

Niantic News

A monthly publication of Christ Lutheran Church
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610-845-2585 christluthchurch@windstream.net
www.christniantic.com

January 2021

Page 1

A View from the Bridge....

Dear People of Christ,

As Shakespeare's Juliet said to Romeo: "Parting is such sweet sorrow." As of December 31, I ended my 20-month bridge pastorate at Christ. I had told the Council when I started that I hoped it would have a permanent pastor in place by the end of 2020. Covid has delayed that process, but it is still proceeding, and promises to have a happy result fairly soon.

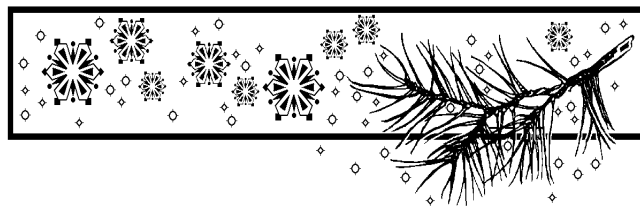
As I am now pushing 75 years old pretty hard and have short-changed other aspects of my life in order to serve at Christ, I resigned as of December 31, officially retiring as an ELCA Pastor after over 40 years of serving in congregations, teaching theology, and serving as a chaplain. While I need some time and some rest, my call from God, as I understand it, has always been to preach the Gospel. So whenever you want me to supply and I can, I'll come.

I love this congregation and have truly enjoyed my time here. On the one hand it would have been nice to have had some kind of party or closure event. On the other hand, those are problematic even in non-Covid times. As the Prince of Morocco said to Porsche in the Merchant of Venice, "Adieu! I have too grieving a heart to take a tedious leave." That seems right and mirrors the way Jesus left his disciples. Having reminded them that for three years he had been teaching them all they needed to know, the resurrected Jesus simply left. "Lifting up his hands, he blessed them... withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven." [Luke 24:50-51]

There is no denying the sorrowful part of leaving. What, possibly, could be the "sweet" part? Just this: It means that Christ congregation and I move into new futures. I won't try to reassure you that the future of the congregation will be unbelievably great. It may be -- or not. What I am sure of, though, is that God will meet you in that future. As my favorite saint, the 14th-century hermit Dame Julian of Norwich famously affirmed: "All shall be well and all manner of things shall be well." And as the angel Gabriel reminded the frightened and perplexed Mary: "Nothing will be impossible with God." [Luke: 1:37]

And so goodbye. May God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit bless you now and forever. Amen.

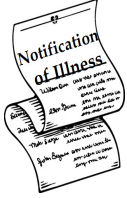
Gratefully,
Pastor Ann



Official Pastoral Acts

(Baptisms, Funerals, Weddings)

None since December 3.

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 after office hours pastoral emergencies can be called into Butch Fox, Council President at (610) 845-2343.

During office hours, please call the office for both emergency and non-emergency calls.

The Pastor on call will then be notified for emergency situations.

Thank you.

ATTENTION!!!

**Annual Report Committee
and Staff Reports
were DUE by Monday,
January 4th.**

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

Please e-mail your reports to:

christluthchurch@windstream.net.

Thank you!

Re-opening of Church

The Church Council met on Tuesday, January 5.

They decided that the church will be closed on Sunday, January 10 and will re-open on Sunday, January 17 for in-person worship.

Again, if you don't feel comfortable attending church or you feel sick, it is ok to stay home.

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 12th.**

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 and returned;
- ✓ Place your typed or neatly written copy in my mailbox outside of the offices.

Bulletin Deadline is Tuesday for the following Sunday. Your cooperation in meeting this deadline is greatly appreciated. This allows the office ample time to prepare the bulletin for Sunday Worship.



Flower and Bulletin Charts

The bulletin and flower charts for 2021 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 21 through March 28 (Palm Sunday)), we will not order altar flowers.

Prayer Concerns

Prayer Chain Initiator:

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

**Thanks be to God...**

Gerald Flicker – Denise Hoffman and Gerry's dad is back at Chestnut Knoll with Fern

Joy:

...the birth of Adelynn Larue Hoffman - daughter of Aaron and Rachel - granddaughter of Philip and Denise

Update:

Pr. Matt Ollikainen was called by Advent Lutheran, Richboro.

Health & Healing:

Faye Bernhard – Melissa Seasholtz's mother

Barb Faust

Dylan Felton – Bob Reismiller's niece

Nancy Folk

Glenn Hoffman – Tammy Hoffman's husband

Matt Hoffman

Peggy Jones – neighbor of Dawn/Matt Hoffman

Mike Korsak – Roberta Korsak's husband

Debbie Mason – Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's mother-in-law

Deb Matthews

Kassie McChesney – Pat Moser's granddaughter

Stephanie McChesney – Pat Moser's daughter

Robin McCulley - niece of Janet Schaeffer

Karlene Novotny

Bernice Rader – mother of Sandy Moser

Andrew Robinson - 7 year old great-nephew of Mike/Barb Appold

The Scott Family – good friends of Nancy/Dave Fioriglio

Harold Warrall – Lisa Knaub's father

Eileen Young - Shirley Deery's mother

Death (Family and Friends of...):

Kelly Miller – aunt of Evan Fluke's friend (12/15)

Doris Moser – sister-in-law of Dorothy Willing/Arlene Delp (12/22)

Matt Stofflet – prior member/confirmed at CLC (12/27)

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 – Bill Lowery's grandson/wife; Matthew Haas – friend of Eloise Swavely; Corey Mason – husband of Lindsey (Riegner) Mason; Quinn Mason – Lindsey (Riegner) Mason's stepson; Ian Diable-Pat Moser's grandson; Preston Schoenly – friend of Terry Flicker; Ryan Watts – nephew of Kathy Watts; Kayla Drabyak – Niece of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio; Tim Drabyak - Nephew of Dave and Nancy Fioriglio; William Zearfoss – Deb Matthew's nephew

*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 2021 Membership Directory that will be available in the narthex by mid-February.

Arlene Delp (Cedarwood/Frederick Living): Fern and Gerald Flicker (Chestnut Knoll, Room 217); Helen Gesser; Phyllis Hartenstine; Beatrice Lukens (Birches of Harleysville)

TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED:

Quilt tying will be held on **Tuesday, January 19** at 9:30 a.m. in the social hall, where we can social distance.

Please wear a mask!

Then the...

Lutheran Ladies Lunch

The January Lutheran Ladies Lunch will be held

on **Tuesday, January 19**, at **11:30 a.m.** in the social hall.

More details to follow in bulletins and Niantic E-news!

January Birthdays!!

- | | |
|----|---|
| 2 | Duane Riegner |
| 5 | David Delp, Donna Stifnell, Jessa Wood |
| 8 | Dawson Smith |
| 9 | Shirley Deery |
| 10 | Derik Becker |
| 11 | Jenna Hart |
| 16 | Michelle Bright, Beatrice Lukens (1932) |
| 17 | Joshua Nase, Sandy Plumley |
| 19 | Robert Aston, Jacob Bauer |
| 20 | Jessica Snyder |
| 21 | Craig Hoffman, Jamie Johns |
| 24 | Thomas Farmer (1933), Brian Wilcox |
| 27 | Leonard Bendinsky, Barbara Steward, Julia Weller |
| 30 | Michael Knaub, Tricia Korutz
Jill VanHorn, Steven Witman |
| 31 | Travis Snyder, Shannon Yoder |

Council Highlights – November 24, 2020

1. Council seats have been filled by Bob Borneman and Charlie Hoffman for 3-year terms. Bob Gabel and Merle Deery have agreed to fill the remaining seats. They will have to be approved at the February congregational meeting.
2. St. Paul's congregational meeting will be held December 6 barring a COVID shutdown.
3. Nancy Fioriglio made a motion to send monies to the Synod for Domestic Disaster Relief. Kay Barr seconded. Motion passed.
4. Motion by Mike Knaub and seconded by Jamie Johns to distribute Harvest Home funds to Salvation Army and Boyertown Multi-Service. Motion passed.
5. Discussion and plans continue for a "virtual Christmas Service" to be posted on YouTube.
6. Discussion on how to proceed with COVID surge and the secretary's possible exposure to it. Gerry Flicker made a motion to pay the secretary at 50% of lost time; seconded by Nancy Fioriglio. Motion passed.
7. Discussion on continuing services led to a decision to continue on a week to week basis.
8. Kay Barr made a motion to allow a "kettle drive" at church after services. Sue Hoffman seconded.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Schaeffer, Council Secretary

Thank you...

... to Pr. Ann Baly for the past 19 months serving as our Bridge Pastor. We appreciate your time, caringness, and leadership during that time. May you enjoy your retirement and until we meet again, God bless!

...to everyone who had a hand, in any way, in the creating the Christmas Eve service that was aired on YouTube. What an exceptional job you all did in making this happen!
Your hard work truly paid off!

Thank you...

...for your generous donation to the Boyertown Multi-Service. Your generous support provides direct services to families, elderly, youth and adults in our community.

Rob Laubenheimer
Interim Executive Director

...for your donation to the Boyertown Salvation Army. Many people from Berks and Montgomery Co.'s come to the Salvation Army for help and support and your donation helps us help them when needed.

Captains Joseph and Rebecca Smith
Commanding Officers

Watch your inbox/mailbox in the next few weeks for letters announcing the date for the trial sermon of the selected pastor and the Congregational Meeting in February.

Christ Lutheran Church, Niantic
Income and Expense Statement
 Consolidated - November 2020

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Page: 1

	Current Period	Year to Date	YTD Prior Year
INCOME			
CONTRIBUTIONS	\$22,475.33	\$125,744.09	\$128,788.65
OTHER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS	10,294.00	37,085.00	9,628.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	7.58	99.58	195.23
TOTAL INCOME	32,776.91	162,928.67	138,611.88
EXPENSES			
SALARIES			
PASTORAL MINISTRY	\$3,119.85	\$30,346.24	\$30,795.82
OTHER STAFF	4,697.90	38,119.16	42,158.32
Subtotal Salaries	7,817.75	68,465.40	72,954.14
WORSHIP			
MUSIC	0.00	395.00	395.00
ORGAN & PIANO MAINTENANCE	0.00	0.00	171.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	166.15	1,852.78	2,930.27
Subtotal Worship	166.15	2,247.78	3,496.27
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION			
CURRICULUM MATERIALS	0.00	652.75	351.61
Subtotal Christian Education	0.00	652.75	351.61
OTHER MINISTRIES			
SOCIAL MINISTRY/OUTREACH			
COMMUNITY SERVICE AGENCY	0.00	500.00	150.00
ADVERTISING EXPENSE	0.00	317.73	396.00
STEWARDSHIP	0.00	499.82	441.69
INTERNET EXPENSES	38.95	428.45	549.60
Subtotal Social Ministry/outreach	38.95	1,746.00	1,537.29
CHURCH ADMINISTRATION			
ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSE	337.44	3,798.88	1,739.57
EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE	1,066.75	1,236.17	247.89
AUTOMOBILE EXPENSE	0.00	0.00	58.00
TELEPHONE EXPENSE	96.50	1,039.63	1,005.68
Subtotal Church Administration	1,500.69	6,074.68	3,051.14
BUILDING OPERATIONS			
HEAT, ELECTRIC & GAS	834.29	7,304.83	8,122.40
CLEANING SUPPLIES	0.00	142.84	97.25
REAL ESTATE TAX	0.00	119.24	115.22
BUILDING MAINTENANCE	2,110.20	4,173.30	6,480.32
Subtotal Building Operations	2,944.49	11,740.21	14,815.19
INSURANCE			
FUND EXPENSES	0.00	3,929.00	3,636.00
	0.00	28,499.63	63,940.68
TOTAL EXPENSES	12,468.03	123,675.95	164,117.32
TRANSFER ACCOUNTS			
	\$0.00	(\$95.37)	\$95.37
TOTAL TRANSFERS	0.00	(95.37)	95.37
EXCESS INCOME\EXPENSES	\$20,308.88	\$39,157.35	(\$25,410.07)

Respectfully Submitted
 Leason Hoffman, Treasurer

Church Office Hours:

Monday – Friday: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Worship:

Sunday Worship ~ 9:00 AM

Confirmation ~ 10:00 AM in the Social Hall, except for the first Sunday of month from 6 – 8 p.m.
The Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered on the first Sunday of each month and on all festivals.

Church Staff

Minister of Music: Deborah Matthews ~ clcmusician@windstream.net
Administrative Assistant: Melissa Seasholtz ~ christluthchurch@windstream.net
Director of Christian Education: clcdce@windstream.net (☑ by church office)
Sexton: Robert Reismiller

2021 Congregational Council

President: Butch Fox ☑ Vice President: Pat Moser ☑
Secretary: Janet Schaeffer ❖ Treasurer: Sue Hoffman
Assistant Treasurer: Nancy Fioriglio Financial Treasurer: Kathy Watts**
e-mail: clcfmancial@windstream.net

Kay Barr Robert Borneman ☑ Merle Deery
Gerry Flicker Bob Gabel Charles Hoffman ☑
Roberta Korsak ☑ Braden Bartman+ (5/20-4/21)
(*non-council member / +youth member / ☑ second term / ❖ completing term)

Worship Assistants for January 2021

	Acolyte	Lector	Communion Assists	Assistant Minister	Greeters/ Ushers
Sunday, January 3 9:00 AM	Worship Service Canceled				
Sunday, January 10 9:00 AM	Worship Service Canceled				
Sunday, January 17 9:00 AM	N/A	Diane Houck	N/A	Diane Houck	_____*
Sunday, January 24 9:00 AM	N/A	Sue Hoffman	N/A	Sue Hoffman	_____*
Sunday, January 31 9:00 AM	N/A	Denise Hoffman	N/A	Denise Hoffman	_____*

Altar Guild: Jamie Johns



Counting Team: Team E: Mike Knaub (capt.), Kathy Watts, Janet Schaeffer, Charlie Hoffman, Bob Borneman

Attending Worship Guidelines: **Enter** through side door (Congo-Niantic Road); **Masks** must be worn (covering both nose and mouth) when entering the church, during the service and when you are leaving the church; Please maintain a **social distance** of at least 6 feet from other parishioners (**Bulletins** are placed where you are allowed to **sit** (members of same household together)); **Hymnals/Bibles** were removed so if you need a Bible, please bring your own from home; Please **exit** through the front doors unless you are in need of the elevator. Thank you.

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

Thank you.

(changed since publication)

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <h1 style="font-size: 2em; margin: 0;">January 2021</h1> 						
WC = Welcome Center					1 NEW YEAR'S DAY OFFICE CLOSED	2
3 Epiphany Worship Service Canceled. 10:15 Confirmation (Zoom)	4 Annual Report Committee/Staff Reports Deadline	5 7:00 Special Council Meeting (W/C)	6	7	8	9
10 Baptism of Our Lord Worship Service Canceled. 10:15 Confirmation (Zoom)	11	12 February Niantic News Articles are DUE 6:30 Cemetery Board (W/C) 7:30 Finance (W/C)	13	14	15	16
17 9:00 Worship / Communion / Pr. Sue Sosnin preaching 10:15 Confirmation (Zoom)	18 Office Closed <i>Martin Luther King Day</i>	19 Tentative: 9:30 Quilt Tying (S/H) 11:30 AM Lutheran Ladies Lunch (S/H) 7:00 Endowment (W/C)	20	21	22	23
24 9:00 Worship / Pr. Sue Sosnin preaching 10:15 Confirmation (Zoom)	25	26 7:00 Council (W/C)	27	28	29	30
31 9:00 Worship / Pr. Sue Sosnin preaching 10:15 Confirmation (Zoom)	February 1 7:00 Property (W/C)	February 2 7:00 Mercy Ministry (W/C)	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6