



499 PLAZA DRIVE, VESTAL NY 13850 | 607-729-2688

The Herald

JUNE 2018

One Hundred & Sixty-Seven

*God spoke: "Light!" And light appeared.
God saw that light was good and separated light from dark.
God named the light Day, He named the dark Night.
It was evening, it was morning - Day One.*

God created Mondays!

The same God who created you, created Time. God was before Time, God is outside Time. Most of us are pretty happy to set aside our hour on Sunday mornings to worship the Time Creator. However, God gave us the other 167 hours, or 10,000 minutes, in between our times of worship. So, now what?

We need to use some of them for sleep, and some for eating; God made us that way. Now, we're down to 6,500 minutes left. These are the real nitty-gritty parts. This is the real meat that God gave us to work with in His mission. These are the minutes when we get to "love one another as He has loved us". This is all the time we have to feed the hungry. These are the moments when we can clothe the naked. These are the ticks and tocks to free the oppressed and comfort the afflicted. This is our time to take care of widows and orphans. This is our sand in the top of the hourglass of creation.

You might have read that last paragraph and said, "I don't have that much time!", "When do I have time to love, serve, tend, clothe, feed, and comfort others?!" I am pretty sure that God doesn't expect each individual to complete each task in His mission. But, He does expect this Community of Faith to complete the parts of His mission that He has given us. Together, we can work His mission. We are all called to take part in His mission: We can volunteer our time; we can offer our talents; We can contribute our money. Some, will offer a combination, or all, of the three.

The Bible tells us how we should be spending the time we have been given. The Old Testament tells us what we should not be doing, and the New Testament tells us what we should be doing. God's mission is our purpose for inhaling the air that God gave us.

If you remember back to our Annual Meeting, we went through a new view of our part in God's mission, a Narrative Budget. The Narrative Budget showed us that the vast majority of the money we share was spent for Worship - that one hour each week. The minority of the money was spent on the other 10,000 minutes. That may not be the balance we seek.

At that same meeting, we explored all of the mission teams, roles and ministries we currently support. We also brainstormed additional ministries, and even discovered new ones that will, and may already, be necessary. We also talked about our need to develop our own discipling spirit, and how we can continue a life-long formation and re-formation of our Faith. We dreamed big about mighty dreams.

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One Hundred & Sixty-Seven, continued

Dreams without plans are just wishes. Plans require actions. Actions include our own hands and our own feet taking the steps in God’s mission. Actions include our intentional financial support of the dreams we dream. Actions include celebrating the successes we achieve when our time, our talents, and our financial support all come together in God’s mission. But, when the offering of our time, and the support of our talents, and total of our dollars fall short, the joy of our part in God’s mission then diminishes.

God gives us the gift of time so we can give it right back to God through serving others. God doesn't need our time, our neighbor does. Our worship of God is manifest not just on Sunday morning, but, when we are serving those whom God loves. In the end, we need to serve others for our sake, for our growth in faith and our ability to recognize the holy throughout God's world. We are to look for God's glory among us.

- Todd Eames

Town Hall on Stewardship

Stewardship is far more than the handling of our money. Stewardship is the handling of life, and time, and destiny.”
 –Lester DeKoster and Gerard Berghoef

It is not surprising that our conversation about stewardship centered around money on Sunday. We may need to revisit this topic at another town hall meeting to discuss the other portions of stewardship. However, during our discussion about money, there was an interest in revisiting the idea of pledging. Todd pointed out that pledging is not a good indicator for our financial team as to our projected income. However, it does assist some people in goal setting and is used for accountability. So for that reason, we will revisit pledging.

Tithing is defined by the Bible as a tenth. Below you will find a tithing chart to assist with increasing the percentage of giving in order to move towards tithing.

Monthly Income	10%	9%	8%	7%	6%	5%	4%	3%	2%
\$500	\$50	\$45	\$40	\$35	\$30	\$25	\$20	\$15	\$10
\$1,000	\$100	\$90	\$80	\$70	\$60	\$50	\$40	\$30	\$20
\$2,000	\$200	\$180	\$160	\$140	\$120	\$100	\$80	\$60	\$40
\$3,000	\$300	\$270	\$240	\$210	\$180	\$150	\$120	\$90	\$60
\$4,000	\$400	\$360	\$320	\$280	\$240	\$200	\$160	\$120	\$80
\$5,000	\$500	\$450	\$400	\$350	\$300	\$250	\$200	\$150	\$100

Although stewardship is often used in reference to tithing, fundraising, or financial management, we should not forget that at a more basic level, stewardship is about our management of God’s house. Did you know that the word stewardship comes from the Greek word *oikonomos*, which means somebody who doesn’t own the household but manages it. We are not the owners but have been trusted with resources and the care of everything – Creation, gifts and talents, money, and time. This can be another town hall discussion. Anyone who would like to lead this conversation, please see Joe Brunt or Carol Strano.

You are Doing Holy Work

Perhaps that is difficult for you to truly believe. Holy work might seem to be something enormous, like curing cancer or saving refugees from starvation. Holy work might seem like preaching sermons or presiding at communion. One might mistakenly believe that only holy hands can do holy work.....and we are loathe to describe our own hands as holy.

Yet, you are doing holy work.

A strange thing happened when the Divine took on human flesh. What was once confined and contained in the heavenly realms was now present in and among all of creation. In the Gospel of John, the writer describes the incarnation as God ‘tenting’ among us. (Many translations will use the word ‘dwelling’ but the original word more closely resembles ‘tenting’ as in the tent of the Tabernacle)

By taking on human flesh, Jesus moved into the neighborhood. If Jesus was holy, then where he trod was holy. Jesus brought a holy dimension not only into this creation, but also into the most mundane of activities. Sitting at table and sharing a meal is now a holy activity. Talking with strangers, even outcasts, is now a holy activity. Considering political power and obligations with a God lens is now a holy activity. Washing the feet of others. Blessing children. Asking for a drink of water. Learning from the scriptures. Getting lunch on the table.

Why? Because in each transaction, God is being made known to others. God is present because of the invitation to join the community and because of the grace that is shown to those to whom the invitation is given. God is present because the cup of tea soothes a grieving soul; because the ride to the market relieves the pressure of growing older; because the forgiveness offered makes continued relationship possible.

I expect you haven’t thought about it this way, that the regular stuff you are doing is holy work. But you are a child of God, an agent of God’s grace through Jesus, God’s hands and feet in the world today. Who but you would be doing the holy work of God?

All that you have received from God: life, forgiveness, love, blessings, and opportunities you can now channel into the world around you. Through you, others will come to know this Jesus whose love has transformed your life and my life. You are the disciples carrying the message in everything you do; you are the ones who show others how to live their lives grounded in this crucified and risen Jesus.

Which, of course, brings us to those places when our words and actions do not glorify God. We are not kind, we cannot forgive, we don’t want to welcome others....or as Paul said in Romans, “we have all sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” On those days, we are most grateful for the gift of confession when God’s forgiveness re-sets our compass once again.

Your baptism is an eternal calling. You are a vital part of God’s kingdom and a messenger of the Good News to the world. Your work is holy because it is always and ever to point to the Holy One of Israel, to the love and grace that we know through him.

I pray that you take up your calling with renewed vigor, increasingly aware of the opportunities that surround you where you can serve others, bring life into places of loss and death, be light in the darkness. May every portion of your day be fueled with the presence of the Spirit and the gift of grace.

You are one of God’s holy people....and your work is holy.

Amen.

~ Pastor Wolling

Pastor Wolling's Schedule

Each month Pastor's schedule for the upcoming month will be posted. If you'd like to connect with her, you can arrange an appointment for one of those days or stop by during office hours.

June 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			30 CTK	31 CTK	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8 CTK	9 CTK
10	11	12 CTK	13 CTK	14	15	16
17	18 CTK	19 CTK	20	21	22	23
24 CTK	25	26	27	28	29	30

Volunteer Needed

The Leadership Team is looking for someone to maintain the sanctuary candles, and at Christmas, the Advent wreath. Training will be provided. Please contact Carol Strano if you're willing to do this.

Bake Sale Sunday for the Floating Hospital

On July 1st, CTK will host a bake sale at Sam's Club on the Parkway. All funds raised will be used to buy coats for homeless children in downstate NY.

"Today, more than 12,400 families sleep in New York City's homeless shelter system every night. Families, not single adults, make up the vast majority (76%) of the shelter population" [The Floating Hospital].

If you can bake an item for the sale, please fill out the form in the bulletin and put it in the collection plate or call the office. Questions? See Julie or Helga. Thank you!

Soup Kitchen

On Saturday, June 16, 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.

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 mental health training and a sign-up sheet can be found on the bulletin board in the Entry Way.

Christ the King Lutheran Church

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Vestal, NY 13850

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Lutheran Church
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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

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