



VILLAGE VOICES



TALK OF THE VILLAGE

We have been blessed with strong leadership and loving pastoral care from Pastor Rob Hartwell for 27 years. As we look forward to a special service and dinner on October 4 to celebrate his ministry and Sue Hartwell's partnership, it is natural to feel anxious about what comes next. God assures us that His loving presence accompanies us in all things: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have summoned you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you." (Isaiah 43:1-2)

Many are inquiring about arrangements during this vacancy and the process for calling our next Senior Pastor. As a congregation, we have been blessed with strong lay leadership. Congregational President Jim Bunn, Principal Michael Schultz, the Trustees, Staff, Deacons, and many members are actively working with Associate Pastor Mark Budenholzer to ensure we maintain our momentum until we find a new Senior Pastor.

- After careful analysis and following the guidance of our Atlantic District President/Bishop, The Rev. Dr. Dien Taylor, the Trustees have identified key areas of focus that require our immediate and ongoing attention, forming six committees.
- The six areas are the Call Committee, the Farewell Celebration, the Capital Campaign, TCS/Admissions, Pastoral Care, and Finance/Operations.
- Led by the Trustees, Pastor Budenholzer, and Principal Schultz, these committees have reallocated the duties of Pastor Hartwell and are already working diligently.
- Additionally, the Trustees have secured a commitment from the Atlantic District to enlist a consulting group to help increase enrollment in The Chapel School.



Regarding the Call Process, the LCMS provides a protocol to assist congregations in identifying strengths and challenges, finding potential candidates, and discerning God's will in extending a call. Here is a general outline of the steps to be taken:

- A Call Committee has been formed and has already met several times. They have developed a plan to ensure that the voices of our congregation are heard.
- A congregational survey was conducted on September 20-21 to determine what our members value most in a Senior Pastor. The committee is grateful to all who participated, as the congregation has the ultimate say in who is called.
- The survey results will be made public, and a Ministry Description will be created based on these results with input from the Trustees.

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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 or on Facebook or YouTube.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call will be on 10/28.

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- Bishop Taylor is in direct contact with VLC leadership. He personally met with the congregation between services on September 14 to explain the Call Process, provide guidance, and answer questions.
- Candidates will be identified by the Atlantic District and interviewed by the Call Committee. The Committee will make recommendations, after which the congregation will have an opportunity to meet the candidates and provide input.
- A final Call will be determined by Voting Members at a Voter's Meeting.
- To be a Voting Member according to our constitution and bylaws, congregants must attend at least two Voter's Meetings. The Trustees are looking to add additional Voter's Meetings to the schedule to facilitate meeting this requirement.

All of these steps will take time to come to fruition, and updates will be provided along the way. We pray for God's guidance throughout this journey, lean on Him for wisdom in carrying out the Call Process, and give thanks for all who are dedicating their time, experience, knowledge, and hearts as we discern God's gracious will for VLC.

WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY

Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

As we continue to consider Gospel accounts that are only found in John, we will be looking this month at chapters 7-8 as Jesus used the Feast of Tabernacles to reveal deep truths about His identity. This generated a great deal of animosity, which was compounded by the dramatic encounter with the woman who was caught in adultery. Stay tuned!

Chosen Wine, Desserts & Discussion



WEDNESDAYS
SEPTEMBER 24 – NOVEMBER 12
TIME: 7-9 PM

WATCH SEASON ONE OF THE ACCLAIMED SERIES
WITH DISCUSSION AND REFRESHMENTS

HOSTED BY
DEACON JANET GEORGE
DEACON TONY DEROSA

INVITE A FRIEND!

TO RSVP – PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE
914-337-0207 X. 1003

VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
172 WHITE PLAINS ROAD
BRONXVILLE, NY 10708
WWW.VLC-NY.ORG

Village Lutheran Church SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER



We will be holding our monthly service of evening prayer by phone, led by Pastoral Assistant Morris Mayer along with Minister of Music Deb Reiss, on the last Tuesday of the month. Join us at 6:00 p.m. on 10/28.

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

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 dates are 10/15

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



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 or call 914-337- 0207



Veterans
Helping
Veterans

Are you a veteran or actively serving in the military or reserves? As we approach Veterans Day this November, Deacon Larry Cosentino would like your input on creating new opportunities for ministry among the brave men and women who have served or are serving in our military. If interested, make a note on the pew card or contact Deacon Larry at Larry.Cosentino@gmail.com or (646)369-7408.



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.

October 14
October 28

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.



ST. MONICA'S CIRCLE: St. Monica was born in the 4th century and she is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. VLC has a long running ministry to new parents in her name. Carolyn Fiuza is our coordinator.

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. For more information, call the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss

This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe. There is no difference, for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, and are justified freely by His grace through the redemption that came by Christ Jesus.

(Romans 3:22-24)



We hear this familiar passage every year on Reformation Sunday, but it can still be hard to go beyond abstract legal arguments and grasp what this means for our lives. One idea that set off a lightbulb for me was to look at the way we try to make ourselves acceptable to both God and one another.

I read a New Yorker article over the summer that explained how dangerous it can be when people are perfectionists. The trouble comes from the compulsion to avoid mistakes at all costs and the anxiety that irreparable rejection will proceed when mistakes do occur. A person feels that being perfect is the only way to stay socially safe and acceptable. Ironically, the tremendous effort to be perfect often leads to less achievement; and whatever success does occur will not alleviate the fear.

Fear of failure comes in many forms. My mother says that when I was three or so, if we were listening to a record and I did not know the song, I would pick up the needle and go on to the next song rather than deal with not being able to sing the unfamiliar one. Musicians obviously try to avoid making mistakes in performance, but there are many kinds of activities and interactions that provoke anxiety about failing to live up to a perfect standard. What Paul talks about in Romans is that people try to convince themselves that they can skip over their own imperfections and find a way to make up for any mistakes that are inevitably made. The "good" will outweigh the "bad" and God will then be satisfied. The hard truth for a perfectionist is that "all have sinned and fall short." No one is perfect, and there is nothing that any one of us can do to offset the sins (mistakes) we have committed.

The Good News is that we are in fact declared by God to be acceptable (or legally "justified") because of what Jesus did for us. Jesus was the only perfect human, and His death and resurrection do make up for our failures. God does not love me because I am perfect; God makes me perfect through Christ because He already loves me. God will help me try to master temptation and overcome weakness, but when I do something that is sinful or imperfect, God asks me to recognize it, seek forgiveness, work through the consequences, and let it go.

This grace is something we can extend to one another. We all want to be accepted and loved. The psychological answer to perfectionism is that a person matters to someone else. We all matter to God, and we have the opportunity to help others be loved and accepted.



The Chancel Choir got off to a great start in September, and we look forward to adding our other ensembles to our worship life. Musical highlights for this month include the Celebration of Ministry for the Hartwell's on Saturday 10/4, our children's choirs at the Family Service on Sunday 10/19 and Reformation Sunday 10/26. Handbells will ring either Reformation Sunday or All Saints Sunday. There is still time to join if you are interested!

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

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 10/2, 10/16, and 10/23 in the MPR.

If you have any questions, please email Erika Schultz at tyandbash@aol.com Thanks!

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.

You can register your child by filling out the confirmation form on the website (go to VLC-NY.Org and click on Forms) which also has general information about the program. Classes begin 10/5.

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 10/5, 10/19, and 10/26 . 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



It's time to get scared!!! Scared by the Sound is back at Playland!! Save the Date October 24, 2025 8pm. Ticket price \$35 per person. Please email Amy Heath amyheath1023@gmail.com by October 12th to confirm attendance.

The Holiday Tag Sale is coming in November! We are looking for new or gently used holiday items.

Example items needed: decorations, ribbons, gift bags, small gift items, candles, picture frames, jewelry. Please drop off donations to the church on November 21st.



THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

Building a Family of Faith at TCS! (October 2025)



TCS's 2025 SUMMER PROGRAM HAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL SEASON! The numbers are in! TCS Summer Program Directors **James Mastrangelo (Explorer)** and **Chrissy Colagrande (Care Bear)** led a team of fantastic instructors and counselors who provided another uninterrupted **9 Full Weeks of Safe and Fun Summer Programming!** Registration for both Care Bear and Explorer Programs were excellent, and net income is projected to be around \$300,000! Planning has already begun for Summer 2026!

MORE Exciting TECH Upgrades! Welcome to TCS Team, Ms. Lorelei Heath!

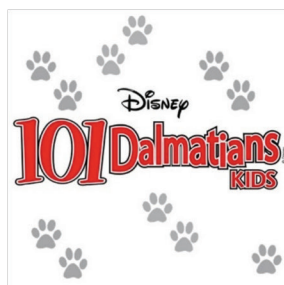
Phase 3 of our **Technology Plan** included the addition of **2 more Smart Flat Panels** in TCS Preschool, and we are so excited that **Dr. Martinez** will now be providing regular **Tech instruction to Grades 1-4!** This will extend use of our **Maker Invention Wall**, programmable **Remote Vehicles (Sphero RVR+)** and **Lego Mindstorm Engineering!**

Welcome to TCS **Ms. Lorelei Heath, PT Librarian/PT Care Director!** And welcome back to the rest of our wonderful and dedicated TCS Team!



TCS Serves

After supporting the LCMS-Atlantic District in September, we are excited for October's Student Leader Service Learning initiative for the World Wildlife Fund, as led by 8th Graders Andi Gace, Noah Thomas and Leo Burton!



Return of Band, Choirs and After-School Sports for Fall 2024!

The Chapel School Chargers Athletics Program is proud to announce the return of CYO Cross Country, Club Volleyball and Golf this fall ... plus the start of a full CYO Basketball Season! And, TCS's Music and Drama Programs are pleased to prepare for the return of Prep Choir, Select Choir and Band ... and a Grades 1-3 Production of Disney's "101 Dalmatians Kids"!

October Open House ... JOIN US!

Preschool-Grade 8 ... Sunday, October 19, 2025 @ 1 PM.

#BuildingAFamilyOfFaith!

FELLOWSHIP NEWS



OCTOBER 21, 2025 FALL LUNCH BUNCH SENIOR LUNCHEON!

JOIN US AT OUR FALL LUNCH BUNCH
LUNCHEON IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM ON
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2025.

ARRIVE AT 11:30AM

LUNCH BEGINS AT 12:30 PM

PLEASE RSVP TO KIM RAPILLO BY 10/14/25
AT KGRAP@VLC-NY.ORG
OR BY PHONE: 914-337-0207 X.1003

FREE WILL OFFERING ACCEPTED



PLEASE JOIN US TO
HONOR & CELEBRATE

REV. DR. ROBERT HARTWELL

Saturday, October 4, 2025

5:30 PM Service of Thanksgiving
followed by

6:30 PM Dinner Reception

Village Lutheran Church

Please join us for a special event honoring the ministry of
Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell. The gathering will be a time to come
together for dinner, share stories, and celebrate the impact that
Pastor Hartwell & Sue Hartwell have had on our community.

RSVP by September 29, 2025

*There is a small processing fee for online payments.

To make a payment by cheque, please contact the church office.

\$35 Per Person (Adults Only)

Reserve Online:

tinyurl.com/CelebratingPastorH

or call Kim Rapillo at 914-337-0207 x 1003



For those who wish to bring a card or a gift, there will be a basket at the event.

If you'd like to contribute to the dessert table, please
visit www.tinyurl.com/Desserts4Hartwell or call the
church office: 914-337-0207 x.1003

 **NewYork-Presbyterian**
Westchester

Free Flu Vaccinations | 2025 Ages 18+ | No Appointment Needed

Friday, October 3, 2025

9 AM - 2 PM

Bronxville Courtroom at Village Hall
200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville

Thursday, October 23, 2025

9 AM - 2 PM

Eastchester Public Library
11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester

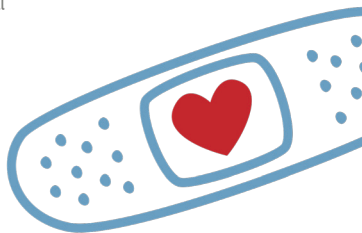
Wednesday, October 29, 2025

10 AM - 1PM

Tuckahoe Community Center
71 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe

**On a first-come, first-served basis, we
are offering the high-dose flu vaccine to
people ages 65+ to help provide a stronger
immune response against influenza.**

Vaccinations will be administered by
NewYork-Presbyterian nurses.



For your safety

Please stay home if you have a fever
greater than 100° or have been diagnosed
with COVID in the last 5 days.

For more information, please call our
Flu Shot Hotline at 914-787-6060.



Co-sponsored by The Community Fund of
Bronxville, Eastchester and Tuckahoe.



October

Isabel Watson/Teacher Aide, 17 years
Denisse Jadue, Spanish Teacher, 3 years
Lillian Kubaska, Care Aide, 2 years
Sabrina Standard, Sub Teacher, / TA, 2 years

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

VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org

Return Service Requested

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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

In Honor of Pastor Hartwell
from Kevin & Deborah Cook

In Honor of Pastor Hartwell
from Betty Ann & Martin Gotte

In Honor of Pastor Hartwell
from Peter W. Soans

In Loving Memory of
Jo-Ann and John Cerreta
from Diana Cerreta

In Loving Memory of Francisca Febus,
Mother of Nelly Palumbo,
from Kathy Coffey

In Loving Memory of Francisca Febus,
Mother of Nelly Palumbo,
from Christine Price