## Miantic Mews

M monthly publication of Christ Luthgran Church 222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504 610-845-2583 <u>christluthchurch@windstrgam.ngt</u>

www.christniantic.com

March 2024 Page 1

### A message from the Pastor...

At the end of March, we will once again come to the celebration of Holy Week. Maundy Thursday services will be held on March 28 at 7:00 PM. On this day, the Church remembers the last supper of Jesus and the Apostles. We hear the account of the Gospel of John where during the meal Jesus removes his outer robes and stoops down to wash the feet of the disciples. Jesus does this as a sign of love and service. He shows that even though he is their teacher and Lord, Jesus will humbly and willingly serve the disciples. Foot washing is not a practice that is common in our society, but in Jesus' day, it was commonplace. The reasons for this are obvious; for the most part people walked where they needed to go. Of course, the roads were not paved, and people wore sandals. These circumstances lead to very dirty feet. The host of a meal would never be the one who would wash the feet of the guests, though. That job was usually reserved for the lowliest slave or servant.

In washing the apostles' feet, Jesus shows his willingness to take on the role of the lowest ranking servant in order to make those who follow him clean. As you might imagine the apostles (in particular Peter) are uncomfortable seeing Jesus serve in this way. Peter's discomfort comes from seeing his Lord (master) serve in such a lowly way. Peter relents and more when Jesus explains to him that he must allow Jesus to wash his feet in order to have a "share" with Jesus. Jesus' actions point to the cross where he will take on the role of lowly and despised to "wash" us clean from our sins. Jesus also explains to the apostles that he washes their feet to set an example. They will need to wash feet and more as they take the mantle of leadership from Jesus, and lead the Church in spreading the good news of Jesus to the world.

Peter's objections centered on the role of serving and his discomfort seeing Jesus in this role. I find though whenever the subject of foot washing comes up people seem more uncomfortable with the thought of having their feet washed than washing someone else's feet. In several different church contexts, I have had the opportunity to be on each side of foot washing. I know I felt more uncomfortable having my feet washed than I did when I was washing feet, and I have heard the same from others. I hope this is only because foot washing is an unusual occurrence in our society. The other explanation is that I (and others) am uncomfortable being served and helped, but being served means admitting that we do not have everything under our own control. Having your feet washed means taking off your shoes and showing the world your own stinky feet. Isn't that exactly why Jesus has come into the world? None of us has everything under control. All of us have parts of us that stink. We need Jesus to save us from ourselves and from our sins. On the cross, Jesus undertakes the ultimate act of lowly service. He asks us to receive his service and let him wash us clean forever.

The Good Friday service will be at 7:00 PM on March 29 at St. Paul's. Easter Sunday worship will be held at 6:30 AM and 9 AM. I hope you can join us to celebrate these holy days.

In Christ, Pastor Matt

### Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since January 25, 2024



### Reminder:

Don't forget to "spring your

clocks ahead" on Saturday,
March 9 when you go to sleep!!
You don't want to be late for church!

### 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 and 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.

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.

	Worship Attendance
<u>Date</u>	9:00 AM
January 7	17
January 14	57
January 21	34
January 28	36



2023 Sun. Avg.: 41 2024 Sun. Avg.: 36

(Prior year averages are based on same time period)



### Newsletter Deadline -

Information for the April issue of the Niantic News is **due by Tuesday, March 12<sup>th</sup>.** 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;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

<u>Bulletin Deadline</u> 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.



Altar Flowers and Bulletins The 2024 Altar Flower and Bulletin Charts are posted in the narthex. There are Sundays still available for sponsors, so if you have that special

day you'd like to honor or remember someone, please sign up. The cost of Altar Flowers is \$35.00 and Bulletins are \$20.00. There will be no altar flowers during the Sunday's in Lent and Palm Sunday, February 18 – March 24. Questions can be directed to Sandy Gehman.

### MARCH BIRTHDAYS

- 2 Patricia Moser
- 3 Chase Bartman, Steven Berner, Cathy Eldridge, Joanne Hoffman
- 4 John Francisco
- 5 Braden Bartman
- 6 Philip Hoffman, Sandra Hoffman
- 8 Kathy Drury, Holly Francisco, Elijah Novotny
- 9 Chasin Sminkey
- 13 Ellen Roberts
- 14 Susan Wilson
- 15 Gregory Moser, Vincent Otero
- 16 Bruce Bartman, Jr.
- 17 Rachel (Flicker) Lapinski
- 21 Ronald Elliott, Jr., Betty E. Hoffman (1933), Glenn Hoffman
- 22 Herbert Carter, Anna Gehman, Samantha Johns, Suzanne Moll
- 23 Jennifer Dorfman
- 27 Diane Carter
- 29 Kade Davidheiser, Hunter Hoffman
- 30 Taylor Howard



### Lenten Services

Mid-week Lent service are being held Wednesday evenings through March 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. with a worship service at Christ Lutheran Church.



### **Notice from the Cemetery Board**

All planting of shrubs, trees or plants is prohibited. Remove all winter decorations 3 weeks (by March 9) before Easter. April through October all flowers and memorials will be removed 7 days after all holidays. All arrangements affixed on top of the gravestones may remain until they are unsightly.

### **Quilt Tying**

On **Tuesday, March 12** 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**

The March Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held on **Tuesday, March 12**, at **12 noon** at the Washington Grille, Rte. 100.

We will meet in the parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to the Washington Grille by 12 noon for lunch or meet us there!



# Green Themed Coffee Hour May love and laughter light your days and warm your hearth and home. Irish Blessing

Please join the FUN Committee for some "**love** and laughter" at our Green Themed Coffee Hour after worship on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday March 17th. If you would like to bring a green dish to share, please let someone on the FUN committee: Ginnie Wilkinson, Diane or Bruce Houck, Lisa or Bob Heydt, Nancy or Dave Fioriglio know. Hope to see you at Top o' the Mornin' on the 17th!

### **Food Bank Donations**

Donations for March/April will go to the <u>Boyertown Multi-Service</u> in Boyertown. Let's all make regular Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping. Your donations help their pantry during this time, so please think about picking up one or more items when you do you weekly grocery run and drop it off at the church to help those in need!

#### FOOD Items most needed are:

Pancake mix, Jelly, Oatmeal, Cereal, Granola Bars, Crackers, Coffee, Sugar-free items

### PERSONAL CARE items most needed are:

Shampoo/conditioner sets, unscented soap bars, dish soap, hand soap, laundry detergent, Paper towels, toilet paper, diapers (size 4T/5T & size 6)



The Mercy Ministry committee wishes to thank everyone who donated food to our pantry program during 2023. Our donations to Boyertown Area Multi-Service helped them to distribute **244,457** (that's 122 + tons) pounds of pantry products to **6,955** adults and children last year!

...for your donation of bed sized quilts to the VA Medical Center.

> Jason Lane, Chief, Voluntary Services

... for the generous donation of wheelchair bags that you made for the Southeast Veteran's Center in Spring City. The residents just love the bags!

> Tara Vaszily Volunteer Resource Coordinator at S.E. Veteran's Center

...for your financial support of \$350 to the Boyertown Area Multi-Service in 2023. We appreciate your kind and generous suppor

Dolores Bauman, Financial Manager

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### <u>Prayer Concerns</u> 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:**

Laurel Arbogast - Aunt of Lisa Knaub Mark Belt – Terry Flicker's brother-in-law Jennifer Lowery-Bomboy Joan Brunner – June Herb's sister-in-law Dorothy Davis - sister of Barb Hoffman Connie Eisenhard - friend of the Deery Family Gerald Flicker

Margaret Freeman – daughter of Nancy Folk's cousin Lorraine Gehringer – friend of Charlie & Betty Hoffman Rev. Arlene Greenwald – former member of Niantic Adam Hadley – son of a friend of Bob/Lisa Heydt Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt Betty Hoffman

Roy Hoffman

Wilson Hoffman

Katie - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter Tricia Korutz – Lisa Knaub's sister Gloria Mauger - friend of Eloise Swavely Charlie Orner

Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC Douglas Robinson – father of Donna Menear Ethan Schoenly - 10 yr. old cousin of Lindsey Mason Todd (Scrufty) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman

Bill Starrett – friend of Gerry and Terry Flicker Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter Stephanie Wallace – Roberta Korsak's niece Joseph Werner – brother-in-law of Nancy Folk Alma Willard – friend of Nancy and Keith Folk

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

Ron Eidle – brother of Sandy Hoffman/brother-in-law of Melissa Seasholtz and Steve Hoffman (1/28)

#### 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 contact the church office or the 2024 Membership Directory.

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

### Holy Week Services

### Palm Sunday - March 24, 9:00 a.m.

Holy Week begins March 24 with our Palm Sunday services at the usual time with the Blessing and Distribution of Palms and the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

### Maundy Thursday – March 28, 7:00 p.m.

Maundy Thursday commemorates the Last Supper of Jesus with his disciples, which was the occasion for the institution of Holy Communion. We invite the members of St. Paul's Lutheran to Christ Lutheran for a service at 7:00 p.m.

### Good Friday Tenebrae Service - March 29

at 7:00 p.m. at <u>St. Paul's Lutheran</u>, <u>Sassamansville</u>. Members are invited to St. Paul's Lutheran for a service of prayer and reverence at the cross.

Easter – March 31 at 6:30 a.m. beginning in the cemetery. Then at 9:00 a.m., we will celebrate the resurrection of our Lord with a Intergenerational/Holy Communion service in the sanctuary. An Easter Egg Hunt will be held immediately following 9 a.m. worship!

Join us during Holy Week!



...for the birthday card. It was so nice and appreciated more than words can say!

**Bob Aston** 

### Save the Date for......

### THE WILDERNESS FAMINE ESCAPE

Sunday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - 3:30 pm in the Social Hall More details will follow....will you and your team be able to unlock the mysteries????

### CHOIR NEWS...

...Christ must be delivered into hands of sinful men, To be crucified, then on the third day raised to life again! Just As He Said! By Trevor Manor

J

Now that we are officially in the season of Lent, our choirs are busy rehearsing seasonal music to share with all of us at Christ Lutheran. We are blessed to have flute and percussion accompaniments available to enhance the music.

On Palm Sunday, our Handbell Choir will be ringing "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross", "O the Deep, Deep Love Of Jesus", and "Go To Dark Gethsemane" all arranged for a 3-ringer choir by Larry Sue.

On Palm Sunday, the Senior Choir will be singing "Sing Glad Hosannas" by Mark Patterson and "Lamb Of God, What Wondrous Love" by Russell A. Kane and Allan Robert Petker.

On Maundy Thursday, our Senior Choir **and anyone who would like to join us** is singing "In Dark Gethsemane" and "Psalm 88". See me for the music and rehearsing before the service.

For our Easter celebration, the Senior Choir will be singing "Just As He Said" by Trevor Manor. "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today!" another anthem, which is arranged by Kristina Langlois, includes verses that the congregation will be singing along with the choir. Psalm 118 will also be sung during the service.

### Looking ahead:

- May 12<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating Church Music Sunday.
- May 19<sup>th</sup>, a brass quintet will be playing for the service.
- HYMN SINGS on the last Sundays in June, July, and August.
- More music to be announced shortly



### **ENDOWMENT -**

### Grants to be awarded-We need your proposals!

The purpose of the Endowment Fund is to enhance the mission of Christ Lutheran Church.

In 2024, we have a total of **\$4,560** available for distribution broken down (by set percentages) in the following categories:

Christian Education (10%) - \$456.00 Capital Improvements (15%) - \$684.00 Scholarships and Grants (25%) - \$1,140.00 Outreach (30%) - \$1,368.00 Missions (20%) - \$912.00

The Endowment Fund Committee invites any member of Christ Lutheran Church or committee to submit a grant proposal on the next page of the newsletter or pick up in narthex by **March 31, 2024**. Please thoughtfully consider the needs of the church and our community, by sharing a need, submitting a grant proposal, help the Endowment Committee to fulfill our purpose and give glory to God with these gifts.

If you have any questions about this, please contact any committee member: Mike Knaub, Lisa Knaub, Bob Heydt, Dawn Sandoval, Gerry Flicker, Denise Hoffman or Pastor Matt Finney.

Respectfully submitted,
Denise Hoffman
Recording Secretary for Endowment





### Caster Flowers

Tulips, to celebrate Christ's resurrection, may be ordered through **Sunday, March 17, 2024** by completing this form, attaching a check for the proper amount payable to Christ Lutheran Church, and place it in the offering plate OR mail it to the church at 222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504.

I would like to order \_\_\_\_\_ Tulips at \$8.75 per tulip.

In Memory of:	
In Honor of:	
Your Name:	

\*Note: Any flowers not picked up by Wednesday, April 10 will be planted at the church. Thank you.

# **Endowment Fund**

Grant Proposal (Grant Proposals must be submitted to the Endowment Fund Committee by March 31, 2024)

Date:				XVXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX
Your Name:			_	
Your Address:				
City:	State:			
Your Phone No.:				Christ Lutheran Church 222 Niantic Road
Your E-mail address:				Barto, PA 19504-9314 (610) 845-2583
1. Name of person or organiza				christluthchurch@windstreeam.net
2. Description of project for p	roposed Grant:			
3. Amount of Grant Requested	d:			
4. Total cost of project (if this	Grant will not fund entire	project, identif	fy source of	balance of funding):
5. To whom should the check	be made payable?			
Total Funds available for 2024 dish	oursement: \$4,560 (Place a	n "X" in the categ	ory for which th	uis proposal is being submitted)
(10% = \$456) Funding for	ongoing Christian program	ns within Chris	st Lutheran C	Church.
(15%) = \$684) Funding for Christ Lutheran Church in				duction of debt incurred by
(25% = \$1,140) Scholarshipseminary; for church related members of the congregation	d camping or leadership co	onferences; or o	other such tra	nining which enables
(30% = \$1,368) Outreach in seminaries, social service a special programs designed	gencies, institutions and a	gencies to whic	ch this congre	egation relates, and to
(20% = \$912) Missions of but not limited to, grants to North America, professiona evangelism and capital fina	the Evangelical Lutheran al leadership, education m	Church in Ame	erica for new	mission development in
	For Fund Committe	e Use Only		
Date Received	Accepted	Yes	No A	Amount Pledged \$
Date Distributed	Amount 1	Distributed \$ _		Check #

### Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic Income and Expense Statement Consolidated - January 2024

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	Current Period	Year to Date	Prior Year	
INCOME				
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$8,870.51	\$8,870.51	\$12,291.52	
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	450.00	450.00	535.00	
INVESTMENT INCOME	170.65	170.65	0.00	
OTHER INCOME	0.00	0.00	(198.01)	
TOTAL INCOME	9,491.16	9,491.16	12,628.51	
EXPENSES				
SALARIES				
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$4,399.13	\$4,399.13	\$4,254.50	
OTHER STAFF	3,125.28	3,125.28	3,104.05	
Subtotal Salaries	7,524.41	7,524.41	7,358.55	
WORSHIP				
MUSIC	231.89	231.89	0.00	
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	553.00	553.00	0.00	
Subtotal Worship	784.89	784.89	0.00	
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH				
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	130.00	130.00	0.00	
STEWARDSHIP	400.02	400.02	0.00	
INTERNET EXPENSES	244.67	244.67	224.35	
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	774.69	774.69	224.35	
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION				
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	135.19	135.19	102.72	
<b>EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE</b>	363.24	363.24	0.00	
Subtotal Church Administration	498.43	498.43	102.72	
BUILDING OPERATIONS				
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	2,894.23	2,894.23	380.82	
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	10.00	10.00	235.19	
Subtotal Building Operations	2,904.23	2,904.23	616.01	
FUND EXPENSES	7,124.41	7,124.41	0.00	
TOTAL EXPENSES	19,611.06	19,611.06	8,301.63	
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	(\$10,119.90)	(\$10,119.90)	\$4,326.88	

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.

**Children's Chapel:** Sundays, March 3 and May 5

#### **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

### **2024 Congregational Council**

President: Bob Heydt Vice President: Steve Novotny Secretary: Dawn Sandoval Treasurer: Sue Hoffman ☑ Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio\*\* Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts\*\*

e-mail: clcfinancial@windstream.net

Dave Fioriglio Gerry Flicker ☑ Keith Folk Roxanne Fox Roberta Korsak Pat Moser

Marvin Steward | Izzy Sandoval+ (5/23-4/24)

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

### Ministry Assistants for March 2024

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assistant Minister	Ushers/Greeters
Sunday, March 3 9:00 a.m.	*	Diane Houck	Sue Hoffman	Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
Sunday, March 10 9:00 a.m.	*	Terry Flicker		Terry Flicker	Gerry Flicker and Donna Menear
Sunday, March 17 9:00 a.m.	*	Nancy Fioriglio		*	Ginnie Wilkinson and Nancy Fioriglio
Sunday, March 24 Palm Sunday 9:00 a.m.	*	Heather Moser	Heather Moser	Denise Hoffman	*
Maundy Thursday, March 28 7:00 p.m.		Bob Heydt	Sue Hoffman	*	Lisa and Bob Heydt
Easter Sunday, March 31 6:30 a.m.	*	*	*	*	The Fox Family
9:00 a.m.	*	Sue Hoffman	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	*

Altar Guild:	March 3: Shirley and Merle Dee March 17: Chershe Derr; March		,	
	March 28 (MT):			
Counting Ted	<b>am:</b> TEAM A - Butch Fox (capt.);			Moser
	_* = help is needed. If you can help,	please e-mail or call the	e church office.	ſhank you.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		ΛARC	H 20	024		
(W/C) = Welcome Center (S/H) = Social Hall					1 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	2
3 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Children's Chapel 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	7:00 Property (W/C)	5 6:30 Mercy Ministry (room H)	6 6:30 Mid-week Lent service at Christ Lutheran	7 7:00 Handbell Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	8 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	9 *"Spring" your clocks ahead when you go to bed.
8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	11	12 *April Niantic News articles are Due 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 Ladies Lunch – meet in parking lot to carpool to the Washington Grille	6:30 Mid-week Lent service at Christ Lutheran	7:00 Handbell Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	15  10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	National Quilting Day
Daylight Savings Time Begins		7:30 Finance (W/C)				
<ul> <li>Blessing of the Quilts</li> <li>8:30 Coffee &amp; Conversation (W/C)</li> <li>9:00 Worship</li> <li>10:00 "Green" Coffee Hour (W/C)</li> <li>St. Patrick's Day</li> </ul>	18	19  Ist Day of Spring	6:30 Mid-week Lent service at Christ Lutheran	7:00 Handbell Choir 8:00 Senior Choir	10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	23
24 Passion/Palm Sunday  8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Blessing & Distribution of Palms 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	25	7:00 Council Meeting (W/C)	6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	28 Maundy Thursday 7:00 Maundy Thursday service at Christ Lutheran	29 Good Friday 10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours 7:00 Good Friday service at St. Paul's, Sassamansville	30
*Endowment Grant Proposals are DUE 6:30 Easter Dawn Service / Holy Communion 9:00 Easter Intergenerational Service/Holy Communion 10:00 Easter Egg Hunt	*Office Closed in observance of Easter 7:00 Property (W/C)	April 2	April 3  6:30 Handbell Choir 7:30 Senior Choir	April 4	April 5  10 AM – 1 PM Pr. Matt's Office Hours	April 6