



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 continue to review 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.

Pillar #5: Evangelism



Opportunities to learn and demonstrate best practices to share our faith and to invite others to receive the faith are offered.

Have you ever had good news that you wanted to share? Perhaps it was a recipe that turned out delicious, a bargain at a local store, or a new

restaurant that was too great to miss. The natural urge is to share this news with a loved one.

Our faith is also good news—in fact, it's the best news of all!—and we want to share it. Jesus has won forgiveness for us through His life, death and resurrection, and He bestows this grace upon us freely through the Word and the Sacraments. These means of grace work faith in our hearts, and with faith we have the assurance of a new relationship with God that provides abundant life in this world and eternal life in heaven. And this good news is not just for us, but for the world. We can share it with all who do not know God or who currently have no relationship with God. But how?

Fear and uncertainty can lock up our good news and keep us from sharing as we naturally would. How can we share our faith without sounding judgmental? And what if people have questions about our faith that we don't know how to answer? This is why a pillar of our church is about evangelism and making sure we have the tools and resources to share our faith, whenever we feel led or have the opportunity.

Think about the people who shared the faith with you, and how thankful you are that they gave you this great gift. How joyous to be able to connect someone else with the love of Christ, or introduce them to a local church community where they can grow and worship!

A thought about our Fifth Mission Pillar and evangelism 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	2
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

3rd Saturday of the month

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

We all have made New Year's Resolutions and quickly felt the temptation to break them. Temptation is not a one-time thing; Jesus was tempted by Satan for 40 days. Please read Luke 4:1-13 in preparation to discuss Jesus' Temptation in the Wilderness. We will meet in the Friendship Room on Saturday 1/15 at 9 a.m. Please bring your Bible, your prayer requests and a breakfast item to share. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Wendy at 914-391-9356 or Terry Vidal at terry.n.vidal@gmail.com.

Village Lutheran Church
Winter/Spring 2022

PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL

Brief prayer service by phone



Just dial
(1) 732-434-3982

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

We have now completed our survey of the Psalms and will start the new year by studying Paul's letter to the Philippians. This will include some background on the community and history as we consider the many well-known and beloved passages in this short epistle. Our first meeting after the holidays will be on Wednesday 1/12.

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

January 25
February 22
April 26
May 31



Keep an eye on your mailbox and email inbox this new year for the final strategic plan report and join us each Sunday in January (in person or online) at 9 or 10:45 a.m. as we hear God's Word of encouragement on the main themes of the plan. A big thank you and warm January greeting to our guest speakers who will join Pastor Hartwell in rolling out the plan.

1/9/22 Baptism of our Lord
Clarity Plan Week #1
A Time to Plan - Luke 14:25-33

1/16/22 Second Sunday After Epiphany
Clarity Plan Week #2
A Time to Share - John 6:1-14

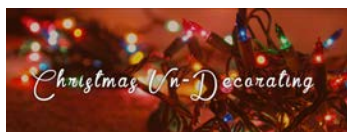
1/23/22 Third Sunday After Epiphany
Clarity Plan Week #3
A Time to Serve - Acts 6:1-7

1/30/22 Fourth Sunday After Epiphany
Clarity Plan Week #4
A Time to Learn - Acts 8:26-40

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.



Church and school Un-decorating... Sunday 1/9 after the 10:45 a.m. service. Pizza lunch provided.

Volunteers needed. Please contact Nelly Palumbo at npalumbo@thechapelschool.org.

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

We will continue with a special holiday schedule for the first weekend of January and then move to a winter schedule as follows:

- ❖ **Epiphany Observed** – Sunday 1/2/22 at 10:00 a.m. (one service only)
- ❖ **Starting 1/9** - Two services per weekend, on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. (with Sunday School) and 10:45 a.m.
- ❖ The Saturday evening service will return in March.

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 1/19.** 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.

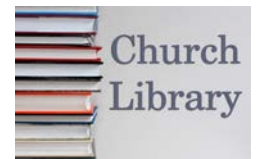


"**CATCH A LIFT**" is an initiative at VLC/TCS that offers free rides to church worship through **The Bronxville Taxi Company (1 Depot Plaza, Bronxville, NY 10708; 914-337-8311).**

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.

HONOR RESOURCE LIBRARY:

Do you like to read good Christian books or watch good Christian videos? Check out the honor library in the back corner of the Friendship Room. Included now is a DVD copy of Seasons 1 and 2 of *The Chosen*, which is a dramatic retelling of the Gospel story. Lending is on the honor system. Feel free to borrow any resources you like and return them when finished.



SAVE THE DATE



Friday 4/29/22

Holy Trinity Greek
Orthodox Church
in
New Rochelle

The Gathering of Friends is an amazing night out for parents, parishioners, school faculty, and friends alike, all in the name of a good cause – raising much needed funds to support the programs and services that make our school and church the vibrant, spiritual, academic and wonderful community it is. One of the nicest aspects of the evening is the camaraderie shared by parents, congregants and faculty. The support of Benefactors is crucial to the success of the event. We hope you will consider making that commitment. Registration is available online at www.Gathering-of-Friends.org or by calling the Development Office- 914-337-0207 x1040.

The Price of Benefactor Tickets includes:

- *Admission to the Gathering of Friends on 4/29
- *A Special Cocktail Reception in the spring
- *Recognition in the Journal
- *Sneak peak of the packages
- *Our deepest gratitude and appreciation

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.



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!

CHRISTMAS AT SEA: Thank you to everyone who contributed to this special project for the seafaring community. We were able to donate 30 filled satchels!

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

By Deborah Reiss



Following the scene in Luke's Gospel where Mary and Elizabeth meet, we hear the end of the story about the birth of John the Baptist. Our attention is drawn back to Zechariah, who had been left mute but ends up singing another beautiful canticle known as the ***Benedictus***.

Apparently, Zechariah the priest still had some things to learn about God. He could not quite accept the possibility of a miracle when Gabriel announced it, but by the time John was born, we can see that Zechariah was full of faith and wisdom. When he affirmed the name of his newborn son as John, in accordance with the Word of the Lord from Gabriel, Zechariah's temporary inability to speak was ended. He could not restrain himself from expressing praise to God and then prophesying through the power of the Holy Spirit which had previously been given to Elizabeth.

The first part of the song (Luke 1:68-75) is filled with joy over the fulfillment of God's promise to send a redeemer. Zechariah now understands that the long-awaited descendant of David was arriving in the form of a child in Mary's womb, who had been living with him for the past three months. This child Jesus (meaning "The Lord saves") is called a "horn of salvation" – a gift of strength, of rescue, of protection. Zechariah further understands that God's covenant with Abraham was now coming to fruition: *"I will surely bless you and make your descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky and as the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will take possession of the cities of their enemies, and through your offspring all nations on earth will be blessed."* (Genesis 22:17-18)

In the second part of the song (verses 76-79), Zechariah sings tenderly to his son, John. He can see that John will "prepare the way" by making people aware that the Messiah has in fact arrived, and that salvation is to be accomplished through the forgiveness of sins. Zechariah concludes by making reference to the promise in Isaiah that God's glorious light of life will "shine on those living in darkness and in the shadow of death."

The *Benedictus* (Latin for "Praise be") is part of the Service of Morning Prayer, which we used to sing regularly in Concordia chapels. At first, I thought I would find it tiresome to sing the same thing every week; however, I found some new spark every time we sang it. God's tender mercy, the ability to serve Him without fear, the promise of forgiveness, the light in the darkness, the path of peace. It is a song that spreads the love and joy of this Epiphany season.

Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, because He has come and has redeemed His people.

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY



Many thanks to all the members of the Music Ministry for enhancing our Advent and Christmas worship. Regular rehearsals will resume in January as follows:

Village Belles: Wednesdays 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. starting 1/19

Youth Choir: Thursdays 7:00 - 7:30 p.m. starting 1/13

Chancel Choir: Thursdays 7:30 - 8:30 p.m. starting 1/13

High School Choir: Sundays 10:15 - 10:45 a.m. starting 1/9

Deb Reiss: 914-337-0207, x1018 or DReiss@VLC-NY.org

George Heath: 914-337-0207, x1012 or GHeath@VLC-NY.org

VLC YOUTH

VOYAGERS Grades 3-6

We will meet outside on the playground on Thursdays 1/13, 1/20 and 1/27. 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.

LIFERS Grades 7-8

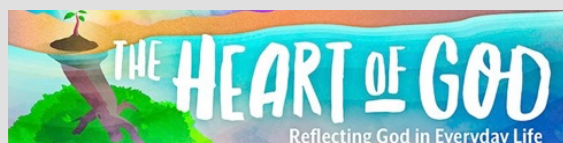
Confirmation classes are held Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. and taught by Sarah Nunes (snunes@vlc-ny.org).

CRUSADERS Grades 9-12

"That's what it's all about, isn't it? That's what it's ALWAYS been about! Gifts. Gifts... Gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts, gifts! You wanna know what happens to your gifts?" (*The Grinch, Dr. Seuss.*) This month we will spend time discussing our spiritual GIFTS. We will focus on key components of daring to reveal your unique gifts and the wonderful way God made you.

Donuts & Discussion will meet the following Sundays in January: 1/9, 1/23, 1/30
We will **not** meet on 1/16.

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.



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.

FIRST COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

Save the Dates: Village Lutheran Church's annual 1st Communion Instruction will soon begin. This class is open to youth in the 5th grade and above who have not had their 1st Holy Communion.



Classes meet Wednesdays during Lent from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. Class dates for 2022 are Wednesdays 3/9, 3/16, 3/23 and 3/30. There will also be an Early First Communion Lock-in on Friday 4/1 from 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. This program instructs the children on the meaning of this Christian Sacrament and prepares them to receive 1st Holy Communion at a special Service on Sunday 4/3 at 10:45 a.m.

TCS Select Choir and Director Mr. George Heath were SPECTACULAR at Radio City Music Hall (12/8/21)!



THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz



"But earnestly desire the higher gifts. And I will show you a still more excellent way"
(1 Cor. 12:31).

Higher gifts. More excellent way. These sound like comparatives. They are, if you are talking about us. But these words that the Holy Spirit gives to Paul are not about us. They are only and always about what He desires us to have!

The Lord wants you to know that your simple gifts are in no way simplistic. They are glory! But not your glory. They are His glory. If you read the entire chapter of 1 Corinthians 12 you see some fantastic gifts being called lower gifts. Healing. Tongues. Interpretation. These are all fantastic if you were to have them. It is hard to see any way in which these are lesser gifts.

That is until you read what the Lord desires as a higher gift. 1 Corinthians 13 talks about it. The higher gift is love! There is no greater gift than love. Jesus talks about that in John 15:13 when He says that "greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friend." This is the kind of love that we have been given. God loved the world so much that He gave us Jesus. Jesus loved us so much that He died and rose. There is no greater gift of love. Jesus says so!

And this greater love that God has given us in Jesus is an active love! It is given so that we can give it away. That is what our stewardship is all about. Giving freely of the greater love that we have been given!

The financial gifts we render are indeed lesser gifts. It doesn't mean that they aren't important or valuable.

But they are lesser if they are not connected to love. The love they are connected to by the Holy Spirit is a love that comes from the Lord, through us, to others. We become a conduit of love that flows out to those who need it. This involves service. This involves activity. It also involves financial resources. When taken together, packaged in love, these simple gifts do amazing things! Let's see together what the Lord will do with these simple gifts!

Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship lcms.org/stewardship

1. I resolve to support **new initiatives** at The Chapel School by:
 - A. Praying to give thanks for **Lucy Caltabiano** and her Service Learning Project in **October** for **Gilda's Club**, and for **Zachary Stewart and Aaron Flores** their upcoming project for the **ASPCA** in **May/June!**
 - B. Praying for TCS Students who will be proposing charitable organizations for Service Learning and TCS Offerings for 2022-2023.
 - C. Praying for **In-Person 2022 Lutheran School's Week Festivities** in **March!**
 - D. Praying for the **Social Emotional Literacy** and **Mindfulness** of TCS Students, Faculty and Staff as we continue to manage the uncertainty and stresses that have changed the face of education during this COVID-19 pandemic!
 - E. Praying for continued work in **Building The BELOVED Community: Diversity, Equity and Inclusion** at **The Chapel School** with our consultant **Dr. Mark Gooden** and our Chief Diversity Officer **Mrs. Treda Collier-Dickenman!**

2. I resolve to support our **wonderful volunteers** in their selfless efforts to raise money for VLC/TCS and all of our wonderful programs by:

- A. Attending the **2022 Gathering of Friends GALA Knight of Celebration** on **4/29/2022** and supporting the tireless efforts of Co-Chairs **Bill Schwartz** and **Gary Neville** ... and their many sub-committee members!
- B. Participating in the **2022 TCS Golf Outing** as it returns to Siwanoy Country Club on **6/13/22**, enjoying the company of VLC/TCS friends on the links at this beautiful venue and raising money for scholarships for deserving TCS students!



3. I resolve to **pray for the ministry and families** of Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School that God might continue to bless our daily efforts to help others "To Know, Live and Share the LOVE of Christ!"

The Chapel School Offering Recipients

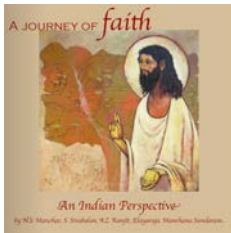
JANUARY – Loukoumi Make a Difference Foundation

FEBRUARY – LCMS Atlantic District!



TCS 8th Graders help collect loads of gifts generously donated by TCS families to brighten Christmas celebrations in Westchester County DSS Foster Homes. **#TCSShares**

CONCORDIA LEGACY AT VLC



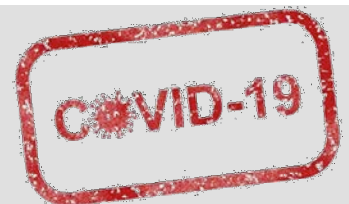
At the closing of Concordia College, several items were designated to be transferred to the care and keeping of VLC and TCS. This month we're talking about the addition of original art. In 2012, VLC member and then President of Concordia College, Dr. Viji George, created a wonderful art exhibit and sale. According to publicity at the time, "Asia, and India in particular, has seen a dramatic growth of its Christian population. In fact, India has the largest Lutheran population in the non-western world. Art, music and liturgy in these regions have been indigenized over Christianity's longstanding presence."

With that understanding, President George, using his connections, brought a sampling of extraordinary Christian art from Indian artists. The artists represented in the collection were all rooted in Southern Indian artistic traditions and worked in a variety of mediums. They were well established in their setting and continue to have an ardent following. Several pieces remained at the College after the show and now adorn the eastern side of the VLC sanctuary. Beautiful and deeply moving, the art seems at home on the brick wall and is a faithful reminder of the global nature of the Christian Church, the Holy Spirit's work through the medium of fine art and the indelible legacy of President George in our community.



STAYING SAFE: Our love for neighbor, expressed by our working together to stop community spread of COVID-19, remains our goal for in-person worship. As a reminder to our community:

- If you are feeling unwell or have been exposed to or tested positive for COVID -19, please join us in our virtual service (available at [VLC-NY.org](https://www.vlc-ny.org), or on our YouTube Channel and Church Facebook Page).
- If you are eligible, get vaccinated (or get a booster). It remains the best defense to the disease and to stop community spread. It is strongly encouraged.
- Our spacious sanctuary allows us to spread out. Feel free to space your seating accordingly and to move if you feel uncomfortable with the proximity of a fellow worshipper.
- Per state mandate, all worshippers 2 years old and older must wear a properly fitting mask. In addition to the state regulation, faithful mask wearing is a sign of care for neighbor. The scriptures encourage us to ***"not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up."*** Galatians 6:9



**Village Lutheran Church &
The Chapel School**

172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

VLC-NY.org

TheChapelSchool.org



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Return Service Requested

**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:

William Phipps
In Memory of Hugo Distler

Lucy Kozera
In Memory of Emil & Eva Hein

Lucy Kozera
In Memory of Lydia Kuschner and
Her Sons Arkady & Serge

William & Carol Seamon
In Thankfulness to Ministry of VLC

Anonymous
In Honor of Bob & Betty

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

Lorraine Weatherhogg
In Memory of Eric Weatherhogg

Marion Scaramuzzino
In Memory of Fred Winkelmann

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.

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 3/20/22.