

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
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

Worship Schedule

Sundays:

Traditional Worship at 9:00 AM
Faith Formation 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

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



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The Herald

DECEMBER 2018

To my chagrin, the birth of my first grandchild transformed me from a cynic to a gushing collection of endless photos. Of course, all of you experienced grandparents out there have already discovered this, but I thought it would never happen to me. There is just something extraordinary about the miraculous wonder of new life; new babies are truly the incarnation of hope for us all. It is no wonder that we react so strongly to the story of the birth of Jesus. Notice I didn't say the birth of the Christ, or even 'the birth of the Christ child'. No, I think it is the baby that pulls us in.

Last Christmas I was meeting with a small Bible study group each week at our local Panera. We had been meeting there for a while when Christmas rolled around and I raised the question, 'Why do folks who never grace the inside of a sanctuary any other time of the year, come on Christmas Eve?' The group kicked it around, and then I boldly approached my fellow coffee drinkers and asked them. 'Just a survey,' I told them. "If Christmas Eve is generally the only time you attend, then why do you go?"

We had some great conversation with all kinds of folks. The most frequent answer was 'tradition'. Most of these folks admitted that they rarely attended any other time of the year, including the great feast of Easter. Just Christmas Eve....and I think it is the baby.

It certainly does not come from a deep understanding of the implications of an incarnate God. It does not happen because of exquisite choirs and top quality preaching. I think folks come because the story is their story, it is our story. We know vulnerability and innocence, even if it is innocence lost. We know the struggle of parents to provide and protect their children. We know the pressure of powers unseen yet clearly present.

Possibly we would like to think that somewhere there are choirs of angels rejoicing at new life, and powers beyond our understanding who are watching over us. We would like to believe that in the midst of the realities of making our way in this life in this world, that there exists a Divine One whose default is love. We truly long for a benevolent, merciful, life-giving God.

So we travel again to peek into the manger with the eyes of expectant grandparents. Once again we are seeking the answer to the question, "Is this the one?" Will this ancient child transform me from cynic to gushing grandma? Will this story change the trajectory of my life? Is this Jesus truly HOPE for me and for the world?

I think that none of us can ever get too much of the promise that lies in that Bethlehem manger. Let us invite our friends and neighbors to discover this gift of hope again this year. Let us welcome old friends and strangers into our midst to celebrate this gift of life.

I believe we attend Christmas Eve services because of the deep longing of a fragile and often lost people for the hope that comes from the Divine. Say to all you meet, "Come and see what God has done for us."

A blessed Christmas to all.

~ Pastor Wolling

Christmas Eve

8:00 PM

Candlelight Worship Service
with Holy Communion



Christmas Day

10:00 AM

Worship with Lessons and Carols
and Holy Communion

Southern Tier Independence Center (STIC) Giving Tree

Once again this Christmas season, CTK has the privilege of bringing joy to others. We will be sponsoring two families who would otherwise have very little this year. One family consists of a single mother with 3 young children. The mother struggles to provide for her children due to her own disability, but desperately wants them to have something to open for Christmas. Due to their previous landlord's (in)action, the family recently lost nearly everything they have – they were forced to leave their home with only some of their clothes. They need bedding for the children, household necessities, and winter clothes. The second family consists of a young woman who has taken custody of her younger brother, and given him the first stable loving home in his life. She has also been caring for her young niece more and more as her mother leaves her for days at a time.

More details about the sizes, interests, and desires for these families will be available soon – there will be tags on the tree in the entryway for you to take shopping with you. Feel free to call/email Rachel Schwartz with any questions.

ELCA Good Gifts



ELCA Good Gifts provides more than 50 different gift-giving options that grow the church, fight hunger and transform lives. These gifts, starting at just \$10, provide direct support for the churchwide ministries of the ELCA.

Through Good Gifts, it's easy (and fun!) for your family to say "goodbye" to traditional gift-giving and "hello" to meaningful gifts that really make a difference in the world.

Catalogs are available on the table in the Café or visit the [ELCA Good Gifts](https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts) store (https://community.elca.org/elcagoodgifts) and print or order cards to tell loved ones about gifts given in their honor.



Leadership Team Openings

The Nominating Committee for the 2019 Leadership Team is comprised of Carol Strano and Todd Eames. There will be three openings on the Leadership Team in 2019. If you are interested in serving on the Team, please speak to either Carol or Todd.

WORSHIP, LEARN, PRAY: AN ADVENT REVIVAL

Saturday, December 15, 2018

10:00 AM – 3:00 PM

First Lutheran Church, 646 State Street Albany, NY

As we await the coming of our Lord, Bishop John Macholz of Upstate New York and Bishop Donald McCoid of the Metro New York synods invite you to be a part of a Lutheran revival. The ELCA Revival Team, including UNYS' own Rev. Becca Ehrlich, will lead participants in workshops around spiritual discernment, prayer and change in the morning. After lunch, will be provided, the afternoon we will worship together including an Invitation to Discipleship. Before leaving at 3 pm, DEMs Rev. Norma Malfatti and Rev. Lamont Anthony Wells will help participants identify next steps.

ALL are encouraged to come be a part of the day. Call or e-mail RSVP: Upstate NY - 315.299.4955 / kneugent@upstatenysynod.org

See the flyer on the Events board for the day's schedule.



LUNCH WITH SANTA

Lunch with Santa (Soup Kitchen)

The Thrivent sponsored Lunch with Santa (Soup Kitchen) will take place on Saturday, December 11. We will be serving our neighbors glazed ham, roasted potatoes, French green beans, and cake. 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.

Thanks to Thrivent contributions, teddy bears will be given to children at the Lunch.

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 (518) 225-7537.

Upcoming schedule:

Office – December 6-9, 12-13, 19-20

Preach – December 9

Office Notes

The office will be closed from December 24, 2018 – January 1, 2019.

Reports for publication in the 2018 Annual Report are due in the office no later than Wednesday, January 2, 2019.