



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

The Herald

WINTER 2019

"Joyful, Joyful, We Await Thee", continued

On a personal note, we have been waiting to serve in ministry together and the time has finally come. What could be a better time to begin our shared ministry than Advent, the beginning of the church year, the time of joyful, expectant waiting? Just as we have been waiting, so have I been waiting for healing and I continue to wait for healing from the traumatic incident of September 23, 2019 when I was knocked down and run over by an SUV that crushed my left leg. The shape of how we share our ministry while I am still healing is much different than I had anticipated. I am not able to sit up for extended periods of time, need to ice and elevate my leg, and must follow a strict regime of physical therapy. Both the nature of the trauma and the work required in recovery are tiring and painful and at the same time, I am filled with anticipation and wonder at how Christ the King and I have been brought together. It has been a most unusual experience for me to begin to know members of the leadership team of Christ the King from my hospital bed (in my living room). I am so thankful for the tangible support given to me, the food brought to Mary Lynne and me, the cards sent to me, and the prayer shawls given to Mary Lynne and me. They have been a blanket of love and comfort during this unexpected tumultuous time. We have felt the prayers of this congregation.

I look forward to getting to know you and walking with you as you continue to listen for and discern God's call to you in your individual lives and your life as a congregation.

In Advent Hope,

Pastor Cheryl Ann

"Joyful, Joyful, We Await Thee"

*"Good is the Lord to the one who waits for him, to the soul that seeks him."
--Lamentations 3:25*

Advent is the season of waiting for God. Years ago, people waited for the birth of the Savior. Today, we wait for his return to restore all of creation to its original glory--"the new heaven and new earth." Not all Christians agree on how this will happen. Some take literally the biblical passages about Christ's Second Coming in the clouds with a trumpet blast. Others view such accounts figuratively or symbolically.

No matter what your view on the manner of Christ's second advent is, there's one thing I think all of the faithful can agree upon, and that is that waiting can be difficult. It's hard to wait when something is so eagerly anticipated. Just watch a child trying to sneak downstairs early on Christmas morning! Such suspense makes it nearly impossible for the child to attend to the important task at hand--getting a good night's sleep so he or she can fully enjoy the pleasures that Christmas Day will bring.

On the other hand, waiting without a worthwhile vision of what you're waiting for can be equally difficult. Such waiting can become passive and apathetic. One ends up simply "marking time" until some vague future event. Both types of waiting--the galloping, anxious kind and the unfocused, inattentive kind--present hazards for the church. Christians too intent on the next, better life, are too preoccupied to be concerned about the issues and challenges of this life we've been called to address. Yet, Christians without an inspiring goal to work toward find their attention divided and diffused among other interests that also erode their mission and identity.

The late Christian writer Henri Nouwen tries to put our waiting in proper perspective in his collection of Advent meditations, "In Joyful Hope":

"How do we wait for God? We wait with patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for the bus to come, the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for... Waiting for God is an active, alert--yes, joyful--waiting. As we wait remember him for whom we are waiting, and as we remember him we create a community ready to welcome him when he comes."

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Leadership Team Updates

Pastor Cheryl Ann Elford

Pastor Cheryl Ann joined our Ministry team on December 1. We thank the congregation for agreeing to worship together at 10:00 AM during the Advent season as we begin a new journey together.

God's Work Our Hands

September collected and sent paperback books to women in prison. October collected pet supplies for area shelters. November collecting supplies for Mercy House in addition to providing cookies and 3 meals. December – we will be sponsoring a family from STIC – look for more details to follow soon in the bulletin insert.

Music Ministry

The search for a new Organist/Choir Director continues. Kevin Murphy has agreed to help us out on a temporary basis when his schedule allows. We appreciate Kevin's willingness to share his gifts with us during this time of transition.

2020 Budget and Congregational Meeting

We are working with the Finance team to finalize the budget that we will present at the Congregational meeting in January. More details to follow. We also plan to resume town hall meetings in 2020.

Christmas Eve

7:00 PM

Candlelight Worship Service
with Holy Communion



Christmas Day

10:00 AM

Worship with Lessons and Carols
and Holy Communion

Thrivent Action Team Fall Summary

BU Fest – August 24, 2019

As our neighbor, Binghamton University is located a mile from Christ the King. Being that close, we seek to welcome freshman to campus and introduce CTK to them. University Fest provides an opportunity for us to meet students and provide them with some goodies. This year Thrivent provided Mac & Cheese and Ramen Noodles to those who visited our table. We estimated that about 400 students stopped by our table and 385 were given noodles or mac & cheese. Approximately 770 servings were distributed in total (two servings per person). There were 204 servings of noodles left over which were given to the Binghamton University student food pantry. We had 10 volunteers from church that participated. Counting the time students visited etc, we had a total of 250 hours of service.

Food for Animals in Shelters – October 27, 2019

During the month of October, we collected supplies to donate to local animal care shelters. Items were dropped off in large bins in the Narthex. Items collected were used blankets, old towels, bleach, treats, litter pans, toys and dog and cat food. These items were divided between the following locations: Every Dogs Dream, Human Society, Animal Care Council and Project PAW. We had 40 volunteers who brought in items and a total of 115 hours of service.

Children’s Winter Jackets for Floating Hospital, NYC – October 27, 2019

During the month of October, the members of Christ the King donated winter jackets during the month. Members brought in coats and dropped them off in the cloak room. Congregation also had a bake sale at Sam’s Club and raised \$480. This enabled the purchase of 3 dozen coats when combined with Thrivent’s seed monies. These monies assisted in providing additional jackets (sizes) that were not donated during the drive. We had a dozen bakers and 6 volunteers at the bake sale. With donations from the congregation and Thrivent, we will ship 179 coats to Floating Hospital. Estimate that 60 people brought coats with volunteer hours of 180 and 54 hours for the bake sale. Total 234 hours.

Choice Dollars

Three members of Christ the King directed their final year end Choice Dollars back to the church. Total amount deposited \$24.00. Total is \$647.00 year to date.

Upcoming Thrivent events

Mercy House, Christmas at the Rest Area, and Music Director’s Retirement Celebration.

BBQ News

The “Polar Babes chillin’ & grillin’” team (Kelli & Megan) will be taking the month of December off for the holidays. We will resume with a CTK Luncheon on Sunday, January 5, 2020 right after the 10:00 AM service. Please join the congregation, families, and friends for a warm meal and fellowship in the Café.

Soup’s On

Cheesy Chicken Parmesan
 Chunky Vegetable Beef
 Fancy French Onion

Gourmet Sandwiches

Mini Tomato Sandwiches with bacon mayonnaise
 Open-faced Cheesy Roast Beef
 Turkey BLT Club

Beverages

Jack Frost Mocktail
 Coffee, Water, Juice

Thank you, Christ the King, for enjoying all the meals. The last seven months of providing the BBQ'S and comfort food has made our hearts happy. There is no doubt that CTK is filled with wonderful, kind and caring people. Merry Christmas and have a great New Year!!!

Christ the King Lutheran Church

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 Vestal, NY 13850

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 Lutheran Church
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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

Pastor – The Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond
caelfond@umich.edu

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: 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, 12/1/19-1/5/20:

Worship at 10:00 AM

Sundays beginning 1/12/20:

Traditional Worship at 9:00 AM

Faith Formation at 10:15 AM

Organic Worship at 11:15 AM

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