



# VILLAGE VOICES



## The Meaning and Commitment of Church Membership

Church membership represents a formal, voluntary, and public commitment to a local body of believers. It signifies a covenant relationship in which individuals pledge to support the mission of the church, submit to its spiritual leadership, and actively serve within the community as members of the "body of Christ." Church membership is rooted in biblical principles, providing a clear and recognizable community in which believers can grow spiritually, serve faithfully, and fulfill their God-given purpose.

We are reminded of this commitment in 1 Corinthians 12:4-7

4 Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; 5 and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; 6 and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone. 7 To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.

God is outlining for us in this passage that there are many ways to support our local church. We can provide gifts such as tithing, our regular offerings, or food and supplies for church events. We can be of service to our church through serving during weekly worship or volunteering our time at various church outings. In all of these ways, we honor our Lord and represent the Church and ourselves in a manner pleasing to God.

When we think about ways to be of service to the Church, I think it is important to understand the different Aspects of Church Membership.

### Commitment and Belonging:

Membership is a declaration of intentional fellowship, marking the transition from regular attendance to active participation in a spiritual family where individuals are known, supported, and held accountable.

### Active Participation:

Members are encouraged to engage faithfully in worship, share their faith, and use their God-given gifts to serve and strengthen the congregation.

### Submission and Accountability:

Membership involves a willingness to follow the guidance of spiritual leadership while also fostering mutual accountability among believers in their faith journey

## SPRING 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 final Prayer Conference Call of the season on May 26<sup>th</sup> at 6pm.  
Call in 732-434-3982

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**Spiritual Unity:**

Membership reflects a shared commitment to the church’s doctrine and to the unity of the broader body of Christ. There is a unique blessing and protection that comes from being under the spiritual authority of a local church. When life hits hard, your church family is your first line of defense, prayer, and practical support.

**Practical Contribution:**

Members support the life and work of the church through tithes, offerings, and participation in important decisions that shape the direction of the congregation.

There are many key aspects of being a member of the church. Some aspects involve active participation, others are more passive. Each with their own merit, but not one exists without the other. Much in the same way, we are “One Body with Many Members”. We coexist with each other, playing an important role in the function and success of each other

Again, God provides us a fitting analogy in 1 Corinthians:

14 For the body does not consist of one member but of many...26 If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honored, all rejoice together. 27 Now you are the body of Christ and individual members of it.

Our church is and should be a unified community composed of diverse individuals with unique gifts. As members of the Church, we have different functions, but we are interconnected, interdependent, and equal in value. We are meant to work in harmony under Christ as the head, everyone using their distinct gifts in love to serve the whole.

Mark Runge, Stewardship Committee

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“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 Dates Are: May 20th + June 17th**

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](http://www.tinyurl.com/MealCooking)

For more information, please contact VLC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Katie Bukofzer at: [ETAKWHIT@aol.com](mailto:ETAKWHIT@aol.com)



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

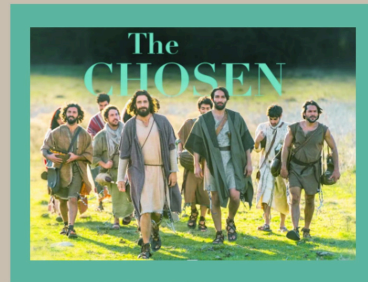
## ADULT BIBLE STUDY



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

We will be up to chapter 16 of John this month and continue exploring the unique passages in John's Gospel. This will take us through the end of the academic year. Join us any week for discussion, refreshments, and prayer.

## The Chosen – Season 2



**WEDNESDAYS  
APRIL 15 - MAY 13  
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](http://WWW.VLC-NY.ORG)

A yellow rectangular graphic with floral borders at the top and bottom. On the left side, there are illustrations of colorful knitted shawls in shades of blue, green, and pink. The text is centered and reads:

VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH  
CRAFTING DAY INVITATION

Join Us for a Day of Creativity  
& Fellowship! ❤️

Bring your favorite craft (knitting, crocheting, quilting, needlepoint etc.) and enjoy a relaxing time filled with:  
Light Refreshments & Friendly Conversation

Learn about our Prayer Shawl Ministry  
All skill levels are welcome!  
Saturday, May 4th  
3:00 - 5:00  
Friendship Room  
There's a place for you here.

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

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## Concordia Choir/Alumni Weekend

“Sing for Joy” Concordia Choir Alumni Concert

Saturday, June 27 – 3:00 p.m. at VLC

The concert is free and open to the public.

Rehearsal for participants starting at 9:00 a.m. on June 27, with optional lunch.



Band Bash Reunion Sunday, June 28, – 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

To be held at the Iona-Bronxville (formerly Concordia) campus.

Cost is \$25, including lunch.

If you are part of the Concordia community and would like to sing in the concert or attend the Band Bash, please register at [Concordia-NY.org/alumni26](http://Concordia-NY.org/alumni26) by May 25

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## MUSIC MINISTRY



Our choirs continue to rehearse weekly and will be participating in worship through June 14. We will take a break over the Memorial Day holiday, May 21-24.

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## 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. Upcoming meetings include April 30<sup>th</sup>, May 7, 14, and 21. 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 May 5, 17, 24, 31 and our last meeting will be June 7th. Off 5/3 & 5/10. 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)



## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss

***“You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last.”  
(John 15:16)***



Chapters 13-16 of John’s Gospel tell us how Jesus prepared His disciples (including us) for a life of faith and service once He was no longer with them physically. A theme running through earlier chapters is that very few were willing to believe or act in accordance with what Jesus said. Yet in this verse from chapter 15, Jesus affirms that all of us as disciples have been called and equipped to do whatever is necessary to fulfill His repeated command, “Love each other.”

The Bible is filled with the stories of individuals whom God has chosen for a purpose. One example is Moses who, rather ironically for such a towering figure, said to God, “O Lord, please send someone else to do it.” Moses had been burned earlier in his life by acting rashly. Having lived a dual identity as a Hebrew raised by Pharaoh’s daughter, he killed an Egyptian who was mistreating a Hebrew slave, only to hear two other Hebrews mock his “heroics” and impel Moses to flee into the wilderness to avoid punishment. After 40 years as a shepherd, Moses was not interested in going back to Egypt and confronting Pharaoh. He offered God many excuses, each of which was met by a direct and steadfast solution. God assured Moses that “I will be with you,” demonstrated signs of God’s authority with the staff Moses was using, and promised that Moses’ brother Aaron would be by his side to speak to the people if needed. Moses finally agreed to go (and you can watch The Ten Commandments to see the rest of the story).

Moses’ reluctance could have stemmed from a sense of failure carried around all those years, as well as a battered self-image that could not fathom God choosing him for such a monumental task. Jesus’ disciples were similarly fearful in those first few days after the crucifixion. Whatever they thought they were going to accomplish while Jesus was alive seemed hopelessly shattered. Even though Jesus gave them great and wonderful promises ahead of time, they found themselves battered and disbelieving. Then in His post-resurrection appearances, Jesus reassured them once again that He would always be with them and that the Holy Spirit would come in His place to comfort, guide, teach and empower them to carry on the ministry to which they had been called.

And so it is with us. We may not need to face down a Pharaoh, but God has called each of us to “be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” (Luther’s Small Catechism, Article 2 of the Creed). We have been given the Holy Spirit to help us live as faithful disciples. God knows all about each one of us, and He uses us collectively to minister to each other while we are here on earth. Whatever it is that we need to carry on, God will provide it. We will bear fruit – fruit that will last.

***“And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:20)***

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

## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

May NEWS @ TCS!

Gathering of Friends “A Taste of the Caribbean” a HUGE SUCCESS! What a great night at Surf Club on the Sound in New Rochelle on Friday, March 20! Once again, special thanks to GOF2026 Co-Chairs Keisha Glenn-Hutton, Shaniqua Raphael and Michelle Walsh! Congrats to Community Champions Michael and Athena Kerin! Thanks to Kim Zwisdak, GOF2026 Volunteers, Donors, Sponsors and Event Attendees! So much fun and a great night of giving to this wonderful ministry! #GOF2026





Congratulations to Lila Spiciarich and Logan Walsh! Lila will be awarded the Sharon Peterson Librarian Scholarship for excellence in reading and literacy (\$1,000 for 2026-2027), and Logan will be awarded the Carol and Christopher Kinghan GIVING HEARTS Memorial Scholarship for exhibiting a love of giving and helping others (\$1,000 for 2026-2027). Both students will be recognized by their peers at a special “Blue Day” Chapel Service on Wednesday, May 13, and at TCS’s Baccalaureate Service on Sunday, June 7. Congratulations Lila and Logan! The Blue Ribbon Foundation is a 501c(3) supporting organization of The Chapel School. To learn more, visit [www.BRF-NY.org](http://www.BRF-NY.org).

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 Summer Program](https://www.thechapelschool.org/summer-programs)

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

The Chapel School Offering Recipients  
May/June – Iona University

**Eagle Scout Project** – Marco Hernandez, a former Chapel School student and VLC First Communicant, completed his Scouts of America Eagle Award and was recognized at a special Court of Honor on Sunday, April 19. Marco worked with Pastor Hartwell and Director of Facilities Marcello Osso to replace the ceiling tiles in the MPR. Congratulations and many thanks to Marco and his team for the leadership and volunteer spirit in bringing this beautiful facilities upgrade to fruition.



Village Lutheran Church &  
The Chapel School  
172 White Plains Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
VLC-NY.org  
[TheChapelSchool.org](http://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 honor of the ministry of Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School from Peter Soans

In loving memory of Andrew K. Reimann from his wife Rosemarie

In loving memory of Wilma DeRosa from Kevin & Deb Cook