



VILLAGE VOICES



STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

Lent begins on Valentine's Day, Wednesday 2/14 this year. The start of 40 days of fasting is called "Ash Wednesday" and the church season begins with a solemn day of repenting and receiving the forgiveness of God through His Word and Holy Communion. Services will be held at 12 noon and then again at 7:30 pm. Each Wednesday of Lent will also offer a service of Evening Prayer at 7:30 p.m. The theme of these special Lenten services is "God's Top 10" as we review and apply the Ten Commandments. The Ten commandments, or Decalogue as they are sometimes called, are an important part of our faith. They come from a section of scripture that appears in both Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5. Luther writes in his Large Catechism about the commandments: "This much is certain: those who know the Ten Commandments perfectly know the entire Scriptures and, in all affairs, and circumstances are able to counsel, help, comfort, judge, and make decisions in both spiritual and temporal matters." (LC Preface) These commandments serve as a comprehensive framework for our new life in Christ Jesus. And He indeed lived them out perfectly on our behalf so that He might win for us forgiveness, life, and salvation.

The creator of our sermon series for Lent, The Rev. Dr. Reed Lessing, Professor of Theology and Ministry and Director of the Center for Biblical Studies at Concordia University, St. Paul and former Professor at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis summarizes: "The Ten Commandments are unique and given great weight and importance in the scriptures. The Ten Commandments are unique in that (1) they are written on stone by the finger of God (Exodus 31:18; Deuteronomy 5:22); (2) they are the first piece of legislation Israel receives at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19-20); (3) unlike other laws mediated through Moses, the Ten Commandments are given directly to Israel "face to face" (Deuteronomy 5:4); and (4) they are placed in the Ark of the Covenant (Deuteronomy 10:5).

Their importance is also referenced many times in the New Testament and by Jesus. Although we are saved by Grace, "God's Top 10" show us our need for a savior and serve as a guide for society and our individual lives on how to live in a relationship with God and each other. Certainly, they are worthy of our review and reflection. Our "God's Top 10" schedule is as follows:

- 2/14 - Ash Wednesday** at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. – The First Commandment: *"Who's on First?"*
- 2/21 - Midweek I** at 7:30 p.m. - The Second Commandment: *"What's in a Name?"*
- 2/28 - Midweek II** at 7:30 p.m. - The Third Commandment: *"The Day That Makes the Difference"*
- 3/06 - Midweek III** at 7:30 p.m. - The Fourth Commandment: *"Putting Parents in Their Place"*
- 3/13 - Midweek IV** at 7:30 p.m. - The Fifth Commandment: *"Murder, God Wrote"*
- 3/20 - Midweek V** at 7:30 p.m. - The Sixth Commandment: *"Celebrating Faithful Love"* with music by the Chapel School Choir.
- 3/23 & 3/24 - Palm Sunday**, Saturday at 5:30 pm and Sunday at 9 and 10:45 a.m. - The Seventh Commandment: *"Bronxville Vice"*
- 3/28 - Maundy Thursday** at 7:30 p.m. - The Eighth Commandment: *"To Tell the Truth"*
- 3/29 - Good Friday** at 12 noon and 7:30 p.m. - The Ninth and Tenth Commandments: *"Overcoming the Desire to Acquire"*

And then we will celebrate Jesus' perfect life of living in love on our behalf and His glorious resurrection on:

- 3/30 - Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday** at 5:30 p.m.
- 3/31 - Easter Sunday** at 9 and 10:45 a.m.

May the Ten Commandments once inscribed on stone, be written on our hearts in new and transforming ways! Make a commitment to join us for each service. A thought about "God's Top 10" that is Straight from the Hart.

FALL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Saturday Worship service will resume on 3/2.
- 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.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference will be held on 2/27 at 6 p.m. (See page 2)

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WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

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

We will be finishing our study of Romans this month and begin a new topic TBD. There will be no class on Ash Wednesday 2/14, as we prepare for the noon service.



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



THE TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

The next Prayer Conference Call will be on Tuesday 2/27.



A generous portion of my devotional time with the Lord is aided by Christian Music. Each month I will share a favorite and I encourage you to take a listen on Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube or similar music service.

This month we feature someone from the rock genre, Neal Morse.

According to Wikipedia:

"Neal Morse is an American singer, musician and composer based in Nashville, Tennessee. In 1992, he formed the progressive rock band Spock's Beard with his brother Alan and released an album which was moderately successful. In 1999, he joined Dream Theater's co-founder and then drummer Mike Portnoy, together with Flower Kings' Roine Stolt and Marillion's Pete Dinklage they formed the super-group Transatlantic."

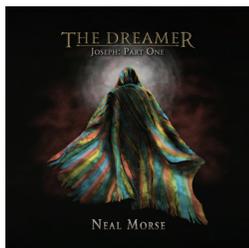
His solo work has a distinctive Christian world view with projects that include "Jesus Christ, the Excorist" and "Sola Gratia." His latest works include the two-volume set on the life of Old Testament patriarch Joseph.

Neal's style reminds me of classic *Rush, Styx or Kansas* with crisp poetic lyrics and just the right amount of guitar.

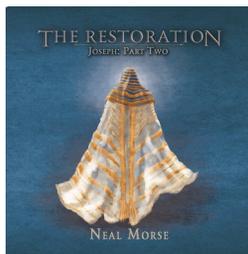
A sample of lyrics include the lament of Joseph "I will wait":

"Oh God, my God My deliverance
While in prison
Deep darkness speaks
But God speaks louder"

During the gray days of winter, some heavy chords accompanying inspired and inspiring lyrics may be just the musical warmth you need.



The Dreamer Joseph Part I
2023 Frontiers Records s.r.l.



The Restoration Joseph part II
2024 Frontiers Records s.r.l.



For Apple Music go to <https://music.apple.com/us/artist/neal-morse/80743841>

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 2/21**

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

Blessing Basket Food for ECAP



We continue to collect non-perishable food. As costs go up, it is even harder for families to keep food on the table. If you can pick up a few items to donate, please drop them off in the Friendship Room or at the Reception Desk.

NON-PERISHABLE ITEMS ONLY

Basket under Piano in Friendship Room
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

PRAYER SHAWLS



If you have a family member or loved one that you would like to receive a prayer shawl, email the church office with their name, address, and prayer request. We will prepare a prayer shawl gift bag that you can pick up and take or we can even mail it to them if they live far away. It's a great way to "know, live and share the love of Christ." Email the church office at KRapillo@VLC-NY.ORG or call 914-337- 0207 x1003.

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. VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hymn Stories By Deborah Reiss

As Ash Wednesday falls on Valentine’s Day (for the second time in six years), the hymn that encapsulates this day for me is *What Wondrous Love is This* (LSB 543). It is not in the Lent section of the hymnal, but it is in a minor key and sings of death and resurrection, so it tends to be associated with the season. More than that, however, there are deep truths embedded in the seemingly simple text.

We try to understand the love of God. What kind of love would motivate Jesus to suffer painfully for everyone else, be humiliated for people who mock or don’t care, stand forsaken and in grief. A love that is more tenacious than a parent protecting a child, undeterred by ingratitude or hostility, determined to save us from a fate that would separate us forever. We are well and truly loved.

Jesus said to His disciples, “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last” (John 15:16). We like to think that we make our own world, but we were “sinking down” with no way out. Jesus left all of His glory and honor to seek us out, in order to raise us up and keep us close. Therefore, we sing to the great I AM who has always been there for us, who asks us to join with our fellow beings in the Spirit of love.

And while we still face struggles in this earthly life, we are confident that the “dreadful curse” has been lifted. Our song will go on, in the company of all the other loved ones who have united their hearts to God once and for all. Happy Valentine’s Day!

To God and to the Lamb I will sing...

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY



Music highlights include:

- Transfiguration Sunday 2/11, when we will add the Cherub and Youth Choirs to worship.
- Choirs will be off for Presidents' Day/winter break the week of 2/18.
- Chancel Choir will sing the remaining Sundays and for Ash Wednesday 2/14.
- Bells will be ringing during Lent and for Easter.

Deborah Reiss: Chancel Choir, FaithWalk, Village Bells
914-337-0207, x1018 · DReiss@VLC-NY.org

George Heath: Youth Choir, HS Choir, Village Brass
914-337-0207, x1012 · GHeath@VLC-NY.org



Thank you to the following VLC/TCS team members who are celebrating an anniversary of their total work history in February. 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.

Maureen Mannion, PT Receptionist, 1 year

Carmen Rivera, Teacher Aide, 12 years

Christine O'Connor, Care Aide, 2 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 2/1, 2/15 and 2/29 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.

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).

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 2/4, 2/11 and 2/25 in Room 209.** (Classroom above the church)

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us every week for Sunday School at our 9a.m. service! For more information, feel free to contact our Director of Youth and Ministries Pastor Mark Budenholzer (MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG) or our Sunday School Superintendent Sarah Gleason (christnysarah@netscape.net).

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 under the Forms tab. If you have any questions, please feel free to call 914-337-0207 x1003.



Parent Community Nights are an opportunity for parents of any age children to come together for Christian community, food, and discussion on topics of faith and family. **Our next one will be on Thursday 2/15 from 6-7p.m.** in the Friendship Room. Bring some food to share or just come along to enjoy food, community, and discussion.

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz



February 12-14 is our Re-Accreditation Visit from Middle States and National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. We began working on conducting a comprehensive Self Study Report and collecting supporting evidence for re-accreditation in December of 2022, and we are excited to demonstrate to our Visiting Team that TCS is a school of excellence! Special thanks to our Accreditation Steering Committee Members, including: Teacher –

Stephanie Goldberg; Administration – Michael Schultz, Maureen Butler, Robert Hartwell, Marcello Osso; Teacher/Parent – Kate Marino; Parents – Erica Keough and Mary Spiciarich; and Church Members – Christopher Clark, Donna Lubinsky (Trustee), and Valerie Runge.

Thank you 2024 Gathering of Friends Le Jardin des Reves Gala Co-Chairs Maura Condolff and Kate Marino! Join us on March 15, 2024 at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester Tickets are on sale at: <https://www.gathering-of-friends.org/>



Disney's "NEWSIES Jr." live Performances are planned for April 25-27, 2024! Mark your calendars!

Congrats TCS Class of 2027 Fifth Grader Lawrence Campbell on being Awarded a TCMS Merit Scholarship! Lawrence earned his way to the first of potentially three years of recognition for achievement, community involvement and service.

2024 TCS Golf Outing

We're Back at SIWANOID! JOIN US on Monday 6/3 for our 2024 TCS Golf Outing at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville. This is a great day of golf and a wonderful opportunity to raise money for scholarships for students at The Chapel School. Golfers and sponsors are needed! Online registration is live! [Online Registration 2024 TCS Golf Outing](#) or

REGISTRATION for TCS's 2024 SUMMER PROGRAM is live! In-Person Open Houses are scheduled for 3/9 (11 a.m. -2 p.m.) and 4/21 (12:30 – 3:00 p.m.) [Online Registration 2024 Summer Program](#)

TCS Offering Recipients : FEBRUARY – Atlantic District-LCMS.



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

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.

Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School invite you to the

Gathering of Friends Gala

Le Jardin des Rêves

Friday, March 15, 2024

Cocktails at 7:00 PM
Live Auction and Dinner at 8:00 PM

Lake Isle Country Club
660 White Plains Road, Eastchester, NY 10709

www.gathering-of-friends.com
(914) 337-0207 x1040

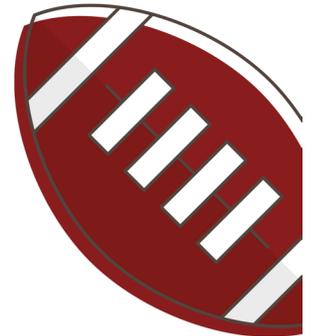
FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Coffee Hour Hosts Needed!

Thank you to those who have already signed up. We still have several openings for the spring. You can sign up as a family or pair with another family/individual. Check out the sign-up sheet in the MPR or speak to Warren Wong.



Coffee Fellowship



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



VIEWING PARTY

02.11.2024

6:00PM



Watch the game on the big screen

Half time performer Usher

Superbowl Food and drinks provided

Sign-Up

Bring a side dish or dessert to share

Volunteers needed

http://tinyurl.com/VLCSB2024



50/50 raffle and football squares support CSA Soup Kitchen

For more information contact the church office at 914-337-0207 (1003)

172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708

PLEASE JOIN US ON ZOOM FOR A FREE EDUCATIONAL SEMINAR!

Monday, February 5, 2024 6:00PM

repeats Wednesday, Feb. 7th

The Halter Legacy Circle Prepare Wisely: Estate Strategy Essentials with William O'Doherty

All attendees receive a \$25 Amazon gift card.

Register to receive the Zoom link 914-337-0207 x 1040 or online http://tinyurl.com/Thrivent2024

STEWARDSHIP NEWS



Village Lutheran Church 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708 KZWISDAK@THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG 914-337-0207 X1040

Village Lutheran Church &
The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit No. 7793

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

Theresa Eaton
In Memory of Her Beloved Husband
John Waters Eaton

Carol & Bill Seamon
In Loving Memory of their Parents,
William & Margery Seamon and
Adolf & Adelaide Simonides

Lucy Kozera
In Memory Lydia Sousa & Sons,
Arkady and Serge Kuschnar

Peter Soans
In Thankfulness for the Ministry of VLC

Anonymous
In Memory of William Phipps
Stephanie and Juan Gonzalez
In Honor of their Wedding

Kristina Leskinrn
In Honor of the Baptism of
Alexandra Helena Millington



Sign Up for
our Email List

Visit our homepage at
<https://www.vlc-ny.org>
and look for the above image to
sign-up for our weekly digital
newsletter.

Receive the latest
worship service, bulletin and
Village Voices right to your inbox.