

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

Interim Pastor – Rev. Gail Wolling

Church Administrator — Marsha Pulz
marsha@ctkvestal.org

Music Director – Jim Ford
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:

Traditional Worship at 9:00 AM
Education Hour at 10:10 AM
Organic Worship at 11:15 AM

Wednesdays:

Dinner & Faith Talk at 6:00 PM

Find us online:

www.ctkvestal.org

www.facebook.com/ctkvestal

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



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The Herald

MAY 2018

Why Do We Need a Pastor?

Has anyone ever really contemplated that question? The job of “pastor” is nowhere in the Bible. We’ve continued on as a thriving community of faith for lengthy periods of time without a pastor. Paul wrote his letters to various churches, but not one was addressed to the pastor of any of those churches. He described leadership in churches, but, never named a position of pastor. Do we need one because we’ve “always had one”? So, if we cave to the past and find a permanent called pastor, what will we expect s/he to do here at Christ the King?

Will we finally have someone who will preach, preside at communion, baptize, marry, and bury us? Will our new pastor coordinate rides to worship for folks in need? Will someone finally visit people in the hospital, nursing homes, or otherwise confined to home? Will our pastor roll out new adult education curricula to coincide with a younger version for the Yoots and Littles that s/he also designed? Will our Pastor assemble and lead small groups that we can slightly invest ourselves in as our schedules allow?

Will our pastor make connections in the community thereby identifying opportunities that we might consider thinking about contemplating the idea of entertaining the thought to serve those in need in our community? Will our pews finally begin to refill and our offering plates need to be resized from the arrival of all the new folks and young families that we seek to join us? Will s/he reduce the need for us to attend planning, worship, and ministry meetings and just make unilateral decisions for us to question? Will BU students flock to our walkway because of the connection our new pastor made with them? Will our new pastor find the best price for coffee to be served in our overflowing Café?

I’m sure I missed many expectations in the litany above. But, instead of reviewing the list for missing expectations, what if we shifted those expectations to ourselves? The hopes and dreams we each hold for our ministries that match the needs of the little valley we live in is a great place to begin looking for our role in God’s Mission.

Where our passions and desires for humanity intersect with our God-given gifts and abilities might just be the sweet spot that the Holy Spirit is jumping up and down waving Her Holy arms trying to get our attention. If each one of us sought to find our place in God’s mission, we would not only discover the depth and breadth of His mission (aka, His Love for everyone), but, we would also discover there is much that we as a community are called to be a part of right now. This broader view will help us better discern what we need in a Pastor.

I’m not saying that we don’t need a pastor. I am suggesting, and encouraging, all of us to first, seek our place in God’s mission. Then, second, identify additional resources we may need to work our appointed mission field. Then, third, as a true community should, look to each other for those resources. Then, finally, seek a Pastor for those communal needs of spiritual guidance and support.

~Todd Eames

Staying Connected

"I am the true vine...Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me...apart from me you can do nothing." John 15

Staying connected is essential to life. Human beings are made for community, even if that community is only one other person.

There is evidence from psychotherapy, athletics, economics, politics and the natural world. Marriages do not thrive if there is no connection between partners. Both CEOs and politicians need good connections to stay relevant. Athletes and coaches; babies and nurturers, plants and good soil. Connections = life.

This is the biblical witness as well. In both of the creation stories in the book of Genesis, human beings are created into a community of at least two: "male and female God created them. Community connections support our well being.

Believers need connections as well. It begins in baptism where we are joined to the crucified and risen Jesus and we become a part of the whole body of Christ. Our life is now nestled within his life which is one with the Divine Creator God. This is more than 'just' forgiveness of sins. Rather in our connection to Jesus we experience the ultimate healing of all the broken places in our life, a feat which is accomplished by joining us to the resurrected life of Jesus.

But wait, there is more! Along with our new life found in Christ (awesome by itself) we are now joined to the wider community of the baptized: connected to one and all. We are a body, working together for the well-being of the body. St Paul put that so well (and I paraphrase) 'the eye cannot say to the hand, just because you are not an eye, you are not a part of the body.' Our faith community needs all the parts in order to stay healthy, and to do the work of God.

.....and when we get tired, weak and worn, when the world begins to press in on every corner of life, when we get cranky and so very human with one another, Jesus comes to us again and again in the Word, the bread and the wine. There we remember who we are and whose we are. We receive again the power of the Holy Spirit poured out on all believers. We are fed and nourished to do our part of God's holy work. We become the body again.

"I am the vine, you are the branches. Abide in me." Stay connected. It is life abundant.

~Pastor Wolling

Capital Campaign

Last month all of the projects that have been completed were listed in the capital campaign update. We now have up to date numbers. The pledges were approximately \$119,000. We have collected \$108,014 total as of April 8. We have spent \$37,667 on our projects. This leaves \$70,347 in our account for a new roof, water heater, and heating system when the time comes to replace them. Property team is having someone look at our roof to make a determination of how much time we have left on the old roof. Thank you everyone for your generosity during these past three years. As this campaign comes to an official end, we ask that you continue your generosity but possibly split between regular giving and capital campaign. All capital campaign money needs to be specifically marked in order to be put into the correct category.

But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. ⁷ Let every man give according to the purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or out of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver. ⁸ God is able to make all grace abound toward you, so that you, always having enough of everything, may abound to every good work (2 Corinthians 9:6-8).

GIFTS DISCOVERY—Second Chance!

God uniquely "shaped" each of us with spiritual gifts, passions, abilities, personality styles, and experiences. Gifts Discovery is an opportunity to learn about your unique SHAPE. If you were not able to join us for the Wednesday evening workshop, here is another opportunity to unwrap your spiritual gifts.

Friday Morning Gifts Discovery Workshop: Will meet for four sessions on Fridays from 10 am to 12 noon (May 4, May 11, May 18, and June 1). 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 any questions, contact Angie Crawford (cell—607-727-6497).

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, May 19, 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.

Friends Dinner

The next Friends Dinner hosted by Christ the King will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at 5:30 PM. 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).



Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser

On Sunday, May 6, our middle and high school students will be serving 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's trip to the Youth Gathering in Houston this summer.

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.