



VILLAGE VOICES



Gathering of Friends

MARCH

FRIDAY

20

AT 6:30 PM

2026

Dear Friends,

We are excited to invite you to **The Gathering of Friends: A Taste of the Caribbean!**

This unforgettable evening is designed to immerse you in vibrant island-inspired sights, sounds, and flavors while raising essential support for Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School. Hosted at the stunning Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle, this year's theme promises to whisk you away to a Caribbean paradise.

What Is the Gathering of Friends?

The Gathering of Friends is the signature annual gala for VLC & TCS - an evening filled with warmth, community, and joyful generosity. It's the grandest celebration on our calendar and sure to be the highlight of your 2026 social season. Your evening will include a Caribbean-inspired cocktail hour & dinner menu, live entertainment, dancing, a dynamic silent and live auction featuring incredible items, and the return of the wildly popular Balloon Pop.

The Gathering of Friends is an evening of warmth, joy, and connection, bringing together old friends and new faces in support of our church and school.

The support of our Benefactors and Sponsors is crucial to the success of the Gathering of Friends. Benefactors and Sponsors receive guaranteed tickets, special recognition, and visibility both before and during the gala. To learn more about the Gathering of Friends and to purchase your tickets, visit our website at: www.vlc-ny.org/gathering-of-friends or scan the QR Code below.

We cannot wait to celebrate with you at **The Gathering of Friends: A Taste of the Caribbean.** Your participation, whether through attending, sponsoring, donating, or volunteering, helps strengthen the ministries, mission, and programs of Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School.

With warmest thanks,
Keisha, Michelle, and Shaniqua

Keisha Glenn-Hutton, Michelle Walsh, and Shaniqua Raphael
Your 2026 Gathering of Friends Co-Chairs



www.vlc-ny.org/gathering-of-friends
To learn more, contact the Development Office
by email: development@thechapelschool.org
or by phone: 914-337-3202 x. 1040



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.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call - Join us 1/27 at 6 p.m.

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WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



We are off the first week of January and will resume regular sessions on Wednesday 1/14. As we continue in John's Gospel, the next topic is the raising of Lazarus in chapter 11. Following that, we will be

looking at some of the unique passages about the Passion of Christ in John.

Village Lutheran Church SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER



Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call will be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

Join us in January on
1/27 at 6:00 p.m.

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

The Chosen - Season 2



WEDNESDAYS
JANUARY 14 - FEBRUARY 11
APRIL 15 - MAY 4
TIME: 7-9PM

Back by popular demand... "The Chosen" - Season 2

Each episode explores the everyday life of Jesus, the reality of those who chose to follow Him and those who would not, and that same calling that surrounds us to this day. Participants of Season 1 shared these reasons for inviting others to check out the next season:

- The series presents a fresh way of understanding Bible stories with which you are already familiar.
- It's a great way to meet other members of the congregation on a deeper level and gain insights into the Bible.
- The movies provide another way of engaging with scripture and are a jumping off point for good discussions.

- It's a chance to envision how Jesus and His followers may have conducted themselves.
- A way to continue a closer walk with God and learn more about mercy and compassion.
- Because you may be surprised!

Join us for soup & sandwich and wine, an engaging movie, thought provoking discussion, and inspiring fellowship. So as not to conflict with Lenten services, the nine episodes will be explored on five Wednesday evenings prior to Ash Wednesday and four sessions after Easter.

Wednesdays 7-9pm
January 14 – February 11 and April 15 – May 4

Please register in advance so we know you are coming. Fill out the pew card, call the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003, or email KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

For more info contact: Deacon Janet George or Deacon Tony DeRosa



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: January 21

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.

Christmas at Sea



Thank you to everyone who participated in our Christmas at Sea outreach program this year. We were able to donate 37 satchels, and the chaplain who picked them up was thrilled to have so many. They will bring joy and gladness to the hearts of seafarers who miss their families and spend months at sea. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

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 Rapiello at 914-337-0207 x 1003 in the church office or Krapilio@vic-ny.org.



Strengthening God's House for Congregation, Children, and Community

New Year Giving and The Capital Campaign

As we enter a new year filled with hope and purpose, we celebrate the incredible generosity and tremendous progress made in our Capital Campaign. With over 87% of our goal already pledged, we are just a little over 12% away from fully funding the improvements that will refresh and strengthen our church and school buildings.

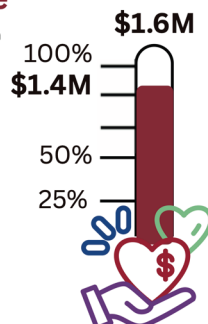
There is still time to make a meaningful difference!

Every gift, large or small, moves us closer to completing essential upgrades that will support our mission, encourage our ministry, and strengthen our community for years to come. Your contribution helps create a safe, vibrant, and welcoming space for all who gather here.

Why Contribute

Our buildings serve as the foundation for our ministries, but several critical infrastructure needs must be addressed:

- Replacement of Rooftop HVAC Units and Cooling Tower
- New School Roof
- Replace School Flooring
- New Playground
- LED Lighting for School
- New Church Sanctuary Lighting
- Repair Multipurpose Room Ceiling
- Elevator Renovations and Accessibility
- Contingencies and Administration



How to Give

Have you given a one-time gift or pledged? Please complete the attached pledge card or make your gift online! www.tinyurl.com/TCSCapitalCampaign

MY PLEDGE FOR 2025

In response to God's call, and in gratitude for the community it provides me, my/our pledge for our Church's ministry and mission for the calendar year of 2025 is \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____



For Securities Transfer, EFT, and Banking Details, please contact the Development Office

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss

"Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen one in whom I delight." (Isaiah 42:1)



This passage begins one of the "Servant Songs" from the prophet Isaiah. It will be read in connection with the Baptism of our Lord (January 11), clearly identifying Jesus as God's Son "with whom I am well pleased." Thinking about Jesus as God's servant helps us understand what Christian servanthood truly means.

We tend to think of a servant in a negative light: someone who is under the thumb of everyone else, being told what to do, having no autonomy, and weighed down by demands. There seems to be no benefit or joy involved. If we reverse this perception, we see how servanthood in God's realm is actually a sign of a deep and loving relationship that is not only good for others but a blessing from God.

One of my Bible commentaries notes that the term "servant" as used in Middle Eastern culture refers to a "trusted envoy" of the king or a "confidential representative." To be the king's servant requires intimate knowledge and understanding of the king's desires, a mutual trust that values both servant and king, the best utilization of the servant's skills and talents, and the satisfaction of mutual accomplishment. The king is confident in his servant, and the servant is willingly devoted. In the case of earthly kings, the servant may be faced with the dilemma of having to carry out an "unrighteous" demand or to be treated unfairly. However, the servant of God is assured that God's ways are always right and His love is unending.

There are still times when being a servant can feel like being weighed down, "forced" to do something difficult or uncomfortable. We know that Jesus faced many such trials and was fully cognizant of the cost of being God's servant. Yet the love radiating from Jesus' oneness with the Father meant that He embraced servanthood with a passion. God's will and Jesus' will were inseparable, and Jesus' life on earth would work out completely for good.

As we remember our baptisms, we know that we also are God's servants. God will uphold us through all of the ups and downs of life. God has chosen us to be His own and to be filled with His goodness. God delights in us and has given us the Holy Spirit to guide and defend us. Therefore, we go out and offer our best selves to one another in love, with joy and satisfaction, as trusted servants of the King.

MUSIC MINISTRY



Many thanks to all of our choirs, instrumentalists and special guests for preparing and leading the special music of the season leading up to Christmas. Regular rehearsals will resume as follows:

Youth Choir - Thursday 1/15 at 7:00 p.m.
High School Choir - Sunday 1/25 at 10:15 a.m.
Chancel Choir - Thursday 1/15 at 7:30 p.m.
Village Bells - Wednesday 1/21 at 6:00 p.m.

If you love music, this is a great time to join one of our ensembles. Happy New Year!

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

VLC YOUTH

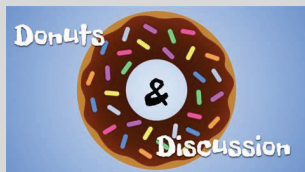
VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

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 **1/8, 1/22 and 1/29 in the MPR.**

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 1/11 and 1/25. 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

THANK YOU to all who donated and purchased items at the holiday tag sale! Over the 2 weekends we earned \$875! This will go towards future youth events. We couldn't have done this without you!



PLEASE JOIN US ON

Sunday, January 25, 2025

Time: 12 Noon

FOLLOWING THE 10:45 AM

FOR OUR

VOTER'S MEETING

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

Location: MPR



172 WHITE PLAINS RD.
BRONXVILLE, NY
914.337.3202

Winter 2026



A CLASS FOR LITTLE MUSIC
MAKERS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

Fridays from January 9 – March 6
No class February 20

Session 1: Fridays from 9:00-10:15

Session 2: Fridays from 10:45-12:00

Join us at The Chapel School Preschool for eight weeks of playful musical activities encouraging the love of music through song, dance and instruments all while strengthening the bond between child and parent/caregiver.

**Class open to children ages
10 months-3 years**

Class fee of \$300

cash or check made payable to The Chapel School by January 5th.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR MAUREEN BUTLER
914-337-3202, EXT 1008 --- MBUTLER@THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG

**sign up
Here!**



THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

2026 Vision ... Building a Family of Faith @ TCS!

1. I resolve to give thanks for our Trustee Board President, Jim Bunn, and the Board that has been energized under his leadership.
2. I resolve to give thanks for our Capital Campaign Chair, Joe Wilkinson, and for the many generous donors who have already gotten us so close to our goal of raising \$1.6M for Strengthening God's House.
3. I resolve to give thanks for the Blue Ribbon Foundation, who recently purchased 3 new Smart Panels for middle school classrooms, funded an author visit program, field usage at Iona, and various scholarships for deserving students.
4. I resolve to support NEW Initiatives at The Chapel School by:
 - A. Praying for our wonderful, dedicated Faculty and Staff!
 - B. Praying for Max Tinson and his upcoming project for Bronx Works in January!
 - C. Praying for TCS Students who will be proposing charitable organizations for Service Learning and TCS Offerings for 2026-2027.
 - D. Praying for the new February and Easter School Vacation Enrichment Opportunities!
 - E. Praying for 2026 Lutheran School's Week Festivities in March!
 - F. Praying for our EXCITING TECH UPGRADES to continue to enhance TCS Students' Experience!
 - G. Praying for continued student progress in Math and Reading with our NEW i-Ready Platform!
 - H. Praying for the work of TCS Advisory Committee and the Equity, Marketing/Retention and Family Connections Subcommittees!
5. I resolve to support our wonderful volunteers in their selfless efforts to raise money for VLC/TCS and all our wonderful programs by:
 - A. Attending the 2026 Gathering of Friends: A Taste of the Caribbean GALA on March 20, 2026 and supporting the tireless efforts of our Gala Co-Chairs Keisha Glenn-Hutton, Michelle Walsh & Shaniqua Raphael ... and their many sub-committee members!
 - B. Participating in the 2026 TCS Golf Outing as it returns to Siwanoy Country Club in June 2026, enjoying the company of VLC/TCS Friends on the links at this beautiful venue and raising money for scholarships for deserving TCS students!
6. I resolve to pray for the ministry and families of Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School, that God might continue to bless my daily efforts to help others "To Know, Live and Share the LOVE of Christ!"

The Chapel School Offering Recipients ~ January & February 2026

JANUARY – Bronx Works (SL2)

FEBRUARY – Lutheran Schools Association



UN-DECORATING Party!

SUNDAY, JANUARY 4 at 12 NOON

Please join us for our Pizza Un-Decorating Party!
We will be un-decorating our church and campus
and need your help!

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



Please RSVP to Kim Rapillo
914-337-0207 x. 1003



**GET READY FOR FUN,
FELLOWSHIP,
AND PRIZES!**

BINGO NIGHT

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17 | 7PM

DOORS OPEN AT 6:30 PM

Don't miss out on the chance to enjoy a fun game night!

**Join Host - Kate Marino for an evening of BINGO
at Village Lutheran Church ~ 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville**

This event is open to the public but you must be 18 or older to play

\$50 Entry Fee ~ Bingo Deck (10 Games per person)

Door Entry: \$60 (space is limited and not guaranteed)

Reserve your SEAT (8 people max. per table)!

Scan this QR Code or go to: www.vlc-ny.org/Bingo



**Tickets available for 50/50 Raffle, Basket Prizes,
and additional Bingo Sheets (\$10 for a 3 Game Sheet) at the event!**

**BYOB&F ~ Bring your own Beverage & Food
Coffee, Tea, & Cake Provided by VLC!**

QUESTIONS? CONTACT LISA JONES - DEVELOPMENT@THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG

AT THE HEART OF EVANGELISM



What started with 4 small boxes in their home back in 1995 has grown into a lifelong mission for Barbara and Larry Fasman and their 2 children. Over the years, their dedication to Samaritan's Purse has taken many forms—traveling to Boone, NC to pack shoeboxes, hosting events at their local church, and holding shoebox packing parties at their home.

Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child sends shoeboxes filled with toys, clothes, and essentials to some of the world's poorest children, along with the message of the Gospel of Jesus

Christ. Children who receive these boxes are invited to participate in "The Greatest Journey," a 12-lesson discipleship program. Many give their lives to Christ through this mission and go on to share it with others.

Over 130 boxes were assembled with items Barbara and Larry collected throughout the past year. The tables overflowed with toys, soccer balls, backpacks, stuffed animals, t-shirts, crayons, and so much more. The love and dedication they poured into this effort was humbling to witness. Their hope—and the hope of everyone present that day—is to bring this amazing mission to Village Lutheran Church.



Maria Gitter

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

MEMORIAL/HONORED VOICES

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

In Loving Memory of Sharon Sjonvall
from Christina Ling

In Loving Memory of Glenn and Joan Bevers
from their daughter, Christy Bevers

In Loving Memory of William Messner
on the 26th Anniversary of his passing
from his loving daughter, Kathy Coffey

In Loving Memory of Rev. Rudy DeRosa
from Janet George

In Loving Memory of Dr. Viji George from
Kelly Gasbarro

In Loving Memory of Lee E. Schoenlank
on his heavenly birthday,
from The Schoenlank Family

In Loving Memory of Sharon Sjonvall
from Gayle Lavance

In Honor of the Marriage of our granddaughter,
Amanda Noel Gaba to James Knaak
from Anita & Vincent Palmese

In Honor of our great-granddaughter's birth,
Emma Marie Guzzi
from Anita & Vincent Palmese

In Thankfulness to Pastor Hartwell
from Cathie & Gerald Fuhrmann

