



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

# The Herald

## FALL 2019

Are you ready for college?

I expect all of us have asked a young adult just such a question. The long search for a college and the excitement of high school graduation are over and now newly minted college freshmen pack up the car and head off.....for a world that is radically different from almost everything they know.

Did you know that 90 percent of incoming freshmen have never shared a bedroom with anyone? Add to that the young people who learned how to do laundry just last week, and students who will have to use public transportation to get around and an academic system that expects students to manage their own time from day to day. Oh yes, and the food! I remember how scary it was to be a freshman.

Yet, it is a critical time of transition and transformation for these young people, just as such experiences were for we older folk. Some of us went into military service (that must have been a shock!) Some began their first real job with its expectations of 40+ hour weeks, little time off and a too small paycheck.

I mention all this because when you are face to face with major change, everyone panics a little. Some panic a lot. Everyone has to endure degrees of discomfort. New skills will be required – even if it is something as easy as learning the metro card system for buses. Old habits will have to be adjusted; new responsibilities will have to be assumed; even new vocabulary learned so to navigate the new system. There will be a learning curve and longing for the old ways.

At the same time, there will also be new relationships. You will discover new strengths and passions. You will find better ways of thinking or doing. You will become a new version of yourself.....as long as you don't lose your nerve. As long as you don't give up too soon.

If you are clear about **why** (you are doing what you are doing) and clear about **who** (you are, you want to be); if you are clear about **your core values** and willing to **seek wisdom** from the experienced ones, then the adjustments and discomforts become badges of merit for obstacles overcome.

Sisters and brothers in Christ, you are beloved children of a God of love – healing, forgiving, guiding, nourishing love. That is who you are; that is who you will forever be.

You have heard the Good News of Jesus and it has changed your life; it has shaped your days and your choices. It continues to challenge you to live into that love.

You have been given abundant resources, a wide range of talents, and the power of the Holy Spirit to invite others into fellowship.

You have been called into a future which God is preparing – a future of Great Shalom – which will break out within and among you here and now.

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So fear not! When you are cranky, tired, worried, downtrodden, uncomfortable.....don't panic. Turn to the one who called you beloved, take a deep breath, support one another, join in the fellowship of prayer and meals. Allow this new thing to carry you into the future God has planned.

Grace and peace to you all. What a joy it has been to work with you and to see the depth of your faith. The Spirit is moving powerfully among you; trust the Spirit.

What L. Gail Irwin's book, *Toward the Better Country* has to say applies to our personal relationship with faith and God. But as pastors and church leaders, it speaks to the current crux of where we are as church:

The history of God's covenant with us has carried us through periods of both settlement and wilderness wandering. And that story has not ended. We keep building stone foundations; and God keeps beckoning us back into the wilderness to hear the pure word of truth, to be fed by ravens and angels and to rediscover who and whose we are. The decline we are seeing now in the life of institutional churches is part of the greater story of how God keeps nudging us out of our comfort zones and on to that better country. It is our task to keep moving forward with trust, even when we're not sure where we're headed.

*~Pastor Gail Wolling*

### Fall Worship Schedule

*Sunday, September 1 and 8*

10:00 AM–Worship

*Beginning September 15th, regular Sunday worship hours resume:*

9:00 AM—Traditional Worship    10:15 AM—Faith Formation    11:15 AM—Organic Worship

### 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.

### 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 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM in the Fireplace Room. On the 6<sup>th</sup> 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)*

**CTK SUMMER SUMMARY**

**God's Work Our Hands**

In August, backpacks and school supplies were collected for distribution to several Binghamton elementary schools.

September's project is collecting and sending paperback books to women in prison. You can purchase books or provide used books without writing or underlining in them. The women particularly like mysteries and self-help books. We will collect the books in the Café, then get together on September 22 to package them for mailing.

**Town Hall**

Town Hall meetings were held in the Café on June 30, July 28, and August 25.

**Music Ministry**

As previously announced, Jim Ford will be retiring. He will be with us through the end of the year. We are excited for him for this new chapter in his life. Christ the King has been blessed with Jim's music and leadership for almost 20 years. Please join us in wishing him well.

If you're interested in serving on committee to find new music minister, see Joe Brunt or Tammy Gow.

**BBQ News**

The Annual CTK Family Picnic was celebrated on June 9. Grill Masters Kelli Cruise and Megan O'Hearn served up some fantastic food. On August 18, the Happy Grill-more team of Kelli and Megan hosted a BBQ luncheon. Both events were a great time of fellowship.

The Happy Grill-more Team will be hosting the next BBQ luncheon on Sunday, September 8th at 11:15 AM in the Fellowship Hall. On the menu: Garlic/Parm Pork Tenderloin w/Applesauce, Veggie Burgers, Mac and Cheese, Tossed Salad, and Rolls with butter. Water, tea, and lemonade will be provided.

We hope to see you there for a fun and relaxing time with fellowship. Stay tuned for meals happening once a month during the two services, beginning in October. (Breakfast/Brunch Buffet)

**Thrivent Action Team Summer Summary**

*Affirmed Baptism – June 2, 2019*

Youth from Christ the King and Redeemer Lutheran churches affirmed their baptism during church services. They repeated their confirmation the following Sunday at Redeemer. The Thrivent money was used to purchase food for the receptions hosted following both events as well as some of the gifts given each youth. Each young person received a Bible, servant towel and medallion. The receptions hosted provided upward of 80 people an opportunity to celebrate with the confirmands.

*Backpacks and School Supplies for Kids – August 11, 2019*

On this date, our congregation gathered after worship to prepare backpacks and supplies for three local schools in need. Christ the King requested that the congregation bring to church pencils, rulers, binders, and any school supplies that a kid may need to start school. This is the second year in this endeavor after a most successful project last year. The volunteer team was involved in organizing, advertising, purchasing and delivering supplies. The team delivered backpacks and supplies to the following elementary schools: Theodore Roosevelt, Benjamin Franklin and Woodrow Wilson. The seed money from Thrivent was used to purchase backpacks and supplies for students in need.

*Choice Dollars – August 13, 2019*

Four members of Christ the King directed their Choice Dollars back to the church. Total amount deposited \$113.00. Total for this year - \$623.00 to date.

**Christ the King Lutheran Church**

499 Plaza Drive  
Vestal, NY 13850

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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  
[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

**Fall 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)