

## Christ the King Lutheran Church

499 Plaza Drive  
Vestal, NY 13850

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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

JUNE 2017

### Why is There The Church?

As you are already aware, the Summer worship schedule intricately involves Faith Formation. This is critical to the Transformation Ministry process. If we truly wish to be an ‘authentic’ church – that which God called forth for the work of God’s mission – then there is some development and training that is necessary. (Yes! Even beyond your Confirmation!!)

For example, if you were asked the question, “Why is there a Church?” or “Why does the Church exist?”, there would probably be as many different answers as there are those of you who’d truly entertain the question! When I ask this question to groups and gatherings, I’m always struck by what the many different answers reveal. And, whereas almost all the answers I get back from individuals and groups contain ‘truths’, partial or otherwise, there are critical pieces and fundamental truths that remain absent.

Why is there The Church?

I like to tell the story about the man and his lamp. It was a beautiful lamp, handed down to him from generations before. He cherished it – both the light it shared and its beauty and history. It was the centerpiece of his entire home.

As you can imagine, one day the lamp stopped working. The man remembered an envelope that he had received when he was given the lamp. He tucked it away with some important papers for safe keeping. Industrious and clever, the man did everything he could to get the lamp to shine once more – from the most basic bulb and plug fixes to some serious electrical re-wiring – but the lamp never worked again.

After the man had died and his things were being disposed of, his children found all the pieces of the dismantled and non-functioning lamp among his many possessions. Not feeling the same connection to it as he had, they threw the many parts of the once beloved lamp away. When they got to his personal papers, they found the envelope that the man had received with the lamp. Inside it contained detailed instructions on how to care for the lamp so that it would shine forever, as well as instruction on what to do if it stopped working. The envelope, they noticed, had never been opened.

Why is there the Church?

You and I – and the whole Body of Christ – are stewards of just such a lamp and just such an envelope. Transformational ministry is about loving the lamp and opening the envelope before the lamp stops shining.

Please join us when the Summer Schedule begins on Sundays and Wednesdays (6/18 and 6/21), as we open the envelope, explore the contents, and learn how to be excellent stewards of ‘the Lamp’ – the Church.

I look forward to seeing you all!

In God’s love,  
AJ

**AJ away in June**

A reminder that AJ is away in June. He will be in England and Scotland, visiting Celtic holy sites and participating in a Peace and Justice Retreat at the Iona Abbey. If an issue arises that requires a pastoral presence, please contact Marsha in the church office.

**Thank you for the Installation Party**

AJ wishes to thank everyone for the wonderful Installation Service and Reception on May 7<sup>th</sup>. All of the cakes, the food, and the champagne were wonderful. He feels loved and cherished, and looks forward to all the fun and celebrations in our future!

**Thank you for the Coffee and Conversation**

Eighteen disciples from CTK met with AJ for coffee and treats at the Panera Bread on Vestal Parkway E. Great conversation was had, sharing and connections were made, and folks just learned about each other. A nice time was had by all!

If you weren't able to join one these Get-Togethers in May, please look for the Sign-Up sheets for July. The tentative dates are Friday July 7, Tuesday July 11, Tuesday July 25, and Monday July 31.

Getting to know each other makes walking together – accompanying one another on this Jesus journey – so much more real and meaningful!

A big Thank You to all who shared their time in May!!!!!!

*“Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near.” **Matthew 24:32***

**Summer Worship at Christ the King**

As the days of warmth, travel and recreation rapidly draw near, it is the hope of the Leadership Team and Pastor of Christ the King that you build time into your summer for worship and community. Taking into consideration the historical attendance trends at CTK in summer, we are pleased to share with you 2 opportunities for worship, fellowship, and faith formation.

Beginning on Sunday June 18<sup>th</sup>, at 9:00 am, we will offer a shortened morning Holy Communion liturgy. Setting Ten from the ELW will be used, and the service music will be sung acapella. Each sung portion of the liturgy is set to a familiar hymn tune, so this makes it very easy to use. No worries if you don't know the tunes; you'll catch on quickly!

Then, beginning on Wednesday June 21, at 7:00 pm, we will offer our regular combined (traditional – Progressive) Worship Service, preceded by a variety of fellowship and faith formation activities beginning at 5:30 pm.

We are so excited to share these worship opportunities with you, recognizing how precious summer recreation is to all.

Also, remembering that 'change' can be tough and upsetting to some, please remember that we have covenanted 'to be open', and that this change in worship is only for the summer season. We will return to our regular worship schedule in the fall.

Let the name of Jesus Christ be praised!

**Music Notes**

Christian concert pianist Jim Hendricks will be playing during both of our services on Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>. Also on June 11 at 4:00 PM, Jim will amaze us with his God-given gift of music as he plays truly inspiring and uplifting piano music in concert. For a preview, visit the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Y8Y9eKSpOQ>.

Please be sure to invite your friends to this event in celebration of Christ the King's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. A free-will offering will be taken during the performance.

I want to thank Rick Westfall for securing a total of \$250 from Thrivent which is being used to purchase five new anthems for the CTK Choir and to cover expenses for a reception to follow the concert.

~ Jim Ford

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

Although the prayer shawl group will soon take a summer break from meeting Thursday mornings, prayer shawls and squares are available anytime! These shawls and squares are a wonderful reminder to anyone in need of prayer — worshippers, funeral mourners, nursing home residents, college students and others in our community.

There is a basket of prayer squares near the entrance door. For a prayer shawl, see Margie King or Althea Zayleskie.

**Seafarers Caps**

Since 1898, during the Spanish American War, volunteers of the Seamen's Church Institute have knitted, collected, packed, and distributed gifts to mariners who are miles away from home during the holidays. The gift consists of a handknit garment, a personal letter, and information on SCI's services for mariners. In addition to this, SCI also includes several useful items like hand lotion, lip balm, and toothbrushes – things difficult to come by when working long stretches on the water.

If anyone has any extra yarn, the women's prison will use it to knit the Seafarers caps. Cindy at Our Saviour is our contact person for this cooperative mission. She also has the pattern, if anyone wants to knit their own caps for the Seafarers. For more information, contact Cindy at Our Saviour.

**Transformational Ministry: Spiritual Grounding Workshop**

Saturday, June 17. 9:30 AM – 3 PM  
West Central Rensselaer Co. Lutheran Parish  
470 Winter Street, N. Greenbush (Troy)  
Please RSVP to WCRCLP by 6/12. 518-283-1372

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, contact Rev. Norma Malfatti, Director for Evangelical Mission, 315-299-4955.

**Soup Kitchen**

On Saturday, June 17, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Spiedies, rolls, potato salad, tossed salad and watermelon 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.

**Leadership Team  
(formerly Church Council)**

The Leadership Team will meet on Thursdays during the summer months. June 15, July 13 and August 10 at 6:00 PM. Visitors are welcome!

**Office Note**

The Office will be closed Friday, June 30—Tuesday, July 4.

Regular hours of 9am-1pm Tuesday-Friday will resume on July 5.