



# VILLAGE VOICES



## VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH & THE CHAPEL SCHOOL 2023-2024 Advent/Christmas/Epiphany Worship & Fellowship



We invite you to be part of the many opportunities for worship, fellowship and service in celebration of the birth of our Lord. Holiday highlights, services and fellowship events are listed below.

### FIRST WEEK OF ADVENT

**Saturday, December 2**  
**Sunday, December 3**

Worship 5:30 pm  
Worship 9:00 & 10:45 am  
**Decorating Pizza Party** 12 noon



### SECOND WEEK OF ADVENT

**Saturday, December 9**  
**Sunday, December 10**

Worship 5:30 pm  
**Sunday School Christmas Pageant** 9:00 am  
Worship 10:45 am

### THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT

**Saturday, December 16**

Worship 5:30 pm

**Sunday, December 17**

**Frank Rendo Christmas Concert** 7:30 pm

Worship 9:00 am

**Round-the-Table Carol Sing** 10:45 am (*church choirs*)

**Wednesday, December 20**

**Service of Nine Lessons & Carols** 7:00 pm (*school choirs*)

### FOURTH WEEK OF ADVENT

**Saturday, December 23**  
**Sunday, December 24**

**German Christmas Service** 5:30 pm  
**Morning Worship** 10:00 am (*one combined service*)



### SUNDAY, CHRISTMAS EVE

**December 24**

**Family Christmas Eve** (*children's choirs*) 5:00 pm  
**Candles and Carols** (*adult choirs*) 8:00 pm

### MONDAY, CHRISTMAS DAY

**December 25**

**Christmas Communion Service** 10:00 am

### NEW YEAR'S EVE

**Sunday, December 31**  
(no Saturday service until March)

**Morning Worship** 10:00 am  
(*one combined service*)



### EPIPHANY OBSERVED

**Sunday, January 7**

Worship 9:00 & 10:45 am  
**Undecorating Pizza Party** 12 noon

Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School + 172 White Plains Rd. + Bronxville, NY 10708  
914-337-0207 + [WWW.VLC-NY.ORG](http://WWW.VLC-NY.ORG) + [WWW.TheChapelSchool.org](http://WWW.TheChapelSchool.org)

### FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

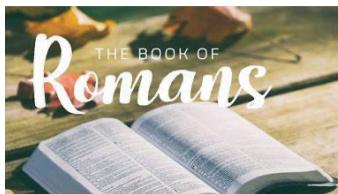
- Saturday Worship at 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
- For those who can't join us in-person, live stream worship at VLC-NY.org or on Facebook or YouTube.
- There will be no Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference in December.

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## WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



We are in the final section of Romans, as Paul addresses practical issues of how we live together as God's people. There will be no class on Wednesdays 12/27 and 1/3 during the Christmas break.



### Deutscher Weihnachtsgottesdienst *German Christmas Service*

Bibel Lektionen und Lieder  
**Samstag, den 23 Dezember** 17:30 Uhr  
Pfarrer David Elseroad, Prediger (*Preaching*)

*A service of lessons and carols*

**Saturday, December 23 at 5:30 PM**

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

Also Streamed Live at [WWW.VLC-NY.ORG](http://WWW.VLC-NY.ORG)  
Facebook and YouTube Channels

**Gesegnete Weihnachten und ein glückliches  
neues Jahr!**

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!**

### THE TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE



There is no prayer conference call in December.

We will resume in the new year on Tuesday 1/30.

## 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 values of the Chapel School + Prepare for adult baptism or confirmation + Join the Church +Talk and learn about your faith in a caring environment.  
Join Pastor Hartwell for GodConnects.  
VIA ZOOM or in-person  
7:00 PM-8:30 PM (EST)  
Tuesday, January 23, 30 and February 6, 2024  
Meeting ID: 873 8184 1322  
Passcode: 196690



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[LHM.ORG/GODCONNECTS](http://LHM.ORG/GODCONNECTS)



### Save the Date! Christmas Vacation Bible School At Trinity Lutheran Church in Scarsdale

December 28th & 29th

9 am to 12 pm  
(Ages 4-11)

Christmas Carols  
Bible Stories & Lessons  
Christmas Cookie Decorating  
Crafts & Games



## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

### Soup Kitchen Partnership

VLC and TCS are providing the ENTIRE meal for the Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month.  
Our next date is 12/20

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



Please pick up small aluminum trays ahead of time at the Reception Desk. Bring the cooked food trays between 12:00pm - 1:00pm, on the third Wednesday for collection, in the VLC parking lot. These will then be delivered to the soup kitchen.

A menu will be developed each month which will include the meat (or casserole), vegetable, and dessert. No salad requested.



Sign up today at:  
<https://tinyurl.com/MealCooking>

For more information, contact Katie at [ETAKWHIT@aol.com](mailto:ETAKWHIT@aol.com)



**ST. MONICA'S CIRCLE:** St. Monica was born in the 4th century and she is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. Her faith and dedication to motherhood played a pivotal role in the spiritual formation of one of the most brilliant philosophers and well-known saints of all time - Saint Augustine, her son. VLC has a long running ministry to new parents in her name. Carolyn Fiuza is our coordinator.

St. Monica's Circle (SMC) is a collection of volunteers who work together to provide a caring meal (for three days) to new parents after birth or adoption of a child. All St. Monica's Circle volunteers will get the announcement and specifications (special requests, family size, allergies, etc..) to see if their schedule allows. Volunteers either take a certain date or pass for the next time.

Not on the volunteer list? Send us your name, email and phone number and we will add you to the Volunteer list.



Recently an attic cleanout turned out items that are unneeded but had value. Rather than wait for the annual tag sale, Pastor Hartwell and Maureen Mannion, our afternoon receptionist, created a Poshmark Closet with all proceeds benefiting future youth mission trips. The

Three-month trial has already seen a profit. If you would like to see our Poshmark Closet go to <https://posh.mk/eTzsnkACODb>. Haven't tried Poshmark yet? Sign up with code "VLCTCS" and get \$10.

## STEWARSHIP NEWS

*"And behold, the star that they had seen when it rose went before them until it came to rest over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy" (Matt. 2:9b-10).*

Did you know that stewardship can lead you to know true joy? For those who have been in the Church for any length of time, this might sound really surprising. But the Wise Men show us this joy.

The Wise Men did not know joy because of what they had done. They knew the joy of receiving the gift of God! The creation, through the star, had caused them to set out on a journey. It brought them to an unwitting and unwilling Herod. But what finally pointed them to their ultimate goal, the King of the Jews? It was the Word. The Word of God that the scribes had quoted to Herod proved to be true. They had found the palace of the king!

But it was no palace. It was a place. It was a simple home. The Lord had come to dwell among His people in the simplest of ways. Through stewardship of creation and Word, they were led to find this place. Pointed to the truth by the management of Word and world, the Wise Men found joy. This joy is more than a feeling. It is a person. The joy comes from meeting Jesus.

Your stewardship of God's simple gifts is used by Him to guide others to Jesus. Most times that is your faithful financial support of our work together in the Church. Other times it is found in the simple acts of generosity that show the people around you that you have the joy of knowing Jesus. This takes money, time and a willingness to be in the Word and at the Lord's Table. You can only steward the joy of God's presence when you are present with Him. That is where you find the joy the Wise Men know. It is that joy, as steward, that you are called to give to others!

Yes, you too can be a steward of the Wise Men's joy. The simple gift of God's Word will show this to you. In the coming year, make it a priority to be in God's house and at His Table weekly. Then you will know the contagious joy of being a steward of God's simple gifts!

Simple Gifts: A series of devotions on stewardship can be found at [www.LCMS.org/stewardship](http://www.LCMS.org/stewardship)



## JOIN TEAM CHAPEL ARTS 2024 UNITED AIRLINES NYC HALF MARATHON

The Chapel School has five guaranteed entries into the 2024 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  
914-337-3202 (1040) or [KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto: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, March 17, 2024.

## VLC MUSIC MINISTRY

### Sing and make music to the Lord!

We are preparing special music of the season. Round-the-Table Carol Sing, our musical Christmas celebration, is Sunday 12/17 at 10:45, with multiple choirs, brass, bells and strings.



On Christmas Eve we will feature our children's choirs at 5:00 p.m. and adult choirs at 8:00 p.m. ***"Glory to God in the highest and peace to all on earth."***

**Deborah Reiss:** Chancel Choir, FaithWalk, Village Bells  
914-337-0207, x1018 · [DReiss@VLC-NY.org](mailto:DReiss@VLC-NY.org)

**George Heath:** Youth Choir, HS Choir, Village Brass  
914-337-0207, x1012 · [GHeath@VLC-NY.org](mailto:GHeath@VLC-NY.org)

# Thank You!

Pastor Rob and Mrs. Sue Hartwell would like to thank the church and school community for the appreciation plaque and congregational gift given on the occasion of his 30th Anniversary of Ordination and 25th year as a Pastor at Village Lutheran Church and the Chapel School.

Pastor shared in remarks at services on November 5 that he and Sue feel blessed to serve alongside ***the best*** church and school community, lay leaders, and faculty and staff. May God bless our ministry as we "know, live and share the love of Christ" together.



Thank you to the following VLC/TCS team members who are celebrating an anniversary of their total work history in December. We are blessed by their dedication and support and honor the work that they do and the gifts that they bring to our church and school.

Mark Budenholzer, Associate Pastor/Director of Youth and Family Ministries, 1 year

Lorelei Heath, Youth Sexton, 6 years

Joshua Geiling, Teacher G7 Religion, 13 years

Luba Dzwonczyk, PS4 D5 XDay Teacher, 23 years

## VLC YOUTH

### VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

Voyagers is open to all incoming students in Grades 3–6 and friends are always welcome. **We will meet on Thursdays 12/7, 12/14 and 12/21 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.** At the end of the Thursday meetings, 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](mailto:tyandbash@aol.com).

**12/14 Christmas Party/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 12/14 meeting.** We will be wrapping them together in the MPR. 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!

**For the Christmas Party portion of the evening:** Please bring a dessert to share and a pair of wrapped socks to exchange.

**12/21 Caroling** We hope everyone can join us as we go caroling in Bronxville. Meet in the church reception at 6:00 p.m. Please let Erika know if your parent/guardian can drive. Pick-up at the church at 7:00 p.m.

### LIFERS Grades 7–8

Confirmation classes for 7th and 8th grade families continue on Sunday mornings and select Thursday nights. Confirmation is a two-year program that equips our youth to understand and live out their Christian faith. If you would like to register your child for the program, please go to <https://www.vlc-ny.org/confirmation-form> or call the church office for more information. All Village Lutheran members, Chapel School students and community youth are welcome. New 8th graders are also welcome (we will catch you up!). If you have any questions please contact our Director of Youth and Family Ministries Pastor Mark Budenholzer ([MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG)).

### CRUSADERS Grades 9–12

This year we will dive deeper into WHY we do what we do. Are our actions PURPOSEFUL MOVEMENT? VLC Bible verse is Isaiah 40:31 "**they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.**" Isaiah describes each movement with conviction and unwavering faith. How can we purposefully move with intention, passion and keep Jesus at the center? Let's discuss!



**Calling all 9-12 graders!** Please join us **after the 9 a.m. service on Sundays 12/3, 12/10 and 12/17 in Room 209.** (*Classroom above the church*)

**DEEPER:** Each month 7th-12th graders are invited to join us as we look more deeply into God's word to be more deeply formed in him. **The next Deeper is scheduled for 12/14 at 6:00 p.m.** If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Youth and Family Ministries Pastor Mark Budenholzer ([MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG) ).

**Senior Youth Servant Event: Summer 2024 Guatemala** interested in going to Guatemala this summer? Please send Amy Heath an email for more details! For those interested, we will have a virtual meeting on 12/5 at 7p.m. Link will be sent out closer to the date. If you have any questions please email Crusader Youth Leader, Amy Heath at [amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us every week for Sunday School at our 9a.m. service. December is a big month! We'll be learning about Advent, having our Christmas Pageant at the 9 a.m. service on 12/10, and having a special lesson about Christmas. All of these will lead up to our Christmas services. It's a great time to be at church! For more information, feel free to contact our Director of Youth and Ministries Pastor Mark Budenholzer ([MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG) ) or our Sunday School Superintendent Sarah Gleason ([christnysarah@netscape.net](mailto:christnysarah@netscape.net)).

**SAVE THE DATES - 1st COMMUNION INSTRUCTION:** 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 2024 are Wednesdays 2/28, 3/6 and 3/13.** There will also be Early First Communion Lock-in on Friday 3/1 from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. 1st Holy Communion will be at a special Service on St. Patrick's Day (Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 10:45 a.m.). The 1st Communion Registration is online at [www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG) under the Forms tab. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 914-337-0207 x1003.



## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz



### Grades 1-3 Fall Musical Willy Wonka Kids!



### 2022 TCS Christmas Concerts & Musical Offerings

**Monday, December 4** at 7 p.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **Grades 3-4/Intermediate Band Christmas Concert**

**Friday, December 8** at 9 a.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **Preschool 3-Year-Olds Christmas Program**

**Monday, December 11** at 12:30 p.m. at J.C. Fogarty's **Select Choir at Bronxville Rotary**

**Monday, December 11** at 7 p.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **Kindergarten Christmas Program**

**Tuesday, December 12** at 5 p.m. at Radio City Music Hall **TCS Select Choir performs before The Christmas Spectacular**

**Wednesday, December 13** at 9 a.m. at VLC/TCS (Friendship Room)  
**Mon/Wed Preschool 2s Jesus's Birthday Sing-Along**

**Wednesday, December 13** at 7 p.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **Grades 1-2 Christmas Concert**

**Thursday, December 14** at 9 a.m. at VLC/TCS (Friendship Room)  
**Tues/Thurs Preschool 2s Jesus's Birthday Sing-Along**

**Friday, December 15** at 9 a.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **PreK 4s/Junior K 4-Year-Olds Christmas Program**

**Monday, December 18** at 7 p.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary) **Grades 5-8/Advanced Band Christmas Concert**

**Wednesday, December 20** at 7 p.m. at VLC/TCS (Sanctuary)  
**Lessons and Carols Advent Service featuring TCS Choirs**

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS for 2024!

**Friday, March 15, 2024** **2024 Gathering-Of-Friends "Le Jardin des Rêves" at Mulino's at Lake Isle in Eastchester**  
Sponsorships and tickets on sale at [www.Gathering-of-friends.com](http://www.Gathering-of-friends.com).

**Thursday, May 30, 2024** **Select Choir Anthem and First Pitch ... NY Mets v. AZ Diamondbacks!**

**Monday, June 3, 2024** **2024 TCS Golf Outing at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville.**

### The Chapel School Offering Recipients

**DECEMBER - Community Service Associates Soup Kitchen, Mt. Vernon.**

**JANUARY - Foodbank for NYC SL2 Project led by TCS 6<sup>th</sup> Grader Aven Spiciarich.**

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Christmas Music by The Chapel School Students

**Tuesday  
 December 12, 2023**

**Arrive at 11:30 AM  
 Lunch at Noon**

**RSVP by December 10th**

**914-337-0207x1003**

**KRAPILLO@VLC-NY.ORG**



### Special Thanks to our 2024 Gathering of Friends Co-Chairs: Maura Condolff & Kate Marino

Our planning is actively underway and we would love your help bringing our theme to life. If you are interested and able to volunteer on a committee please contact the Development Office at [KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KZwisdak@TheChapelSchool.org) or (914) 337-0207 x1040

There are many ways you can participate and help the Gala to be a success:

- \* Consider donating a gift certificate or a bottle of wine.
- \* Reach out to businesses you frequent to see if they are willing to donate an item, certificate or purchase a sponsorship package.
- \* Do you, a friend or employer have a vacation home you can offer for a weekend getaway?
- \* Think about your network of family and friends... anyone have access to tickets to a show or sporting event?
- \* Consider purchasing a Sponsorship. This early support is crucial to the Gathering of Friends.



**Join us for our Senior  
 Lunch Bunch Luncheon**



Music by Local Artist Jeannie Claire

**Tuesday  
 March 12, 2024**

**Arrive at 11:30 AM  
 Lunch at Noon**

**RSVP by March 10th**

**914-337-0207x1003**

**KRAPILLO@VLC-NY.ORG**

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172 White Plains Road  
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[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 received from:

Theresa Eaton

In Loving Memory of Her  
Beloved Husband, John Waters Eaton

Peter Soans

In Thankfulness of the Ministry of VLC

Kathy Coffey

In Memory of Frank J. Coffey on the  
24th Anniversary of his passing.

Max & Eshba Montagnino

In Support of VLC Mission Outreach

Helmut W. Heyde

In Memory of Carol Ann (Wnuck) Heyde

Pastor Rob and Sue Hartwell  
In Thankfulness to Village Lutheran  
Church and The Chapel School

Newfound Regional High School  
In Thankfulness for the VLC Players

Dr. & Mrs. Howard Rakov & family  
In Memory of Dr. Gerald Coleman



We cordially invite you to join us on Saturday, 12/2 at the 5:30 p.m. service at Village Lutheran Church to bid farewell to the Cooks and wish them all the best in their new home.

Debbie and Kevin Cook have been a tremendous asset to VLC and TCS and Concordia College communities for many years. Their unwavering dedication to various leadership positions has been a source of inspiration to many. Recently, Kevin, a Commissioned Minister of Religion, has been serving as a guest preacher for our 5:30 p.m. service. However, the Cooks have decided to relocate to North Carolina, and as such, we are organizing a farewell event to express our gratitude and appreciation to them. After the service, we will be raising our glasses to the Cook's with a champagne toast. We cannot thank them enough for their selfless dedication, and we wish them all the best in their new home. We are confident that they will continue to touch the lives of many in their new community, just as they have done here.