

## Christ the King Lutheran Church

499 Plaza Drive  
Vestal, NY 13850

**Christ The King  
Lutheran Church  
499 Plaza Drive  
Vestal NY 13850**

Phone: 607-729-2688

**Christ the King is Full of...**  
Hearts Loved By God  
Hands to Serve All  
Through Jesus Christ

We are a Reconciling in Christ congregation. We are called by Christ to care for, love, understand, and listen to each other, regardless of race, age, gender and gender identities, marital status, physical and mental abilities, sexual orientations, national origin, or economic status.

### Staff

Pastor – AJ Striffler  
[pastoraj@ctkvestal.org](mailto:pastoraj@ctkvestal.org)  
Church Administrator — Marsha Pulz  
[marsha@ctkvestal.org](mailto:marsha@ctkvestal.org)  
Music Director – Jim Ford  
[jrfme2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jrfme2000@yahoo.com)  
Nursery Staff- Jane Davis  
Sexton- Gary Robertson

### Congregational Council

Co-President: Joe Brunt  
Co-President: Carol Strano  
Secretary: Rich Lindstrom  
Treasurer: Randy Kerr  
Debbie Doyle            Jody Fiorentino  
Dennis Chapman        Tammy Gow  
Todd Eames              Kathy Leonard

Financial Secretary: Phil Roberts

### Worship Schedule

Sundays:  
Classic Worship at 9:00 AM  
Education Hour at 10:10 AM  
Progressive Worship at  
11:15AM

Find us on the interwebs:  
[www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org)  
[@ctkvestal](http://www.facebook.com/ctkvestal)

HEARTS LOVED BY GOD · HANDS TO SERVE ALL · THROUGH JESUS CHRIST



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## The Herald

APRIL 2017

*“On the first day of the week, very early in the morning, the women took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were wondering about this, suddenly two men in clothes that gleamed like lightning stood beside them. In their fright the women bowed down with their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, “Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.’ Then they remembered his words.” (Luke 24:1-8)*

*The death of Jesus was devastating and confusing for his closest friends and followers. Even when confronted with Jesus himself some of his followers in disappointment say "but we had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel." In just a little while longer they would realize that Jesus had redeemed Israel and that, like the scriptures predicted, Jesus had risen from the dead!*

*Are there things in your life that in the moment seem devastating and confusing? You may be asking the question "Why has this happened?" or "I thought God had a different plan than this?" We can take our hope from that empty tomb. In those precious hours the empty tomb to some meant failure when in reality it meant a new beginning of greatness and life eternal. There may be some stones in your life that need to be rolled away for the chance of a new beginning. With that in mind we introduce our 2017 Easter theme "Rolled Away". Share this message with those in your community." (from [www.livinglutheran.com](http://www.livinglutheran.com))*

On the one hand, it seems a little bit strange to be writing about Easter deep in the heart of Lent. After all, I am (we are) still ‘walking dusty’! On the other hand, it seems completely appropriate to do so. As ‘both-and’ people, we cannot really appreciate Lent without looking forward to Easter, just like we cannot really celebrate Easter without reflecting on Lent. It’s all about the ‘both-and’.

So far, our two Walking Dusty conversations have brought us through God’s calling out and God’s anointing of the Church to be God’s holy people, committed not only to faith in our God, but the work that God is doing in and among us and the world. Lent is a good time for us to reflect on our part, so that when Easter dawns we have a clearer understanding of just what God is up to!

Some of you have already commented to me about a ‘new vision’ that you are experiencing; seeing things differently and a new perspective that is informing your discipleship journey. This is exactly how transformation begins ... it’s both the Holy Spirit and our participation, our letting go, our getting out of God’s way, our desire to let God’s will and God’s work unfold in us, with us, and through us.

Easter is a great time to be both blinded and blind-sided by what God is up to! There is miracle and there is majesty and there is power and there is confusion ... and there is glory. And, in the midst of it all, there is change – everything changes! You change. I change. Everything changes!

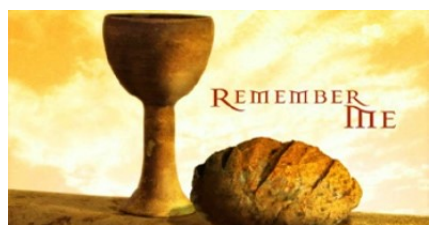
So, God BOTH loves us, calls us, claims us just as we are – broken, imperfect, doubting, weak, busy, grumpy, self-absorbed and stingy – AND God invites us and welcomes us into a new space of faith and discipleship, marked by the empty tomb and initiated by the power to see differently.

Even as we peer into the empty tomb, God invites us to look out of it from the inside. The world that you see from inside that dark and lonely place of betrayal and death, is the very world (including us!) God died and rose to rescue and to love.

How will we tell them that the stone has been rolled away?

~Pastor AJ

**Holy Thursday Celebration Meal**



Holy Thursday, what we used to call Maundy Thursday (from the Latin *to command*), is a time during Holy Week when we celebrate Jesus ‘new’ commands to those who will become the first Church. The washing of feet, the breaking of bread, the drinking from the cup with the words ‘Do this in remembrance of me’, were all given to us by Jesus as guides for the ministry that he would entrust to us at his death.

This year, we will have a Dinner Service on Holy Thursday. We will meet together at 7:00 PM in the upstairs hall, and eat, pray, sing, celebrate, and remember.

If you plan to attend, please bring a pot-luck dish that can be shared. As part of the celebration, we will also share in the ritual washing of hands and anointing of feet (yes, you can leave your shoes on!), as well as Holy Communion.

It is a fun and beautiful service that is full of meaning and ritual. As always, we can expect the Holy Spirit to be present.

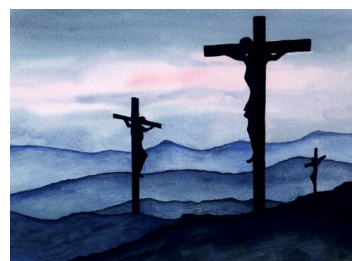
Hope to see you there. All are welcome, and all are invited!



A Good Friday service of darkness and shadows will be celebrated at 7:00 PM on April 14.

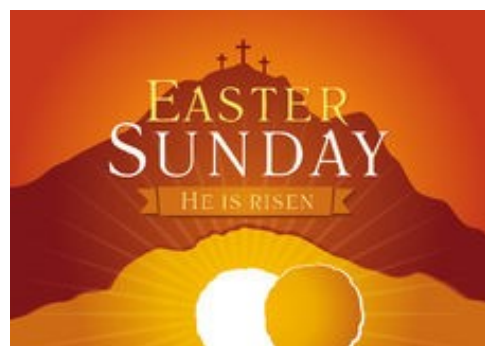
Perhaps the most moving and emotional worship services of the Christian Year, Good Friday – the commemoration of the crucifixion and death of Jesus – moves us into the place of quiet and shadows, as we wait for the resurrection. We are invited to live into the awesome truth that the God of Light embraced the darkness to bring us all to new life and everlasting living!

Join us. All are welcome and invited!



**Easter Sunday**

Join us on Easter Sunday at 9:00 and 11:15 AM  
we celebrate Christ’s victory over death!



**Nails for Service**

Nails are being sold as part of the Christ the King Youth’s ongoing effort to raise money for their summer mission trip to Pittsburgh, New York.

Nails can be purchased for \$5.00 a piece *in honor of*, or *in memory of*, a special person in your life. The nails will be taken to the Work Camp site in Buffalo and used in the projects there. A list of dedications will be included in the Easter Sunday bulletin and the May Herald.

**Treat yourself to pancakes & sausage and help send a youth to work camp!**

On Sunday, April 23, our middle and high school students will serve you breakfast between services. We will cater to both upstairs and downstairs, so sit back and enjoy! A free will offering will help to support our youth on their mission.

**Bowling Fellowship**

On March 19, we had our first CTK Bowling Fellowship at Midway Lanes. Although it was a small group that attended, great fun was had by all. Thank You!! Kelli and I would like to offer a wonderful way to connect with our brothers and sisters by having an open bowling get-together once a month. The next date to meet at Midway is Sunday, April 23 from 2:00—4:00 PM. All are welcome! We hope to see you there.

*Megan O’Hearn and Kelli Cruise  
ohearnmegan@yahoo.com*

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations and blessings to Dave Banner, who was commissioned recently as a Conference Deacon at the Conference Assembly by the Rev. Laura Daly, Dean of the Conference.

**Thank You!**

Thanks to all from Althea Zayleskie for their prayers, visits, and calls during her recovery from knee replacement surgery. She’s doing well and is glad to be back in church again!

**ELCA World Hunger Refugee Assistance**

Upstate NY Synod is asking each church to challenge itself to provide food for at least two refugee families for a month. Today we see worldwide refugee levels at the highest ever recorded, with 1 in every 122 humans either a refugee, internally displaced or seeking asylum. 51% of the world’s refugee population are children under 18 years of age

The cost is \$200 per family. Let’s see how many families we can sponsor. Please place your donation in the offering plate and mark it “ELCA World Hunger”.

**Soup Kitchen**

On Saturday, April 15, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Soups, bread, tossed salad, and cookies are on the menu. If you would like to contribute to the meal, please sign up in the Entry Way or contact Todd Eames (hteames@gmail.com or text at 761-3744).

If you would like to help with preparation, serving, and/or cleanup, the Soup Kitchen is held at First United Methodist Church (corner of McKinley and Monroe) in Endicott. Preparation starts at 10:30 AM and the meal is served at noon.

**Bottle Drive For CHOW & Floating Hospital**

The middle school Sunday School class is hosting a bottle drive. Half of the funds raised will be given to CHOW for food purchases with the remaining half being given to The Floating Hospital for coat purchases. Please bring your clean bottles to the rummage sale this month.

Questions? Ask Julie Sifert.

**CTK Annual Rummage and Bake Sale**

*April 28 9am-3pm  
April 29 9am-1pm*

Early donations can be left in the back of the cafe. No computers, TV’s, outdated electrical items, Christmas trees or heavy items. For pick-ups or questions call Debbie Doyle 724-1072. Also, anyone who would like to bring in baked goods, see Anne Wilkens. Proceeds from sale will be used to decorate and paint the Narthex and coat room.