

† SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT †
December 7, 2025

Service of Holy Communion Saturday 5:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m.
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PRELUDE (5:30)	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Hal Hopson
(9:00)	O Come, O Come, Emmanuel	Sandra Eithun

INVOCATION and CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Let us gather under the wings of God's mercy.

C Gracious God, we acknowledge that we are sinners, and we confess our sins – those known to us that burden our hearts, and those unknown to us but seen by You. We know that before You nothing remains hidden. Free us from the weight of sin, and work in us those things that are pleasing in Your sight; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LIGHTING OF THE ADVENT WREATH

P As we light our Advent wreath, we remember the One who comes – Jesus, the light of the world.

C Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

(The first and second candles are lit)

ADVENT CANTICLE O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (LSB Hymn 357, v. 1, 5)
O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

O come, Thou Key of David, come, and open wide our heav'nly home;
make safe the way that leads on high, and close the path to misery.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray:

C Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 11:1-10

¹A shoot shall come out from the stump of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. ²The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. ³His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see or decide by what his ears hear, ⁴but with righteousness he shall judge for the poor and decide with equity for the oppressed of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. ⁵Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist and faithfulness the belt around his loins. ⁶The wolf shall live with the lamb; the leopard shall lie down with the kid; the calf and the lion will feed together, and a little child shall lead them. ⁷The cow and the bear shall graze; their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. ⁸The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. ⁹They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain, for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁰On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 15:4-13

⁴For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. ⁵May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, ⁶that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. ⁷Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. ⁸For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the ancestors ⁹and in order that the gentiles might glorify God for his mercy. As it is written, "Therefore I will confess you among the gentiles, and sing praises to your name"; ¹⁰and again he says, "Rejoice, O gentiles, with his people"; ¹¹and again, "Praise the Lord, all you gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him"; ¹²and again Isaiah says, "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the gentiles; in him the gentiles shall hope." ¹³May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL (*Congregation rising*)

Matthew 3:1-12

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 3rd chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming,
²"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." ³This is the one of whom
the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, "The voice of one crying out in the
wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; make his paths straight.'" ⁴Now John
wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food
was locusts and wild honey. ⁵Then Jerusalem and all Judea and all the region
around the Jordan were going out to him, ⁶and they were baptized by him in the
River Jordan, confessing their sins. ⁷But when he saw many of the Pharisees and
Sadducees coming for his baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers! Who
warned you to flee from the coming wrath? ⁸Therefore, bear fruit worthy of
repentance, ⁹and do not presume to say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham as our
ancestor,' for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to
Abraham. ¹⁰Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; therefore every tree
that does not bear good fruit will be cut down and thrown into the fire. ¹¹I baptize
you with water for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is more
powerful than I, and I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you
with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹²His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear
his threshing floor and will gather his wheat into the granary, but the chaff he will
burn with unquenchable fire."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.**(9:00) CHILDREN'S MESSAGE****HYMN OF THE DAY**

What Hope! An Eden Prophesied

LSB Hymn 342

SERMON

Rev. Mark Budenholzer

APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.****And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by
the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third
day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at
the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to
judge the living and the dead.****I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the
communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the
body, and the life everlasting. Amen.****PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P God of grace,

C hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming

Stan Pethel

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

(5:30) DISTRIBUTION

On Saturdays, distribution will be at the main altar. You will receive the bread first (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired), then the wine in the individual cup. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. Empty cups will be collected at the end.

(9:00) DISTRIBUTION HYMN Comfort, Comfort Ye My People LSB **Hymn 347**

As you come forward, you will receive the bread in your hand (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired); then take the wine in the individual cup from the tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. After drinking, place empty cups in the second tray.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER (*Congregation rising*)

P God for whom we wait, in this meal You have given us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known Your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of Your name; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry (v. 1-2, 5) LSB **Hymn 344**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Chesterfield

Charles Ore

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The 10:45 service this weekend is our annual Round-the-Table Carol Sing.
The order of service is printed on a separate bulletin.

COMMUNION STATEMENT

Village Lutheran Church welcomes to Holy Communion those baptized Christians who: †Know Jesus Christ as their Savior (*John 20:31*); †Recognize that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:29*); †Are able to examine themselves and repent of their sins (*1 Cor. 11:28*); and †Look to God's Holy Spirit for help in living the Christian life (*Col. 1:10*). Persons not receiving Communion may come forward to receive a blessing.

Participants in the Services:

Rev. Mark Budenholzer, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family Ministry
Marcia Kollmann, Associate Organist

	5:30	9:00
Lector	James Maxeiner	Carolyn Fiuza
Youth Asst.		AJ Volcovici
Altar Care	Andrea Maxeiner	Maria Gitter
Usher Team	Volunteer	Mark Runge Anton DeRosa Richard Graham
Sexton		Esther Linn
Refreshments		Gitter Family

Stewardship Reflection

(Fiscal Year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026)

Offering received last week: \$3,462

Offering needed weekly to meet budget: \$5,770

Offering received to date: \$113,937

Offering needed to date: \$121,170

News and Notes:

Flowers in the Chancel are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Florence Halter, whose artwork and artistic eye helped to shape our worship space, and in loving memory of Rev. Dr. Thomas Sluberski on his birthday, December 7.

Youth Holiday Tag Sale – There is still time to pick up holiday items and support our youth! Check out part two of our holiday tag sale **in the Friendship Room on December 6-7.**

Voter's Meeting – Please join us for our next Voter's Meeting on **Sunday, December 7**, at noon (following our Round-the-Table Carol Sing). Pizza will be provided before the meeting begins.

Poinsettias and Wreaths for Christmas – Another way to help decorate is to order a poinsettia plant for the sanctuary or a wreath for the exterior doors. These will be added by the weekend before Christmas (December 20-21) and poinsettias may be taken home after Christmas Eve. The donation is \$30 per plant or wreath and may be made in honor or memory of a loved one. **Please place your orders no later than Sunday, December 7.** Make checks payable to Village Lutheran Church. Use the pew card or pew envelope, or contact the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org

Gift Wrapping Fundraiser – Bring your gifts and let us wrap them beautifully for the holidays! Hosted by Trustee Davey Chandler on **Saturday, December 13, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.** Suggested donation is \$20 in support of our church and school.

Winter Worship – We will have our regular Saturday evening service at 5:30 p.m. on December 6 and 20. December 13 is the German Christmas service, and the weekend of December 27-28 has one combined service on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. The winter schedule begins in January with services on Sundays at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

German Christmas will be held on **Saturday, December 13, at 5:30 p.m.** We welcome back from Germany Pastor Klaus Gress to offer a message "auf Deutsch" as we hear readings in German and sing traditional German hymns. **Volunteers are needed** to bring desserts for the reception afterwards. Additional German lectors are also welcome. If you would like to assist, please fill out the pew card or contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss **by December 8** at 914-337-0207, x1018 or Dreiss@VLC-NY.org

Sunday School Pageant – The children and youth of our congregation lead worship and tell the Christmas story on **Sunday, December 14, at 9:00 a.m.** We will have a regular Advent communion service at 10:45.

COFFEE HOUR VOLUNTEERS are needed for December through the spring. Please sign up on the bulletin board in the MPR.

SOUP KITCHEN – Prepare food in aluminum trays (available at the Reception desk) and drop-off in the parking lot from 12:00-1:00. Please go to our church web site to sign up and indicate what food you will prepare. The next date is **Wednesday, December 17.** Contact Katie Bukofzer at etakwhit@aol.com.

Service of 9 Lessons & Carols – You are cordially invited to this traditional church and school service led by choirs of The Chapel School on **Wednesday, December 17, at 7:00 p.m.** Hear the promise of salvation from Genesis to John, with musical reflections on each reading and the theme "You are the Light of the World."

Christmas Eve Eucharist – We would like to introduce a new worship opportunity with Holy Communion for Christmas. A brief spoken communion liturgy will begin after the 8:00 p.m. service, **at 9:20 p.m.** If you would like to partake, please gather in the front pews and join us for quiet reflection and the sacrament.

“Strengthening God’s House” Capital Campaign Pledges – There is still time to make an impact! Every pledge is meaningful as we join together to keep our church and school in good working order. Please prayerfully consider what you might give and pledge today. Thank you for helping to sustain our ministry.

Wednesday Bible Study – On December 10 we will continue with Jesus’ “I am” statements in John chapter 10.

Music Ministry: Rehearsals this week will be as follows:

- ❖ High School Choir – Sunday, Dec. 14, at 10:15 a.m.
- ❖ Village Bells – OFF Wed., Dec. 10; rehearse Dec. 17 at 5:00 p.m.
- ❖ Youth Choir – Thurs., Dec. 11, at 7:00 p.m.; Sunday, Dec. 14, at 8:30 a.m.
- ❖ Chancel Choir – OFF Thurs., Dec. 11, and Sunday, Dec. 14

Youth News: Voyagers (Grades 3-6) meet on Thursday, Dec. 11 at 6:00 p.m.; Lifers (Grades 7-8) Confirmation class on Sunday, Dec. 7

- ❖ **Gift Wrapping** – On December 11, Voyagers are invited to bring gifts for children at risk and wrap them.
- ❖ **Christmas Parties** – On December 18, Voyagers will hold a gift exchange. Please bring a pair of wrapped Christmas socks, mittens, hat or scarf, and a dessert to share. Lifers will also have a Christmas party.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Adele Acosta, Giovana Boniello, Dave Condon, Davenport Family (William, Jordan, Joshua, Sonya, Wayne), Amani Fahr, Michelle Ghiorso, Anita Gould, Brandi Grissmeyer, Logan Grissmeyer, Anita Kebschull, Sue Kobylack, Ilse Koerper, Michaela Kroppe, Christy Krum, Freddie Lando, Michelle Liscoe, Robert & Susan & Rosalind Magilton, Douglas Miller, Rome Martello, Cole Martello, Aaliyah Pedrosa, Elizabeth Pedrosa, Jose Pedrosa, Paola Pedrosa, Torrey Pietarinen, Elaine Podszus, John Scaramuzzo, Joanne Stellmaszyk

SUMMARY OF CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY

The September 2025 congregational survey provided a clear picture of Village Lutheran Church’s character, challenges, and hopes for the future. Respondents described VLC as a long-established yet dynamic community rooted in Scripture, worship, and music, with a welcoming and family-like spirit. Members seek to strengthen youth and family engagement, expand the church’s community presence, and deepen ties with The Chapel School. Financial sustainability and clear communication are also key goals. The congregation envisions a compassionate, grounded pastor—an inspiring communicator and thoughtful leader—able to connect across generations, guide growth, and foster unity in faith and purpose.

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG

Connect Card – Scan QR code to contact us via digital link

