



VILLAGE VOICES



A Message from Jim Bunn, Outgoing President of our Board of Trustees.

Hello, Fellow Villagers!

We have had a very tough year in so many ways, and it is not over yet, but we are all in it together. Look at the progress we have made out of necessity..... why?

We had no choice...

How were we able to craft a financial survival plan, as tenuous as it is? ...
Through determination, patience, purpose, and lots of prayer!

Facing our financial crisis head-on was necessitated by the urgency of the situation when we determined our deficit is over \$700,000 for this fiscal year ending in June with very little credit open to us since our mortgage is already so high. All in all, not a good situation to be in. We have addressed this year and are in the throes of planning next year with our goal of becoming a financially viable institution again.

We have had more Voters' Meetings this year than we are accustomed to having, because we wanted everyone to be aware of what we are going through. That strategy is paying off in terms of better, broader congregation awareness, understanding and participation. Our survey revealed that our change of Sr. Pastor has resulted in reinforcing our unity behind the type of pastor we want to call – a shepherd-leader who can re-energize VLC in our community to attract more members, students and engage (and re-engage) us so that's what we are getting ready for!

This past year was more challenging than any of us thought, but I personally learned how faithful, committed, and plain ol' terrific our Congregation is. Our school is a gem (ask any TCS parent) and our church is a gravitational place of sharing, solace, and spiritual renewal. Now it's time to share more of what we have with VLC and with our community! We need YOU and your time, talent, and treasure if we are going to be healthy again.

To that end, the Board of Trustees is excited to announce 11 Committees (many are new to us) to be Co-chaired by a Trustee and a member of the Congregation to deepen the connection of our Board and our Congregation.

WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- 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 YouTube.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call
Join us for our next one on April 28th at 6pm.
Call in 732-434-3982

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Our focus is growth, re-energizing VLC and providing more opportunities to be together with each other and with friends –fun, friends, fellowship for all through our Faith.

This year has shown we can pull together in tough times, now we have to sustain our unity in order to grow again and to recommit to share Our Mission to Know, Live and Share, the Love of Jesus Christ.

The Committees are:

Marketing - Open

Call Committee – Chaired by Trustee, Ellen Story (currently full)

Stewardship – Chaired by our VP, Chris Gleason (Stewardship Sunday coming soon – stay tuned)

Finance – Co-Chaired by Trustee, Luigi Miro, with our Treasurer, John Ansorge

Facilities – Chaired by Trustee, Dwayne Gitter with our Facilities Manager, Marcello Osso

Youth - New

Fellowship – Open to new members

Education – Chaired by Trustee, Mimi Blanco Community Relations – New

Events – New

School Liaison – New

If you are interested in being on a committee or helping with the activities our committees cook up, please let us know through Kim Rاپillo in the church office.

A huge, loving THANKS in advance for what we are going to accomplish together!

-Jim

Stewardship in Action:

Last month’s write-up reminded us that stewardship is not something we carry alone. Through our shared faith and togetherness, we trust that God will help us meet the needs before us and overcome the obstacles that stand in our path.

Stewardship is not only something we believe; it is something we practice together. As we continue reflecting on time, talents, and treasure, we are reminded that stewardship also takes shape through specific opportunities placed before us in each season of congregational life.

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus teaches: “For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” (Mark 10:45)

These words gently center us. They remind us that stewardship is not measured by equal amounts, but by faithful response — shaped by service, gratitude, and trust in God’s provision.

In the weeks ahead, we are planning a Commitment Sunday. A chance for us all to prayerfully recommit to ways we can serve God through our talents, time and treasure to the church and school. Please stay tuned for ways you can get involved and be a part. We also are excited and look forward to celebrating these blessings with our annual congregational picnic later in the year.

As with all stewardship, the invitation to give is not rooted in obligation but in gratitude. We give because God has first given to us. I give thanks for the steady generosity already present in this congregation and invite each of us to reflect prayerfully on how we might participate in the work before us. Together, through faithful and thoughtful stewardship, we move forward in VLC’s mission to know, live, and share the love of Christ. Stewardship Committee member, Deacon Larry Cosentino

VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Holy Week Worship Schedule 2026



Holy Week

Palm Sunday – March 29

Palms and Palm Crosses/9:00a.m. Family Service

Maundy Thursday – April 2

The Lord's Supper/Stripping of the Altar 7:30 p.m.

Good Friday – April 3

Tenebrae Service 12:00 & 7:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday – April 5

Festival Worship 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.

Continental Breakfast

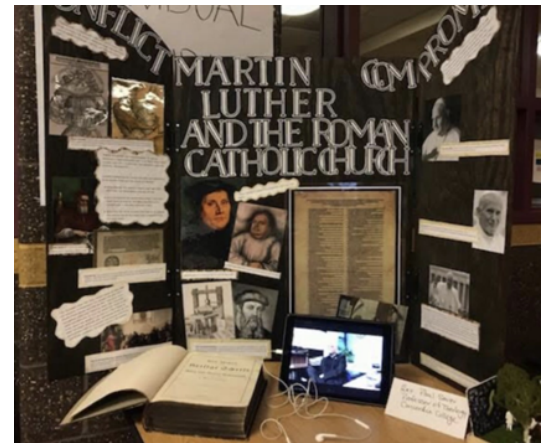
Tracing Martin Luther's Steps: From Monk to Reformer By Lorelei Heath

As I walked the streets of Wittenberg, Eisleben, Leipzig, Eisenach, and Erfurt, I was reminded of a project I completed during my sophomore year of high school. That year the National History Day competition was themed, “Conflict & Compromise” and I chose to present it on Martin Luther. I never knew much about him other than “he nailed 95 theses to a door”. I wanted to know more about his conflict and compromise within religion. I looked everywhere for sources. I interviewed a pastor at Concordia College. I created a poster out of large stained wooden panels that looked like the door where Luther nailed the 95 theses, hinges and all. I found many writings and information about his life, but I always felt like I was missing more details. Now here I was in Germany, walking on the same streets as Martin Luther walked. I visited several places where he made difficult and life changing decisions.

Through my high school research, I studied his time as a monk, when he translated the Bible and of course, when he nailed the 95 theses to the door of The Castle Church in Wittenberg. I also found it fascinating that he married Katharina von Bora, a former nun, and that their wedding became the model for a Protestant marriage and family life.

Knowing this information and walking the streets made the Reformer feel real for the first time. We visited many important places, but there were two memorable sights needing mention. First, the Augustinian Monastery also known as “Augustinerkloster” in Erfurt. This 13th century church and friary were built by Augustinian friars, an order of the Catholic church. Martin Luther resided there from 1505-1511 and began to develop more theological ideas which inspired the Reformation, including the translation of the Bible from Latin into German. Translating the Bible gave priests less power to preach “nonsense” and civilians more freedom to interpret the Bible themselves. Martin Luther not only inspired others to read the Bible to encourage personal faith and understanding, but this was the first time non-clergy could read God’s word without the harsh barrier of Latin.

The second awe-inspiring sight was The Wartburg Castle, detailed in architecture and rich in history. This is where Martin Luther hid after Charles V, Holy Roman Emperor, deemed him an outlaw for refusing to recant his writings. Frederick the Wise arranged a “kidnapping” to hide Luther under the guise of Junker Jörg or “Knight George”. While in hiding, Luther spent 10 months translating the New Testament into German. He became unrecognizable by growing out his hair and his beard. Learning all of this in the moment reminded me how much fun I had learning about Martin Luther and how cool it could have been to travel to Germany for more sources!



“To Know, Live And Share The Love of Christ”

Our trip was not just about Martin Luther though, let me tell you about the Weihnachtsmärkte (Christmas Markets)! Each was alive with music, delicious food, and festive celebrations. There was a feeling of comfort and awe and of Christmas joy. Many markets offered different foods and drinks like Bratwurst, Flammkuchen, Stollen, Glühwein, Kinderpunsch and Heiße Schokolade! Vendors also showcased many different handcrafted ornaments, smokers, jewelry, and a lot more.



After our excursions around Germany, we also explored the beautiful sights of Prague and Austria. In Prague, we crossed the Charles Bridge and went back in time to Old Town.

Austria held some nostalgic memories for me as an avid Sound of Music lover. As we toured Salzburg and saw many locations from the movie, I felt transported! Traveling from Oberndorf to Oberammergau, we saw the most breathtaking views of the Alps. All of my time abroad inspired me to learn more about German history and cultures along with Austrian customs.

Thank you so much Village Lutheran Church and the Sluberski Travel Fund for the amazing experience I was given! My trip to Germany in December 2025 was absolutely memorable!



“To Know, Live And Share The Love of Christ”

Soup Kitchen Partnership

VLC and TCS provide the ENTIRE meal for the Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month.

Our Next Date Is: April 15th

We need volunteers to prepare enough food to feed 80 people.



Please pick up a small aluminum tray from the reception desk, available after church services and during VLC & TCS hours.

Bring the cooked food trays to the VLC parking lot, between 12:00-1:00PM, on the third Wednesday for collection. The food will be delivered to the soup kitchen by our VLC volunteers.

Sign up today at:

www.tinyurl.com/MealCooking

For more information, please contact VLC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Katie Bukofzer at: ETAKWHIT@aol.com



A menu is developed and coordinated by the Soup Kitchen, which includes a meat (or casserole), vegetable, and dessert.



SENIOR LUNCH BUNCH

Tuesday, April 14th

**11:30 AM Japanese Origami Class
with lunch to follow**



\$20 fee must be prepaid by April 7th with a check made out to the Village Lutheran Church & mailed or given to the church secretary, Kim Rapillo

RSVP by phone (914 337-0207 x1003), email (kgrap@vlc-ny.org), or pew card



Join us for a fun-filled afternoon & sign up asap so that the menu can be ordered!



ADULT BIBLE STUDY



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

Please note that there will be no class on April 1, during Holy Week. We will resume on April 8 with our study of Jesus' final words to His disciples (and us) in chapters 14-16 of the Gospel of John.

The Chosen – Season 2



**WEDNESDAYS
APRIL 15 - MAY 6
TIME: 7-9 PM**

**WATCH SEASON TWO OF THE ACCLAIMED SERIES
WITH DISCUSSION AND REFRESHMENTS
(SOUP, SANDWICH, BEER & WINE)**

**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**

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss

But a Samaritan, as he traveled, came where the man was; and when he saw him, he was moved by compassion for him. (Luke 10:33)



What is your definition of a “Good Samaritan”? I have heard the expression numerous times in news reports of someone stepping in to aid or rescue a stranger in dire circumstances. It generally means someone who happened to be on the scene and was willing to help, as opposed to someone like a first responder whose job it is to take care of people in an emergency. The “Good Samaritan” is a person who was not expected to do anything, but chose to take action.

A teacher of the law wanted Jesus to state a legal interpretation of “love your neighbor as yourself.” His question implied that some people are neighbors while others are not, and that there should be limits on what was expected of a righteous person. Jesus answered with a parable where three people see a man in great need, but only one of them stops to help. What Jesus reveals is that to love your neighbor is to truly care for a fellow human being rather than merely fulfill a legal requirement. Why did the “good” Samaritan help this stranger, a presumably Jewish traveler who might not even have returned the favor? This Samaritan was filled with compassion and was unwilling to let the injured man lie helpless and near death. The Samaritan did not care about the man’s identity, but saw a person in need and was moved to care for him extravagantly.

As we were studying this parable in our Wednesday group, I happened to see a Holocaust exhibit about people in Denmark who made sacrifices and even risked their lives to help hide or transport their Jewish neighbors to safety. An astonishing 95% of the Jewish population in Denmark was preserved from Nazi extermination. At the end of the exhibit there were survivor quotes wondering why there were not more citizens of other nations willing to help distressed members of their community, and then a sign at the exit asking “What does it mean to be a good neighbor?” It was a powerful witness to the model of compassion that Jesus talked about.

The teacher of the law rightly saw “love your neighbor” as the second greatest commandment, but he seemed solely motivated by the requirement to “do the right thing” in order to avoid criticism or to satisfy expectations. The Samaritan was motivated from within and acted in loving response to a vulnerable stranger. Jesus calls us to recognize the kindred spirit in everyone we meet, to care about them and offer ourselves to them as we are able. It is not always easy to do, but we pray that the Holy Spirit would permeate our lives so that compassion wells up and compels us more and more to act for the good of others. God is eager to pour into our hearts the love that leads us to be good neighbors.

“To Know, Live And Share The Love of Christ”

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

April News @ TCS

Lutheran Schools Week 2026 – Let’s Make A Joyful Noise!

Check out our FBand IG Pages for Full Videos of LSW2026!



TCS Student Expo – HUGE SUCCESS! Special Thanks to TCS Teachers and Students for showcasing amazing student work for Sports Day during Lutheran Schools Week 2026!



ONLINE REGISTRATION for TCS’s 2026 SUMMER PROGRAM is LIVE! Spectacular offerings for Care Bears (Ages 3-6) and Explorers (Ages 6-12). In-Person Open Houses are scheduled for March 14 and April 26. Join Us or Register Today Online at: [Online Registration 2026 SummerProgram](#)

“To Know, Live And Share The Love of Christ”

The full brochure is available on TCS website at: <https://www.thechapelschool.org/summer-programs>



TCS Golf Outing @ Siwanoy Country Club on June 1 – Mark Your Calendars!

#GodBlessTCS! #BuildingAFamilyOfFaith

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.

CRUSADERS Grades 9–12



Calling all 9-12 graders! Donuts and Discussion will meet in the Ministry Suite on April 12, 19, & 26. Off 4/5 Easter Sunday. 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

MUSIC MINISTRY



Our choirs will be active during Holy Week:

Chancel Choir will sing for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday 7:30 p.m., and Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Youth and High School Choirs will sing for Good Friday 12:00 p.m. and Easter Sunday 9:00 a.m.
Village Bells will ring for Easter Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Choirs will take a break for the week after Easter, April 8-12. We will also be off April 23-26 as the spring musical is being presented.

Special thanks to all the members of the music ministry for sharing their gifts!

Village Lutheran Church &
The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708
VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org
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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 Sunnaria Pettinati
from Toba Lumbantobing

In loving memory of Helen Biele
from her husband Thomas

In loving memory of my mom, Helen Britz
on her 106th Birthday, February 27,
from her daughter Susan Rogers