



VILLAGE VOICES



Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School 2025-2026 Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Worship & Special Events

We invite you to be a part of the many opportunities for worship, fellowship, and service offered in honor of the birth of our Savior Jesus. Holiday highlights, services, and fellowship events are listed below.



First Sunday of Advent

November 29-30

- Saturday, 5:30 PM Worship
- Sunday, 9 AM Worship
- Sunday, 10:45 AM Worship
- Sunday, 12 PM Decorating Pizza Party

Second Sunday of Advent

December 6-7

- Saturday, 5:30 PM Worship
- Sunday, 9 AM Worship
- Sunday, 10:45 AM Round-the-Table Carol Sing
(Worship led by Music Ministry)
- Sunday, 12 PM Voter's Meeting

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13-14

- Saturday, 5:30 PM German Christmas Service
(dessert reception following)
- Sunday, 9 AM Sunday School Christmas Pageant
- Sunday, 10:45 AM Worship

Service of Lessons & Carols

Wednesday, December 17

- 7 PM Worship
(Led by The Chapel School Choirs)

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 20-21

- Saturday, 5:30 PM Worship
- Sunday, 9 AM Worship
- Sunday, 10:45 AM Worship

Christmas Eve

Wednesday, December 24

- 5 PM Family Christmas Service
(Children's Choirs)
- 8 PM Candles and Carols with Choirs



First Sunday After Christmas

December 28

- 10 AM Worship (one combined service)

Epiphany Sunday

January 4

- 9 AM Worship
- 10:45 AM Communion
- 12 PM Undecorating Pizza Party



Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School

172 White Plains Rd. + Bronxville, NY 10708

914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.org + www.TheChapelSchool.org



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- For those who can't join us in-person, live stream worship at VLC-NY.org, on Facebook, or YouTube.
- No Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call this month. Join us in January.

In this issue

Bible Study	2
The Chapel School News	6
Focus on Worship	4
Fellowship News	7
Memorial / Honored Voices	8
Music Ministry	4
Outreach Opportunities	3
Youth News	5

WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



We are enjoying our exploration of the Gospel of John and will continue through the end of the year. This will include chapter 10 on Jesus the Good Shepherd and chapter 11 on the raising of

Lazarus. Please note that our last session for 2025 is Wednesday 12/17. We will take a break over the holidays and resume in January on Wednesday 1/14.

Village Lutheran Church SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER



There will be no Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call this month.

Join us in January on the last Tuesday of the month (1/27) at 6:00 p.m.

Simply call 1-732-434-3982 and pray with our community. Invite a friend.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

IRA, QCD, RMD ... Acronyms to GIVE By!

By Kevin Cook

The United States tax code is filled with acronyms and rules and regulations, but the good news for faithful church members "of a certain age" is this: you can support Village Lutheran Church in a generous way with little impact on your daily living.

This past February 9th I turned 70-and-a half and was able to donate our full pledge to church from one of our IRAs! What a pleasure to be able to give our full intended support through a QCD – a *Qualified Charitable Distribution* – and to pay it up front in a new fiscal/calendar year? Heaven! A few guidelines as you consider your strong stewardship of God's great blessings:

- A. QCDs are only available to IRA owners aged 70 ½ or older. They may not be given from employer plans like a 401 (k).
- B. For 2025 the maximum amount to be given is \$108,000 – and if you can bless the VLC and Chapel School at that level, God bless you even more!
- C. Discuss with your financial advisor the timing of the QCD if taking other RMD (Required Minimum Distribution) withdrawals.
- D. And most importantly, the donation must be paid directly from the IRA to the eligible charity – you request the check to be written and sent; you do not write or mail a check.

For many of us, this strategy allows us to continue supporting our beloved church even as we ease into retirement. I don't often feel like the IRS "has my back," but this works for me, for the church, and to the glory of God! I hope you'll talk to your financial advisor about making a QCD as this year ends or the new one begins. Another way to be a cheerful giver!

PLEASE JOIN US ON

Sunday, December 7, 2025

Time: 12 Noon

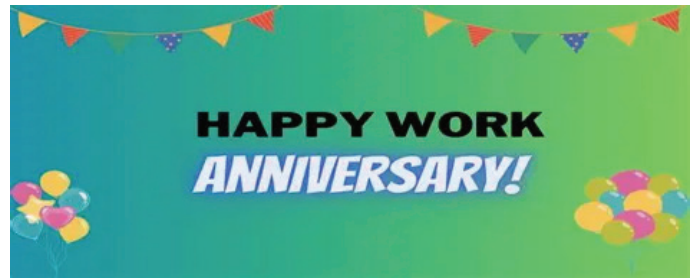
**FOLLOWING THE 10:45 AM
ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING SERVICE**

FOR OUR

VOTER'S MEETING

**A PIZZA LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED
FOR ALL WHO ATTEND.**

Location: MPR



Thank you to the following VLC/TCS team members who are celebrating a work anniversary this month. We are blessed by their dedication and support, and we honor the contributions made and the gifts brought to our church and school.

DECEMBER

Luba Dzwonczyk, 1st Grade Teacher, 25 years
Lorelei Heath, Sexton/ PT Librarian,
PT Care Coordinator, 8 years
Mark Budenholzer, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth & Family
Ministries, 3 years

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

Soup Kitchen Partnership

VLC and TCS provide the ENTIRE meal for the Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month.

Our next date is: December 17

We need volunteers to prepare enough food to feed 80 people.



Please pick up a small aluminum tray from the reception desk, available after church services and during VLC & TCS hours.

Bring the cooked food trays to the VLC parking lot, between 12:00-1:00PM, on the third Wednesday for collection. The food will be delivered to the soup kitchen by our VLC volunteers.

Sign up today at:

www.tinyurl.com/MealCooking

For more information, please contact
VLC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Katie Bukofzer
at: ETAKWHIT@aol.com



A menu is developed and coordinated by the Soup Kitchen, which includes a meat (or casserole), vegetable, and dessert.

Crochet Ministry

**Crochet Class is paused
for the Winter.**

**You can pick up yarn if you wish
to continue on your own.**

**Knitters are also welcome to pick up yarn for
prayer shawls or other projects.**

**Contact Kim Rapillo at 914-337-0207 x 1003
in the church office
or Krapillo@vic-ny.org.**

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss

Put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires...put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. (Ephesians 4:22, 24)



Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. It also signals the full onset of the "holiday season" leading into Christmas and a new calendar year. New Year's Eve is famous for generating resolutions to start some thing new and beneficial or give up something that has been a persistent problem. These resolutions are also famous, of course, for being broken or never even attempted.

John the Baptist was sent to "prepare the way" so that people would realize the long promised Messiah had arrived. John called for them to examine their lives, change the ways that were counter to God's will, and

wash in the Jordan as a baptism of repentance. Luke's Gospel includes practical applications as to what this means: Share what you have, do not take advantage of others to enrich yourself, be content with your pay, and always tell the truth (Luke 3:11-14). After Jesus' ministry was concluded and people were being baptized into Christ, there was still the problem of sinful people stuck in their old ways. Paul offered similar encouragement and examples to the Ephesians: Speak the truth, do not let the sun go down on your anger, use your words to build up rather than tear down, replace bitterness and rage with kindness and compassion, forgive one another (Ephesians 4:25-32). We are all still grappling with our old and new selves.

The good news of Christmas is that Jesus came into the world as a human being who was completely holy and righteous. His life displayed this holiness and it help us to see how to live. Jesus also promised that streams of living water would flow from within through the gift of the Holy Spirit so that we could bear good fruit. We have already been made new in baptism, yet we are still vulnerable to sin. As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we have an opportunity to look at our lives and find ways to be holy as God intended. We won't always get it right, and our good intentions may falter, but we are given a chance every day to put off that old sinful self and let the love of Christ be born in our hearts. Now that's the holiday spirit!

MUSIC MINISTRY - CHRISTMAS 2025

ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING



"The Christmas Rose"

Sunday 12/7 – 10:45 a.m.

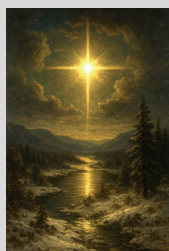
A service of readings, hymns, and carols to honor the birth of our Savior with choirs, handbells and strings

GERMAN CHRISTMAS

Readings, hymns and homily "auf Deutsch"

Saturday 12/13 – 5:30 p.m.

We welcome back Pastor Klaus Gress from Oberndorf, Germany



SERVICE OF 9 LESSONS & CAROLS

"You are the Light of the World"

Wednesday 12/17 – 7:00 p.m.



CHRISTMAS EVE

5:00 p.m. Cherub, Youth and H.S. Choirs

8:00 p.m. Chancel and Handbell Choirs

VLC YOUTH

VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

Voyagers is open to anyone in grades 3 – 6. Please join us and bring a friend! We usually meet three times per month on Thursdays at 6:00-7:00 p.m. Please enter the Church/School from the school reception doors. At the end of the meeting, Youth will be escorted out to the school doors and dismissed to their cars. Or, if Youth are going to choir, they will be dropped off there.

Our meetings this month will be 12/4, 12/11, and 12/18 in the MPR.

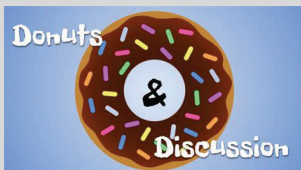
12/11 - Gift Wrapping Event: Gift Giving for Children at RISK of Foster Care in Westchester County: We will once again be participating in this rewarding servant event. This is an often-missed population. Voyagers, please bring your unwrapped gift to the 12/11 meeting. We also ask that if you purchase anything that requires batteries, to please provide them. Although every gift is very much appreciated and wanted, this year we are asking for special consideration for the preteen – teenage population. Gift cards are always welcome (i.e. Target, Old Navy, Best Buy, CVS etc.). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Erika. Thank you in advance for helping out!

12/18 - Christmas Party: For our gift exchange this year, please bring a pair of wrapped Christmas socks or mittens or a hat or a scarf to exchange. Please bring a dessert to share. If you have any questions, please email Erika Schultz at tyandbash@aol.com Thanks!

LIFERS Grades 7–8

Confirmation is a two year program for kids in 7th and 8th grade. One year we focus on the story of scripture and the other year we focus on the teachings of scripture. It's a good time and a very formative time in which the confirmands grow in their relationship with God and in their understanding of their faith. If you have any questions please contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Mark Budenholzer at MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG.

CRUSADERS Grades 9–12



Calling all 9-12 graders! Donuts and Discussion will meet in the office suite on 12/21. Donuts will be provided! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please email Crusader Youth Leader, Amy Heath at amyheath1023@gmail.com

ALL YOUTH



THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

2024 TCS Christmas Concerts & Musical Offerings

Tuesday, December 2 @ 5 PM @ Radio City Music Hall
TCS Select Choir performs before The Christmas Spectacular

Friday, December 5 @ 9 AM @ VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)
Preschool 3-Year-Olds Christmas Program

Monday, December 8 @ 7 PM @ VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)
K-4/Intermediate Band Christmas Concert

Tuesday, December 9 @ 7 PM @ VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)
Grades 5-8/Advanced Band Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 11 @ 9 AM @ VLC/TCS (Friendship Room)
Preschool 2s Jesus's Birthday Sing-Along

Friday, December 12 @ 9 AM @ VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)
PreK 4s/Junior K 4-Year-Olds Christmas Program

Wednesday, December 17 @ 7 PM @ VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)
Lessons and Carols Advent Service featuring TCS Choirs

MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2026!

2026 Gathering-Of-Friends at *Surf Club on The Sound* in New Rochelle on Friday, March 20, 2025.
Sponsorships and Tickets on sale soon!

The Chapel School Offering Recipients ~ December 2025 & January 2026
DECEMBER - Community Service Associates Soup Kitchen, Mt. Vernon.
JANUARY – Bronx Works SL2 Project led by TCS 8th Grader Max Tinson.



Thank you to all our participants and their supporters!



Join us
FOR THE ANNUAL
CHRISTMAS DECORATING
Party!

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 30 at 12 NOON

The holiday season is fast approaching, and the First Sunday of Advent comes at the end of Thanksgiving weekend. We will be decorating our church and campus and need your help!

Pizza will be provided for all volunteers.
If you wish, bring a dessert to share!

Please RSVP to Kim Rapillo

914-337-0207 x. 1003
by Monday, 11/25



DECEMBER 9, 2025
CHRISTMAS LUNCH
SENIOR LUNCHBUNCH!

JOIN US AT OUR CHRISTMAS LUNCH BUNCH
LUNCHEON IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM ON

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2025

ARRIVE AT 11:30AM

LUNCH BEGINS AT 12:30 PM

PLEASE RSVP TO KIM RAPILLO BY 12/1/25

AT KGRAP@VLC-NY.ORG

OR BY PHONE: 914-337-0207 X.1003

FREE WILL OFFERING ACCEPTED



ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING
"The Christmas Rose"



*A service of readings, hymns, and carols
to honor the birth of our Savior.*



Led by the VLC Music Ministry

Sunday, December 7, 2025
10:45 a.m.



Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst
German Christmas Service

Bibel Lektionen und Lieder
Samstag, den 13 Dezember—17:30 Uhr
Pfarrer Klaus Gress, Prediger (Guest Preacher)

A service of lessons and carols "auf Deutsch"
Saturday, December 13—5:30 PM

Dessert Reception Following

Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School
172 White Plains Rd., Bronxville, NY
914-337-0207

Also Streamed Live at WWW.VLC-NY.org

Gesegnete Weihnachten
und ein glückliches neues Jahr!

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The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org

Return Service Requested

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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

In Loving Memory of John Waters Eaton
from his loving wife, Teresa Eaton

In Loving Memory of Richard Forlano
from Jean Hanson

In Loving Memory of Elizabeth A. O'Mara
from Betty Lou Held & Family

In Loving Memory of Sharon Sjonvall
from Christina Ling

In Loving Memory of Rev. Rudy DeRosa
from Kevin & Deborah Cook

In Honor of Pastor Robert Hartwell
from Teresa Eaton

In Honor of Riley Rose Reda
from her loving parents,
Samantha & Michael,
on the celebration of her Baptism

