

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
222 Niantic Road, Barto, PA 19504
610-845-2585 christluthchurh@windstram.net
www.christniantic.com

May 2026

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A Message from the Council President...

I know that much of this information had been sent electronically a few weeks ago, but I wanted to update and republish it in the newsletter so that it would reach everyone, especially those who do not normally get email.

We have met with Pr. Tom Lang and were able to schedule the two weeks each month that he will be our guest minister through the end of the year. Pr. Tom has also agreed to, if needed, officiate over our two Christmas Eve services. Through Melissa's diligent work, we have also secured guest ministers to fill in the remaining open Sundays through mid-June. We will be having three Hymn Sing Sundays on 6/28, 7/26, and 8/30. These services will be led by lay leaders, two of which have been taken. If anyone is interested in leading the service on July 26th, please let me know. Lastly, as of now, we are still planning to have our annual outdoor worship, most likely at Green Lane Park, on Sunday, July 19th. Pr. Lang has agreed to officiate. More information will be made available as the planning is finalized.

To keep some level of continuity, we will be changing from our traditional "first Sunday of the month" communion to having communion on the first Sunday that Pr. Lang presides, and all the normal festivals. We will publish the monthly schedule in the newsletter. For May and early June:

5/3	Pr. Brad Mellon	
5/10	Pr. Brad Mellon	
5/17	Pr. Tom Lang	Music Sunday, Communion
5/24	Pr. Tom Lang	Pentecost, Communion
5/31	Pr. Brad Mellon	Holy Trinity, Confirmation, Communion
6/7	Pr. Tom Lang	Communion
6/14	Pr. Brad Mellon	

I am also happy to add that we have arranged for Pr. Gene Zaiser from Trinity in Bechtelsville to serve as our part-time Vice Pastor. Pr. Zaiser will help us with unplanned events, pastoral administrative tasks, attend council meetings as possible, and assist the Care Team as needed. Pr. Sellers, our Conference Dean, also remains ready to support us and has been a great help getting this far, this fast.

And a final request, we are looking to assemble a new team to push a few buttons on Sunday morning. To ensure that we are consistently making our service available to those who cannot attend, we need a small team of people to activate the A/V system in the Finance Office before the prelude and deactivate it after the postlude. It requires flipping one switch and pressing two buttons and is easier than turning off the upstairs lights. Documentation and personal training are available. If you are interested, please contact me at fiorigliod@comcast.net, or 484-680-3162. I am hoping to train enough willing volunteers to be able to schedule people as we do with the other various teams throughout the church.

I appreciate the continued hard work and support of the congregation doing what we do best, working together to do great things.

Dave Fioriglio, Council President

Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since March 24, 2026.

From the Church Office

Newsletter Deadline

Information for the June issue of the Niantic News is **due** by **Tuesday, May 12th**. There are several ways for you to submit your articles.

- ✓ E-mail it to me at:
christluthchurch@windstream.net;
- ✓ Submit it on a USB flash drive, which can be borrowed from the office and returned;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

May Birthdays

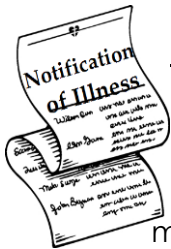
- 1 Kendra Ziegler
- 5 Ian Eichinger, Ralph Roberts, Richard Terkowski, III
- 6 Kay Barr (1945)
- 10 Charles Hoffman (1929)
- 12 Robert Heydt
- 13 Eric Novotny
- 16 Kaitlin Bomboy, Rebecca Sandoval
- 17 Al Menear
- 21 Zachary Hoffman
- 24 Lauri Stofflet
- 26 Tristen Hoffman
- 27 Nancy Bernhard (1943), Giovanni Sandoval
- 28 Ralph Gehman, Brianna Patt, Lucie Terkowski
- 30 Scott Hoffman
- 31 Kevin Drury



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 Emergency Need Calls

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, Special Flowers and Bulletins

There are a few Sunday's still open for both flowers and bulletins. Please sign-up for that special day or to remember a loved one. Altar flowers are \$40 and Bulletins are \$20.

All questions should be directed to Sandy Gehman regarding the Altar Flowers/Bulletins/Special Flowers.

Altar Flowers and Bulletins



Attendance

Date	Worship (9:00)	Conf./Bible Study
March 1	54	4 / 15
March 8	67	4 / 10
March 15	44	5 / 10
March 22	52	5 / 10
March 29 (PS)*	94	4 / N/A
*w/St. Paul's		
2026 Sun. Avg.:	62	4 / 11
2025 Sun. Avg.:	44	3

(Prior year averages are based on same time period)



Altar Flower and Bulletin Sponsors for May

SUNDAY	ALTAR FLOWERS	BULLETINS
MAY 3	Steve Novotny	OPEN
MAY 10	Bob and Pat Borneman	OPEN
MAY 17	OPEN	OPEN
MAY 24	Sandy and Ralph Gehman	OPEN
MAY 31	OPEN	OPEN

NOTE: If you would like to sponsor either the Altar Flowers or Bulletins on an OPEN Sunday, please sign up in the narthex. Thank you.

Quilt Tying

On Tuesday, May 12 beginning at 10:00 a.m., we will be tying quilts in room H (across from the Choir Room).

Help is always needed!!
Then we will go to the...



Lutheran Ladies Lunch

on Tuesday, May 12, at 12 noon to Tosco's, 824 Main Street, Pennsburg We will meet in the church parking lot at 11:30 a.m. to carpool to Tosco's for a 12 noon lunch or you can meet us there!

Attention to anyone who is willing and able to push a couple of buttons before and after the church service on a Sunday Morning. To ensure that we are consistently sending our service to those who cannot attend, we need a small team of people to activate the A/V system in the Finance Office prior to the service and deactivate it afterward. It is easier than turning off the upstairs lights. Documentation and personal training are available. If you are interested, please contact Dave Fioriglio, fiorigliod@comcast.net, or 484-680-3162. Thank You!

Prayer Concerns



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

NOTE: Names on the prayer list remain on for one month, unless someone notifies June or the office to remain on longer.

Health & Healing:

- Mary Ache
- Jennifer Lowery- Bomboy
- Pat Gabel – Bob's wife
- Heather – daughter of Kathy Romich/cousin of Lisa Heydt
- Leroy Heissler – friend of Denise Hoffman's family
- Luke Hoffman, Jr. – son of Luke and Chelsea
- Tim Hoffman – Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker's brother-in-law
- Crystal Hughes - Friend of Laurie Stofflet
- Addie Lorah – newborn daughter of a friend of Lindsey Mason
- Barbara Moser – Lori Ermold's mother
- Brenda Moser – Lori Ermold's sister-in-law
- Otto Nuss
- Polly Orner
- Pr. Jennifer Phelps – former member at CLC
- Rosalie Seasholtz – Melissa Seasholtz's mother-in-law
- Todd (Scruffy) Slonaker – cousin of Gerry Flicker and Denise Hoffman

- Mark Stofflet
- Tiffany - Nancy Fioriglio's cousin's daughter
- Steve Wanders –brother-in-law of Roberta Korsak's sister
- Elaine Wolfe – friend of Linda Hoffman
- Mark Yarnall, Sr - Husband of June Herb's cousin (4/6)

Death (Family and Friends of...):

- Robert Bender – Lisa Heydt's father (3/30)
- Gerald Flicker – father of Denise Hoffman and Gerry Flicker (4/2)
- Craig Allen Miller – Cindy Miller's nephew (4/4)

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.**

- Mary Ache;
- Hilda Kolb (Frederick Living/Cedarwood Rm. 1309B);
- Barbara Hoffman (Assisted Living in Wilmington, DE)

Council Highlights from February 24, 2026 meeting:

1. Approve Lori Ermold and Norm Hoffman as new council members
Roberta Korsak made motion, Marvin Steward seconded. Motion approved
2. Discuss and approve the Finance Committee's recommendation for paying Pastor Matt for March. Motion to pay ½ month's salary for March 2026, Roberta Korsak made motion, seconded by Pat Moser. Motion approved
3. Next steps and timeline for our pastoral transition
 - Exit interviews (council and pastor) with Dean (Chester Conference) will be March 5
 - Pastor Paul Townsend will be covering Holy Week Services (Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunday)
 - Pastor Tom Lang has agreed to supply 2 Sundays per month starting for May through December.

OLD BUSINESS:

Safe place policy tabled
Vitality Survey tabled

NEW BUSINESS:

Send off party for pastor March 6 evening 6-8PM. Coffee hour on March 8 before worship 8-9AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Pastor Matt Finney

Do you like flowers? Do you enjoy getting out in the fresh air? Do you like day trips? If so, then please join us for a trip to Longwood Gardens!!

When: Sunday, May 17th after church

We will be carpooling from the church and plan to leave around 11AM and return around 6PM.

Cost: To be determined, but approximately \$38 (but could be less based on the number attending, age and veterans status)

Please sign-Up in the narthex! No money is due yet because we need to have a better idea of the number of people interested in this activity. More information will be available before the end of April. If you have any questions, please contact Heather Moser or Nancy Fioriglio.



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



Newsletter's Page 1

Do you like to write?

Do you have an inspiring story?

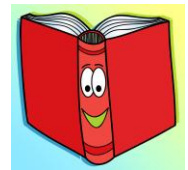
Memories of CLC that you'd like to share?

I am looking for volunteers to sign-up to write something for Page 1 of upcoming Niantic News Newsletters.

If you'd like to do that, please email the church office or call and let me know.

The deadline for the submission would be the 2nd Tuesday of the month prior.

Thank you, Melissa (Admin Assist)



Book Club

The Book Club will be reading the book: **"Broken Country" by Clare Leslie Hall.**

The book can be borrowed from a local library, downloaded online, or bought at a bookstore or Amazon.

We will meet on **Tuesday, May 19** 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.

Mercy Ministry

Chershe Derr, Chairperson



Food Bank

Donations for May and June will be going to the Salvation Army in Boyertown. Let's all make regular

Food Bank giving a part of our weekly or monthly planning and shopping. The Food Bank collection boxes are located in the coat / mailroom. The collection is ongoing throughout the year.

2026 GRADUATES!



Are you graduating in 2026 from high school, college, a trade school etc.?

We'd like to know if you or a family member who's a member of Niantic is!

Forms are available in narthex!

Deadline for form to be returned to office is **Sunday, May 31.**

Graduation Sunday is Sunday, June 7!

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.

Music Ministry News

Church Music Sunday will be celebrated on May 17th this year. The many musicians, Senior Choir, Transformation, Vintage Brass, and Finely Fluted that give so generously of their time and talent will be recognized in the worship service.

The people who have sung in the choir over the past year include:

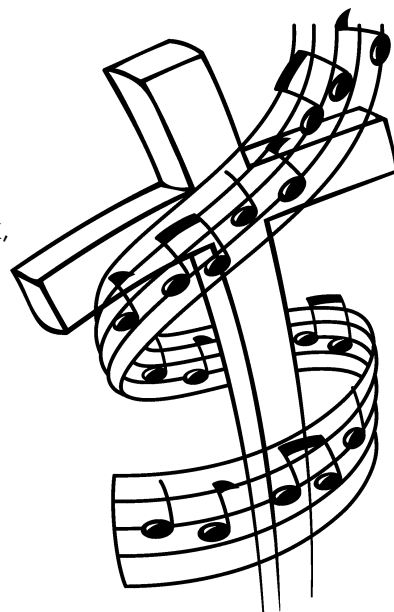
Denise Hoffman
Diane Houck
Donna Menear

Dave Fioriglio
Jim Barr
Geoff Littlefield
Eric Schmincke, Jr.

Transformation: Denise Hoffman, Diane Houck, Jim Barr, Derrick Houck, Ryan Houck, Geoff Littlefield

Vocal and Instrumental soloists and groups:

Vintage Brass
Finely Fluted
Jesicca Smith, violin
Rashell Williams, flute



Hymn Sings will be part of the worship services on June 28th, July 26th, and August 30th. While I have all of the requests from past years, feel free to look through the ELW hymn book in your pew racks. You may find more of your favorite hymns or hymns that look meaningful that you would like to learn.

Soli Deo Gloria!

Make Music Upper Perk is pleased to invite you to the 14th annual event, always held on the first day of summer. On **Sunday, June 21st**, musicians and music lovers will come together for a day of songs and smiles. The event is always FREE and OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

We will be part of a world-wide celebration of music, joining more than 700 cities who host a big musical party on that day. Nobody does it quite like we do though! MMUP meets people where they are, in parks and coffee shops and local businesses. The first notes of the day will begin around 9 a.m. and the festivities will continue till after dark. With a wide variety of musical styles, ages, and abilities, there is certainly something for everyone. Watch for the printed program, which will include the schedule of events and locations, available mid- May.



**UPCOMING F.U.N. ACTIVITIES –
Save the Dates!!**

- Sunday, May 17** ~ Longwood Gardens Trip (more info on pg. 4)
- Sunday, July 19** ~ Outdoor Worship and Church Picnic
- Saturday, Sept. 12** ~ Iron Pigs Baseball Game
- October 2026** ~ Kick-off for Boyertown Multi-Service Festival of Trees
- Advent 2026** ~ FUN Committee's "100th Activity" Extravaganza
- January 16, 2027** ~ Sportsman's Dinner

More details to follow on all activities!!

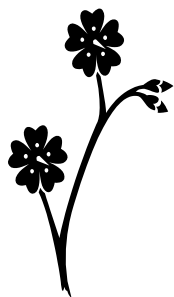


Happy Birthday!

Our oldest member, Hilda Kolb, will be celebrating her 98th birthday on June 2nd. We would like to have a card shower for Hilda. Since Hilda is in nursing at Frederick Living all her mail is sent to Kay Barr, all cards could be given to Kay at church or put in her church mailbox. No need to put a stamp on them. Kay will be sure Hilda receives them. I'm sure Hilda would enjoy opening the cards and receiving all your happy birthday wishes. Thank you so much.



Geraniums for Pentecost: Sunday, May 24



Red "cultured" Geraniums to celebrate Pentecost may be ordered for \$5.75 each until **Sunday, May 3, 2025** by completing this form and attaching a check, for the proper amount, payable to Christ Lutheran Church and placing it in the offering plate; or mailing it to the church at 222 Niantic Road; Barto, PA 19504.

I would like _____ red geraniums.

Your Name: _____ Envelope #: _____

**Please take your geranium with you after the worship service on May 24. Thank you.*

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

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	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$13,329.59	\$31,877.21	\$29,756.66
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	1,007.00	2,006.00	1,773.84
INVESTMENT INCOME	298.57	644.64	324.83
OTHER INCOME	21.37	21.37	(23.07)
TOTAL INCOME	14,656.53	34,549.22	31,832.26
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$3,983.75	\$13,096.89	\$11,822.14
OTHER STAFF	3,337.36	10,171.44	9,869.46
Subtotal Salaries	7,321.11	23,268.33	21,691.60
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	55.07	159.43	0.00
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	392.03	0.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	120.00	869.46	880.00
Subtotal Worship	175.07	1,420.92	880.00
OTHER MINISTRIES	87.00	87.00	87.00
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	19.00	152.40	99.97
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	422.39	523.78
INTERNET EXPENSES	319.22	1,059.36	940.31
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	338.22	1,634.15	1,564.06
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	186.08	475.49	604.38
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	0.00	1,074.00	831.48
Subtotal Church Administration	186.08	1,549.49	1,435.86
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	1,921.23	6,722.32	9,328.06
CLEANING SUPPLIES	340.00	765.00	1,220.92
REAL ESTATE TAX	33.07	33.07	31.07
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	212.50	1,916.91	110.22
Subtotal Building Operations	2,506.80	9,437.30	10,690.27
INSURANCE	0.00	2,536.00	2,389.25
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	0.00	15,500.46
TOTAL EXPENSES	10,614.28	39,933.19	54,238.50
EXCESS INCOME/EXPENSES	\$4,042.25	(\$5,383.97)	(\$22,406.24)

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
Pr. Tom Lang is at Christ and on all festivals.

Church Staff

Pastor: currently 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 _____ + (5/24 – 4/25)

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

Ministry Assistants for May 2026

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assist	Assisting Minister	Ushers/Greeters
May 3 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Heather Moser		Denise Hoffman	Shirley and Merle Deery
May 10 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Donna Menear		_____*	_____*
May 17 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Diane Houck	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	_____*
Pentecost May 24 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Sue Hoffman	Sue Hoffman	_____*	Ginnie Wilkinson and _____*
Holy Trinity May 31 9:00 a.m.	_____*	Bob Heydt	Nancy Fioriglio	Denise Hoffman	Lisa and Bob Heydt

Altar Guild: Kay and Jim Barr

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

_____ ***Help needed** – please call/e-mail the church office if you can help.
Thank you.

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">May 2026</h1> 						
					1	2
3 Blessing of the Seeds & Soil 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Brad Mellon presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I)	4 6:30 Property (W/C)	5	6 7:00 Senior Choir	7	8	9
10 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Pr. Brad Mellon presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 10:00 Confirmation (room I) <i>"Mother's Day"</i> 	11	12 **June Niantic News Articles Deadline 10:00 Quilt Tying (room H) 11:30 AM Ladies, meet in Welcome Center to carpool to Lutheran Ladies Lunch at Tosco's, 824 Main St., Pennsburg	13 7:00 Senior Choir	14	15 6:30 Wedding Rehearsal	16 Confirmation Retreat 3pm Wedding: Ellmaker/Harmon
17 Church Music Sunday / Blessing of the Quilts 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Pr. Tom Lang presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	18	19 7:00 Book Club (W/C)	20	21	22	23
24 PENTECOST 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Pr. Tom Lang presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)	25 Office Closed <i>Memorial Day</i>	26 7:00 Council (parlor)	27	28	29 10 AM Care Meeting <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; width: fit-content; margin: 5px auto;"> Synod Assembly at Trinity Lutheran, Lansdale, PA </div>	30
31 HOLY TRINITY / Rite of Confirmation 8:30 Coffee & Conversation (W/C) 9:00 Worship / Holy Communion / Rite of Confirmation / Pr. Brad Mellon presiding 10:00 Coffee & Conversation (W/C)						