

† 13TH SUNDAY AFTER PENTECOST †
August 23, 2026

Outdoor Service of Holy Communion 9:00 a.m.
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PRELUDE Built On the Rock Sandra Eithun

WELCOME (*You are invited to choose additional hymns for the service*)

INVOCATION and CONFESSION (*Congregation rising*)

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Let us confess our sin to God, our merciful Father.

C **Almighty God, we admit and confess our sinfulness. We have done the evil You forbid and have not done the good You command. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us all that is past. With the power of the Holy Spirit, move us to serve You faithfully and set our feet upon a new path of life.**

P God has promised forgiveness of sins to those who repent and turn to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN Glory Be to God on High AGPS Hymn 99

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Almighty God, You revealed to Simon Peter that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Keep Your Church firm on the rock of this faith, that we may boldly confess Jesus to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give

heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Romans 11:33 – 12:8

11 ³³O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen. **12** ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Congregation rising*)

(from Psalm 138)

A I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

C I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted Your name and Your word above everything.

A On the day I called, You answered me; You increased my strength of soul.

C All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, for they have heard the words of Your mouth.

A They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

C For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He perceives from far away.

A Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

C You stretch out Your hand, and Your right hand delivers me.

A The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

C Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

We are the Church

AGPS **Hymn 252**

SERMON

Rev. Peter Deebrach

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING & HYMN CHOICE

† HOLY COMMUNION †

PREFACE (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them up to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

P It is truly good, right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

C Lord, have mercy upon us and grant us Your peace.

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION & HYMNS

As you come forward, you will receive the bread in your hand (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired); then take the wine in the individual cup from the tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. After drinking, place empty cups in the second tray.

CLOSING PRAYER (*Congregation rising*)

A Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng (v. 1-4)

AGPS **Hymn 204**

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

* * * * *

COMMUNION STATEMENT

Village Lutheran Church welcomes to Holy Communion those baptized Christians who: †Know Jesus Christ as their Savior (*John 20:31*); †Recognize that the body and blood of Christ are truly present in the bread and wine (*1 Cor. 11:29*); †Are able to examine themselves and repent of their sins (*1 Cor. 11:28*); and †Look to God's Holy Spirit for help in living the Christian life (*Col. 1:10*). Persons not receiving Communion may come forward to receive a blessing.

Service of Holy Communion 10:45 a.m.

PRELUDE

Angel's Story

Robert Hughes

OPENING HYMN (*Congregation rising*)

LSB Hymn 527

O Savior, Precious Savior

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C **who made heaven and earth.**

P If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

C **But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

P Since we are gathered to hear God's Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, let us first confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

C **Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for us, and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Page 204)

To God on high be glory and peace to all the earth;
goodwill from God in heaven proclaimed at Jesus' birth!
We praise and bless You, Father; Your holy name we sing –
our thanks for Your great glory, Lord God, our heav'nly King.

To You, O sole-begotten, the Father's Son, we pray;
O Lamb of God, our Savior, You take our sins away.
Have mercy on us, Jesus; receive our heartfelt cry,
where You in pow'r are seated at God's right hand on high.

For You alone are holy; You only are the Lord.
Forever and forever, be worshiped and adored;
You with the Holy Spirit alone are Lord Most High,
in God the Father's glory. "Amen!" our glad reply.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray:

C **Almighty God, You revealed to Simon Peter that Jesus was the Messiah, the Son of the living God. Keep Your Church firm on the rock of this faith, that we may boldly confess Jesus to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, and walk in the way that leads to eternal life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 51:1-6

¹Listen to me, you who pursue righteousness, you who seek the Lord. Look to the rock from which you were hewn and to the quarry from which you were dug.

²Look to Abraham your father and to Sarah, who bore you, for he was but one when I called him, but I blessed him and made him many. ³For the Lord will comfort Zion; he will comfort all her waste places and will make her wilderness like Eden, her desert like the garden of the Lord; joy and gladness will be found in her, thanksgiving and the voice of song. ⁴Listen to me, my people, and give heed to me, my nation, for a teaching will go out from me and my justice for a light to the peoples. ⁵I will bring near my deliverance swiftly; my salvation has gone out, and my arms will rule the peoples; the coastlands wait for me, and for my arm they hope. ⁶Lift up your eyes to the heavens and look at the earth beneath, for the heavens will vanish like smoke, the earth will wear out like a garment, and those who live on it will die like gnats, but my salvation will be forever, and my deliverance will never be ended.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Romans 11:33 – 12:8

11 ³³O the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments and how inscrutable his ways! ³⁴"For who has known the mind of the Lord? Or who has been his counselor?" ³⁵"Or who has given a gift to him, to receive a gift in return?" ³⁶For from him and through him and to him are all things. To him be the glory forever. Amen. **12** ¹I appeal to you therefore, brothers and sisters, on the basis of God's mercy, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your reasonable act of worship. ²Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of the minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God – what is good and acceptable and perfect. ³For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of yourself more highly than you ought to think but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴For as in one body we have many members and not all the members have the same function, ⁵so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another. ⁶We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ⁷ministry, in

ministering; the teacher, in teaching; ⁸the encourager, in encouragement; the giver, in sincerity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM OF THE DAY (*Congregation rising*)

(from Psalm 138)

A I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart; before the gods I sing Your praise;

C I bow down toward Your holy temple and give thanks to Your name for Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness, for You have exalted Your name and Your word above everything.

A On the day I called, You answered me; You increased my strength of soul.

C All the kings of the earth shall praise You, O Lord, for they have heard the words of Your mouth.

A They shall sing of the ways of the Lord, for great is the glory of the Lord.

C For though the Lord is high, He regards the lowly, but the haughty He perceives from far away.

A Though I walk in the midst of trouble, You preserve me against the wrath of my enemies;

C You stretch out Your hand, and Your right hand delivers me.

A The Lord will fulfill His purpose for me; Your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.

C Do not forsake the work of Your hands.

JALLELUIA VERSE

(LSB Page 205)

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia. These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:13-20

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 16th chapter.

C Glory to You, O Lord.

¹³Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" ¹⁴And they said, "Some say John the Baptist but others Elijah and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." ¹⁵He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" ¹⁶Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." ¹⁷And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON

Rev. Peter Deebrach

THE APOSTLES' CREED (*Congregation rising*)**I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth.****And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.****I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.****PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.****COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS****OFFERING/VOLUNTARY**

A Musical Prayer

James Southbridge

† **HOLY COMMUNION** †**PREFACE** (*Congregation rising*)

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them up to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, for You have mightily governed and protected Your holy Church, in which the blessed apostles and evangelists proclaimed Your divine and saving Gospel. Therefore, patriarchs and prophets, apostles and evangelists, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

¶ SANCTUS (*Sung to "The Church's One Foundation"*)

Sing "Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of pow'r and might!"

Your mercy and Your glory fill heav'n and earth with light.

How blest is our Redeemer, who comes to set us free.

Hosanna in the highest to the great One in Three.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SIGN OF PEACE

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

AGNUS DEI

(LSB Page 210, adapted)

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away;
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Here, O My Lord, I See Thee Face to Face

LSB Hymn 631

As you come forward, you will receive the bread in your hand (please ask for "gluten-free" if desired); then take the wine in the individual cup from the tray. White grape juice is available in the center of the tray. After drinking, place empty cups in the second tray.

CLOSING PRAYER (Congregation rising)

A Almighty God, grant to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom which comes down from above, that Your Word may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edifying of Christ's holy people, that in steadfast faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide unto the end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Rejoice, O Pilgrim Throng (v. 1-3)

LSB Hymn 813

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Built On the Rock

Edward Broughton

* * * * *

Participants in the Service:

Rev. Peter Deebrah, Vacancy Pastor

Deborah Reiss, Minister of Music

	9:00	10:45
Lector	Ellen Story	George Pietarinen
Asst. Minister	Daryl Story	George Pietarinen
Communion Asst.	Ellen Story	Joan Condon
Altar Care	Story Family	
Usher Team	Joe Wilkinson	Ralph Schoene
Sexton	Zachary Gleason	
Refreshments	Miriam Mathew	

News and Notes:

Rally Day/Sunday School – We will return to our fall schedule on **Sunday, September 13**, with worship in the sanctuary at 9:00 and 10:45 and Sunday School during the 9:00 service. As we begin a new school year, join us for our special Rally Day traditions at 9:00 a.m.:

- ❖ Installation of Sunday School staff and first day of Sunday School
- ❖ Installation of Chapel School faculty and staff
- ❖ Presentation of bibles to all Third Graders – The personal bibles signify the next stage in their faith formation. We pray God's blessing as they continue to grow and learn.
- ❖ Blessing of 3-year-olds – After receiving a blessing at the main altar, parents and guardians are welcome to bring their children to the classrooms and stay or return to worship.

If you have any questions about Sunday School, please contact our Sunday School Coordinator, Sarah Gleason, by email to ChrisnySarah@gmail.com

Music Ministry Overview – We will be starting up our regular rehearsals in September. If you love music, please consider joining one of our ensembles and using your gifts to enrich our worship life:

- ❖ Cherub Choir (Age 3 through Grade 2) meets during Sunday School to learn songs and sings in worship about five times during the year
- ❖ Youth Choir (Grade 3-8) meets Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. and sings in worship once or twice a month
- ❖ Chancel Choir (High School and Adult) meets Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. and sings in worship three or four times per month
- ❖ Village Bells (High School and Adult) meets Wednesdays at 6:00 p.m. and rings in worship about six times per year, especially for festival services

If you are interested in being a part, or if you have any questions, please contact Minister of Music Deb Reiss at 914-337-0207, x1018 or Dreiss@VLC-NY.org

Wednesday Bible Study – We will resume our weekly sessions on **September 23**, when we begin a new study on the book of Esther. We will consider the historical background and the underlying message of God's providential care. Refreshments available at 10:45 and the class starts at 11:00. All are welcome!

The Chosen – Season 3 – Returning to VLC on Wednesday evenings, **September 30 through November 18**, from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Watch one episode each week and reflect on the Gospel dramatization while sharing in a light supper. Invite a friend! The viewing is open to the public and available at no cost. To help us prepare, **please RSVP** in advance through the church office. Call 914-337-0207, x1003, email Krapillo@VLC-NY.org, or make a note on the pew card. For more information, contact Deacon Janet George.

Pastoral Care During Vacancy – Pastor Deebrah is serving as our regular worship leader and will be available for baptisms, funerals, and pastoral emergencies. If you are in need of pastoral care, please contact Kim Rapiello in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or Krapillo@VLC-NY.org

- ❖ Our lay deacons are making home visits to those who are recovering from illness or are homebound. They can also bring consecrated elements for Holy Communion and/or a prayer shawl. To arrange a visit, please contact the church office or make a note on the pew card.

Prayer Line: We pray for the sick and those experiencing any kind of difficulty: Pastor Bill Baum, Meghan Bolger, Joshua Davenport & Family, Wayne & Dana Davenport, Theresa Devlin, Mary Fielder, Pastor Bill Flammann, Loren Forke, Dwayne Gitter, Kenneth Held, Kaden Howard, Katie Koster, Gudrun Krüger, Michelle Liscoe, Elaine Podszus, Morena Rodriguez, Dan Schwartz, Jo-Anne Weinberg

Bereavement Prayer Line: We pray for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

- † **Frank Barbieri**, father of Tom Barbieri, passed away on August 13, 2026

Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708
914-337-0207 + www.VLC-NY.ORG