



# VILLAGE VOICES



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

*Ministry Clarity Co-Directors, Chris Gleason and Kim Zwisdak, and their team (along with Consultant Rev. Billy Brath from LCEF) have led the congregation through a Ministry Clarity Process (strategic plan) designed to help our church and ministries come out strong after the pandemic.*

We conclude our review of the "Mission Pillars," which are areas of stability that help hold up the mission. They are the solid foundation on which we wish to build.

### ***Social Ministry***



#### **Pillar #6: Social Ministry**

**Acts of mercy are encouraged and offered collectively as a demonstration of Christ's love.**

The story of Jesus feeding the 5,000 (Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:31-44; Luke 9:12-17; John 6:1-14) is a very important event in the life and ministry of our Savior. It is a simple story and yet quite profound. Jesus came to feed hungry souls

with God's grace, yet in compassion He also cared about hungry bellies (and all human needs). We can say with certainty that feeding the hungry helps them hear (and makes them more willing to engage) the message of the Gospel. There is more here, though. Recognizing and caring about the human needs around us shows a level of engagement that simply sharing doctrinal facts does not. How could people believe that Jesus cared for their souls if He ignored the human needs right in front of Him? Similarly, how can we desire to share our faith without also recognizing the human needs around us and actively working with our partners to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick and visit the imprisoned? (Matthew 25:42).

The story also tells us that Jesus can take what little we have (time, resources, knowledge, talents, money) and use it to do amazing things. In some Gospel accounts, the miracle begins with a boy sharing his meager lunch and Jesus multiplying that to feed everyone. Sometimes we may question what impact we as individuals can make, or what we can do as a church community that would make a difference. Actually, our resources are great at VLC/TCS. And offered freely to Jesus and blessed by our Savior, they can indeed reap a bountiful harvest of people impacted with the Gospel in both body and soul. As we follow our Clarity Plan, consider how you will be a part of our social ministry efforts. How can you allow Jesus to bless our world through your life and our ministry? A thought about our sixth Mission Pillar and social ministry that is Straight from the Hart.

### WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sundays at 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m.
- For those who can't join us in-person, live stream worship at VLC-NY.org. or on Facebook Live.
- Our Prayer Conference Call is held on the last Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982. See Page 2 for more information.

### In this issue

Bible Study	2
Chapel School News	6
Fellowship News	5
Focus on Worship	4
Memorial/Honored Voices	8
Music Ministry	4
Outreach Opportunities	3
Sunday School	5
Village Youth	5

## BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/ LWML

3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month  
9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

Want to learn from Jesus as Nicodemus did? Please join us on Saturday 2/19 at 9 a.m. We plan to meet in a hybrid fashion including in person in the Friendship Room and via Zoom. Please continue to check your email in case we need to cancel the in-person option.

In preparation for the meeting, please read through John 3:1-21. If time allows, we may also discuss the familiar story of the Samaritan Woman at the Well (see John 4:1-30). Please bring your Bible, your prayer requests and a breakfast item to share. Due to the current circumstances with the COVID-19 variants, all participants that attend in person are asked to wear masks except while eating, even if vaccinated.

If you have any questions please contact Deacon Wendy at 914-391-9356 or Terry Vidal at [terry.n.vidal@gmail.com](mailto:terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

**Login Link:** <https://zoom.us/j/5013757293>

There is no password.

The telephone number is **929-205-6099** - when asked for the Meeting ID Number please use 501 375 7293

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Our new date to begin studying Philippians is Wednesday 2/2. We will seek to spread out more in the Friendship Room as we gather around God's Word. In order to appreciate the historical context, we will also be looking at information about Philippi from Acts. Please join us any week.

### PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Brief prayer service by phone



Just dial  
(1) 732-434-3982

LAST TUESDAY OF THE  
MONTH at 6:00 p.m.

February 22  
April 26  
May 31

### ASH WEDNESDAY & LENTEN WORSHIP



Ash Wednesday and the beginning of the Lenten season is on 3/2. We will offer services of ashes and Holy Communion at 12:00 noon and 7:30 p.m., followed by midweek Lenten services on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. These will feature

"Lenten Midweek Monologues from Famous Biblical Characters" (see below). Join us in person or online.

## CASTING CALL

### Midweek Monologues Lent 2022



Volunteers are needed to share dramatic monologues at our midweek services.

It's in the style of "Reader's Theater." Memorization is not required.

Volunteers simply dramatically read the provided script. Service time is 7:30 PM.



### Wednesday Night Lenten Services

Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. during Lent. This year will feature "Lenten Midweek Monologues from Famous Biblical Characters." Volunteers are needed to present the dramatic pieces. Scripts are provided and are in the "Reader's Theater" style (so they may be read and not memorized).

Sign up online at <https://tinyurl.com/midweek2022>. Bible texts are provided below if potential volunteers want to read more about the characters.

**3/9 Peter's Mother in Law** (Mark 1:29-34, Matthew 8:14-17, Luke 4:38-41)

**3/16 Mary Magdalene** (Luke 8:1-3, John 19:25, John 20:1-18, Matthew 27:55-28:10, Mark 15:40-16:11, Luke 24:1-11)

**3/23 Thomas** (John 20:19-29, John 11:7-16, John 14:1-7)

**3/30 Martha** (Luke 10:38-42, John 11:1-44, John 12:1-8)

**4/6 Lazarus** (John 11, John 12:1-11)

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### Lend A Helping Hand With Love



#### THE MOUNT VERNON SOUP KITCHEN:

We will be providing the entire meal on the **third** Wednesday of each month. **Our next date is 2/16.** Please sign up on

Signup Genius in advance at <https://tinyurl.com/Cooking2021>. Choose your volunteer date and food item and then pick up an aluminum tray (from the back of the church or Reception Area), prepare the food at home, and drop off at church between 12:00 and 1:00 p.m. on the assigned day. To volunteer or get more information, please contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or [NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org).

**PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY:** Prayer Shawls are hand made and bring solace to anyone that has been injured, or is recovering from surgery. A prayer shawl brings cheer to the recipient because it lets them know they are remembered in prayer. If you know someone who could use the comfort and warmth a prayer shawl provides, please contact Kim Rapillo at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org).



**ECAP:** Collection of non-perishable food items is an ongoing outreach ministry. You can join in the effort by picking up non-perishable items while you do your own shopping (look for sales!) and bringing them to the church. There are Blessing Baskets located in the Friendship Room under the piano, or you may leave food donations with the receptionist during the week. Food insecurity remains a serious issue, and every little bit helps. Thank you!

**"CATCH A LIFT"** is an initiative at VLC/TCS that offers free rides to church worship through **The Bronxville Taxi Company (1 Depot Plaza, Bronxville, NY 10708; 914-337-8311).**



Participants can simply stop by the Taxi Company at the Bronxville Train Station or call and arrange a lift to church. **Tell the dispatcher or taxi driver that this is a Village Lutheran Church "Catch a Lift" ride and there is no cost.** The cost of "Catch a Lift" is covered by the grant directed by a generous church family.

## THANK YOU

**ASSOCIATE PASTORAL VACANCY:** Thank you to our guest preachers who are helping Pastor Hartwell with the preaching schedule and our volunteer visitors (Pastoral Assistant, Deacons and Commissioned Ministers) who are connecting with homebound members, supplementing ongoing visits by Pastor Hartwell. "Many hands make light work," says the proverb. ¡Gracias!

## CALLING FOR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers Needed to bring collected food from Blessing Basket in Friendship Room at Village Lutheran Church to ECAP (42 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707).

Do you want to:

- ⊙ Help feed the hungry and food insecure?
- ⊙ Do a good deed?
- ⊙ Complete service requirements for school or programs?
- ⊙ Help out Pastor Hartwell?
- ⊙ Or just like signing up for things?

Sign-up for this once-a-week volunteer service.

**MUST HAVE CAR AND BE ABLE TO LIFT GROCERY BAGS AND BE ABLE TO PICK UP FROM CHURCH AND DELIVER BETWEEN 9 AND 4:30 PM ANY WEEKDAY.**

Sign up for your week or weeks.

Only one trip to ECAP per week.

Sign up: <https://tinyurl.com/BlessingBasket>

Contact Kim Rapillo in the Church Office for details at 914-337-0207 (1003) or [KRAPILLO@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:KRAPILLO@VLC-NY.ORG)



## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

By Deborah Reiss



As we all know, February 2 is Groundhog Day in America. Its German roots are part of a long European church tradition known in English as Candlemas. The date was established because it is 40 days after Christmas, commemorating when Mary and Joseph went to the temple to fulfill the Jewish rituals of circumcision (Jesus) and purification (Mary). Luke's Gospel provides one last song about Jesus on this occasion, sung by Simeon and known as the *Nunc dimittis*.

Simeon may have been a priest, or possibly a prophet. Like Mary, Elizabeth and Zechariah, he was a faithful servant of God who became filled with the Holy Spirit. His special promise was not a child of his own, but the privilege of seeing the Messiah in his lifetime. Simeon thus sings that he can “depart in peace” because the way of salvation was now a reality. Simeon's work of waiting, watching, and tending was over, but he rejoiced that the people after him would get to experience this fulfillment. Jesus, the Messiah, was to be a light to the world so that all people, including the Gentiles who had never known God, could see the true God.

Candlemas comes at roughly the midpoint between the winter solstice and the spring equinox. As the hours of darkness diminished, and in homage to the “light” of Simeon's song, people started having their home supply of candles blessed on this date. The groundhog part came later, as farmers speculated (ironically) that shadows cast by sunlight on Candlemas were a harbinger of more winter weather. I started a new tradition this year of placing electric candles in my windows during Advent. While they were supposed to last 30 days or so, they are still going strong as of this writing and I am hoping to keep the light shining long into Epiphany.

The *Nunc dimittis* (Latin for “Now dismiss”) was always a familiar and comforting canticle. It served as the conclusion of the Communion service from TLH, and is now part of the funeral liturgy as well as the service of Compline (prayer at the close of the day). There is also the echo of Simeon in the way we end all of our services: “*Depart in peace*” (we have seen God through Word and Sacrament) “*to serve the Lord*” (like Simeon, we have been led to worship by the Holy Spirit; but the Spirit also goes with us into our daily activities). “*Thanks be to God.*” The light still shines; God's glory is all around us if we only stop and look.

## VLC MUSIC MINISTRY



We look forward to getting back to a regular schedule this month, after postponing many activities in January. Please note that we will be making adjustments during the winter break (the week of 2/21). Check for specifics in the bulletin, or with the directors.

**Village Belles:** Wednesdays 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.

**Youth Choir:** Thursdays 7:00 – 7:30 p.m.

**Chancel Choir:** Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**High School Choir:** Sundays 10:15 – 10:45 a.m.

For more information, contact

Deb Reiss: 914-337-0207, x1018 or [DReiss@VLC-NY.org](mailto:DReiss@VLC-NY.org)

George Heath: 914-337-0207, x1012 or [GHeath@VLC-NY.org](mailto:GHeath@VLC-NY.org)



## VLC YOUTH

### VOYAGERS Grades 3-6

We will meet on Thursdays 2/3, 2/10 and 2/17 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. At this time, masks must be worn in the building. Voyagers is open to any student in grades 3-6, and friends are always welcome. We meet three times per month. At the end of the meeting, Youth going to choir will be dropped off there and everyone else will be escorted to the school doors and dismissed to their cars. If you have any questions, please email Erika Schultz at [tyandbash@aol.com](mailto:tyandbash@aol.com).

### LIFERS Grades 7-8

Confirmation classes are held Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. and taught by Sarah Nunes ([snunes@vlc-ny.org](mailto:snunes@vlc-ny.org)).



Congratulations to Kristine Pulaski and Maximillian Montagnino who received the Rite of Adult Confirmation after a time of study with Pastor Hartwell. The special service was held on 1/9 at the 10:45 a.m. service and was made all the more special by being the Sunday the Church observes "The Baptism of our Lord." They confirmed the faith given at their baptisms and helped the congregation to renew their baptismal promises as well.

Members of the junior confirmation classes were also at the service as a part of their mini retreat where they worshiped and had lunch together and then attended a matinee of the Blue Man Group in NYC together. God bless our Confirmands, one and all.



### CRUSADERS Grades 9-12

**Donuts & Discussion** will meet the following Sundays: 2/6, 2/13, and 2/27.

**Youth Gathering information** - Any high school students (16 years old entering 9th grade to 18 years old) are welcome to join the Crusaders in Houston, Texas in July 2022!! Our theme this year is ***In All Things***. If you have any questions, please contact Amy Heath at 914-439-3839 or [amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com).



Please join us for Sunday School during the 9 a.m. service where children from 3-years-old to 6th grade are invited into small group classes to learn more about Jesus' love for them. We are working with church and community safety guidelines to make sure that we can be together and also keep everyone healthy and safe. For more information, feel free to contact Sunday School Superintendent Sarah Gleason at [ChrisnySarah@Netscape.net](mailto:ChrisnySarah@Netscape.net).

## VLC FELLOWSHIP

### Coffee Hour hosts are

**needed.** This is only possible with the help of volunteers like you. Please consider hosting this beloved weekly event. For more information or to sign up contact Nelly Palumbo at [NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org).



**Congratulations to newly appointed Trustee, Kharis Lena, who is filling a vacant term (2023). God bless our Trustee Board.**

Kharis Lena was born and raised in Chennai, India. She has been attending VLC for 3 years, and

lives with her husband (Rob) in Yonkers, NY. Rob's family—including Lynn (Director of Care at The Chapel School), Lawrence, Christian and David—have been lifelong members of the church.

Kharis received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees (B.A. in Psychology and M.S. in Business Leadership) from Concordia College, NY. She is currently on the admissions team for Columbia University's School of Professional Studies.



Seniors, please mark your calendars for Tuesday 3/8, for a great afternoon and luncheon with the Lunch Bunch.

## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

### What's Happening @ TCS in February

**JOIN US for The 2022 Gathering of Friends Gala Knight of Celebration at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle on Friday 4/29!**

Special thanks to Co-Chairs Sir Gary Neville and Sir Bill Schwartz, and their many volunteer helpers for all of their selfless and tireless efforts to benefit Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School. Tickets for this fun, medieval-themed gala are on sale now! <https://www.gathering-of-friends.org/>



**Four TCS Class of 2025 Fifth Graders Awarded TCMS Merit**



**Scholarships!** Congratulations Dylan Sadowski, Dara Kola-Olugboye, Madi Viva and Sofia Tudorie for earning their way to the first of potentially three years of recognition for achievement, community involvement and service.

**Rehearsals for TCS's Spring Musical**

Rogers & Hammerstein's "Cinderella Youth Edition" are underway! Live performances are planned for 5/6 to 5/8! Mark your calendars!



**Blue Ribbon Foundation Provides \$1,350 Grant for STEM Activity!**



The Blue Ribbon Foundation is proudly sponsoring a visit from Westchester Children's Museum to look at structure and elements through a fun STEM exploration of The Three Little Pigs for preschool - 2nd grade students at TCS.

**2022 TCS Golf Outing - Golfers And Sponsors Needed!**

We're back at Siwanoy! Join us on **Monday 6/13** for our 2022 TCS Golf Outing at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville. More information to come.

This is a great day of golf and a wonderful opportunity to raise money for scholarships for students at The Chapel School. Golfers and sponsors are needed!

Interested? Please contact Michael Schultz at 914-337-3202 x1127 or [mschultz@thechapelschool.org](mailto:mschultz@thechapelschool.org). Online registration is LIVE! We will again have lots of exciting prizes up for "Pay to Play" at exclusive "must play" venues! You won't want to miss it!



**REGISTRATION for TCS's 2022 SUMMER PROGRAM is LIVE!** In-Person Open Houses are scheduled for 3/12 (11 a.m. – 2 p.m.) and 4/24 (12:30 – 3:00 p.m.) Online registration at:

<https://campscui.active.com/orgs/TheChapelSchool?orglink=camps-registration>

**FEBRUARY Offering Recipient - Atlantic District.** Our regional Lutheran Church body (Diocese) has created special programs to react quickly to disasters and special regional needs by offering the caring compassion of Christ. Our gifts will help many as the District uses our support help others in times in a time of crisis.



*"Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, wise men from the east came to Jerusalem, saying, 'Where is he who has been born king of the Jews? For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him'" (Matt. 2:1-2).*

Ever wonder what would possess these strange figures called the Wise Men to traverse the countryside to bring gifts to a king that wasn't really theirs by law? The Magi give us an answer right in the words of their question to Herod and the religious leaders in Jerusalem. "For we saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him." It was the star that pointed to the giving of the single greatest gift God has given to humanity.

The Wise Men didn't come because of a feeling in their gut. They didn't saddle up their camels because they got an invitation in the mail nor did they see a Facebook notification or Snapchat. It was the star that told them! Creation talks about the glory of God. This is exactly what the psalmist says, "The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork. Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge" (Psalms 19:1-2).

If the heavens can declare the handiwork of God because He made them, how about the simple gifts that the Lord has given you? The answer is yes! How one stewards the simple gifts our Lord bestows answers the question, "Where is he who has been born king of the Jews?" When we are intentional in our stewardship of all God has given for the sake of the kingdom of God, we are pointing those around us to the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, Jesus Himself. However, if we claim ownership of God's creation, WE are claiming to be the king. Not only is this foolishness, it is idolatry!

Today, reflect on the way you manage the simple gifts our Lord has given you. Are you using them in a manner, which like the star of Bethlehem, points people to Jesus? If not, ask the Lord to forgive you and point you to the One who is born King of the Jews ... for He is YOUR king!

*Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship [lcms.org/stewardship](https://lcms.org/stewardship)*

## CONCORDIA LEGACY AT VLC



Concordia Legacy at VLC: At the closing of Concordia College, several items were designated to be transferred to the care and keeping of VLC and TCS. This month we're highlighting two tall brass candlesticks. Part of the legacy of Concordia College is the impact of faith in the life of the college, including worship experiences in and outside of the Chapel. These connections with God's Word helped shape the cultural worldview of thousands of students. This is one aspect of the college that many of us hold most dear. Although we anticipate this legacy to continue through the mission of Iona, the loss continues to be felt in heart and soul.

Two brass candlesticks that were used in holy worship at the college now grace the steps to our chancel. Although they are worn from faithful use and the inscriptions are faint to the eye, the oil candles continue to burn brightly. The gentle glow reminds us of the blessings of the Concordia faith community and lights the way for us to encourage our new partner, Iona College, in her mission to instill a "joy in lifelong learning" and the "enduring integration of mind, body and spirit." The candlesticks also remind us of our own ministry's birth from Concordia as the original chaplaincy of the college community over 100 years ago. Concordia's Latin motto was "Nisi Dominus Frustra" which translates, "Without God, [it is] in vain" and is based on Psalm 127 ("Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain."). The light of the candles reminds us of the Lord's work that was, is and will continue to be Concordia's legacy for years to come.

### Join Team Chapel Arts

2022 United Airlines NYC Half Marathon



Wanted: Runners for the New York City Half Marathon. The Chapel School has five guaranteed entries into the United Airlines New York City Half Marathon.

"Team Chapel - Arts" is recruiting runners to raise awareness and funds for the art & drama programs of The Chapel School.

If you are interested in joining the team, contact Kim Z. in the Development Office at 914-337-3202 x1040 or [KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org).

#### Benefits Include:

- Guaranteed Half Marathon Spot
- Personal Fundraising Page
- Team Chapel Gear
- Pre-Race & Race Day Support

Prospective runners should be willing to run 13.1 miles, commit to a \$1,750 fundraising goal and be available on Sunday 3/20.



### SAVE THE DATE

Friday 4/29

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church  
Reception Hall  
New Rochelle

"Gathering of Friends" is Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School's largest fundraiser of the year. This year's event will be held on Friday 4/29 at the Reception Hall of Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in New Rochelle, NY.

This year we will be celebrating with a medieval theme, "Gala Knight of Celebration." We encourage you to join us dressed in period costume or in festive cocktail attire. An enjoyable evening of cocktails, dinner and opportunities to win fabulous prizes will once again be offered – along with some new surprises – all while raising much needed funds for our school and church community! One of the greatest aspects of the evening is the camaraderie shared by parents, congregants and faculty.

Benefactor support is absolutely crucial to the success of the Gathering of Friends. Please note that a ticket to the Gathering of Friends is included in your Benefactor Level Gift. Even if you cannot attend the event, your support would be greatly appreciated. Early leadership by our Sustaining and Supporting Benefactors creates enthusiasm for the event and provides significant underwriting.

To pledge your Benefactor support, register online at [www.gathering-of-friends.org](http://www.gathering-of-friends.org) or call the Development Office 914-337-0207 x1040.



**Village Lutheran Church &  
The Chapel School**

172 White Plains Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708

[VLC-NY.org](http://VLC-NY.org)

[TheChapelSchool.org](http://TheChapelSchool.org)

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**TO KNOW, LIVE AND SHARE  
THE LOVE OF CHRIST**

*Under the blessing of God, the mission of Village Lutheran Church is a ministry of the Word and Sacraments. This ministry gives opportunities for mission, witness, nurture, fellowship, stewardship and service. It focuses on the specific needs of individuals and groups within the congregation and extends to the church-at-large, the community and the world.*

*The Chapel School is an integral part of the congregation's ministry directed specifically to children. It provides a distinctive Christian education enabling children to evidence a Christian lifestyle and to achieve academic success.*

**TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY**

**MEMORIAL/HONORED VOICES**

**Gifts Were Given By:**

Linda McBride  
In Thankfulness for the Ministry of VLC

The Wareham Family  
In Thankfulness for the Ministry of  
The Chapel School

Janet Hildreth  
In Memory of her son,  
Christopher J. Massa

Janet Hildreth  
In Memory of her husband,  
Bill Hildreth

A Gift to VLC  
In Honor of Krause Family

Kevin & Deborah Cook  
In Thankfulness for the  
Music Ministry

Anne Losee  
In Honor of the Ministry of VLC

Margit Barsdorf  
In Honor of the Ministry of VLC

Kathy Coffey & Mary Messner Martin  
In Memory of their mother,  
Helen Messner, on the  
22nd anniversary of her passing

Chad & Eileen Ghastin  
In Memory of Eric Hammarlund

Thomas Biele  
In Memory of Helen Biele

Peter Soans  
In Honor of the Ministry of VLC

Anonymous  
In Thankfulness for the Ministry of VLC

