



VILLAGE VOICES

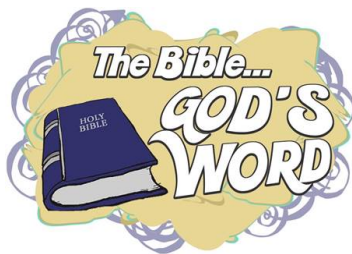


STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

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), continue to lead 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 support our mission. They are the solid foundation on which we wish to build.



Pillar #3 Christian Education: *Adults and children are nurtured in faith and empowered to live the love of Christ as they experience, learn and reflect on His Word.*

God's Word, the Bible, is a precious gift to Christians. Like our sisters and brothers in the Jewish faith, we hold that "long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets" (Hebrews 1:1), and that these words were written down (in what we call the Old Testament) so that God's people might hear about God's law and His eternal mercy. As the Church, we believe that "in these last days He has spoken to us by a Son, whom He appointed heir of all things" (Hebrews 1:2a)—Jesus. We also believe that the Gospel writers and Apostles shared the message of Jesus in written form (what we call the New Testament) so that the faith might be received and passed down.

Modern times are complicated, and we are so blessed to have God's Word to shape and inform our lives. How would we have survived the COVID-19 pandemic without God's blessing through His Word? And in our daily lives, where could we look to live as Jesus directed apart from God's Word? The world is also becoming more secular, so the need for instruction in the Bible is more important than ever. In times past, many knew the Bible from culture, literature or art, but those days are past. We must also always be on guard from what I would identify as extremist groups that use the Bible out of context and with an agenda of hate. The need for balanced, Christ-centered growth in God's Word is a necessity.

This growth in God's Word starts in the home, as parents share faith and the stories of the Bible with their little ones, and it continues through Sunday School, religion classes at The Chapel School, and 1st Communion and Confirmation. Teens and adults can continue their growth through Bible classes, and even worship is a chance to be informed through Bible readings, the liturgy (often quoted directly from the Bible), the sermon, and prayers that are reflections of the scriptures.

As Jesus said in Mathew 4:4, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" For our church, God's Word is our secure and solid foundation. A thought about our third Mission Pillar that is Straight from the Hart.

JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

- Saturdays at 5:30 p.m. and 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.

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BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/ LWML

3rd Saturday of the month

9:00 – 10:30 a.m.

You are invited and encouraged to come study the good news of the Gospels and spend some time with other women of faith. Come enjoy fellowship and prayer on Saturday 11/20 at 9 a.m. in the Friendship Room. We will prepare for Thanksgiving and the Advent Season by studying the Gospel accounts of Jesus' birth. Please read Matthew 1:18-2:12 and Luke 2:1-20 in advance, and bring your Bible and your own food/beverage for breakfast. Due to the COVID-19 Delta variant, all participants are asked to wear a mask except when eating (even if you are vaccinated). Each month is a stand-alone study that is not dependent on the previous lessons, so please join us even if you cannot make every meeting.

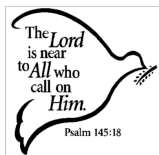
If there is a change in circumstances that requires us to meet via Zoom or a hybrid option rather than in-person, you will receive an email and/or phone call with the contact information. If you have any questions please contact Deacon Wendy at 914-391-9356 or Terry Vidal at terry.n.vidal@gmail.com.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Once we complete the Hallel psalms, we will move on to the group identified as "A Song of Ascents." They were used for worship and encouragement as people traveled to Jerusalem for the major festivals. These include the familiar Psalms 121 ("I lift up my eyes to the hills") and 122 ("I rejoiced with those who said to me, 'Let us go to the house of the Lord'"). We always have coffee and tea available, and sometimes some cookies or cake. Please join us any week!

PRAYER CONFERENCE CALL



Let's keep the prayers coming for pandemic-related and all needs. The Prayer Conference Call is held on the last Tuesday of each month. **Please join us on 11/30 at 6:00 p.m. The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982.** If you have a specific prayer request, please fill out the back of the Attendance Form or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org. The conference call is open to everyone—all you need is a phone and a heart open to receiving God's blessings for the prayer needs of yourself and your loved ones.

GODCONNECTS

A COURSE IN CHRISTIANITY

Join us for an introductory class that connects you to God's love!

Would you like to...

- explore the basics of the Christian faith?
- learn more about the faith background of The Chapel School?
- prepare for adult baptism or confirmation?
- join the church?

This fall, join Pastor Hartwell for *God Connects: A Course in Christianity*. The last classes will be held on **Thursdays 11/4 and 11/18 from 7–8:30 p.m. via Zoom** (no class on Veterans' Day, 11/11). Sign up by contacting 914-337-0207 x1003 or VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG.



Confirmation

Congratulations to the Confirmation class of 2021!

On Saturday 10/30 at 2 p.m., we conducted the Rite of Confirmation for 9 Confirmation students: Austin Ansorge, Garren Benton, Cole Elliott, Zachary Gleason, Ivan Knust, Nina Paul, Augustine Pinto, Claire Story, and Gabriela Olay.

Please keep our confirmands in your prayers!

Honor Resource Library: Do you like to read good Christian books or watch good Christian videos? Check out the Resource Library in the back corner of the Friendship Room. Feel free to borrow any resources you like—all we ask is that you adhere to the honor system and return them when you're finished. Included now is a DVD copy of Seasons 1 and 2 of *The Chosen*, which is a dramatic retelling of the Gospel story.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Lend A Helping Hand With Love

THE MOUNT VERNON SOUP KITCHEN: We will be providing the entire meal on the second Wednesday of each month. **Our next date is 11/10.** Please sign up in advance on Signup Genius 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.



PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY: Prayer Shawls are handmade 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: During the first two weeks of October, members of Village Lutheran Church and families from The Chapel School partnered with the Eastchester Community Action Partnership (ECAP) to assist in fighting food insecurity. The Thrivent Member Network-Northeast Region challenged members to combat food insecurity by using Thrivent Action Teams. If they collected at least 500 nonperishable items for a local food pantry, the region would reward their efforts with a \$500 check to that organization. The school and church set up an October Food Drive Challenge. "I was so happy when Value Drugs in Eastchester donated a box of paper bags with handles," recalled Nelly Palumbo, Fellowship Coordinator at Village Lutheran Church. Flyers with information about the challenge were

created and stapled to the bags, and sent home with each student. They served as a reminder and an easy way to collect the non-perishable food items.

Students were tasked with helping to count, sort and pack the items. Members from Village Lutheran Church with large vehicles volunteered their time to collect and drop off the donations to the food pantry.

"Within the first two days the collection tables were packed with donations," said Kim Zwisdak, Development Office Project Manager at Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School. "I was nervous at first, because 500 items is a lot, but our families and community member are always so generous, we not only hit that goal but exceeded it before the end of the challenge period." **(Over 1,000 items were collected for ECAP!)**



VLC FELLOWSHIP



We will be decorating the church and school on Sunday 11/28 immediately after the 10:45 a.m. service. Pizza will be provided. Volunteers are needed to get our church ready for our Lord's birth. To sign up, please contact Nelly Palumbo at Npalumbo@thechapelschool.org or 347-538-2909.



Christmas Concert featuring Frank Rendo: Sunday 12/19 at 3p.m. in the Sanctuary. Masks required and admission is \$10. For more information, contact Nelly Palumbo at Npalumbo@thechapelschool.org or 347-538-2909.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

By Deborah Reiss

At this time of the year, when we give thanks for the fruits of the earth and all of the blessings from the hand of God, we turn our attention to the Offertory canticle "Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful" (LSB 955). The original text was created by Rev. John Arthur (1922-80) for the new liturgy in the *Lutheran Book of Worship*. Pastor Arthur also wrote the text for "This is the Feast" (featured in September), and my appreciation for his creative blending of Biblical themes has grown.

Whereas "This is the Feast" is based on songs in Revelation, "Let the Vineyards" employs significant metaphors found over and over in both the Old and New Testaments:

1. *Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord* – Isaiah 5 has an elaborate vision of Israel as the Lord's beautiful vineyard, one which was well cared for but yielded only bad grapes. In John 15, Jesus identifies Himself as our vine, enabling us to bear spiritual fruit and encouraging us to accept necessary pruning in order to be even more fruitful.
2. *And fill to the brim our cup of blessing* – Did anyone else think immediately of Psalm 23, "My cup overflows"? What a promise of blessing that is. The other prominent image of a cup is related to the Passover meal, where there are 4 special cups of wine and which Jesus used to institute the sacrament of Holy Communion. No matter whether we have a precious gold chalice or a little plastic sippy cup, our Lord comes to us with abundant healing and strength.
3. *Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown* – Another series of powerful metaphors from Isaiah 55 tells us of God's extravagant provisions and reminds us that He is at work in all things. God declares that His Word "will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." Paul writes of sower, seed and harvest in 2 Corinthians 9:10: "Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness."
4. *That we may be fed with the bread of life* – As we heard this summer from John 6, Jesus proclaimed "I am the bread of life." This is not simply manna that sustained Israel through its desert wanderings, but bread from heaven, which feeds our true hunger and leads to eternal life.

All these images are wrapped together in the second half of the canticle, preparing us for the Communion celebration. As God gathers the harvest, we ask Him to gather up all of the hopes, dreams and prayers that have collected in our hearts. We invite our Lord to come among us collectively and dwell within us individually, so that our cup of blessing remains filled and we see a glimpse of the heavenly kingdom right here and now. Thank You, Lord!

WORSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

NOV. 6-7: All Saints Sunday

Remembrance of the Faithful Departed

NOV. 20-21: Christ the King

Last Sunday of the Church Year

NOV. 27-28: First Sunday of Advent

Thanksgiving Virtual Celebration

Pre-recorded service of music, prayer and praise (available on our website and social media by Wednesday 11/24. Share it with your holiday guests)



VLC MUSIC MINISTRY



We are already getting ready for Advent and Christmas. Handbells will ring for the first time at the 10:45 service on All Saints Sunday (11/7) and record music for the Thanksgiving video. Please note the updated rehearsal schedule:

Village Belles: Wednesdays 6:30–7:30 p.m. in the chancel (off 11/24)

Youth Choir: Thursdays 7:00–7:30 p.m. in the MPR (off 11/11 and 11/25)

Chancel Choir: Thursdays 7:30–8:30 p.m. in the chancel (off 11/11 and 11/25)

High School Choir: Sundays 10:15–10:45 a.m. in the MPR (off 11/28)

FaithWalk was postponed from October. We will now plan to rehearse on Tuesday 11/9 from 7:00–8:00 p.m., in preparation for worship on Sunday 11/14 at 10:45 a.m.

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 are continuing to enjoy in-person meetings this fall! We will meet outside on the playground on Thursdays 11/4 and 11/18. 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 is a two-year program that equips our youth to understand the Christian faith and live out the faith that we believe. Classes are held Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. at VLC and are taught by Sarah Nunes (snunes@vlc-ny.org).

CRUSADERS Grades 9-12

From youth leader Amy Heath: I am thankful for the autumn colors, cool air, and cider donuts! I am also thankful for fellowship with you on Sunday mornings! In Romans chapter 12 Paul said, *"just as our bodies have many parts and each part has a special function, so it is with Christ's body. We are many parts of one body, and we all belong to each other. In his grace, God has given us different gifts for doing certain things well."* **This month we will be discussing what it means to be part of a team.** To be united and become one through His love and guidance.

We will have **Donuts & Discussion** on the following Sunday mornings **11/7, 11/14, 11/21 following the 9 a.m. service.** Hope to see you all there!!!

11/7: National Youth Gathering meeting after the 9am service. Parents please join us!!

11/13: Youth Unity Building Event—Boundless Adventures in Purchase, NY. More information coming soon!



Please join us for Sunday School during the 9 a.m. service, where children from 3-year-olds to 6th graders are invited into small group classes to learn more about Jesus' love for them. We are working within 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.

TEAM CHAPEL



The Chapel School is thrilled to once again join the **TCS New York City Marathon** as an official charity partner. This year the dedicated members of Team Chapel will be running the marathon on **Sunday 11/7** on behalf of The Chapel School's Scholarship Fund. **For more information or to donate please visit:** www.TeamChapel.com. The Team is being coached by Pastor Hartwell and consists of the following runners: **Claudia Sadowski and Ralph Schoene**



Text To Give Instructions:

To securely make a gift, text your gift amount to (914) 368-6636

Make sure to use the dollar sign before the amount. If this is your first time donating, you will be asked to register with a credit/debit card. Save this number to your smart phone for future giving.

The VLC mobile app offers many new ways for you to have everything you love about Village Lutheran Church right at your fingertips! Listen to this week's sermons, read the latest edition of the Village Voices, or check out the Sunday Bulletin. We now have our church giving incorporated right in the app, too. It takes just a minute to set up and then just a few seconds each time you give. Visit <http://get.theapp.co/wvtv/> or text the code VLCNY to [206-859-9405](tel:206-859-9405). The reply will include a



THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

Reflect, Renew, Rejoice! TCS (November 2021)



October Service Learning/Offering – Gilda's Club!

Special thanks to 7th Grader Lucy Caltabiano for leading our first 2021-2022 Service Learning Project (SL2) for Gilda's Club of Westchester during the month of October. Look for opportunities to support their work beyond making contributions to our weekly Chapel Offerings. Great Job Lucy!

#TCSLeads

November Happenings!

Thursday 11/4: Blue Ribbon Foundation "Sip & Shop" Event at J. McLaughlin in Bronxville! More info to come.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

2022 TCS Golf Outing: Monday 6/13 at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville!

The Chapel School Offering Recipients through December 2021



The Chapel School is proud to support **Feeding America** with our **November** offerings.

Our **December** offerings will go to the **Community Service Associates (CSA) Soup Kitchen** in Mt. Vernon.



"The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!" (Ps. 128:5-6).

Stewardship is a generational thing. Without fail, those who grasp and practice the depth and joy of faithful stewardship have almost always learned it, not from a book or seminar, but from the faithful example of those who paved the way before them. In many churches, the visible generosity of the sanctuary is a clear example. That God's people would be willing to sacrifice for the sake of the joy of the Gospel being proclaimed to subsequent generations, even when they rest from their labors with Jesus is nothing short of remarkable!

We know peace with God because it was passed down to us from earlier generations. This puts our stewardship in a much clearer perspective. So often we have thought of stewardship considering what is needed for the here and now. But the blessing from God is generational. As the Lord allows us to see our children's children, it gives us the opportunity as stewards of God's grace to share the Gospel and its treasure with the generations that follow. This generational stewardship is really nothing other than sharing the peace that is ours in the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

As stewards we respond to God's giving of simple gifts with joy. Joy like this is contagious! It is our goal to have it be catching from one generation to the next. How you respond today, both with the action of faithful stewardship as well as the depth of your generosity, is what causes this joy to spread. Knowing that we are sharing this simple gift is the greatest blessing!

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

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, long-time VLC member Dr. Betty Geiling talks about the meaning of the new wooden chairs and table on the Great Porch, which were given to Concordia College in memory of Professor John Bahr by his family. Dr. Geiling shared: "John was a faithful servant, a professor of the faith who dedicated his life to the mission of Concordia College. He served generations of students as their Dean of Students. John held many positions at once and he was a busy person. However, he always had the time for a conversation with his colleagues and students. He was wise, a trusted mentor, a careful listener, and helped us in our struggle. He was our "go-to" guy and had a magical way of clearing the darkness and leading us to the light. In his final baccalaureate sermon, John stood before the college and the graduates. He was terminally ill—completely out of time—but as always, he invited us into conversation with him.



This conversation was a call and response. He would outline a challenge and end with "God is Good," and we would respond "All the Time". And then he would follow with "All the Time" and we would respond "God is Good." He cleared away the worry and despair with a simple statement of faith. Whatever you are handling, the steadfast truth remains, for all time, that God is Good. The pieces of outdoor furniture are not just beautiful and comfortable; they are also inscribed with those special words. So, next time you are on the Great Porch, sit for a minute and remember: "God is Good, All the Time!"



Elizabeth "Betty" Geiling, MSED, LMHC, PhD is an '86 Education Alum and former Associate Professor and Chair of the Psychology Dept. at Concordia College, Bronxville. She recently earned her PhD in Mental Health Counseling at Pace University. Currently she continues her service to Higher Ed at the College of Mt. St. Vincent in Riverdale as the Director of Counseling. She also is a Lutheran Counseling Center Counselor with experience counseling children of all ages, teens, adults, couples and families (normally at LCC's Bronxville and Manhattan sites, but currently virtually through a HIPAA compliant platform).

Empowered

By Rev. Dr. David Elseroad, LMFT, LCC Pastoral Psychotherapist



This fall, students of all ages are headed back to either virtual or in-person school, preschool on up to graduate school, as well as night classes and self-improvement courses. Many will also begin or continue their "schooling" in mental health therapy. Talk therapy (or counseling) can perhaps best be understood as education, a learning about one's self. Given that education is a quest for knowledge and skills so central to life today, the quest to know one's self in a much more focused and intentional way must be a priority. Therapy gives us this unique opportunity!

People come to therapy with all sorts of concerns—anxiety, depression, anger, relational and family issues, mood swings, addictive behaviors and many others. But as these concerns are discussed, the individual's sense of self that underlies them emerges—a self that is invariably barely known, or denigrated or dismissed, or kept hidden away. You may discover that you don't really know yourself, or that you don't really like yourself, or that you don't have much confidence in yourself. Many a client complains of being "stuck," going around in circles and getting nowhere, of not being heard or heeded, of not accomplishing anything, of not living the life that they want.

Personal empowerment begins with the self. At its most basic, empowerment means "becoming powerful." Everyone has strengths and weaknesses (aka "growing edges") and a range of skills used in everyday situations, but often people remain unaware of, or undervalue, their true self and personal abilities. Empowerment is about looking at who you are and becoming more aware of yourself as a unique individual. It involves developing the confidence and strength to set realistic goals and pursue them with determination. As we discover and reflect on our values, skills and goals in our counseling conversations, and as we adjust our behaviors in order to achieve our goals, we grow in self-awareness, self-esteem and self-confidence. We get "unstuck" and are free to "get somewhere"!

Being "enabled" involves outside control; it is the antithesis of "empowered." It is true that a newborn baby must be enabled to survive. But the wise parent brings a child from a place of enablement into maturity as an empowered human being. Empowered people are able to care for themselves in relational community; are aware of self and others; create their own goals; want to change and believe they can; and act on choices freely made with all the consequences, risks and rewards that follow. "You will receive power..." (Acts 1:8) is a promise from God that we can embrace. Knowing ourselves free and valued before God, and through the special "education" that therapy avails, we can say with St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ who empowers (strengthens) me" (Philippians 4:13). On that empowerment ladder, whatever our goal, we'll own it, initiate it, build it, maintain it and grow it!

Rev. Dr. David Elseroad LMFT is pastor of Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne, NY. Dr. Elseroad, a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, is fluent in French and Spanish. His professional background includes work in multicultural ministries and experiences as pastor, hospital chaplain, missionary and teacher.

**Village Lutheran Church &
The Chapel School**

172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708



VLC-NY.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:

Bill Phipps
In Honor of Larry Cosentino

Jean A. Riedl
In Memory of Scott T. Riedl

Rosemarie Gustafson
In Memory of Gustave Herb Gustafson



New Member Weekend: We will be receiving new members on the weekend of November 13-14. We would love to welcome you to our community officially. To become a member, fill out a form online (<https://www.vlc-ny.org/membership-request-form>), or request a paper form from Pastor Hartwell or the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003.