

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

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

Summer Worship Schedule

Sundays:

Worship at 10:00 AM
Faith Formation at 11:15 AM

Wednesdays:

Meal at 6:00 PM
Worship at 7:00 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

SUMMER 2018

Immigration

The most recent immigration policy being enforced on our nation's southern border has our government agencies separating children from their parents. The children, regardless of their age, are being detained in facilities, in fenced in areas within large warehouses.

As is true today, immigration has always been a politically charged topic in our history. We may call ourselves a 'melting pot' but, in fact, we have repeatedly chosen against peoples who are 'not like us'. Beginning with the Native Americans who were dispossessed of their land, then Africans who were imported as slaves, then Catholics in general and the Irish in particular, Italians, Chinese, Eastern Europeans, Jews, Japanese.....and that brings us closer to today when we are doing our best to exclude folks from the Middle East whose religion is suspect and folks from the South because they are suspect (and possibly because there are just too many of them).

Few of us have no immigrants in our family history. My family may go way back, but it goes back to Sweden and Germany. In fact, our very denomination has been dominated by immigrants for a century or more.

The ELCA through the Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (www.lirs.org) has been working with immigrants and refugees for almost 80 years, settling them into new lives, helping with cultural acclimation and language and job skills. This organization is the joint work of the ELCA, the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and the Latvian Lutheran Church. LIRS works to ensure that refugees and migrants are welcomed and equipped to live among us.

Since 2011, a growing number of children have fled to the U.S. without any parent accompanying them. These children, primarily from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras, are often fleeing gang violence, trafficking, threats, and extortion, as well as abuse, domestic violence, and poverty. Many are seeking to be reunified with family in the United States. These are called 'unaccompanied' children; they are seeking asylum.

In 2016, LIRS partners served more than 26,000 children and their families. LIRS is the only organization in the country that walks alongside unaccompanied children throughout their entire journey in the US. LIRS provides support for a child's safe release to caregivers by conducting necessary background checks, ensuring the appropriate documentation is collected and providing families with a connection to services. You can support their work by going to their website.

There is a lot of (mis) information about all of this floating around; I found this article in the Washington Post to be helpful in separating fact from opinion in this charged discussion. <https://wapo.st/2lnN1cI>.

(continued on next page)

Immigration *(continued from front page)*

The psalmist writes “Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; do not hold your peace at my tears. For I am your passing guest, an alien, like all my forebears.” 39.12. In the book of Deuteronomy the Israelites are admonished again and again to care for the stranger, alien, widow and orphan. In the gospel of Luke Jesus wants to know who proved to be the neighbor to the man in the ditch. Turns out it was a despised Samaritan, the one who showed mercy. (Luke 10).

These words from God are our legacy as well. There is much to guide us as citizens and believers. Turning a blind eye is not an option; both the Lord and history have their eyes on us today.

~ Pastor Wolling

Immigrant/ Refugee Experience

While at the ELCA National Gathering in Houston last month, the youth (and their leaders) had a really moving experience in what the life of a refugee may be like. They had to decide immediately what to take with them when being forced from their homes; had any valuables taken from them while traveling; found out what the refugee camps are like; attempted budgeting and caring for a family in a foreign land; attempted to learn a foreign language; and experienced how complicated the “simple” things like grocery shopping can be when everything is in a different language. The teens were quite moved, and immediately began wondering what we could be doing to help. They were proud to know that organizations like the ELCA and LIRS (Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services) already support migrant families, but wanted to know what the next steps could be. We are excited to share that experience with you, and will be putting an interactive service together for you, based on our experience. Please come join us (date TBD but we’ll let you know asap!) and feel free to ask us about our experience in the mean time.

~ Rachel Schwartz, Todd Eames, Joe Brunt, Claudia Allen, Jonah Allen, Meghan Eames, Matt Fiorentino, and Nick Sifert

ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is preparing a social statement on women and justice to be considered by the 2019 ELCA Churchwide Assembly, as mandated by the 2009 assembly. This “Draft of a Social Statement on Women and Justice” is an invitation to everyone in the ELCA to join in conversation and discernment about this concern as people of faith.

Some of us plan to attend the following “discussion opportunity” in Liverpool, NY. If you are interested in attending and would like to share a ride, please sign the notice in the narthex. Thank you. ~Karen Erdman

Come to a Hearing on the Draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice

The Upstate New York Synod is hosting a hearing on the text of the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice” on Saturday, September 8 at 10:00 AM at St. Paul’s Lutheran Church, 210 Hazel St., Liverpool, NY. You are invited to attend and participate online at [Women and Justice draft](#).

This hearing is a special opportunity to respond to the text of the draft statement and to hear the perspectives of others, as well. A representative of the ELCA Task Force on Women and Justice: One in Christ will be present at the hearing. The Task Force will conclude its work by issuing a revised statement in February 2019.

Copies of the draft may be ordered by calling the ELCA resource line at 800-638-3522 or it can be downloaded at [ELCA.org/WomenandJustice](#).

Music Notes



There'll Be Singin' at the Sing-In

Calling all those who love to sing! (That's just about everyone, isn't it?) On Sunday August 19th at 3:00 PM (until approximately 4:30 PM), we will get together in the church for a time of joyful singing, fellowship, and refreshments. It's not a rehearsal for an upcoming performance or for a worship service. Those who play the guitar or percussion instruments are also encouraged to come. And Rick Westfall has said that Thrivent will donate \$250.00 to our music budget for the purchase of new choir music – a portion of which will go toward refreshments.

Please plan to take part in this fun event. You'll be glad you did!

~ Jim Ford

The Upstate NY Synod 4th Annual Bishop's Golf Tournament



Bishop John Macholz invites all golfers, the best and the rest, to tee off with him on Monday, August 20th, at Shadow Lake Golf and Racquet Club, 1850 Five Mile Line Rd., Penfield, NY. Funds raised at the event will support the 2018 Bishop's Appeal that is focused on Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The day will begin with a shotgun start at 12:00 noon and follow a Best Ball format. The tournament is limited to the first 32 foursomes, or 128 registered women and men players. Register on-line at <https://upstatenysynod.org/synod-events/2018/8/20/bishops-golf-tournament-2018>.

Dinner will immediately follow play at 6:00 PM. Invite 3 others to join you, or register yourself by August 6th, and get a discount. Dinner-only guests are most welcome. Contest, prizes, gifts and more!

Congregations are able to help support the tournament in two ways. First please help us get the word out across the synod. Second we have unlimited opportunities for churches, camps, and other programs to get involved and support this fundraising event with a \$100 hole sign.

Come to golf, come to have fun, come to enjoy dinner, come to win a prize or gift or come for all of these things--- Just come and join us.

Volunteers and sponsors are welcomed! Please email or call Keith Nickoloff at [585-749-4847](tel:585-749-4847) or knickoloff@pharos.com for sponsorship availability.

Soup Kitchen

On Saturday, August 18, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Grilled chicken breast, potato salad, tossed salad, rolls, 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.

Pastor Wolling's Schedule

If you'd like to connect with Pastor Wolling when she's in town, you can arrange an appointment with her or stop by during office hours.

July Schedule:

*Office – July 18-19; July 25-26
Preach – July 22*

August Schedule:

*Office – August 9-13; August 22-23;
August 29-30
Preach – August 12 and 26*