

Christ the King Lutheran Church

499 Plaza Drive
Vestal, NY 13850

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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
Church Administrator — Marsha Pulz
marsha@ctkvestal.org
Music Director – Jim Ford
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
[@ctkvestal](http://www.facebook.com/ctkvestal)

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



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The Herald

MAY 2017

Caffeine and Conversation

A HUGE (huge, huge, huge) part of Transformissional Ministry, and moving a congregation from the place of ‘a community of Christians’ to ‘an intentional Christian community’, is building trusting relationships. The \$64,000 question is always ‘How do we do that?’ It isn’t exactly hard. It isn’t exactly easy, either. It requires intention. It also requires conversation and listening to one another. As exploration ministries and changes are coming down the path, I was hoping we could begin intentionally building these ‘trusting relationships’. Are you game?

Here’s how it works: We meet for coffee (or tea), iced or hot, - or really any beverage of your choice! – and we talk to each other. I want to get to know you, and I want you to get to know me. This is how we learn to understand one another. This is how we learn about our passions and our faith. This is how we walk together and love another. It is a critical piece to creating an intentional Christian community.

So, I would like to start with four small gatherings. They will be in May (Tuesday the 9th, 16th, and 23rd) at 2:00 PM, at the Panera Bread (3700 Vestal Parkway E) close to the church. There will also be one on Saturday the 20th, also at 2:00 PM. This should give varied times, so that those who would like to participate can find something suitable.

Logistically, in order to keep the groups fairly small, to facilitate conversation and sharing, I will have four “sign-up” sheets on my office door. Please sign up for the day that you would like to come.

I hope that you will make some time to get to know me, and allow me to get to know you. I certainly do like what I have gotten to know so far!

And, no worries if you can’t make it to one of these 4 gatherings. If they are successful, and I believe they will be, then there will be more scheduled throughout the summer.

As our Presiding Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, likes to say, “We are Church, better together!” Amen!

I look forward to seeing you!

-AJ



All Are Invited

Service of Installation for Pastor AJ Striffler

Sunday, May 7 – 3:00 PM
Christ the King Lutheran Church

Reception to follow

A Plea from AJ

As your pastor, I very much want to be there for you and be present when you come to me with questions, concerns, frustrations, requests, etc. I want you to know and feel that I care and that I want to listen and help in any way that I can. Sunday mornings, however, are NOT the best time to receive this attention from me. I am distracted with worship leadership and being present in the community as a whole. In 15 years of congregational ministry, I have learned that I cannot do both well. Sundays are sacred time, and I also need to worship.

Please, if you have something you really want to speak with me about, call me or come to see me any time Monday through Thursday. I want to give you the attention and care that you deserve. That matters to me. I know it matters to you, too.

Thank you!

Pastor AJ Away in June

When we had conversation with AJ about being our Trans-formissional Ministry Pastor, he shared with us that he had been invited by a close clergy friend to accompany her on a 3.5 week leg of her sabbatical, to England, Scotland, NYC, and CT. Knowing this, we asked him to come to CTK.

So, please be aware that AJ will be away for most of the month of June. In London, he will explore the beauty of the city's religious architecture. In Scotland, he will attend a week-long Peace and Justice retreat at the Iona Abbey, on the Isle of Mull. In NYC, he will explore means and methods of inner city ministry and churches in transition. In CT, he and Denise will reconnect with UCC Pastor Mike Lake, and his wife, all of whom shared years of ministry together in Garden City, Kansas, teaching congregations how to partner with one another and share ministry in the Gospel of Jesus.

Please pray for AJ while he is away. As he learns and grows and is inspired, we are confident he will be thinking about and praying for us!

-The CTK Leadership Team

Campus Ministry

Christ the King will be offering study space to Binghamton University students during finals week. Due to limited study space on campus, many students welcome having a quiet, safe space to study for finals. In December 2016, our first time offering study space, we had a nice turn-out, and received positive feedback from the students who studied at the church.

Volunteers are needed to welcome students who come to study, and are asked to sign up for 3-hour time slots (between the hours of 6pm to midnight) on the following dates:

Thursday, May 11
Friday, May 12
Saturday, May 13
Sunday, May 14
Monday, May 15

Volunteers are also needed to provide snacks (cookies, baked goods, bottled water, and fruit) to have available for students. A sign-up sheet is posted on the Events Board in the Entrance Hall.

If you have questions, please contact any member of the Campus Ministry Team (Joe and Kathy Brunt, Angie Crawford, Rich Lindstrom, or Carol Strano.)

Church Council Changes

First of all, the new name of Council is the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is now meeting on Wednesdays. The second Wednesday of the month will be the business portion of the meeting. Visitors are welcome to attend. The fourth Wednesday of the month will be a Bible study for the team. This is not new but we will be spending more time with the devotional portion of their meeting in order to delve deeper into the Bible and listen to the direction that the Holy Spirit wants them to move.

**Blood Drive**

A blood drive will be held here at CTK on Friday, May 5 from 2-5pm. This is open to the public. To schedule an appointment, call 1-800-733-2767 or visit www.RedCrossBlood.org or sign-up in the Entry Way.

ELCA World Hunger Refugee Assistance

Leading up to Synod Assembly in early June, CTK is raising funds 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. Because of your generosity, we have raised enough for almost three families! Let's see how many families we can sponsor prior to Assembly. Please place your donation in the offering plate and mark it "ELCA World Hunger".

Transformational Ministry: Spiritual Grounding Workshop

Saturday, May 13, 9:30 AM-3:00 PM
St. Paul Lutheran Church, Penn Yan

All are invited to attend the Transformational Ministry: Spiritual Grounding Workshop. What's Transformational Ministry all about? TM is about the challenging work of deep reflection, intentional listening to God and developing practical skills for leading churches into a vibrant and more sustainable future while taking seriously the purpose of the church to share the Gospel of Christ in our neighborhoods and the world. TM is not a program, it is an invitation to grow in discipleship and invite others into God's mission.

What will you leave this first Spiritual Grounding workshop with?

- A better understanding of how and why the church has changed over the last 100 years (and is continuing to change) and ideas for adapting to this change
- Tools to help your congregation discover (or grow deeper in) its identity and sense of purpose and mission
- More comfortable talking about Jesus

For more information, see the Events board or contact Rev. Norma Malfatti, Director for Evangelical Mission, 315-299-4955. Please RSVP for the workshop to St. Paul's by 5/7: 315-536-8165.



Wow! Because of your generosity, the Work Campers recent pancake breakfast raised \$540! Many thanks to all of you!

Friends Dinner

The next Friends Dinner hosted by Christ the King will be held on Tuesday May 2 at 5:30pm. The Friends Dinner is a weekly dinner for individuals with HIV and AIDS that is hosted by various churches in the community and is held at Trinity Memorial Episcopal Church in Binghamton.

The menu for the next dinner includes ham, potato casserole, rolls, salad, and dessert. There will be a sign-up sheet in the entrance hall, if you would like to contribute to the meal and/or help to serve the dinner. If you have questions, contact Angie Crawford (727-6497), Kelli Cruise (349-8557), or Carol Strano (725-6635).

Soup Kitchen

On Saturday, May 20, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Casseroles, broccoli, and brownies & ice cream 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.

Office Note

The Office will be closed on Friday, May 5.

Regular hours of 9am-1pm Tuesday-Friday will resume on May 9.