

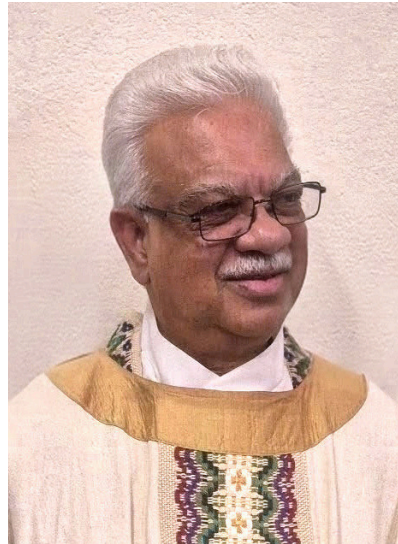


VILLAGE VOICES



MEET OUR VACANCY PASTOR

The Rev. Peter A.D. Deebrah began serving as our Vacancy Pastor on July 5 and is graciously prepared to fill this part-time role until we complete the call process for a new full-time pastor. He is with us for worship each week and is also available to assist with pastoral care, including baptisms and funerals. In the meantime, Pastor Deebrah continues serving as pastor of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of St. Matthew in Manhattan.



Born in the former British colony of Guyana (just north of Brazil) and descended from Indian indentured laborers, Pastor Deebrah had a life-long dream of serving in the church. He was encouraged to begin as a lay deacon, which he did while launching a career as a computer engineer. When political violence erupted in Guyana, he and his family moved to the United States where he was able to pursue his desire to become a pastor through Concordia Theological Seminary's distance education (DELTO) program. He was assigned to St. Matthew's under the supervision of area pastors during his studies and was called to be the sole pastor once he was ordained.

One of the remarkable things about this journey is that St. Matthew's is the oldest extant Lutheran congregation in the Americas, dating back to 1664. As an immigrant himself, Pastor Deebrah feels privileged to encounter New Yorkers from around the world who have become part of a faith community with so much history. St. Matthew's has weathered quite a lot of change over more than 350 years, including a number of different locations, and its ministry stands as a testament to the power of God to carry on the life of the church in all ages and circumstances.

Pastor Deebrah is a committed servant of Christ, and we give thanks that he has been so willing to work with us during this time of transition. He is married to June, his wife of 37 years. They are the proud parents of three daughters - Miranda, Melinda and Leann. If you have not done so yet, please take a moment to say hello and introduce yourself. May God's abundant grace keep us in perfect peace as we continue to "know, live and share the love of Christ" together.

Fall 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.

Service of Evening Prayer Conference Call
Join us the last Tuesday of each month. Details, dates and call-in information inside.

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VLC Music, Voters Meeting Info, Evening Prayer Service

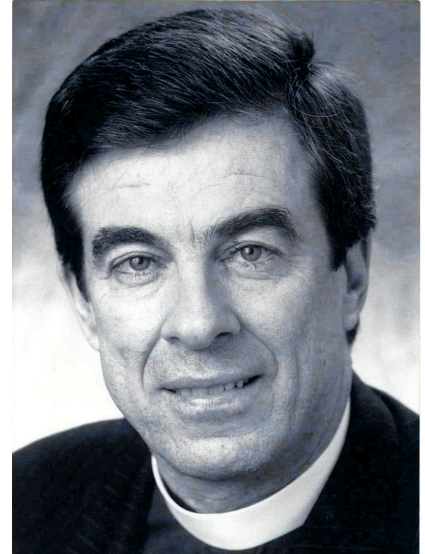
Chapel School News

Chosen 3, Soup Kitchen, Crafting day, VBC Wrap-up

Memorial / Honored Voices

Rev. Dr. Thomas Sluberski: A True Citizen of the World

It was Socrates who first coined that phrase, but for we VLC readers it's the late Pastor Tom Sluberski who best exemplifies "a citizen of the world." Dr. Sluberski first arrived at the VLC in 1972 as a new professor of English and the humanities at Concordia College, armed with graduate degrees from multiple universities (Concordia Seminary, Washington and New York Universities, Erlangen-Nuremberg and Heidelberg in Germany) and a thirst for travel and new experiences. Concordia students delighted in him; VLC's founding minister Pastor Howard Halter and his wife Florence 'adopted' him.



And he, in turn, began a fifty-year embrace of our congregation.

As Concordia was growing into a four-year college (it had been a two-year institution), Dr. Sluberski pressed to provide its students with more expansive study and travel opportunities than the conservative faculty had fostered. Alumni recall seeing experimental theater in very off-Broadway locations, foreign travel with un-orthodox itineraries and sometimes-lax supervision, and late-night debates on literature, politics, and the changes in society. Sluberski was raised and educated in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod system, but his faith never limited what his intellect could observe or analyze. Committed to his Christian faith and calling as a minister, he shared Christ's absolute forgiveness with others regardless of what paths they had followed.

In his later years Dr. Sluberski established a film series at the college designed to highlight contemporary cinema focused on faith and values. This series has now become part of the VLC's community ministry. Upon his death in March 2024, further legacies established the Sluberski Travel Fund, which supports foreign study for a VLC or Chapel School student. In December of last year, Lorelei Heath was privileged to travel with Pastor and Mrs. Hartwell and VLC members on a Luther-site tour of Germany. She wrote about that trip in a recent issue of Village Voices. The church's Mission Fund Committee will now supervise this innovative program in Dr. Sluberski's memory.

Betty Geiling, longtime member of the VLC and a dear friend of Pastor Sluberski, remembered him this way: "Tom had a Pied piper quality to him. His passion for literature, art, film, architecture and travel was unbridled and contagious. With his words alone, pre - internet, he brought his whole world into the classroom and made our world bigger." The Village Lutheran Church is most grateful for Dr. Sluberski's ministry among us and generous provision for us in his estate planning.

VLC-TCS Board of Trustees Update

While it has been customary in years past for the Board of Trustees to be relatively inactive during the summer months, this has not been the case this year. There have been too many issues for the board to have taken a "summer vacation." Besides holding a July meeting, something not done for years, there has been an active exchange of information, updates and voting online by board members.

As of early August, we are still trying to finalize the educational building roofing project. We have discussed amending plans for the school air-conditioning replacement considering the unexpected failure of the church's system. Both are Capital Campaign projects.

The board's president has been actively seeking teachers for the First Communion and Confirmation classes as well as the "Youth Crusader" program for high school students.

We continue to strive for cost cutting measures to lessen our deficit. The Information Technology (IT) has found significant savings by studying our hardware and software requirements. We are awaiting a member of the Facilities Committee to submit bids in an effort to save on our landscaping and snow removal costs.

Congratulations to the Heath family who have purchased a home and have subsequently moved out of the "The Parsonage." Members of the board are objectively evaluating the long-term place of "The Parsonage" in the VLC-TCS community. While we may wish to keep it for the potential use of a new pastor, there are other uses being considered including its long-term rental or sale. No final decision will be made until more information is obtained, analyzed and shared with the Voters for their consideration and their final determination.

The Church Business and Finance Committee, a committee of the board, has been very active as well dealing with unexpected bills and planning for variances in cash flow. Our contracted finance group devoted time to convert from the "Quicken" program using in-house VLC computers to a "cloud based" Quicken application hoping to make us more efficient.

Finally, the Mission Endowment Fund has been re-invigorated. To be compliant with the bylaws, it held a meeting in July with another planned for September. Its committee will report to the Voters in January.

There will be much to be discussed at the September 27th Voters' Meeting, so the Board of Trustees urges anyone affiliated with VLC-TCS, whether or not they qualify as a voter, to attend.

Joe Wilkinson

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Deborah Reiss

One generation will commend Your works to another; they will tell of Your mighty acts... They will celebrate Your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of Your righteousness. (Psalm 145:4, 7)

**Great is the Lord and most
worthy of praise; his
greatness no one can fathom.
One generation commends
your works to another; they
tell of your mighty acts.
Psalm 145:3-4**

I have always enjoyed reading, and have lately found myself caught up in historical fiction along with epic novels that span several generations of a family or a culture. It intrigues me to see the way things get handed down through the years, to note what endures despite the inevitable changes, reactions and counterpoints that also come with the passage of time. These books offer a way to see through the eyes of people who came before you and develop of sense of what was important to them.

As I looked over the lectionary psalms for this fall, I was struck by the importance of one generation speaking to another in the life of the church – as David describes in Psalm 145. David had received the glorious story of

God's mighty acts on behalf of Israel, and he looked forward to what each new generation could proclaim. So do we have the testimony of the bible, which shows us the Lord's unending love, grace and compassion to Adam and Eve, Noah, Abraham, Jacob and his family, David, Ruth and Naomi, Elijah, Isaiah, Daniel, Zechariah and Elizabeth, Mary and Joseph, Peter, James and John, Paul, Priscilla and Aquila, and all the great cloud of witnesses. We have hymns and liturgy from generations of believers, inspired by the Holy Spirit to distill the foundations of our faith into music and poetry that focus and sustain us. We have one another to share stories of how God has worked in our own lives and, with God's blessing, words of wisdom to pass along when others are facing challenges or uncertainties.

This rich history of love and support is what we get when we gather for worship, and what we can offer to anyone, young or old, who comes to our house of prayer. It is a chance to be reminded of what God has already done, find renewal in the promise that we are never alone, and make us more ready to show others the great love of God in our lives. As we begin a new school year, I give thanks for all the people and circumstances that have brought us this far; and I look forward to celebrating God's abundant goodness, singing joyfully as we go.

VLC YOUTH

VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

WELCOME TO THE 2026 - 2027 SCHOOL YEAR

Plan to join the fun at Voyagers this year!!

Voyagers is open to anyone in grades 3 – 6.

We usually meet three times per month. You are always welcome to bring a friend. You are welcome anytime you are able to be here!! 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. If Youth are going to choir, they will be dropped off there.

Fall Meetings – Thursdays 6:00-7:00 PM:

**September 17 & 24, 2026
Playground/Youth Room**

**October 1, 15 & 29, 2026
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 very formative time in which the confirmands grow in their relationship with God and in their understanding of their faith.

Our Vacancy Pastor, Rev. Peter Deebrah, will be teaching confirmation classes this year. Details on meeting times and dates will be coming soon. If you are interested in registering your child, please contact the church office by calling Kim Rapiello at 914-337-0207, x1003 or email KRapiello@VLC-NY.org. Online registration will also be available through our website.

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY 2026

CHILDREN & YOUTH



Cherub Choir (Preschool–Grade 2)
Learn songs during Sunday School

Youth Choir (Grade 3-8) Rehearse
Thursdays 7:00 – 7:30 p.m. starting
September 24

High School Youth (Grades 9-12)
You are welcome to join any ensemble

ADULTS & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH

Chancel Choir (SATB)
Rehearse Thursdays 7:30 – 8:30
p.m. starting September 17



Village Bells (Handbells)
Rehearse Wednesdays
6:00 – 7:00 p.m.
starting September 30

Hands-On Handbells!

If you have never rung a handbell,
stop by the handbell tables in the
chancel between services on
Sundays, September 20 and 27, for
a demo. Try it – you'll like it! Open
to high school youth and adults.



Deborah Reiss
Minister of Music

914-337-0207, x1018 • DReiss@VLC-NY.org



Voter's Meeting

**Sunday,
September 27**

In the MPR, at noon,
following the 10:45 service.
Coffee hour refreshments
available. All are welcome.

Village Lutheran Church
Fall 2026

SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER
over the phone
(printed liturgy available)



To listen in
just dial
(1) 732-434-3982

LAST TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
at 6:00 p.m.

September 29
October 27
November 24

TCS News (August/September 2026)



TCS is so excited for our 80th year of service to this wonderful community, where we invite you to **"Let Your LIGHT Shine!"** (Matthew 5:16)

Capital Campaign Facilities Upgrades!

A new roof on the Education Building will be installed soon, and we are sorting through bids from contractors to replace the HVAC systems in both the Sanctuary and the Education Building thanks to the generosity of so many wonderful donors.

Technology Upgrades

Thanks to TCS PTO, we have installed 6 NEW Smart Flat Panels in Rooms 101, 102, 103, 104, 200 and 204! We have also replaced all workstations in TCS Classrooms and select offices.

NEW Offering Recipients for 2026-2027

Additions to this year's dedicated Offering Recipients are FOUR Student-led Service Learning (SL2) Projects, including: ALS Association (Luciana Miranda); Holy Family Hospital of Bethlehem Foundation (Mia Silva and Kaylin Larmond); Scholarship America (Lila Spiciarich and Anna Rindler); and, World Vision (Nehemiah Malave, Ruben Soto and Griffin Palmese! #TCSserves

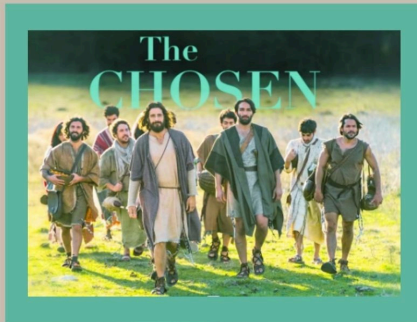


EXCITING UPCOMING DATES ...

Rally Day Sunday is September 13, 2026!

October PS-8 Open House is Sunday, October 18, 2026 @ 1 PM!

The Chosen - Season 3



WEDNESDAYS
SEPTEMBER 30 - NOVEMBER 18
TIME: 7-9 PM

Watch one episode each week
and reflect together

Light supper with wine and beer

HOSTED BY
DEACON JANET GEORGE
DEACON TONY DEROSA

INVITE A FRIEND!

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

Soup Kitchen Partnership

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

Upcoming dates: Wednesday, September 16

Wednesday October 21

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.


VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CRAFTING DAY INVITATION

Join Us for
Creativity & Fellowship! 

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

Learn about our Prayer Shawl Ministry
All skill levels are welcome!
FALL DATES:
September 26 10:00 am- 12:00 noon
(note time change)
October 17 3:00 - 5:00 pm
Friendship Room
There's a place for you here.

VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUMMER BIBLE CAMP

Summer Bible Camp took place Aug 11-13 this summer. Over 35 children, teens and volunteers went on a 'camping trip' to learn about God's love for each of them and how to take that with them out into the world.

Thank you to Katie Bukofzer for leading our crafts and Miriam Mathew & Lynn Lena for leading our "snacktivity" station. Jay Gleason for creating our skits and the Clark family for all of their help setting up. Thanks to each of the teens and adults for leading the groups and their engagement with our children during our rotations.

Lastly, thank you to Sarah Gleason for running the program and for coordinating all of the volunteers!

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

VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org

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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 loving memory of John Waters Eaton from his wife Theresa.
- In loving memory of Helen A. Biele from her husband Thomas.
- In loving memory of Stephen N. Cea on his birthday, July 30 from his wife Evelyn.
- In loving memory of Ruth Recker from her family.
- In loving memory of Joan Bevers from her daughter Christy.

If you'd like to make a donation in honor of a special event or person, please reach out to the church office for more information on how to get started. Your generosity will help us continue to nurture and uplift our community.
Thank you for considering this heartfelt way to celebrate life's milestones!