



# VILLAGE VOICES



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

We conclude our look at the life of Luther through the cities he lived in or was influenced by. This is all in preparation for our church trip to Luther's Germany in December. There are still a few spots but time is limited. Contact me directly at (914) 329-9182 or [RevHartweL@gmail.com](mailto:RevHartweL@gmail.com) if you are interested.



Salzburg on a bright sunny summer day.

On our final days of travel, we will enjoy views of the scenic Austrian countryside on our drive to the "Sound of Music" city of Salzburg, one of the world's most beautiful places, and to view where Mozart was born. Afterwards, there will be time to enjoy the delights of Salzburg's Christmas Market. Here we are certain to find unique ornaments as well as gifts that

will be remembered for many Christmas' to come. Then it's off to Oberndorf and Oberammergau where there will be free time for shopping. Then off to Munich for an overnight and our trip home. It will be a wonderful trip.

We also are grateful for our patron Rev. Dr. Thomas Sluberski (may he rest in peace) who set up a travel fund to bring a high school or college student on this and future trips through a generous scholarship. This trip we welcome Ms. Lorelei Heath. And we hope to offer trips and scholarship opportunities through the Sluberski Travel Fund for years to come. A thought about our trip to Luther's Germany that is Straight from the Hart!

PS: Throughout my tenure at VLC and TCS I have shared thoughts about faith and life that I called "Straight from the Hart," playing off, of course, my last name "Hartwell." I pray these have been a blessing over the years. As I move on to new ministry at Lutheran Braille Workers ([www.LBWLOveWorks.org](http://www.LBWLOveWorks.org)), I will no longer be sharing these articles. Rather now, I would want you to know that your love and care has warmed our entire Hartwell family and Sue and I are grateful. From our Hartwell family to your hearts, we thank you for surrounding us with love and care. It's not good-bye but until we meet again. God bless you and heartfelt thanks to the best church and school with hearts filled with love. Our gracious appreciation 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 will resume on 9/30.

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## WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

**Wednesdays 10:45 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Our weekly sessions will start up again on Wednesday 9/17 in the Friendship Room. Refreshments are available at 10:45 and the study begins at 11:00 a.m. We will be continuing our discussion of unique stories from the Gospel of John, beginning with accounts of Jesus healing in John 4 and 5. Join us any week!

### Village Lutheran Church SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER



We will be resuming 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 9/30.

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

## Sunday, September 14 Coffee Hour

Join Bishop Taylor for coffee and conversation about the call process for senior pastor at Coffee Hour in the MPR on Sunday, September 14 (after the 9AM service)



Worshippers should come early to enjoy the discussion and refreshments before the 10:45AM Service.

Village Lutheran Church

# Sunday School Program

GRADES PK-6

## Rally Day September 7, 2025

Join us as we kick off another exciting year of VLC Sunday School!

Sunday School is open to all children  
VLC members, visitors, Chapel School families and community friends!

### SPECIAL INVITATION

3-year-olds will receive a blessing in the service & go with a parent to their first Sunday School class!

3rd graders will receive a special bible of their own to continue their study of God's word!

*Chosen Wine, Desserts & Discussion*



WEDNESDAYS  
SEPTEMBER 24 - NOVEMBER 1  
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



## 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 9/17**

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 Shawl Ministry

#### 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



### Veterans Helping Veterans

Are you a veteran or actively serving in the military or reserves? Deacon Larry Cosentino would like to talk with you regarding ways to be in ministry to and with the community of brave men and women who have served, or are serving, in our military. Contact Deacon Larry at [Larry.Cosentino@gmail.com](mailto: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.

**September 9  
September 23**

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.**



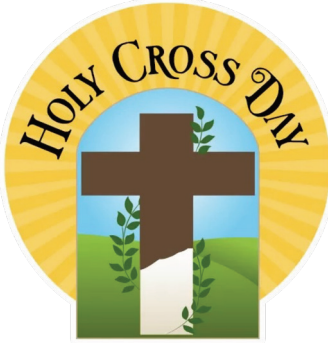
**ST. MONICA'S CIRCLE:** St. Monica was born in the 4th century and she is recognized as the patron saint of mothers. VLC has a long running ministry to new parents in her name. Carolyn Fiuza is our coordinator.

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](mailto: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

***Any who do not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple... In the same way, any of you who does not give up everything they have cannot be my disciple.*** (Luke 14:27, 33)



As we navigate through a time of transition in our church life, I have been thinking about all the ways that God forms us into the body of Christ. With inspiration from a devotional guide in my collection, this series will look at how we find our lives hidden with Christ.

September 14 is Holy Cross Day – an opportunity outside the usual confines of Lent to ponder what the cross represents. When Jesus talked about carrying crosses, people knew the reference meant having to haul the instrument of your own ignominious death. Though they could not conceive it at the time, Jesus would literally follow through on this commitment in order to complete the work that His heavenly Father had given Him to do on our behalf. Is Jesus really asking us to do the same?

Most of us are not asked to go on a death march, nor are we compelled to divest ourselves of all our worldly possessions. What we are confronted with is the need to freely “give up” what we have received in order to serve God by serving those around us. The task may be difficult, and the effort may prove painful, yet we cannot use that as an excuse to back away. At a rather simple level, I learned this lesson while attending my Confirmation week program at Camp Pioneer. One of the community guidelines was that you picked up any garbage you might find on the grounds, regardless of how it got there. I thought this seemed fairly absurd at first – why should I need to pick up someone else’s mess?!? But I came to appreciate how this one little activity was a beneficial way of being a disciple. There were not enough maintenance staff to pick up after a herd of heedless adolescents. Disposing of other people’s trash made you more mindful of not littering in the first place, and of cleaning up after yourself. Having to do something you would probably otherwise choose not to do was a good way to embrace servanthood. The fact that everyone was expected to participate made it less burdensome, even if there were some who did not jump at the chance. This “rule” has stayed with me.

Carrying the cross is not a martyr complex. It is a way of life that urges us to consider the cost and do it anyway. It means listening and watching for God’s direction, then following through to the best of your ability. It calls us to appreciate those who offer themselves for our benefit. It reflects the same prayer that Jesus spoke to His Father when facing the cross: “Yet not my will, but Yours be done.”



Welcome back to a new year of music in worship! If you love music, please join one of our ensembles and help us make a joyful noise to the Lord. Rehearsals begin as follows:

**CHERUB CHOIR** (Preschool - Grade 2) - Sing with Mrs. Kate Marino during Sunday School

**YOUTH CHOIR** (Grades 3-8) - Rehearse with Mr. George Heath, Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. starting 9/18

**HIGH SCHOOL CHOIR** (Grades 9-12) - Rehearse with Mr. George Heath, Sundays at 10:15 starting 9/21

**CHANCEL CHOIR (SATB)** - Rehearse with Minister of Music Deb Reiss, Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. starting 9/11

**VILLAGE BELLS** - Ring with Minister of Music Deb Reiss, Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. starting 9/24  
(If you are new to handbells, ask Deb for a demo session!)

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)

## 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 9/18 and 9/25 in the MPR.**

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

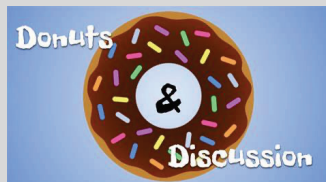
### LIFERS Grades 7–8

Confirmation is soon beginning and sign up has started! 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.

Our orientation night will be Thursday 9/18 at 6:00pm here at the church. The orientation is for you and your confirmand. If you cannot attend, please let me know so we can find another time to go over the rhythms and requirements of the program and any other questions you may have. If you have any questions please contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Mark Budenholzer at [MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG).

### CRUSADERS Grades 9–12



**Calling all 9-12 graders!** Calling all high school students (9-12 grade). Donuts and Discussion begins 9/7 after the 9am service. We will meet in the office suite. 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](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com)



### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**RALLY DAY Weekend is 9/6-7.**

This marks the return of our fall schedule and the start of Sunday School.

On Sunday 9/7, at 9:00 a.m., we have lots of wonderful things going on with the Blessing of 3-year-olds, Bibles presented to 3rd graders, installation of Sunday School teachers, first day of Sunday School, and Chapel School faculty and staff installation at 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz



### TCS News (September 2025)

TCS is so excited for our 79<sup>th</sup> year of service to this wonderful community, where together, we are **"Building a Family of Faith!"** (Eph. 2:19-22)!

TCS Community wants to share **sincere appreciation** for **Pastor Hartwell's 27 years of dedicated service**, and ... although we will miss him dearly ... we pray for his continued success in his new position with **Lutheran Braille Workers**

**Gathering of Friends 2026** will be Co-Chaired by **Keisha Glenn-Hutton, Michelle Walsh** and **Shaniqua Raphael**! Date and venue still

TBD, but we are excited for another great night of friend-raising and fundraising! Be watching for ways that you can help!

### Capital Campaign Facilities Upgrades!

With the help of some generous donors, we are so excited to have begun capital improvements in the church and school, specifically with And, TCS will be continuing use of iReady, which enables teachers to monitor individual student success in math and reading!

### NEW Offering Recipients for 2025-2026

Additions to this year's dedicated Offering Recipients and service learning projects will include: World Wildlife Fund led by Noah Thomas, Leo Burton and Andi Gace; and Bronx Works led by Max Tinson!

#TCServes



**Fun VLC/TCS Social Event – NY Mets Baseball Game on Saturday, September 20<sup>th</sup>!** Please email Michael Schultz ([mschultz@thechapelschool.org](mailto:mschultz@thechapelschool.org)) if you would like to join us!

### October Open House ... JOIN US!

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



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS



### OCTOBER 14, 2025 FALL LUNCH BUNCH SENIOR LUNCHEON!

JOIN US AT OUR FALL LUNCH BUNCH  
LUNCHEON IN THE FRIENDSHIP ROOM ON  
**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2025.**

**ARRIVE AT 11:30AM**

**LUNCH BEGINS AT 12:30 PM**

PLEASE RSVP TO KIM RAPILLO BY 10/7/25

AT [KGRAP@VLC-NY.ORG](mailto:KGRAP@VLC-NY.ORG)

OR BY PHONE: 914-337-0207 X.1003

FREE WILL OFFERING ACCEPTED



179 WHITE PLAINS RD.  
BRONXVILLE, NY  
914.337.3202

**Fall 2025**

# Joyful Jams

A CLASS FOR LITTLE MUSIC MAKERS AND THEIR CAREGIVERS

**Fridays from Sept. 19 - Nov. 14**  
*no class October 24*

**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 September 12th

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR MAUREEN BUTLER  
914-337-3202, EXT 1008 --- [MBUTLER@THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG](mailto:MBUTLER@THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG)

**sign up Here!**



### SEPTEMBER

Marcia Kollmann, Chapel Coordinator/Assoc. Organist, 35 years  
Kim Rapillo, Church Office Admin Assistant, 34 years  
Erika Schultz, Youth Minister, 27 years  
Tricia McGinnis, Village Voice Editor, 25 years  
Maureen Bellotti, Kindergarten Teacher, 19 years  
Diana McGuinness, Teacher Aide, 19 years  
Carmela Colagrande, Teacher Aide, 19 years  
Lynn McAloon, 2nd grade, 19 years  
Kate Marino, PS/K Music Teacher/Drama Dir, 16 years  
Maura Condolff, School Secretary, 16 years  
Emily Castracucco, Teacher Aide, 15 years  
Matthew Silver, Young Choral Artist, 11 years  
Corinne La Rocca, Teacher Aide, 7 years  
Janet Pezzo, Teacher Aide, 3 years  
Lori Chistiano, PS Teacher's Aide, 1 year

**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

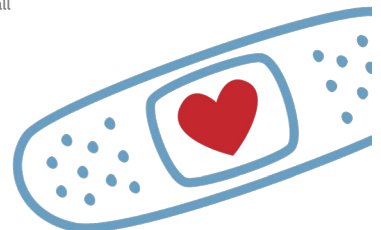
**On a first-come, first-served basis, we are offering the high-dose flu vaccine to people ages 65+ to help provide a stronger immune response against influenza.**

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.

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

**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 Pastor Zwernemann  
from Linda McBride

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from The Pietarinen Family

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from The Schoenlank Family

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Bryan & Marilyn Pope

In Loving Memory of Barbara Moccia  
from her loving daughter,  
Carla, John & Family

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Drs. Peter and Vera Voges

In Loving Memory of Pastor Zwernemann  
from Mrs. Norma Seidler

In Loving Memory of Helen Britz from  
Susan Rogers

In Loving Memory of Joan Bevers  
from her loving daughter, Christy Bevers

In Loving Memory of Stephen Cea  
from his loving wife, Evelyn Cea

In Loving Memory of  
Eleanor & Walter Olam  
from their loving son, Robert Olam

In Loving Memory of  
JoAnn and John Cerreta  
from Diana Cerreta

In Loving Memory of Pat & Walter Scholwin  
from Thomas Biele

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

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In Honor of The Birth of their Grandson,  
Michael Connor Murrer from his loving  
grandparents, Jean and Martin Murrer

In Honor of Amelia Paige Weston's Baptism  
from her loving family,  
Meagan & Chandler Weston

In Honor of Kevin Cook from his loving  
Godddaughter, Stephanie Schultz

In Thankfulness to VLC Ministry  
from Claire Story