



# VILLAGE VOICES



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

### **"To Know, Live and Share the Love of Christ!"**

*(The Mission Statement of Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School)*

*I am currently working with our Ministry Clarity Co-Directors, Chris Gleason and Kim Zwisdak, and Consultant Rev. Billy Brath from LCEF, as we lead the congregation through a Ministry Clarity Process (strategic plan) designed to help our church ministries come out strong after the pandemic.*

I continue to review the elements of our Mission Statement, which is the primary guiding directive for our ministry. You are probably familiar that the mission for both our church and school is "to know, live and share the love of Christ." We continue with the third and final part, "to share."



To "share" the love of Christ is to share with all people what we have first received: God's good news of love and forgiveness of sins through Jesus' death and resurrection (John 3:16-17). We share this through God's Word and preaching, through mutual consolation and witnessing, through the waters of

baptism and the bread and wine of Holy Communion, and through caring acts of mercy which are a demonstration of Christ's love in action. Through the "sharing" of Christ's love, the Holy Spirit brings the lost to faith and strengthens the faithful.

Our church is an evangelical church. The word "evangelical" comes from the Greek language, and the original word literally means "good news." Our mission is about more than just "knowing the love of Christ," or even "living" it personally; our deepest hope is to *share* that love, that good news, with others. Modern thinking may somewhat discourage this kind of evangelical approach to religion. The mantra of modernity in the West is that "everyone can believe what they want to believe." And of course, this is true. However, if we truly value what we have received, and if we truly value those around us, then we are called to "share the love of Christ" so that others can experience faith, as well. A thought about Mission Clarity and our commitment to share the love of Christ that is straight from the Hart.

## JOIN US FOR WORSHIP

- In-person services:  
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](http://VLC-NY.org). or  
FaceBook Live
- Prayer Conference call continues on Tuesdays through 6/15 at 6 p.m.  
The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982.

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## VLC WORSHIP UPDATES

**SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE** begins Sunday 7/4. We will offer two services each weekend: Sunday at 9 a.m. on the Great Porch (weather permitting) and 10:45 a.m. (in the sanctuary). This schedule will continue through the Sunday of Labor Day Weekend (Sunday 9/4). The Saturday Service will resume on the weekend of September 11/12.

**STREAMING:** The live stream can be accessed through our website ([VLC-NY.ORG](http://VLC-NY.ORG)) or Facebook Live. This means that you can tune in live (Sunday at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.) or view an archived copy at a later time. As we emerge from the pandemic, this system provides an ongoing in-home option for those who cannot attend church in person. It will also allow anyone who is not in the area to take part virtually in our worship and special events such as First Communion, Confirmation and holiday services.

**GOD BLESS OUR FIRST COMMUNICANTS:** Ten wonderful young people received the sacrament of Holy Communion for the first time at the 10:45 a.m. service (or remotely) on 5/2. May God bless them as they grow in faith.

Shelby Aime  
Drake Benton  
Sean Keough

Julia Passi  
Nico Renzo  
Elise Solon

Gavin Solon  
Miles Solon  
Lauren Tavarez

Jade Wong-Gonzalez

**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY** will be 6/6. If you have a graduate you would like to celebrate, please provide the following graduate information: (1) Name of graduate; (2) Name of school; (3) Plans for fall, if known. Use the back of the Attendance Form in church or contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org). We especially encourage all VLC graduates (8<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, college and graduate school) to attend the 9 a.m. service and The Chapel School graduates to join us at 10:45 a.m. Prayers will be said for our graduates, and our pride and love will be shared along with individually wrapped graduation cookies to enjoy or take home after the service. To be included in the bulletin, please submit your graduate's information no later than Sunday 5/30.

## BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES

### WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/ LWML

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

We would like to thank all the women of our group for continuing to meet during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our study of *Just Enough Light for the Step I'm On: Trusting God in the Tough Times* by Stormie Omartian is now complete. We will be off from June through August, but we are beginning to plan our next study, which will begin on Saturday 9/18 and run through May 2022. Close attention will be paid to the changes in safety protocols as we develop our plans. If you would like to provide any suggestions for topics for the upcoming study; ideas for encouraging more women to participate; or ideas on how our meetings should be structured; please reach out to either Deacon Wendy Krolides at 914-391-9356 or [wafh3273@aol.com](mailto:wafh3273@aol.com), or Terry Vidal at [terry.n.vidal@gmail.com](mailto:terry.n.vidal@gmail.com).

Thank you all for your continued support of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League and your donations through your Mite Boxes. Have a healthy and happy summer.



**Our Prayer Conference call continues each week on Tuesdays at 6:00 p.m. through 6/15.** Join Pastor Hartwell and Minister of Music Deb Reiss for quiet reflective prayer as we join together in thanking God for the blessings He provides and lifting up the needs of the world and our prayer lines during the pandemic.

The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982.

If you have any prayer requests, please fill out the reverse side of the Attendance Form at in-person worship or contact Kim Rapillo, Church Office Administrative Assistant, at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org).

## VLC MUSIC MINISTRY



**Cherub Choir** will conclude for this year on 6/13  
Email Kate Marino at  
[KMarino@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KMarino@TheChapelSchool.org) to receive more information

**Youth & High School Choir** – For information regarding Youth Choir and High School Choir, please email Hannah Pitman at  
[HPitman@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:HPitman@TheChapelSchool.org). We will have a Google Classroom for all announcements.

**Village Bells** will rehearse on Wednesdays 6/2 and 6/9 at 6:30 p.m. and ring in worship on Sunday 6/13. Thank you to our ringers for your dedication and beautiful music through this past year: Jackie Bunn, Evelyn Cea, Ruth DeRosa, Betty-Ann Gotte, Anne Losee, and Diane Snyder

**Pianists and other instrumental soloists** of all ages are encouraged to share their gifts in worship. Please contact Deb Reiss at 914-337-0207 x1018 or  
[DReiss@VLC-NY.org](mailto:DReiss@VLC-NY.org) to make arrangements.



"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.

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES



Lend A Helping Hand With Love



**The Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen:** We will be providing the entire meal on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month. **Our next dates are 6/9 and 6/23.** Please sign up in advance to 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 your assigned day. To volunteer or get more information, please contact Nelly Palumbo at 347-538-2909 or  
[NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:NPalumbo@TheChapelSchool.org).  
Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/Cooking2021> to sign up.

**ECAP:** A drive thru drop-off collection of non-perishable food items will take place on the 3rd Thursday of each month, to benefit ECAP. **The next contact-free event will take place on 6/17.** Donations can be dropped off in the Concordia parking lot from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. Questions? Contact Nelly Palumbo at  
[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).



## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

By Deborah Reiss



As part of the "old covenant" with Israel, God designed very specific means of worship in the tabernacle (later, the temple). Every object and activity was instituted to express a truth about God and to foreshadow His plan of salvation. The "golden lampstand," known to us by its Hebrew name *menorah*, was to be created from one piece of solid gold, with three branches on either side of the center shaft, each branch containing "three cups shaped like almond flowers with buds and blossoms" and four additional almond blossoms on the center stand. The seven lamps at the top had a wick for burning oil and were to be lit by the priest every evening at sundown, with enough oil to burn through the night.

This tree-like shape served as an immediate reminder of the Tree of Life in the Garden of Eden, which had been made inaccessible due to sin. The lampstand was located in the restricted Holy Place and required tending by the priests on behalf of the people. At the same time, the people were called to participate by supplying the olive oil. The burning lights symbolized the glory of God, which was reflected in the consecrated lives of His faithful people. The numbered elements in the design were also symbolic, including seven as the number of completeness and holiness. Additionally, as almond blossoms are the earliest buds in the middle east, the design represents God's promise of renewed life.

The menorahs used for Hanukkah are different, using nine lamps instead of seven and having no specific pattern. The eight-day festival of light commemorates the re-dedication of the temple after the Maccabees had reclaimed it during the inter-testamental period. The first Hanukkah was actually a delayed observance of the Feast of Tabernacles, but then became its own additional holiday. We know from the Gospel of John that Jesus went to Jerusalem for the festivals of Tabernacles and Hanukkah. It was during Tabernacles, however, that Jesus announced, "I am the light of the world." John records many references to Jesus as the light, shining in the darkness and full of the glory of God.

In Revelation 21, John was given a vision of the new Jerusalem that is prepared for all the faithful. It has no temple "because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple." There is no need for a lamp since there is no night and "the Lord God will give them light." There is also the Tree of Life, yielding perpetual fruit and offering healing to all. This is the promise of what is to come for each of us. While we are still in the world, Jesus has said that we are also the light of the world. Like the temple menorah, we reflect the light of God's love and glory to those we meet. We still have candles as a prominent part of worship, and I have been tending to them over this past year. When you see them lit, remember that we have been given the light of life. So let your light shine!

**JUNE 5-6: 2nd Sunday after Pentecost**

Baccalaureate Sunday

**JUNE 12-13: 3rd Sunday after Pentecost**

**There will be a live Children's Message**

**JUNE 19-20: 4th Sunday after Pentecost**

Father's Day Weekend

**at the 9:00 a.m. service on**

**6/6 and 6/13**

**JUNE 26-27: 5th Sunday after Pentecost**

## VLC YOUTH 2021

### VOYAGERS Grades 3 – 6

Join the fun at Voyagers! We will continue our virtual meetings via Zoom on **6/3, 6/10, and 6/24 from 6–6:30 p.m.** If you would like to receive the craft materials for our meetings and/or if you are not on our email list and would like to be added for the Zoom link, please contact Erika Schultz at [tyandbash@aol.com](mailto:tyandbash@aol.com) or 914-414-5542.

### LIFERS & CRUSADERS Grades 7 – 12

**Donuts and Discussions:** We will meet virtually on **Sundays 6/6, 6/13 and 6/20 at 12 p.m.** via Zoom. The Zoom info will be provided to Lifers and Crusaders via text and email. If you would like to be included on our email chain please contact Pastor Geminn at [SGeminn@VLC-NY.org](mailto:SGeminn@VLC-NY.org).

**Fire Pit and S'Mores: Friday 6/11, 7:30 – 9:00 p.m. in the VLC Parking Lot**

### *Start Your Day With Self-Care*

*By Danielle Eisenberg, LCSW*

During these trying times, when the world seems so out of control, it can be helpful to focus on things that are in your control to make your days better. Here are some helpful tips:

1. Start your day an hour earlier. This way your circadian rhythm is in sync (as you should try to wake up with the sun if you can, which will help you sleep better at night). An extra hour will help you set-aside time for self-care. Tip: If needed, put your alarm clock/phone further away so that you have to get up to turn it off.
2. Drink a glass of water (or two). The benefits of water are endless. Water helps you lose weight by kick starting your metabolism, reduces inflammation in your body, boosts brain function, helps immunity, eliminates toxins, and nourishes your skin. Water also reduces fatigue and gives our bodies the natural energy that it needs. Hot water is also known to relieve stress and improve circulation.
3. Write down 3 things you are grateful for and thank God for them. Gratitude is a great way to boost your mood, focus on the good in your life, and make you aware of a different, better perspective. There is no better way to start your day than in prayer, asking Jesus for help, guidance, and strength.
4. Write down one goal that you would like to accomplish today. We often try to accomplish more than is realistic. Keep your goal short and manageable, so that when you complete it you feel a sense of accomplishment and pride. It can be something as small as getting your laundry done or making a phone call to a friend to catch up.
5. Meditating for 10-30 minutes will help your automatic nervous system feel centered and calm, slowing you down so you can stay in the moment and set intention. You can find morning meditations on YouTube, or use the app *Headspace*, or *Calm*.
6. Stretching exercises, light yoga or Pilates practiced for just 10-20 minutes is a great way to help stiff joints and inflammation, making you feel lighter and in less pain. "Calm body=Calm mind". The mind-body connection must be balanced for you to feel your best.
7. Exercise-- even a short 10-minute walk will do. This gets your body and mind ready to start the day, and also gives you a boost of energy and serotonin (the 'feel-good' neurotransmitters our body needs for pleasure).
8. Eat a healthy breakfast. What we put into our body greatly impacts how we feel. Don't skip breakfast as this can cause blood sugar levels to drop, which can cause spurts of anxiety throughout the day.
9. Read the Bible, devotions, prayers, or spend time reading a chapter in a book or magazine you enjoy. If there's no time, audible books are always a great option.
10. Plan your day. It will help you feel in control, focused and on top of things.
11. Take a shower, get dressed, and start your day!

*Danielle counsels adults for anxiety, depression, women's issues and grief/loss and is a couples' counselor. For an appointment or for more information, call LCC at 1-800-317-1173. All sessions are virtual.*

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

## June NEWS @ TCS!



### **Congrats Blue Ribbon Foundation Scholarship Winners!**

Three TCS 5<sup>th</sup> Graders have been awarded BRF Scholarships for 2021-2022, including Kavya Elak (Sharon Peterson Literacy Scholarship), Liam Uhrlass (Kinghan Giving Hearts Scholarship), and Julian Litman (McKnight Upstander/Ally Scholarship.) They will be recognized in

Chapel on "BRF's Blue Day" (6/2) and at VLC/TCS's Baccalaureate Service (6/6).

### **Congrats and Thanks to 2021 *Pro Deo et Schola* Honorees**

Kristin and Doug Londal have had three of their four boys attend TCS, and have been actively involved in our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts and our development work. Most significantly, Kristin has been instrumental in leading the Blue Ribbon Foundation in a new direction as Board President. Under 3 years of her leadership, the BRF has organized a student contest to design a new logo; started new scholarships; successfully run new promotional events in the school and community; and moved our fund balance from just above \$35,000 to over \$280,000. Doug and Kristin are moving to Florida at the end of the school year, but we are truly appreciative of the lasting impact they have had on VLC and TCS. We wish them God's continued blessings!



**TCS 2021 Gathering-Of-Friends Spring Festival was a huge success!** Thanks to all donors, participants and volunteers! Special Thanks to Development Office Project Manager Kim Zwisdak, GOF 2021 Volunteers and our wonderful Co-Chairs, Mrs. Natasha Pierre-Graham and Mrs. Erika Schultz. It was a beautiful outdoor fundraiser and friendraiser for all!

**TCS 2021 Golf Outing at Siwanoy, Monday 5/24 was also a huge success!** Thanks to all the golfers and staff at Siwanoy, especially GM Kevin McQuirk, head golf professional Grant Turner and member sponsor Greg Richter. Thanks again to Kim Zwisdak and Outing Committee members Toby Smith, Geoff Sprague, Preston Flammang, Michael Spiciarich, Howie Strawbridge and Jim Condolff. We raised some significant scholarship money "fore" TCS students while providing a much needed opportunity for people to connect!

**TCS Summer Program 2021, 6/14 – 8/13:** Registration is open! Register today! We were *successfully and safely* open in 2020 and we are *back and better* in 2021! <https://chapelschoolsummercamp.teampages.com/>

### **The Chapel School Offering Recipients**

JUNE: Wildlife Conservation Society (SL2 Project – Ava Al-Omoush and Jillian Rooney)

#GodBlessTCS

#UnitesinHope



I go through different phases when it comes to reading the bible. Sometimes I only read the Gospels or the Prophets and don't think very much about the other parts and stories. But being away from a text for a while can make returning to it all the more powerful; it can hit you in a way that really grabs your attention.

This struck me recently when I was teaching about Abraham's Call in Genesis 12. In this case it was God's call to Abraham to leave everything he knew behind and step out into the unknown, with nothing but trust in God to guide him. We know how the story goes: Abraham heeds the call and, despite many trials and tribulations, God gives him a son and makes a great nation from his descendants. This is an amazing testament to Abraham's faith. Even though he had a secure and comfortable life in Haran, he did not allow his fear to hold him back from answering God's call.

I recently watched a TED Talk in which the speaker noted that biologically speaking, we are wired for comfort. That is, we are wired to choose the path of least resistance. Listening to this talk made me wonder about how often I have avoided the call of Christ in my daily life, considering how challenging it can be to follow His words and ways. I am more inclined to stay in my comfort zone, holding onto opinions and beliefs that are familiar and predictable. It's so easy to fall into this trap, especially these days when it's possible to find a media personality on any given platform to validate our own opinions.

But every day, Jesus seeks to pull us out of such comfort. He calls to us and says, "follow me." It's a challenge to heed that call, but I have often found that it helps to frame it as a form of "letting go" — the letting go of a habit, opinion, approach to life, or (in my case) the need to be right. In some ways, letting go is the essence of the call of Christ. Christianity isn't about getting heavier; it's about getting lighter. Jesus calls us to let go of our sins, our past mistakes, our baggage, our negative self-talk, our family history, and so many other things... and simply follow Him. What might Christ be calling you to let go of?

In Christ,  
Pastor Geminn+

## Thank you to the St Peter's Fund for Special Ministry



On May 1, 2021, Village Lutheran Church began livestreaming services, educational opportunities and The Chapel School programs directly from the sanctuary. The upgrades to the sound and video system were funded in part by a grant from the St Peter's Fund for Special Ministry from St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Huntington, NY. The Fund is an endowment for the support of ministry outside the congregation. This independently managed fund was established to enable extended ministries outside the St. Peter's congregation that could not be supported through

regular benevolence. Recent awardees include St. John the Divine Nightwatch Ministry, the Lutheran Counseling Center and the Seafarers International.

The fund seeks to support four broad areas including: Proclamation, Worship, Educational Ministry and Service. The grant that VLC/TCS received focused mainly on Worship and Proclamation, although we are hoping that the resource may also enable us to offer expanded educational opportunities like book studies and presentations on faith and film to a wider audience. The streaming service also allows The Chapel School to share student programs and parent informational activities that might otherwise be missed due to social distancing requirements or scheduling conflicts. Thank you St. Peter's Fund for blessing our ministry.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS



Sunday School is being offered remotely to families at home. Children who attend in-person services are invited to pick up an activity kit with a snack, coloring sheet and related material on the Sunday School theme of the day. The final Sunday School date for this year is 6/13. If you have any questions, please contact Superintendent Sarah Gleason at [chrisnysarah@netscape.net](mailto:chrisnysarah@netscape.net) or 914-610-0822.

**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:**

James & Dr. Christine Rowe  
In Memory of Kevin Warnken

Daniel & Rachel Wehmeier  
In Memory of Kevin Warnken

Kathryn Galchutt  
In Memory of Kevin Warnken

Christy & Joan Bevers  
In Memory of Grace Blanck

In Memory of Bob Roberts  
By his children and  
grandchildren

Nancy V. Mahler  
In Memory of Herbert W. Mahler

Joyce Holz  
In memory of of Bob Roberts

Willi & Astrid Rosendahl  
In Memory of Robert Roberts

Marion Scaramuzzino  
In Memory of Robert Roberts

