



Jeremiah

The other day I found a paper I wrote in seminary on the prophet Jeremiah. Jeremiah is not one of the popular prophets, mostly because he is always complaining, always preaching repentance and judgment. His basic message to Israel was this: you might as well surrender to the advancing heathens because, as a nation, we are so apostate that God is handing us over to them anyhow. He gave his whole life to his call; he preached death and destruction for 40 years, and when the advancing armies finally overtook Jerusalem, he was bound hand and foot and dragged to Egypt against his will, where he died. Those were dark days for the kingdom of Israel.

For many, these feel like dark days for America. I have heard people say that the country has never been this divided before, with whole swatches of the American public unable to have a civil, coherent conversation with one another over national policy, patriotism, duty, honor, and faith.

This isn't true. I remember Kent State, flag burning, the Chicago Seven, Watergate and the resignation of a President just one step ahead of the law. It was a scary time. In 1963, JFK was assassinated, and I wept at the death of the man. When the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr and then Bobby Kennedy were killed, I wept at the intransigence of our racism and for our nation. Even so, I never doubted that our way of government would survive. But I was younger then; I am older now.

Re-reading my thoughts on Jeremiah, I was reminded that human institutions are fragile and only God is eternal. Throughout history, faithful and faith-filled people are often called to stand during turmoil and even violence and continue to proclaim God's Word of life in Jesus. In 600 BC, God would not allow Jeremiah to dilute his message of repentance despite the hostility of the people. Jeremiah stood with the people even though his only safety was with God.

In these turbulent times, it is the same for us. Jesus calls us to the same faithfulness. We are to stand with all the people, proclaim Christ crucified, and demonstrate love for all our neighbors. We cannot compromise on the power of love nor buy into the hatred and rejection of those we call 'other'. To the best of our ability we are to stand for justice and practice mercy. We are to be generous in our words towards others and in forgiveness.

In our baptism, we joined our lives to Christ. Our faith in this God and in this Jesus is to guide us in our choice of actions. Your choices may not look like mine, but all our actions are to be grounded in the Lord whose name we claim.

Jesus said, "The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent." John 6.29 NIV

~Pastor Wolling



September Worship Schedule

Sunday, September 2 and 9
10:00 AM—Worship

Beginning September 16th, regular Sunday worship hours resume:
9:00 AM—Traditional Worship 10:15 AM—Education Hour 11:15 AM—Organic Worship

Faith Formation

Environmental Series: Caring for the Earth
Beginning Wednesday, September 12
Dinner at 6:00 PM
Program at 7:00 PM
OR
Sundays at 10:15 AM (beginning 9/16)

Immigration Series: Welcoming Strangers
Wednesdays and Sundays
beginning in November

Thursday Prayer Shawl Ministry

Do you knit or crochet?
Would you like to learn to knit or crochet?

We'd love to have you join the Christ the King Prayer Shawl Ministry. We have fun as we gather to make prayer shawls and lap robes to give to people who need God's comfort and blessing in times of illness or loss.

We meet every Thursday, beginning September 13th, from 9:30-11:30 AM in the Café. Questions? See Althea Zayleskie or Margie King.

Friday AM Group

We are a casual and fun group of men and women who strive to strengthen our faith through various types of bible studies and interesting discussions. Very important is the time set aside for prayer, sharing our joys and concerns and supporting each other. A small voluntary donation is taken each week for a designated charity.

We will resume our weekly meetings on Friday, September 7th from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Fireplace Room. On the 7th we plan to welcome new members along with coffee, light refreshments and conversation to catch up on our summer adventures and also discuss ideas for our next topic for study.

All are welcome to join us!

~Evelyn Goetz (facilitator)

God's Work, Our Hands Sunday – September 9

On September 9, CTK will be putting together backpacks for students in need. Suggested items include: pencils, pens, markers, composition books, erasers, folders, wide lined notebook paper, spiral notebooks, and backpacks. We are reaching out to people from the Soup Kitchen, Redeemer Lutheran and Vestal Schools to determine the needs. Bring your donations to church and on September 9 we will, as a large group, package the supplies to be given out.

Congregation Mashiach Yisrael

Christ the King has entered into an agreement with Congregation Mashiach Yisrael Messianic Synagogue (CMY) to share our worship space. An introduction of CMY can be found below with more information at their website: www.CMY-NY.com. For questions regarding the agreement, see Carol Strano or Joe Brunt.

Congregation Mashiach Yisrael is a Messianic Jewish Congregation consisting of Messianic Jews and Gerim (non-Jews who have a true 'Ruth-Like Calling' to join themselves to the G-d of Israel and His Chosen People). We live a Messianic Jewish lifestyle, honor The Torah, observe Shabbat, keep the Festivals, and worship together in a traditional Jewish manner. G-d describes this kind of fellowship in Isaiah 56: 6-7 where He says, "My House shall be called a house of prayer for all nations".

Our Mission as a Messianic Jewish Congregation is to be a light in our Jewish community and to the nations. To the Jews to inspire our brothers to keep all the Mitzvot (Commandments) of the Torah to speed the coming of Messiah, and to the Gentiles leading them to G-d by shining forth the truth of Yeshua (Jesus) as the promised Jewish Messiah and the Way of Salvation for all people in the way Yeshua Himself taught in the first century. Our calling and our focus is especially "to the Jew first" (Romans 1:16), for our great burden is for the salvation of our own people (Romans 9:2-5). To that end, we also want to educate our Christian brethren regarding their relationship with Israel (Ephesians 2:11-19), their calling to reach out to her in love and mercy (Romans 11:30-31), and of the error and danger of any and all forms of anti-semitism including replacement theology (Romans 11:11-25), "...for it is in this way that all Israel will be saved" (Romans 11:26).

Please join us for Shabbat (Sabbath) worship on Friday nights at 7 PM, and the Festivals as we keep all the Appointed Times of the L-rd as is described in His Holy Bible which is His flesh and our means of knowing Him. G-d bless you all!

Peace and Blessings!

- Rabbi Scott Siskin

ELCA Social Statement on Women and Justice

The "Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice" interweaves a confession of faith, theology, Scripture, history, science, sociology and even hymnody. The *Women and Justice: One in Christ* social statement task force needs your feedback in order to revise this text and then to send a proposed social statement to the ELCA Churchwide Assembly in 2019.

Because social statements speak on behalf of the ELCA as a whole church, the task force would like to hear your thoughts on the draft. Is it readable and clear? Is this what the church is being called to say about what women and girls need? The task force will read and consider all feedback it receives through September 30. Feedback can be sent through an online or paper survey form or through letters and emails. For more information and resources, go to: ELCA.org/womenandjustice.

The Upstate New York Synod will host a Hearing on the draft of the Social Statement on Women and Justice on September 8, 2018 from 10:00 a.m. to noon at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 210 Hazel Street, Liverpool, NY 13088. Several from CTK plan to attend, we are car pooling. If interested in being a part of the car pool, please contact Karen Erdman or add your name to the notice posted in the narthex.

Friends Dinner

The next Friends Dinner hosted by Christ the King will be held on Tuesday, September 4 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 baked ziti casserole, salad, bread, 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).

Tai Chi Class

A "Yang Style 24 move Form" beginners Tai Chi class will be held here at CTK on Wednesdays at 11:15 AM, beginning September 5. A sign-up sheet and details are on the Events bulletin board. For more information, call Nancy Stebbins at 607-648-9218.

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 by contacting her at gwolling@gmail.com or (585) 225-7537.

September:
Office – September 7-9; 13-14; 26-27
Preach – September 9 and 30

Soup Kitchen

On Saturday, September 15, we will be serving our neighbors at the Soup Kitchen. Stews & soups, bread, tossed salad, and dessert 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.

Notes from Music Director Jim Ford

Our regular rehearsals for the CTK Choir will resume on Wednesday, September 5th at 7:00 PM.

Special thanks go to all those who have enhanced our worship services during the summer months by sharing their musical talent!

Office Note:

Taylor Garbage has placed a lock on the dumpster. A key can be found on the rack near the copy machine.

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

Interim Pastor – Rev. Gail Wolling
gwolling@gmail.com

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

Fall Worship Schedule (beginning 9/16/18)

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

Wednesdays:
Meal at 6:00 PM
Faith Formation at 7:00 PM

Find us online:
www.ctkvestal.org
www.facebook.com/ctkvestal