a God of transformations and new beginnings. If we seek real change in our world and in our own lives, we begin with the One who has the power to bring lasting change. God through Jesus Christ changes us every day. With God’s grace, mercy, and forgiveness we are made new every day. In this God is consistent and persistent. When we repent, confess our sin, and ask for forgiveness God will always hear us and forgive us.

As you reflect on the past year and look to the coming year, remember that new habits do not come easily. If we seek to form a new (good) habit on our own, it likely will not come at all. When we have the God who is always with us, always consistent, and always changing us, then change does come.

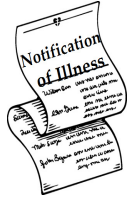
In Christ, Pr. Matt

## Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

Funeral of Karlene Novotny on Thursday,  
December 8, 2022.

## 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](mailto:clcpastor@windstream.net).

## ATTENTION!!!

### Annual Report Committee and Staff Reports were DUE by Monday, January 9<sup>th</sup>.

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

Please e-mail your reports to:

[christluthchurch@windstream.net](mailto: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 10<sup>th</sup>**.

There are several ways for you to submit your articles.

- ✓ E-mail it to me at: [christluthchurch@windstream.net](mailto: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.



*Dear Christ Niantic Family-*

*Words cannot begin to express the depth of our gratitude for your incredible kindness and support during the time of Barbara's illness and after her passing. Please know that every prayer, meal, card, visit, and phone call was greatly appreciated and helped to lift her and us in such a difficult time. Thank you so very much - we are truly blessed to have all of you in our lives.*

*Mike Appold and the Franciscos*





Please join us for a  
*Three Kings Celebration!*

The F.U.N. committee is hosting a  
*Three Kings Celebration and pizza  
party on Friday evening, January 6,  
2023 from 6-8PM in the Social Hall for  
members of both our congregation and  
St Paul's, Sassamansville.*

*What is a Three Kings Day you ask?  
Well for many families, Three Kings  
Day is as big of a celebration as  
Christmas Day. It's customary to  
gather with friends and family to  
celebrate, often by opening gifts,  
playing music, and sharing a large  
meal together.*

*We hope that you will join us as we  
share a meal together, listen to some  
music and have some FUN!! Please  
sign-up in the narthex, so we know how  
much pizza to order. If you would  
have any questions, please talk to  
anyone on the FUN committee!*

### **Flower and Bulletin Charts**

*The bulletin and flower charts for 2023  
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 26 through April 2 (Palm  
Sunday)),  
we will not order altar flowers.*

## **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)
21	Jamie Johns
24	Thomas Farmer (1933)
27	Leonard Bendinsky, Barbara Steward, Julia Weller
30	Michael Knaub

## **Thank you...**

...for the recognition of my 15 years on staff here at Christ Lutheran Church that you held for me on Sunday, December 4. It meant so much to me! My heart was filled with joy that day! Thank you also for the gift card, basket and beautiful flowers. That too touched my heart deeply! All of you are truly my second church family and I care about each and every one of you! Blessing to you this year!

Love to all, **Melissa Seasholtz**

...for the donation of \$150.00 to the Boyertown Salvation Army. Your continued support is greatly appreciated. Thanks again and God bless you.

**Captains Joseph & Rebecca Smith  
Commanding Officers**

...for the recent shipment of blankets that your congregation so graciously donated to help our homeless population here in Ohio. We are a small community in Ohio, but homelessness has become an issue for our area. The gift of the blankets will be a blessing to those without shelter this winter. Our ministry seeks to provide tents, coats, blankets etc. to help as much as we can.

**In His Service,  
Stefanie Thompson  
Executive Director of  
The Morgan County  
United Ministries, OH**

**Quilt Tying**

will be held on **Tuesday, January 10** 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 10** meeting in the church parking lot at **11:30 a.m.** to carpool to Tosco's, Pennsburg for lunch at 12 noon.

**A little church humor...**

"I downloaded them from a cloud."

**Prayer Concerns**

Prayer Chain Initiator:

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

**Health & Healing:**

Amelia – Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's 11 year old daughter (12/5)  
Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub  
Barry and family – nephew of Sandy Plumley  
Janet Behel – Shirley Deery's sister  
Jane Ehnot – Herb Carter's sister  
Ron Elliott – Betty Hoffman's son (12/14)  
Betty Hoffman  
Charlie Hoffman (12/13)  
Dave Hoffman – son-in-law of Betty Hoffman (11/30)  
Mae Hoffman – Norm Hoffman's mother (12/13)  
Sue Hoffman (12/1)  
Arlene Ibach - Sandy Plumley's sister (12/5)  
Katie - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter  
Mike Korsak – Roberta Korsak's husband  
Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister  
Nancy Liberto – Mother of friends of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio (12/7)

Charlie Orner

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC (12/20)

Bonnie Ritter – friend of Melissa Seasholtz and Janet Schaeffer  
Joan Shaner

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

Marvin Steward

Carl Swavely – brother of Harold Swavely (12/5)

Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter

Joseph Werner – brother-in-law of Nancy Folk

Harold Worrall – Lisa Knaub's father

**Death (Family and Friends of...):**

Helen Gesser (11/26)

Karlene Novotny (12/2)

**Military Deployed to Conflict Area/Serving in the Military\*:**

Owen Dietrich – cousin of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Anthony Lester – friend of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Dustin/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

\*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 2022 Membership Directory that is available.

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

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic  
**Income and Expense Statement**  
 Consolidated - November 2022

12/07/2022 10:41 AM

Page: 1

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
<b>INCOME</b>			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$9,464.02	\$116,798.37	\$122,799.01
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,334.00	39,372.14	5,787.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	0.00	0.00	6.82
OTHER INCOME	0.00	(11,867.99)	(2,829.59)
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>10,798.02</b>	<b>144,302.52</b>	<b>125,763.24</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>			
<b>SALARIES</b>			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$7,277.74	\$49,340.07	\$44,648.90
OTHER STAFF	4,497.71	37,386.41	38,590.12
Subtotal Salaries	11,775.45	86,726.48	83,239.02
<b>WORSHIP</b>			
MUSIC	0.00	1,104.98	742.43
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	125.00	740.68	0.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	175.00	2,554.72	1,845.61
Subtotal Worship	300.00	4,400.38	2,588.04
<b>CHRISTIAN EDUCATION</b>			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	112.00	112.00
SUPPLIES	0.00	0.00	450.00
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	112.00	562.00
<b>OTHER MINISTRIES</b>			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH	68.00	362.50	353.50
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	0.00	(250.00)
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	0.00	412.48
INTERNET EXPENSES	221.67	2,580.98	428.45
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	221.67	2,580.98	590.93
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATION</b>			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	136.76	1,722.15	1,539.79
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	1,010.10	1,430.93	294.58
SYNOD ASSEMBLY	0.00	0.00	280.00
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	0.00	194.55	1,095.76
Subtotal Church Administration	1,146.86	3,347.63	3,210.13
<b>BUILDING OPERATIONS</b>			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	1,994.18	14,703.30	8,843.93
CLEANING SUPPLIES	379.20	3,073.54	(172.86)
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	128.55	124.55
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	2,415.00	3,376.55	2,922.53
Subtotal Building Operations	4,788.38	21,281.94	11,718.15
<b>INSURANCE</b>			
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	4,823.00	4,982.00
	475.94	672.32	3,104.24
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>18,776.30</b>	<b>124,307.23</b>	<b>110,348.01</b>
<b>EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES</b>	<b>(\$7,978.28)</b>	<b>\$19,995.29</b>	<b>\$15,415.23</b>

*Respectfully submitted*  
*Susan Hoffman*

**Church Office Hours:**

Monday through 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 except the first Sunday then it is an extended class.

**Church Staff**

Pastor:	Pr. Matthew Finney - <a href="mailto:clcpastor@windstream.net">clcpastor@windstream.net</a>
Minister of Music:	Deborah Matthews ~ <a href="mailto:debmatth@comcast.net">debmatth@comcast.net</a>
Administrative Assistant:	Melissa Seasholtz ~ <a href="mailto:christluthchurch@windstream.net">christluthchurch@windstream.net</a>

**2023 Congregational Council**

President:	TBD	Vice President:	TBD
Secretary:	TBD	Treasurer:	Sue Hoffman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Assistant Treasurer:	TBD	Financial Treasurer:	Kathy Watts**
		e-mail:	<a href="mailto:clcfinancial@windstream.net">clcfinancial@windstream.net</a>

Robert Borneman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Merle Deery	Dave Fioriglio
Gerry Flicker <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Keith Folk	Roxanne Fox
Bob Gabel	Bob Heydt	Charles Hoffman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dawn Sandoval	Marvin Steward	Jackson Moser+ (5/21-4/22)
(**non-council member / +youth member / <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> second term)		



**Worship Assistants for January 2023**

	<b>Acolyte</b>	<b>Lector</b>	<b>Communion Assist</b>	<b>Assistant Minister</b>	<b>Greeters/ Ushers</b>
<b>Sunday, January 1</b> 9:00 AM	_____*	Sue Hoffman	Sue Hoffman	_____*	_____*
<b>Sunday, January 8</b> 9:00 AM	_____*	Diane Houck	_____*	Terry Flicker	Gerry Flicker
<b>Sunday, January 15</b> 9:00 AM	Callie Bartman	Denise Hoffman		Denise Hoffman	Ginnie Wilkinson
<b>Sunday, January 22</b> 9:00 AM	_____*	Sue Hoffman		_____*	Shirley & Merle Deery
<b>Sunday, January 29</b> 9:00 AM	Youth	Youth		Youth	Youth

**Altar Guild:** Jamie Johns

**Counting Team: Team D :** Jim Barr (capt.), Norm Hoffman, Sue Hoffman, Gerry Flicker

\_\_\_\_\_ \* = **Help is needed.** Please call the church office if you are able to help.

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
		<h1>January 2023</h1>					
WC = Welcome Center							
<b>1 NEW YEAR'S DAY</b> 8:00 Transformation rehearses 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Worship/Communion w/ St. Paul's members 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	<b>2 Office Closed</b> In observance of <b>New Year's Day</b>	<b>3</b> 6:30 W & M Meeting (W/C)	<b>4</b> 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours  6-8 PM Three Kings Celebration (S/H) <b>Epiphany</b>	<b>7</b>	
<b>8 Baptism of Our Lord</b> 8:00 Transformation rehearses 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship/Communion 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Adult S.S. Class (parlor) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	<b>9 Annual Report            Committee/Staff            Reports Deadline</b>  7:00 Property (W/C)	<b>10 February Niantie            News Articles are            DUE</b> 11:30 AM meet in parking lot for the Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Tosco's, Pennsburg  7:30 Finance (W/C)	<b>11</b> 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>14</b>	
<b>15</b> 8:00 Transformation Rehearses 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Adult S.S. Class (parlor) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	<b>16 Office Closed</b>  <i>Martin Luther King            Day</i>	<b>17</b> 6:30 Cemetery Board (W/C) 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	<b>18</b> 6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>21</b>	
<b>22</b> 8:00 Transformation Rehearses 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship/Installation of Council 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Adult S.S. Class (parlor) 10:00 Youth Practice for Youth Sunday	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>  7:00 Council (W/C)	<b>25</b>  6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>28</b>	
<b>29 Youth Sunday</b> 8:00 Transformation Rehearses 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship led by Youth 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Adult S.S. Class (parlor) 10:00 Confirmation	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>February 1</b>  6:30 Handbells 7:30 Senior Choir	<b>February 2</b>	<b>February 3</b> 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	<b>February 4</b>	