



**God has a Mission in the World;  
God's Mission has a Church...**

We met and affirmed our belief that "PB&J" is the path that Christ the King should continue traveling. We shared a lot of energy and enthusiasm about what is along the path for us. We looked forward to the church growing a strong faith formation program for the younger kids. We are excited about the church beginning a program of prayer with the people next door at Brookdale. Enthusiasm abounds for the church offering various programs to students at Binghamton University. Interest was obvious for a new program that the church might serve the 20- and 30-somethings among us. Our meeting on March 18 was teeming with conversation and ideas for these and other programs that the church could, and should, do. But, who is "the church?" And, what are "programs?"

We may have all heard the statement, "God has a mission in the world, and God's mission has a church." Those words may somehow bring us some increase in our confidence in God's presence in the world. But, so what? Who is "church?" I'm sure you can see the obvious: the church is you; the church is me. But, once we get beyond those descriptors, it gets dangerous. Once we get to the point of identifying the church as something larger, something beyond its basic building blocks, we risk diminishing our own responsibility to it. When we begin to see "she", "he", "they", and "them" as church, we might begin to feel less of a need to step up and be the church ourselves. We might begin to say things like, "The church needs to..." and assign some need, or some part of God's mission, to be addressed to complete the statement. If everyone began to think that, it would be no different than making a peanut butter and jelly sandwich without the jelly...or the peanut butter.

It can be daunting to see yourself as a vital component of the church, thereby giving you an important role in God's mission in the world; some of us question if we can get out of bed each morning! How can little-old me serve in God's mission? What do I have to offer the world? First, you are not alone. Not only do you have God-given gifts and talents, you have the company of your friends at 499 Plaza Drive, and you also have the Christ-promised Holy Spirit with you.

Beginning April 8th, we will explore and (re)discover our God-given gifts, talents, strengths, and abilities with our Gift Discovery Workshop Series (details are elsewhere in this newsletter). Angie Crawford will guide us on this journey of self-discovery. While it is completely clear that we need tools to work a mission, it should be equally clear that we need to understand why we have a mission and understand how we use the tools. Just like no one wants me running around with an angle grinder looking for a project, we need to understand the use and purpose for our gifts in the mission(s) we are called to by God.

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Our Faith Formation opportunities, small groups, and bible studies will help us further understand our place in the church, which is in place for God's mission. In fact, our participation in these are vital and necessary for that further understanding. We heard a lot of people talking about how we need to "grow" the congregation and grow particular programs. We have frequently expressed fears that we need to "grow or die." That sort of growth all looks outward: who is going to come and join us? How are we going to get them to come here? How are these new people going to provide us with resources to put the church on a firmer financial footing? We certainly need to grapple with those questions, but before we do that, we need to build ourselves (or grow ourselves); we need to build our own faith and our own faith community in a way that prepares an exciting, welcoming, and challenging environment for those who are interested in coming to the church. As we strengthen the bonds of our community and learn to speak a language that explains why that community is important for expressing God's love and sharing God's mission, we build a community that will grow. The fuller and richer the community, and the more the community reflects the fullness and richness of God's love, the more likely people will want to join that community.

As we grow in our relationship with God, our view of God's mission should begin to shift from crafting "programs" to creating relationships. All the ideas that we discuss as programs in God's Mission can easily be renamed, and re-framed as Relationships: faith formation relationships focused on the younger kids; prayer relationships with the people next door at Brookdale; relationships with students at Binghamton University; relationships with the 20- and 30-somethings among us. Programs are designed to be "at" or "to" someone, or something. God wants us all to build relationships with his world. With this simple change of words, God's church can create a major shift in the world for God's mission.

Just like the effects we see when a pebble is dropped in a pool of water, Christ the King Church can ripple God's grace, mercy, healing, peace, and joy throughout our valley. But it all starts with using God's word and God's message to gather those tiny grains of sand into a pebble big enough to send a ripple across the entire world. The formation of the pebble then its placement (by a force much greater than the pebble) in a particular pool, at a particular time to make the intended impact. The pool of water has changed. The pebble has changed. With God, both are better for it.

*~Todd Eames and Rich Lindstrom*

**Gifts Discovery**

Come and discover your...

**S**piritual Gifts

**H**eart

**A**bilities

**P**ersonality

**E**xperiences

Together, these God-given traits form your unique S-H-A-P-E – the package of special gifts God designed just for you!

**Informational Session:** Sunday, April 8 at 10:15 AM (in between services). Learn more about spiritual gifts and the Gifts Discovery workshop.

**Gifts Discovery Workshop:** Meets for six weekly sessions on Wednesday evenings (7 to 9pm) starting April 11. If you would like to participate, there is a sign-up sheet in the Entrance Hall, or you can contact the church office at 729-2688. If you have any questions, contact Angie Crawford or Dennis Chapman (239-4924).

**Capital Campaign**

The capital campaign is coming to a close. The purpose of the Capital Campaign was to have money pledged that we could complete needed projects around the church and to increase our mission in our neighborhood and around the world. The congregation pledged approximately \$119,000.00 over three years. We have been able to complete the following projects:

- update our lights in order to reduce our carbon footprint and reduce our electric bill
- replace our gutters
- give to the Mission Investment Fund, and the American Church
- have windows installed in our classrooms for the safety of all
- have our furnace cleaned
- remove dead trees from our property
- put butterflies on the roof so the new gutters do not come down
- repair and paint the ceiling of the church, pastor's office and the narthex
- clean the carpets
- repair and seal coat the parking lot
- replace the original doors to the original church
- landscape the front and fix the bricks and handrails on the steps
- purchase new microphones, computer and projector
- repair the water issue in the back in addition to replacing the flooring that resulted from the flood

We still have some money in the bank to assist with the roof over the original church, the furnace (it is old), and for organ repairs. These are large ticket items. If you need to catch up with your pledge, please do so. Although the campaign is coming to an end, please consider your giving by allocating one-half to the capital fund and one half to "the church." In this way, we will be able to take care of our building and also continue our mission in our neighborhood and around the world. Thank you so much for your generosity.

**Our Ministries**

At our annual meeting, we had a list of the ministries here at Christ the King. The following is a current list of our ministries:

- Worship Leader Team (which includes the Deacon schedule, reader schedule, worship assistants, traditional liturgy and progressive liturgy team, shut in's and hospital visits)
- Education/life long faith formation
- Youth
- Choir
- Coats
- College study group
- Counting team
- CTK connectors
- Finance committee
- Friends Dinner
- Meal train
- Media
- Prayer shawls & squares
- Rides for Jesus
- Sound booth crew
- Soup kitchen
- Greeting card ministry (our newest)

We are very busy here at CTK. If you would like to learn more about a particular ministry or would like to start a ministry, please see a Leadership Team member.

**Facebook**

Did you know that if you are sick or out of town, you can still hear our service? We have been using Facebook as our live feed for the 9:00 AM service. Check it out!

On Facebook but not connected with us yet? Be sure to “like us” at [www.facebook.com/ctkvestal](http://www.facebook.com/ctkvestal).

We are looking for other ways to be able to get our service heard by a larger group. Any ideas? Please see Carol Strano, Todd Eames or Teresa Faughnan.

**Come “C” !!!**

We have centered our current calls for collections in a corner in the Café. Our coats, can tabs, Care items, and CHOW collections are all under a cue called Community Care Corner. Consider connecting your contributions to the Corner. Cool?

**Soup Kitchen**

On Saturday, April 21, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Soup, 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](mailto: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 Notes**

The office will be closed Friday, April 13 and Wednesday, April 18. For one Monday only, April 17, the office will be open for anyone who needs assistance. As a reminder, regular hours are Tuesday–Friday 9AM–1PM.

**Project AWARE Mental Health First Aid Workshop**

A Mental Health First Aid Workshop will be held at Redeemer Lutheran in Binghamton on Saturday, June 30 from 8:00 AM – 5:00PM. More information on this comprehensive training mental health training and a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the Entry Way.



**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 –

Church Administrator — Marsha Pulz  
[marsha@ctkvestal.org](mailto:marsha@ctkvestal.org)

Music Director – Jim Ford  
[jrfme2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jrfme2000@yahoo.com)

Sexton – Gary Robertson

**Congregational Council**

Co-President: Joe Brunt  
Co-President: Carol Strano  
Secretary: Rich Lindstrom  
Treasurer: Randy Kerr  
Christy Banner      Jody Fiorentino  
Dennis Chapman      Tammy Gow  
Todd Eames      Rachel Schwartz

Financial Secretary: Phil Roberts

**Worship Schedule**

*Sundays:*

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

*Wednesdays:*

Dinner & Faith Talk at 5:30 PM

Find us online:

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[@ctkvestal](http://www.facebook.com/ctkvestal)