



# VILLAGE VOICES



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

***Gracious God, You spoke to St. Paul on the road to Damascus and provided Martin Luther with a sign of Your calling through a thunderstorm. Help us discern Your call through the waters of baptism, the blessings of Christ's real presence in the Holy Eucharist, and through Your everlasting and powerful Word. Enable us to be receptive to signs of Your guidance and use us in Your mission "to know, live, and share the Love of Christ." In His name, along with You, dear Father, and the precious Holy Spirit, we pray, ever one God, world without end. Amen.***

We are continuing our examination of Luther's life by exploring the cities he lived in or influenced. This is in preparation for our church trip to Luther's Germany in December. Spots are filling up quickly, so do not miss this exceptional opportunity to embark on a remarkable spiritual, cultural, and historical journey.



Our next destination is Erfurt, which Luther referred to as "a new Bethlehem." Located in the heart of Thuringia, it was here on July 2, 1505, that Luther was struck by lightning, vowed to become a monk, and entered the Augustinian Cloister. The itinerary includes visits to the Augustiner Church and the

Augustinian Monastery. During an orientation tour, we will view the beautiful St. Severus Church, the 650-year-old Krämerbrücke lined with houses and small shops, and St. Mary's Cathedral, where Luther was ordained. Erfurt also features a delightful Christmas market. After leaving Erfurt, we will head east across the Czech border, passing through the lush farmlands of Bohemia to historic, 1,000-year-old Prague on the Vltava River.

If you are interested in joining our growing tour group, please contact us for further details at 914-337-0207 (1022) or [RHartwell@VLC-NY.org](mailto:RHartwell@VLC-NY.org).

A preview of some of the stops on our upcoming trip that is Straight from the Hart!

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Saturday 5:30 p.m. service.
- 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](http://VLC-NY.org) or on Facebook or YouTube.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call. Join us for our next call on 5/27.

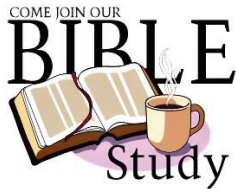
### In this issue

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 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 have had a change of plans as to our topic for the rest of the spring.

For the months of May and June, we will now be taking a look at some of the unique passages in the Gospel of John.

Watch for specific details in the weekly bulletin announcements and join us any week.



### Village Lutheran Church **SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER**

Via telephone conference call to  
(1) 732-434-3982

Offered on the **last Tuesday of the month at 6:00 PM (EST).**

Simply dial the number **1-732-434-3982** and join with our community for a brief devotion, liturgy and prayer. Invite a friend.

### WINTER-SPRING TUESDAYS 2025

May 27

## THE MERLIN AND LOIS REHM PASTORAL RESIDENCY 2025



### Fostering Hope and Resiliency in a post Covid World

**May 21, 2025  
7:00-8:00 PM**

*Followed by a wine & cheese reception.*



#### VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

172 White Plains Road

Bronxville, NY 10708

[www.vlc-ny.org](http://www.vlc-ny.org) + 914-337-0207

**Presented by: Dr. Elizabeth Geiling, LMHC-D, NCC**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE LUTHERAN COUNSELING CENTER

The Merlin and Lois Rehm Pastoral Residency brings a variety of interesting and engaging speakers to our campus to discuss pastoral issues in a modern context.

The residency is named in memory of the Rehms, long-time community champions in our Concordia, Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School communities.

## FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



**FIRST COMMUNION CELEBRATION:** Twelve young people celebrated their 1st Holy Communion at a special service on April 6.

**Congratulations to** Cristiano Benedetti, Ariel Blackman, Rocco De Crenza, Theodore Di Matteo, Juliana Fiuza, Natalie Giordano, Jonathan Kobernitski, Mackenzie Nelson, Noelle Perotto, Olivia Tavarez, Ashley Volcovici and Allison Wade.

## 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 5/21**

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](mailto:ETAKWHIT@aol.com)



### 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. Also, If you are willing to knit a prayer shawl, we have a supply of free yarn. It's a great way to "know, live and share the love of Christ." Email the church office at [KRapillo@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.ORG) or call 914-337- 0207



**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](mailto:VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG).

### Crochet Ministry

**would you like to learn how to crochet warm caps for infants and elders?**

Come to the Friendship Room at VLC on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month from 7-8 PM.

**May 13**  
**May 27**  
**June 10**  
**June 24**

No experience is necessary. The crochet technique will be taught to newbies. we have yarn and crochet hooks - no need to bring any materials.

**Knitters are welcome to join in and make use of the yarn for prayer shawls or other projects.**

## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Meditations from the Psalms By Deborah Reiss

***Sing to the Lord, you saints of His; praise His holy name. For His anger lasts only a moment, but His favor is for a lifetime. Weeping may remain for a night, but joy comes with the morning.*** (Psalm 30:4-5)



What is it that sparks joy for you? This question has become a way to go about de-cluttering your home as you decide what to keep and what to let go. It is also a timeless spiritual question that finds its answer throughout the Bible.

I have always loved the spring, and after a long, cold winter, it has brought me particular joy this year to see new buds on the trees and to watch the proliferation of daffodils, tulips, and forsythia. Part of what makes spring appealing to me, apart from its natural beauty, is the return of warm and bright colors to a landscape that had been mostly gray and brown. This surge of new growth makes it feel like we are waking up to something of a new world.

Spring also means the end of Lent, with its weeks of quiet meditation, and the onset of the joyful Easter season. One friend remarked recently that she did not grow up with the tradition of Lent, but she now appreciates the ebbs and flows of the liturgical seasons. Easter seems all the more wonderful because we have dwelt in a period of semi-darkness for a time. While our Lenten worship is designed to be this way and to lead us to Easter, there are times in life when we feel like the psalmist who has endured a night of weeping – not by choice but having something go wrong and being unable to do anything about it. At such times, we long for the morning and a way to feel joy once more.

The promise of God is that, even though there will be times of weeping in our lives, we have a place in store for us where there is no night, or sorrow, or pain. If that ultimate day seems too far away, we have those moments in life that spark joy as a gift from God. Whether it is something in nature, a favorite piece of music or art, a vacation memory, or having someone near you, these are things to be grateful for and to remind us of God's love which will never end. If there are difficult things to navigate, remember that they do not last forever. The joy of the Lord is waiting and welcomes us to a new day.



### MAY HIGHLIGHTS:

Highlights for May feature the Cherub Choir at 9:00 am on Mother's Day 5/11 and the Chancel Choir at 10:45 am for Confirmation on 5/18. All choirs will be off for the Memorial Day Weekend. Village Bells will ring for the final time this season on Ascension Sunday 6/1 at 10:45 am.

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)

### Safe Haven Kids at Chitty, Chitty Bang Bang Jr



The cast of  
**Ian Fleming's "Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr."**  
host some of our Safe Haven LSS kids for a matinee performance. Thank you to our VLC/TCS youth and the crew at Kate Marino productions.

## VLC YOUTH

### VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

Voyagers is open to anyone in grades 3 – 6. 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 5/1, 5/8, and 5/24 in the MPR.**

If you have any questions, please email Erika Schultz at [tyandbash@aol.com](mailto:tyandbash@aol.com) Thanks!

### LIFERS Grades 7–8

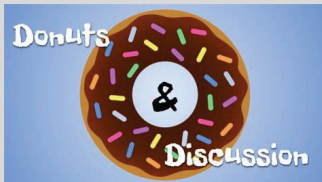
#### Thursday May 8 - Confirmation Celebration + Reading of Statements of Faith

We will celebrate our 8th grade confirmands as they read their statements of faith on Thursday May 8th from 6–7pm in the MPR. Confirmation Parents are invited and welcome!

#### Sunday May 18 - Confirmation Sunday

May 18th is Confirmation Sunday where we will be confirming our 8th graders in their faith. We are excited for this step in their life and we ask that you pray for them as they continue to grow in faith and their life with God.

### CRUSADERS Grades 9–12



**Calling all 9–12 graders! Please join us after the 9 a.m. service on 5/4, 5/11 and 5/25 in the office suite at 10:40 a.m.**

If you have any questions, please email Crusader Youth Leader, Amy Heath at [amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com)



**We are going to New Orleans in July for the National Youth Gathering! We need your help!**

Fundraisers:

1) Our first **Donuts and Discussion Devotional Book \$10**. All proceeds go to our trip to the National Youth Gathering!

2) **The Envelope Project!** Help us raise \$5,000. Pick an envelope and donate the dollar amount listed!

If you would like to be a part of this great trip and have questions, please reach out to Amy Heath at [amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com) or Pastor Mark at [MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.org](mailto:MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.org). More information can be found at <https://www.lcmsgathering.com/registration>



### VOTER'S MEETING AND INSTALLATION OF 2025-2026 BOARD OF TRUSTEES

PLEASE JOIN US as we install our 2025-2026 Trustee Board and Officers on **May 4 at the end of the 9 am service and after the sermon at 10:45 am.**

**The Voters' Meeting** will be held on May 4 at 12 noon. Pizza lunch will be provided.

## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

**Gathering of Friends "Red Carpet Evening of Giving" a HUGE SUCCESS!** What a great night at Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle on Friday, March 21! Once again, special thanks to GOF2025 Co-Chairs Athena Kerin and Kerry Parker-Rohrsen! Congrats to Community Champion Tom Olin and Crystal Blue Cleaning! Thanks to Lisa Jones, GOF2025 Volunteers, Donors, Sponsors, and Event Attendees! So much fun and a great night of giving to this wonderful ministry! #GOF2025



### **Congratulations to Leighton Arthur, Lawrence Campbell, and Olivia Tavarez!**

Leighton will be awarded the Sharon Peterson Librarian Scholarship for excellence in reading and literacy (\$1,000 for 2025-2026), and Olivia will receive the Carol and Christopher Kinghan GIVING HEARTS Memorial Scholarship for her love of giving and helping others (\$1,000 for 2025-2026). We are also pleased to announce that 6th Grader Lawrence Campbell will receive a \$500 award for the McKnight Upstander & Ally Scholarship for the 2025-2026 and 2026-2027 cycles. All three students will be recognized by their peers at a special "Blue Day" Chapel Service on Wednesday, May 14, and at TCS's Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, June 8. Congratulations, Leighton, Olivia, and Lawrence! To learn more, visit [www.BRF-NY.org](http://www.BRF-NY.org).



**Teamwork Made the Dream Work** as the **TCS Drama Department** presented six spectacular performances of Ian Fleming's "**Chitty Chitty Bang Bang Jr.**" from April 2-5! Bravo to Drama Director Mrs. **Kate Marino**, Music Director Maestro **George Heath**, and the **Pit Musicians, Set Design, and Stage Crew** with Mrs. **MaryAnn Cahalin**! Thanks to parent volunteers for creating costumes and managing backstage! Special thanks to alumna Assistant Director Lucy Caltabiano! Thanks to Smyths and Manhattan Wood Flooring for building a proper side stage for the **Marvelous Car** created by Mrs. Cahalin's brother, **Richie**! Thanks to the **Blue Ribbon Foundation** for the new **MPR piano**! Congratulations to TCS students who designed the set, managed the stage, lighting, and sound, and **BRAVO** to the immensely talented TCS cast! #TrulyScrumptious

**2025 TCS Golf Outing - GOLFERS and SPONSORS NEEDED!** Join us at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville on Monday, June 9, 2025. Online registration is LIVE! [Online Registration 2025 TCS Golf Outing](#)

**REGISTRATION for TCS's 2025 SUMMER PROGRAM is LIVE!** [Online Registration 2025 Summer Program](#)

### **The Chapel School Offering Recipients**

May/June – SL2 National Autism Association

## FELLOWSHIP NEWS



Please Join us at the Annual  
VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH AND THE CHAPEL SCHOOL

# CARNIVAL & PICNIC

JUNE 8 FROM 12-3 PM

FOOD | GAMES | POPCORN | COTTON CANDY | DJ

Hamburgers and Hot Dogs provided.

Sign-up using link or QR code to bring a side dish

FREE ADMISSION



VOLUNTEER HERE

[tinyurl.com/2025VLCTCSPicnic](https://tinyurl.com/2025VLCTCSPicnic)

172 White Plains Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
Questions? Contact Kate Bukofzer  
[etakwhit@aol.com](mailto:etakwhit@aol.com)  
914-337-3202



## VLC Senior LUNCH BUNCH

Save the date  
for the Spring Senior's Lunch Bunch

Tuesday, June 10  
Doors open at 11:30 am  
Lunch begins at 12 noon

## Have you registered yet?

**Travel to Germany in 2025:** Our next VLC/TCS travel opportunity is scheduled for December 2-13, 2025. Itinerary includes several Luther sites and Christmas markets, stops in Berlin, Wittenberg, Eisleben, Leipzig, Eisenach, Erfurt, Prague, Vienna, Salzburg and Munich. If you are interested in learning more, fill out the brochure request in the tract rack or send an email to Pastor Hartwell, [RHartwell@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:RHartwell@VLC-NY.ORG).

## Good News Christian Coffee House



Melanie Waldmann will perform at the  
Good News Christian Coffee House on  
**Saturday, May 17.**

Doors open at 7 pm. Concert begins at 7:30 pm.

RETURNING TO THE PRESTIGIOUS SIWANOWY COUNTRY CLUB in BRONXVILLE!

2025

The Chapel School

Golf Outing

Siwanow Country Club, Bronxville NY  
General Manager, Kevin McGuirk  
Director of Golf, Brian Giordano

**EARLY BIRDIES**  
Register Singles By 4/30  
or Register a 4-Some Any  
Time to SAVE \$50/Golfer!

**MONDAY**  
**June 9, 2025**

10:30 AM Registration, Practice & Lunch ... 12:00 PM Scramble Format Shotgun Start

### PARTICIPANT REGISTRATION LEVELS:

#### PLATINUM FOURSOME ~ \$3,500

4-Some PLUS Par Sponsorship PLUS 5 Putts for Putting Contest,  
5 Mulligans and 20 Raffle Basket Tickets for Each Participant.

#### GOLDEN FOURSOME ~ \$2,000

4-Some PLUS Par Sponsorship PLUS 3 Putts for Putting Contest,  
5 Mulligans and 10 Raffle Basket Tickets for Each Participant.

#### SILVER FOURSOME ~ \$2,500

4-Some PLUS Par Sponsorship PLUS 3 Mulligans  
for Each Participant.

#### BRONZE FOURSOME ~ \$1,800

INDIVIDUAL ENTRY FEE ~ \$500  
Early Birdie Discount of \$450/Golfer if Register by 4/30/25.

#### INCLUDES:

Food & Beverages, 18 Holes PLUS Cart/Fore-Caddy.

#### DINNER ONLY ~ \$125 Per Person



ONLINE  
REGISTRATION

(Paper Registration on Reverse Side)

### SPONSORSHIP LEVELS:

#### DOUBLE-EAGLE OUTTING SPONSOR ~ \$5,000

Name and/or Company Logo on Program  
& ALL Signs PLUS Complimentary 4-some.

#### 18th HOLE SPONSOR ~ \$2,500

Lunch or Dinner Sponsor, Dinner for 2 Incl.

#### EAGLE SPONSOR ~ \$1,500

Golf Carts, Beverages & On Course  
Beverages or Snacks.

#### BIRDIE SPONSOR ~ \$1,000

Goodie Bags & Prizes.  
PAR SPONSOR ~ \$750  
One Hole ~ Tee and Green.  
TEE SPONSOR ~ \$450  
PRIZE SPONSOR ~ \$200

#### CONTESTS/PRIZES:

50/50 Putting Contest, 1st & 2nd Team Low Gross,  
Long Drive, Closest to the Pin & MORE!

#### SPECTACULAR Hole-In-1 PRIZES!

Courtesy of  
**PEPE**  
AUTO GROUP

Support TCS Scholarships!

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

[VLC-NY.org](http://VLC-NY.org)  
[TheChapelSchool.org](http://TheChapelSchool.org)

Return Service Requested

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**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 Helen Biele  
from Thomas A. Biele

In Loving Memory of Dr. Viji George  
from George & Linda Beck

In Loving Memory of Dr. Viji George  
from Delbert Glover

In Loving Memory of Deacon Faith Forlano  
from her loving husband, Richard Forlano

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

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Kevin & Deborah Cook

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Evelyn Cea

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from The Miesner Family

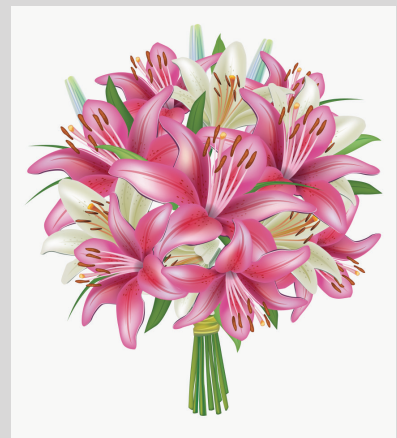
In Loving Memory of Dr. Viji George  
from The Miesner Family

In Loving Memory of Dr. Viji George  
from Donald & Katherine Gray

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from James Swoger

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Susanne Frensey

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from The Mahler Family



***Pastor James C. Zwernemann was VLC and TCS's beloved Senior Pastor for over 30 years. Recently, Pastor Z was called home, and we both grieve the loss of this inspirational pastor yet also celebrate the eternal life that he preached so clearly about and that was given to him freely by his Savior, Jesus. A memorial service will be held at VLC on Tuesday, July 1, at 4 pm, with a reception following on the Great Porch. Pastor Z's wish was for his service to be a joyful celebration of life, and he wanted to encourage guests to wear bright and cheerful colors. Please keep Jim's dear wife, Bonnie, and the entire family in your prayers and join us for the service if you are able. God bless Pastor Z with a Texas-sized measure of God's grace and mercy.***

***His former Associate Pastor and grateful co-worker in the kingdom,***

***Pastor Rob Hartwell***

**Rev. Dr. James Charles Zwernemann  
January 15, 1938 — March 30, 2025**



Reverend Dr. James Charles Zwernemann (affectionately known as Pastor Z) was born to the late Erwin "ET" and Alwine Zwernemann on January 15, 1938, in Brenham, Texas.

Pastor Z blessed us for 87 years before passing away peacefully on March 30, 2025, in Acworth, Georgia. He was an optimistic, kind, and loving man with a sparkle in his eye and a fun sense of humor. As a faithful and devoted servant of Jesus Christ, he dedicated his life to sharing God's word. He touched lives in many ways; as a Lutheran Pastor, community leader, mentor, friend, husband, father, BBQ expert, Eagle Scout, athlete, and doting Pop Pop. He truly loved God, his family, his country, and the great state of Texas.

He is survived by his loving wife of 62 years, Bonnie; his son Jimmy Zwernemann and his wife, Lori of Katy, Texas; his daughter, Kelly McCarthy and her husband, Thomas of Newburyport, Massachusetts; his son, John Zwernemann of Dallas, Georgia; his daughter, Lori Darby and husband, Stephen of Darien, Connecticut; and his daughter, Christina Childs and husband, George of Acworth, Georgia. He also leaves behind 13 beloved grandchildren- Eric, Lindsay, Thomas "TJ", Andrew, John "Jack", Ryan, Lily, Emily, Jake, George, Phebe, Haley, Ivy and great-grandchildren, Liam and Blake. He happily baptized all of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren and officiated the weddings of his children. He was preceded in death by his loving parents, and three dear sisters; Lucille "Tootsie" Jordan, Bobbie Joe Devoke, and Jeanette "Neetsie" Zwernemann.

On June 14, 1964, Pastor Z was ordained into the pastoral ministry of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod in his native Texas District at Ascension Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas. His ministry began as Vicar at St. Paul's Lutheran Church of Tremont, in the Bronx from 1962-1963. He went on to become the Founding Pastor of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Warwick, NY from 1964-1969, followed by his call as Head Pastor of Christ Memorial Lutheran Church in Houston, Texas from 1969-1974. He became the Senior Pastor of the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School in Bronxville, New York where he served faithfully for 30 years until 2003, when he was named, "Pastor Emeritus." It was especially meaningful that Pastor Z served the same church where he and Bonnie were married on August 18, 1962.



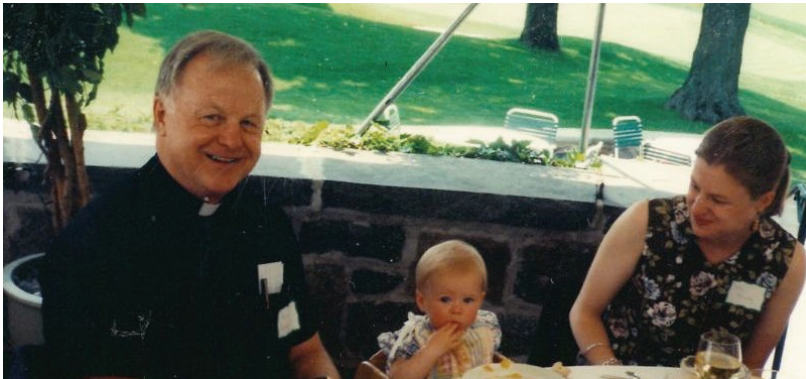
Pastor Z earned his B.A. at Concordia Senior College, Ft. Wayne, Indiana, and went on to receive his M.Div. from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, Missouri, his S.T.M. from the Biblical Seminary of New York, and his D.Min. from New York Theological Seminary. He also completed training at the US Army Chaplain School in Fort Hamilton, New York. His love of learning led him to further graduate work at Columbia University (Teachers College), the University of Texas at Austin, Washington University, General Theological Seminary, and the Jewish Theological Seminary in New York. Pastor Z had a keen interest in world languages and worked toward proficiency in many, including sign language. He frequently preached in German and

Spanish. As a dedicated Lutheran minister, he studied Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, bringing them to life in his preaching and pastoral care.

During his time at Village Lutheran Church, Pastor Z served as the Bishop and President of the LCMS Atlantic District. He chaired the Board of Regents at Concordia College in Bronxville and served as Chaplain of the Eastchester Fire Department. His civic leadership included board roles with Wartburg, the City History Club of New York, Lawrence Hospital's Institutional Review Board, and Jansen Memorial Hospice of Westchester County. He also regularly presided over the Baccalaureate services for the graduating Senior Classes of Bronxville High School, from which his five children graduated.

Even in retirement, Pastor Z continued his ministry. After moving with his wife, Bonnie, to beautiful East Haddam, CT, he served as interim pastor at Christ Lutheran Church in Hebron; True Light Lutheran Church in Chinatown, New York, and

Hope Lutheran Church in Storrs. Wherever he went, he brought the Good News of Jesus Christ with warmth, humor, and his signature storytelling ability.



Jim gave us a lifetime of beautiful memories filled with laughter, love, and a deep sense of family and faith. Jim was a loyal sports fan and he could easily be spotted in the crowd as the man dressed in clerical clothes with a cowboy hat and cowboy boots. He cheered his heart out from the sidelines for all the Bronxville Bronco teams and he made it

a point to attend his children's and grandchildren's events and performances. He also cherished traveling and particularly his pilgrimages to the Holy Land. He was a master on the grill and became well-known for his famous Texas barbeque brisket which he served at the Fun Fair at Chapel School. Pastor Z made the Christmas Eve Services at church extra special as he loved to dress as biblical characters and tell the story of Christ's birth. He enjoyed bringing family into New York City to see the Rockefeller Center Christmas tree, enjoy a Broadway Show and on special occasions, to enjoy a good steak at Smith and Wollensky.

A gifted athlete, Pastor Z was recognized as All-American in both baseball and basketball and wore his favorite number, 3, in honor of the Holy Trinity. He also played competitive USTA tennis at Concordia College, the Bronxville Field Club, and Siwanoy Country Club. He once won the "Strongest Grip Contest" at Concordia College Racquet Club, explaining that shaking the hands of a big congregation every Sunday gave him the advantage.

You could find Jim, affectionately known as Pop Pop, fishing in Amston with a grandchild at his side, cooking his delicious pancakes with peaches, and playing cards and board games with the kids. He loved the coast of New England and above all, the great state of Texas. You could find him clam-digging on Block Island, enjoying oysters in Old Saybrook, eating lobster rolls with his grandkids in Maine and enjoying BBQ and a scoop of Bluebell Ice Cream with family in Texas. He will be deeply missed but forever remembered by all.



In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made in Pastor Zwernemann's memory to Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School, 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, New York 10708. [www.VLC-NY.ORG](http://www.VLC-NY.ORG)

Pastor Z's father, ET Zwernemann, was a legendary Texas Ranger who served as a specialized law enforcement officer in the state of Texas. ET sadly passed away at a young age and Pastor Z always held deep admiration for his father, for our nation's first responders and for our military service members. Contributions in Pastor Zwernemann's honor may be made to: <https://t2t.org/>