



VILLAGE VOICES



STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

"For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Luke 2:11



My children are grown, and I am long past the baby days of years gone by. Therefore, I was rather surprised by the overwhelming feelings of joy and gratitude that I felt at the birth of our first grandchild. Grandma Sue and Grandpa (Pastor) Hartwell welcomed "Maeve Kelly Hartwell-Steve" born to Hannah and George Hartwell-Steve on October 7, 2023.

Maeve was 20.1 Inches long and 8.2 lbs. She was born at Penn Medicine in Princeton, NJ near their home. From the moment we held her in our arms, we were in love with this newest addition to the Hartwell family tree. Of course, our grandparent "high" may fade over time, even as our love will certainly continue to grow.



This baby-centered world view comes close to the start of the new church year and the annual anticipation of the birth of our Savior, Jesus. That little baby is the joy of, not just our family, but the human family. To hold Him in your heart is to know joy and peace. To share His love is to fill this world with joy and peace that knows no end.

As a new grandparent, I will certainly look at the Christmas story with fresh eyes through my experience of infant Maeve. Our prayer as a church community is that all would open their hearts (amid challenging and anxious filled times) to the love and grace of the babe of Bethlehem, the Christ of the Cross and the victor over death and the grave.

A thought about babies, grandparents and the Savior of the World that is straight from the Hart.

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.
- The next Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference will be held on Tuesday 11/28 at 6:00 p.m. See page 2 for more details.

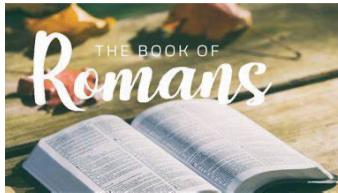
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WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



As we continue to look at Romans, we will finish up chapter 11 with its extended metaphor on branches that have been grafted onto the Vine and ending with a beautiful doxology. Chapter

12 is an opportunity to think about the body of Christ and how we live together. Since the first Wednesday this month is All Saints Day, we will take a moment to remember and give thanks for those who have gone before us.

THE TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

Join us for evening prayer by phone on the last Tuesday of the month. You can follow the printed liturgy, available online or at church, or just listen in. Simply dial in. Our next service will be Tuesday 11/28 at 6:00 p.m.



The call-in number is (1) 732-434-3982. If you have a specific prayer request, please contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

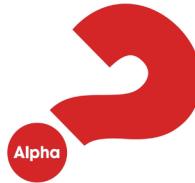
ALL SAINTS DAY



All Saints Sunday will be observed the weekend of **November 4-5**. We will print the names of those who have died over the past year, as well as any other individuals whom you would like to remember. To submit a name, please use the back of the Attendance Form (note as "All Saints") or contact

Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or KRapillo@VLC-NY.org. Names must be received by **Monday, October 30**.

Join a conversation around life, faith and meaning.



Alpha is a series of group conversations that explore the basics of the Christian faith in a friendly environment. It's a place to connect with people, where you can say anything you like or nothing at all. Everyone is welcome. You're invited, no matter your background or beliefs.

You're Invited:
Wednesday evenings, 7-9 PM
Sept. 20th - Dec. 6th &
Saturday, October 28th
Multi-Purpose Room.
A catered dinner with wine
will be included.



Scan QR code or sign up online:
tinyurl.com/Alpha2023Fall

- Connect with new people
- Watch an episode on a question of faith
- Share your thoughts & hear from others

The Alpha talks are not a Bible Study. They explore the big issues of life and faith, addressing questions like "Who is Jesus?", "Why and how do I pray?", and "How does God guide us?"



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
Facebook and YouTube Channels*

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

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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 11/15

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



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 Fiuzza 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. SMC Volunteers are contacted when a new child arrives and are asked to consider signing up to prepare or order a meal for the newly enlarged family. 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 and email and phone and we will add you to the Volunteer list. It's a great way to share the love of Christ (and to meet and help welcome the newest VLC member). Send the info to VLCMAIL@VLC-NY.ORG.

ECAP Thanksgiving FOOD DRIVE
WED. NOV 1 - THURS. NOV. 9



Thanksgiving Items
Stuffing
Gravy
Cranberry Sauce
Mashed Potato
Corn Bread Mix

After school snacks are also appreciated.
PEANUT/NUT FREE snacks, such as Goldfish, snack bars, fruit cups, etc.



Please bring in items by November 9.
Drop off in yellow boxes by school entrance, reception area, or in the Blessing Basket in the Friendship Room.

172 White Plains Road + Bronxville, NY 10708 + 914-337-0207



Poshmark: 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 my code "VLCTCS" and get \$10.

**IT'S TIME FOR A
NEW PHOTO
DIRECTORY!**

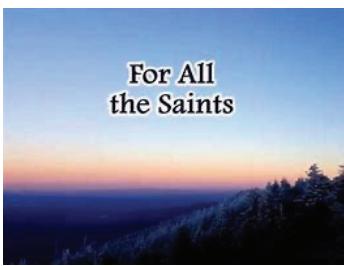


Our church directory will not be complete without you.

Schedule your professional photography session when you stop by the sign-up table at church or simply go online at <https://www.shorturl.ac/directory>. Click on photography appointment scheduling on the right side. Our Church code is **ny118** and password is **photo**. Schedule 2 consecutive timeslots for families over 6 people.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hymn Stories By Deborah Reiss



November is full of themes and observances, from All Saints Sunday to Christ the King, Thanksgiving, and sometimes into Advent. Of all the wonderful hymns associated with these traditions, I have found myself thinking about "For All the Saints" (LSB 677).

The hymn text was written c. 1864 by an English bishop, William W. How, who was also known for his work among the poor and downtrodden. His vision of the saints was likely inspired by the Latin *Te Deum* and reflects the duality of the church on earth, where we "feeble struggle" against sin and evil, alongside the church in heaven, where "they in glory shine." What connects all the saints is faith – the confession of Christ as Lord and the reliance on Him as the rock who sustains us. While we live here in the fallen world, we are called upon to fight against whatever threatens to come between us and God, whether it be violent attacks, stress and fear, or simply temptation. One source of strength and inspiration is the "cloud of witnesses" who have prevailed in this struggle and now rest at peace in heaven. They are through with fighting, and they get to worship God face-to-face with a song of triumph as the "King of Glory" passes by.

The stirring music for this hymn was written by Ralph Vaughan Williams, and it helps to embody the vision of glory as well as the promise of rest and peace. For me, the hymn conjures up an enduring impression from the funeral of my grandfather, Rev. Robert Just. We held the service at Concordia in the Sommer Center, and there were many local pastors, church leaders and friends there to honor his life. As our family processed out in something of a daze, I walked by those pastors singing their hearts out and was overwhelmed by the feeling of the saints triumphant. Grandpa there with all the faithful, us not there yet but knowing we will be one day, imagining Christ the King at the head of the procession, giving thanks for the blessings of life, and knowing that we are never alone.

*From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast,
through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost: Alleluia!*

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY

Please join us as we sing and make music to the Lord!



This month we are pleased to add the Village Bells in worship, as they ring for the first time on All Saints Sunday 11/5 at 10:45 a.m.

Choirs will be off Sundays 11/12 and 11/26 due to the holiday schedule. No rehearsals on Wednesday 11/22 or Thursday 11/23.

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



HAPPY WORK ANNIVERSARY



Thank you to the following VLC/TCS team members who are celebrating a work anniversary in October. 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.

Treda Dickenman	Chief Diversity Officer	4 years
Michelle Restaino	Care Aide	2 years
Riley Deane	Care Aide	1 year

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 11/2, 11/16 and 11/30 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 continues 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. One year we cover the story of scripture and the other we learn about Christian teachings. 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

Over the last 2 years we have focused on how Jesus is IN ALL THINGS and that we are SAVED TO SERVE! This year we will take all that knowledge and 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!



Donuts and Discussions

Calling all 9-12 graders! Please join us **after the 9 a.m. service on Sundays 11/5, and 11/19 in Room 209.** (*Classroom above the church*)

DEEPER: Each month, 7-12th 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 11/16 at 6:00pm. If you have any questions, please contact our Director of Youth and Family Ministries Pastor Mark Budenholzer (MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG).

Summer 2024 Mission Trip:

Want to go on a mission trip to Guatemala this summer? More details coming soon!

If you have any questions please email Crusader Youth Leader, Amy Heath at amyheath1023@gmail.com

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Join us every week for Sunday School at our 9 a.m. service! We continue through the Epic Teachings of The Bible looking at all the things Jesus taught during the Sermon on the Mount. 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).



Parent Community Nights

Parent Community Nights are something new we are doing this year with the goal of fostering Christian community amongst parents as we seek to raise our children as God has called us to. **Join us for our next night on Thursday 11/9 at 6 p.m.**

We'll have food and discussion. Childcare will be provided. For more information contact Pastor Mark at MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

HOPE in the LORD @ TCS



TECH UPGRADES HAVE ARRIVED!

Early Christmas for Dr. Martinez and TCS Tech Lab! Thanks to a generous donor, Sphero Robotics, Sound Trap and Rocket Languages are available to TCS Students in Spanish Class, Middle School Tech, After-School Activities and Summer Programs ... and there is more to come!

Returning Opportunity for TCS Grades 5-8 ... Thurgood Marshall

Mock Trial Club! 14 Students have signed up to work with Volunteer Coach/Attorney Joseph Miller (TCS Parent) and Coach Brown (TCS Librarian) as part of a Mock Trial Club. We hope to enter a competition, but will find other ways to present to the community if that does not work out.



Partnership with Iona University



TCS will have use of the Lower Softball Field 2 Days Per Week through December. We are hoping to expand this in Spring 2024.



TCS Extra-Curricular Activities are up and running, including our Grades 1-3 Fall Musical **Willie Wonka Kids** (In-Person Show-Tuesday 11/14), Fall Volleyball and Golf at Lake Isle! CYO Basketball Season Coming Soon!



TCS Advisory Committee is back with a focus on Family Connections, Marketing and Retention and a new Sub-Committee with a special focus on EQUITY! Our First Meeting was on Tuesday, 10/24.

The Chapel School Offering Recipients:

NOVEMBER: The Chapel School is proud to support **Feeding Westchester**.

DECEMBER: Community Service Associates (CSA) Soup Kitchen in Mt. Vernon

The Chapel School is thrilled to once again partner with the TCS New York City Marathon as an official charity partner. Be sure to cheer on and keep in your prayers, the dedicated members of Team Chapel who will be running on Sunday 11/5, on behalf of The Chapel School's Scholarship Fund. The Team is being coached by Pastor Hartwell and consists of the following runners:

To learn more about the runners or to donate to Team Chapel please visit: www.TeamChapel.com

Meet Team Chapel



Isabella Cavazos



Davey Chandler



Miles Khaleel

Scan the QR code to
donate to Team Chapel



Xavier Martinez



Alexander Kirchgaesser



Patrick Wareham

Kwok Wai Yu

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

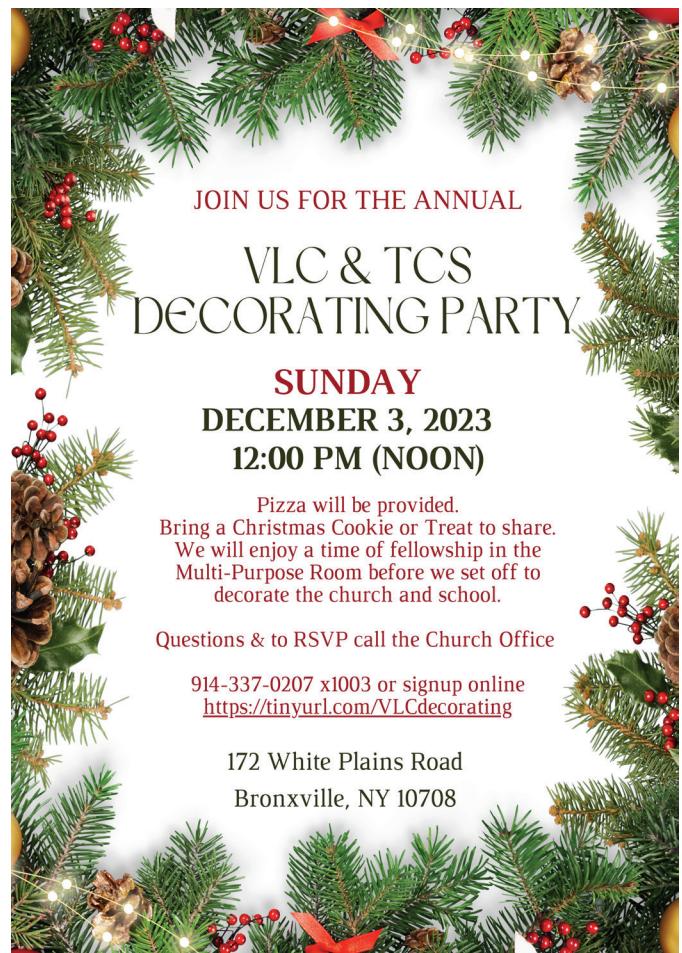


Special Thanks to our 2024 Gathering of Friends Co-Chairs: Maura Condolff & Kate Marino

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 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.



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

Michael W. Smith is arguably the king of Christian pop and worship music. He has also produced several fine Christmas albums. "Every Christmas" is one of his best. Only outdone by 1989's "Christmas" (worth a look and listen if you have not heard this classic). Christmas albums either reinvent the standards or go off into new directions. Each of these directions can be mistakes depending on the artists and material. Smith goes in the new direction with 12 songs with only hints of traditional Christmas Carols (with the notable exception of the exceptional choral rendition of "How Great our Joy"). The songs are often syrupy and nostalgic but rightly so when it comes to this beloved Christian feast. Do you want your heart warmed with Christ centered and catchy songs? Then "Every Christmas" is for you. It has shaped my prayers this month and is this month's Hart Beat. Check it out on your favorite streaming platform. For Apple Music go to <https://music.apple.com/ca/album/every-christmas/>



SCAN ME

Michael W. Smith
Every Christmas
2023 Rocketown Records/
The Fuel Music

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

VLC-NY.org
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:

Anita & Vincent Palmese
In Honor of Kristin & Edward Gaba Jr.
30th Wedding Anniversary

Thomas Biele
In Memory of Helen Biele

Christine Price &
The Family of Katherine A. Koenig
In Memory of Katherine A. Koenig

The Kerin Family
In Support of the Ministry of
The Chapel School

Theresa Eaton
In Honor of All Souls Day
For Her Beloved Husband
John Waters Eaton

William Phipps
In Honor of Concordia Conservatory

Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

As VLC prepares for a new year, it is important to know what support we can depend on from our congregation members. By knowing what you are willing to commit financially, we are able to better plan for the future. Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.



To set up a recurring giving schedule, visit us online at www.VLC-NY.ORG, locate the Online Giving link and set up your recurring giving schedule. The first time you give, you will select a password that will enable you to log in at any time and make changes to your giving or view your complete online giving history. Or if it's easier, complete a paper authorization "Simply Giving" form and return it to the Development Office.