

## 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](mailto:gwolling@gmail.com)

Church Administrator — Marsha Pulz  
[marsha@ctkvestal.org](mailto:marsha@ctkvestal.org)

Music Director – Jim Ford  
[jrfme2000@yahoo.com](mailto:jrfme2000@yahoo.com)

Sexton – Gary Robertson

#### Congregational Council

Co-President: Joe Brunt  
Co-President: Tammy Gow  
Secretary: Rich Lindstrom  
Treasurer: Randy Kerr

Christy Banner      Jody Fiorentino  
Dennis Chapman    Kathy Leonard  
Teresa Faughnan    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

Find us online:

[www.ctkvestal.org](http://www.ctkvestal.org)

[www.facebook.com/ctkvestal](https://www.facebook.com/ctkvestal)

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



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## The Herald

SPRING 2019

### April Thoughts

April is half Lent, half Easter this year. Of course, it is a function of the calendar, but it leaves all of us who write newsletter articles in an interesting quandary as we need to decide whether we go all in: all Lent, or all Easter. April approaches. It is half “My God why have you forsaken me?” and half “He is not here, he is risen.” One half: “Oh wretched man! Who will deliver me from this body of death?” The other half: “Why do you seek the living among the dead?”

We stand in the tension – the push and pull of impending death and glorious resurrection, the intersection of sadness and loss and the promise of life beyond life. Perhaps April is the perfect month for such tension for we stand between winter and spring, between snow and rain, between snow plows and daffodils.

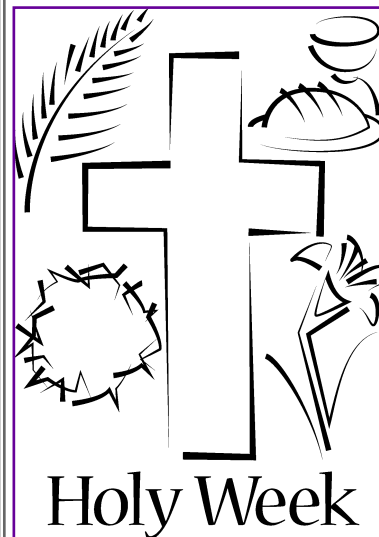
But then, are not our daily lives lived out in this very tension? We live between what is promised by myth and advertising on one hand, and gray days, mortgage payments, an extra 20 pounds and a rattle in the car’s engine, on the other. We live between our best intentions to be giving and loving and merciful and forgiving – and the truth that we end up being snarky, petty, holding grudges, and grasping tightly to that which does not satisfy. We live between 37 ways to stay young and the reality that each birthday brings us closer to the last.

As I look at the pictures coming to us from our own mid-West and the southern tip of Africa, I know we stand in the tension between working hard to survive, to provide, to get ahead, and that moment when we can honestly say: we have each other, the rest isn’t as important. Are we rich or are we poor? Are we powerful or vulnerable? Are we thankful and humble or arrogant and entitled? Probably yes to all the above – on one day or the other.

In a few weeks we will shout with the ancient crowds “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!” and then we will stand at the cross and confront again our own participation in systems and practices which abuse and oppress, which choose our way over God’s way, which count some of God’s children as less worthy than others. We will ricochet between the thunder of applause and the nothingness of death poured out.

All of which I pray leaves you breathless and thirsting for the gift of the empty tomb, a sign of the fidelity of the love of God and the depth of Divine mercy. We stand in the shadow of the Cross and cling to the Promise of the Resurrection.

~ Pastor Wolling



**Palm Sunday, April 14**

Palm Sunday begins the sacred drama of Holy Week. There will be Traditional Worship at 9:00 AM and Organic Worship at 11:15AM.

**Maundy Thursday, April 18**

We gather at 12:00 PM and 7:00 PM for a service of Holy Communion and the stripping of the altar.

**Good Friday, April 19**

Good Friday's brief noon service, "Litany of the Cross" is a series of meditations and prayers on each of the stations of the cross. The 7:00 PM service involves *Tenebrae* ("shadows") with the ministry of Jesus being retold and Christ's words from the cross and sense the darkness of death. The evening ends with silence and time for personal prayer and meditation.

**Easter Day, April 21**

We celebrate Christ's victory over death with Easter services at 9:00 and 11:15 AM. On Easter Sunday, there will be no Faith Formation held between services.

**Church Council Update**

This quarter has been a busy time at Christ the King. On Ash Wednesday, we did Ashes to Go at the Vestal Plaza near CTK, and at Redeemer church. One hundred fifty meals were made and distributed.

Small groups have been busy reading Rob Bell's book, *What is the Bible*. This has led to great discussions on faith, and what God is telling us in the Bible. Plans to continue small groups are underway.

Church Council recently had its retreat. Discussions and plans for the upcoming year are happening. It's an exciting time here at Christ the King!

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**

During the past quarter, the Prayer Shawl small group ministered to others by:

- Donating lap robes and shawls to the VA hospital
- Made squares to be distributed at Ashes to Go
- Donated hats and scarves to the Floating Hospital
- Donated socks to Socks for Souls

The prayer shawl group will continue to meet until June 13 and new members are welcome any time!

**Yoot Corner**

The youth of CTK have been busy! They continue to meet Sundays for youth group. Several of our youth will be confirmed in June. Services will be held at Christ the King and Redeemer.

The youth also continue to plan and fundraise for their workcamp trip to New Jersey this summer through Group Missions.

The next opportunity to support them is the Doug's Fish Fry on Saturday, April 13th, 11:00 AM-6:00 PM at Matthews Planet Pre-Owned on the Parkway.

**Thrivent Action Team Summary**

*Community Dinner for Youth Mission and Floating Hospital – February 10, 2019*

There was a dinner on Sunday from 12:30 PM to 3:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. Groceries were picked up and paid for by Thrivent. The menu featured gluten-free stuffed pork loin and mashed potatoes, vegetarian pot pie, orange scented broccoli, coleslaw, assorted breads. There was a shndae bar with ice cream and assorted cookies for dessert. We served 76 people and all left overs were given for another event that Linda Truman was also involved with. There were 17 hardworking volunteers. Total volunteer hours was 161. We raised \$788 for youth mission and \$778 for the Floating Hospital coat drive.

*Ashes to Go – March 6, 2019*

On Monday, March 4 three of us went to the grocery store to purchase materials to make sandwiches, etc. On Tuesday, four people made up 150 brown bag lunches. On Ash Wednesday, deacons in their albs from Christ the King and Redeemer Lutheran provided Ashes to Go. This outreach mission took place in two locations this year. Morning session was in University Plaza in Vestal. Afternoon session was in the City of Binghamton in front of Redeemer Lutheran Church. The deacons interacted with pedestrians as well as with the drivers of cars who pulled over to receive ashes. Also a bag lunch was distributed to 150 people along with prayer squares. The Action Team spent a total of 165 hours. Thrivent Financial provided \$250 dollars to purchase all materials. The Team was made up of 12 volunteers.