



# VILLAGE VOICES



## STRAIGHT FROM THE HART

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell



Psalm 75 (selected verses) ***We give thanks to you, O God; we give thanks; your name is near. People tell of your wondrous deeds...When the earth totters, with all its inhabitants, it is I who keep its pillars steady. Selah***

Our thoughts and prayers are with the people of Syria and Turkey who experienced a devastating earthquake this winter.

Many have asked about our church trip to Turkey considering the natural disaster. Our travels this summer are a good distance to the north of the earthquake zone. Travel to Turkey is even more important now as it provides needed economic support to our NATO partner and a country that is grieving and taking on the daunting task of rebuilding. There are still spots open, so follow in the footsteps of St. Paul and St. John, see history come alive and support Turkey in her time of need. **Deadline to sign up for our trip is Sunday, 3/19.** For more information contact the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003.

We continue to pray for all impacted. Lutheran World Relief is our partner on the ground as they coordinate relief work in the earthquake zone.

Lord of strength and power, be with Turkey and Syria as they deal with the cruel effects of several strong earthquakes. Console first responders as they end their task of rescue and continue in recovery efforts for those who have died. Be with family and friends who have lost loved ones and all those left homeless and food insecure following this tragedy. Help our gifts of love to be multiplied by generous donors, and Your mighty and gracious love for Your hurting children be a source of strength in their time of need and healing. In the calming name of our Savior, Jesus, we pray. Amen.

To learn more about Lutheran World Relief work in the earthquake zone:  
<https://lwr.org/blog/2023/you-can-rush-aid-neighbors-devastated-earthquake-turkey>

A thought about Turkey and Syria in their time of need that is Straight from the Hart.

### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Saturday Worship resumes this month at 5:30 p.m.
- Sunday 9 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
- For those who can't join us in-person, live stream worship at VLC-NY.org or on Facebook or YouTube.
- The Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference will resume in March on Tuesday 3/28 at 6:00 p.m.

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## BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

### ADULT BIBLE STUDY

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

Romans is providing many fruitful topics for discussion. In chapters 2-3, Paul goes to great length to explain how circumcision fits into God's plan of salvation – not as a means in and of itself but as a symbol of faith. We are called to have a "circumcision of the heart." Join us any week as we explore.

### THE TUESDAY NIGHT PRAYER SERVICE

Join us for evening prayer by phone on the last Tuesday of the month. You can follow the printed liturgy, available online or at church, or just listen in. Simply dial in.

March's service will be Tuesday **3/28 at 6:00 p.m.**

**The call-in number is (1)**

**732-434-3982.** If you have a specific prayer request, please contact Kim Rapillo in the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org).



### 1st HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION CLASSES

(for 5th grade and older) will be held on **Wednesdays during Lent from 6 – 7:00 p.m.** Classes will meet Wednesdays 3/1, 3/8, 13/5 and 3/22. The classes instruct the children on the meaning of this

Christian Sacrament and prepare them to receive 1st Holy Communion at a special Service on **Sunday 3/26 at 10:45 a.m.**

The Totally Green St. Patrick's Day Early First Communion Lock-in will be on Friday **3/17 from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m.** Cost is \$50 (registration fee). At least one parent or guardian must attend with each child at each Wednesday session. Parents/Guardians are welcome to be chaperones for the lock-in, but it is not required.

### GODCONNECTS A COURSE IN CHRISTIANITY



Would you like to:  
Explore the basics of the Christian faith +  
Learn more about the faith values of the Chapel School +  
Prepare for adult baptism or confirmation +  
Join the Church + Talk and learn about your faith in a caring environment.  
Join Pastor Hartwell for GodConnects.

VIA ZOOM  
7:00 PM-8:30 PM (EST)  
Monday, 4/24, 5/1, 5/8  
Meeting ID: 878 4865  
7950  
Passcode: 311432

**THE MERLIN AND LOIS REHM  
PASTORAL LECTURE**

WEDNESDAY  
**May 17, 2023**  
AT 7 O'CLOCK IN THE EVENING  
VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Black Lutheran History in America*

Dr. Kathryn Galchutt, former professor of history at our Concordia College, now teaching at Concordia University Irvine, California

This year's lecture honors the memory of Rev. Dr. Merlin and Lois Rehm, longtime VLC members, as well as Rev. Dr. Donald Miesner and Rev. Paul Boecler, fellow colleagues of Rev. Professor Rehm in the Religion Department at Concordia College who both recently passed. This year's lecture celebrates the Rehms along with the lives and ministries of these other leading theologians and dedicated ministers in our community.

## 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 date is 3/15

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)



**"CATCH A LIFT"** is an initiative at VLC/TCS that offers free rides to church worship through The Bronxville Taxi Company (1 Depot Plaza, Bronxville, NY 10708; 914-337-8311). Participants can simply stop by the Taxi Company at the Bronxville Train Station or call and arrange a lift to church. Tell the dispatcher or taxi driver that this is a Village Lutheran Church "Catch a Lift" ride and there is no cost. The cost of "Catch a Lift" is covered by the grant directed by a generous church family.

## PRAYER SHAWLS

  
VLC has been gifted dozens of beautiful prayer shawls. The shawls are ready for distribution with our prayers and a personal note from Pastor Hartwell. 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. 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 x1003.

## DAYCARE DURING WORSHIP SERVICE

We are now providing childcare for 0-3-year-olds (under-Sunday-School-age children) during the 9 a.m. service. Kate Marino will coordinate the schedule. If you are willing to help, please contact the church office at 914-337-0207 x1003 or [KRapillo@VLC-NY.org](mailto:KRapillo@VLC-NY.org). We need 1-2 volunteers to be in the care room (across from library on ground floor) from 8:45-10:15 a.m. on days Sunday School is in session.



## Blessing Basket Food for ECAP



We continue to collect non-perishable food. As costs go up, it is even harder for families to keep food on the table. If you can pick up a few items to donate, please drop them off in the Friendship Room or at the Reception Desk.

NON-PERISHABLE  
ITEMS ONLY

**Basket under Piano in  
Friendship Room**  
172 White Plains Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708



The Atlantic District LCMS's Festival of Workshops will be held at Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School on **Saturday 3/11 from 9:30-3:10 p.m.** There are 30 workshops covering a wide variety of topics led by seasoned leaders all inspired by our Synod's 7 mission priorities with the theme "Making Disciples for Life!" Its a great way to refresh and energize you in your ministry. Our keynote speaker is Bishop Dien Ashley Taylor. The cost for Festival of Workshops is \$35 per person, \$40 after Feb. 28 (Includes Lunch) Visit [adlcms.org](http://adlcms.org) for more information and online registration.



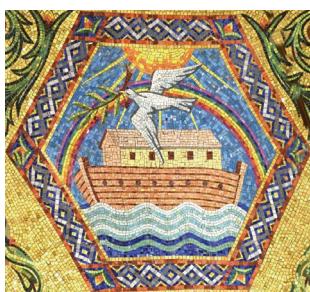
Thank you to the following VLC/TCS team member who is celebrating a work anniversary this month. We are blessed by her dedication and support and honor the work that she does and the gifts that she brings to our church and school.

Irene Englisch, Substitute Teacher Aid - 6 years

## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

### *Numbered Among the Saints By Deborah Reiss*

**On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise him, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he had been conceived.** (Luke 2:21)



The primary Biblical significance of the number 8 is that God commanded Abraham to circumcise any male child on the eighth day after his birth (see Genesis 17). As we find from Luke's Gospel, it became customary to also formally name the child on this day. Circumcision was a physical "sign of the covenant" between God and the extended family of Abraham (including those who live among Abraham's biological descendants). In essence, it marked them as belonging to the family of God and consecrated to Him alone.

The name "Jesus" (a Greek version of "Yeshua" or "Joshua") means "Yahweh saves." Jesus was circumcised as part of His mission to fulfill the Law, completing its requirements on our behalf and saving us from the ravages of sin. What we have now, instead of circumcision, is baptism in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Baptism marks all people, male and female, as God's children and members of the family of faith. Jesus was also baptized, not because He needed to be cleansed from sin, but as a public sign of His consecration and the rebirth of humanity.

I had to wonder why God specified circumcision on the eighth day. One thought is that by the eighth day, a child has completed one full cycle (that 7-day week I wrote about last month). In a way, the eighth day marks a new beginning, already an anniversary of the gift of life. Adding the naming ritual enriches the celebration, reinforcing the intention to dedicate the child to God. Baptism was never given a timing rule, but infant baptism is significant for many Christians. The name day ritual was also kept by Christians for centuries – for example, my mother was not formally named until the day she was baptized (her birth certificate listed "Baby Girl"). Whenever baptism does take place, there is a new beginning, a new name, a new identity in Christ.

There is actually a reference to the number 8 and baptism. In 1 Peter 3 we are reminded of the way God saved Noah from the floodwaters with an ark: "*In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also.*" We are so blessed to be counted among the metaphorical "eight" whom Christ has saved through the waters of baptism.



We are excited to welcome in The Chapel School Select Choir twice this month, first for Lutheran Schools Sunday **3/5** and then for the final midweek Lenten service on Wednesday **3/29**. Another highlight this month is First Holy Communion on Sunday **3/26**. Rehearsals continue as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter in early April. For further details, contact the directors.

Deborah Reiss (Chancel Choir, Village Bells, FaithWalk) – [Dreiss@VLC-NY.org](mailto:Dreiss@VLC-NY.org)  
 George Heath (Youth Choir, High School Choir) – [Gheath@VLC-NY.org](mailto:Gheath@VLC-NY.org)



Team Chapel Arts is once again running the United Airlines NYC Half (Sunday, March 19, 2023) to raise funds for The Chapel School's Arts & Drama Program. To support the team or learn more visit: [www.TeamChapel.com](http://www.TeamChapel.com) The Team is being coached by Pastor Hartwell and consists of the following runners:

**Kaitlyn L.** is a mother of 3 boys who have attended The Chapel School. She played college basketball and enjoys exercising when not working or spending time with her family. This is her first half marathon in 10+ years.

**Nate Linn** is excited for the opportunity to run for Team Chapel Arts in support of The Chapel School's arts and drama program. He ran the New York City Marathon as a member of Team Chapel in 2016, and is looking forward to his first NYC Half Marathon. He and his wife Katrina live in Tuckahoe with their daughters Esther and Violet, who are Chapel School preschool alumnae.

**Ryan Royce** (information and photo not available at time of printing)

**Dmytro Yaskal** is thankful for the opportunity to run for Team Chapel Arts and raise money for The Chapel School Arts & Drama Program. He knows firsthand the importance of music & the arts. He attended elementary school in Ukraine on a musical scholarship. Dmytro is a CPA and enjoys running to relieve stress and get in shape. He ran the prestigious New York City Marathon in 2016 as a member of Team Chapel and is excited to run the United Airlines New York City Half Marathon, for the first time, as a member of Team Chapel Arts.

## VLC YOUTH

### VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

Voyagers is open to any student in grades 3–6, and friends are always welcome. We meet three times per month. **We will meet on Thursdays 3/2, 3/9, and 3/23 from 6:00–7:00 p.m.** At the end of the Thursday meetings, Youth going to choir will be dropped off there and everyone else will be escorted to the school doors and dismissed to their cars. If you have any questions, please email Erika Schultz at [tyandbash@aol.com](mailto:tyandbash@aol.com).

### LIFERS Grades 7–8

Confirmation classes are held Thursday evenings at 6 p.m. and taught by Katie Vogt. If you have any questions please contact Katie at [KVogt@TheChapelSchool.org](mailto:KVogt@TheChapelSchool.org).

### CRUSADERS Grades 9–12

Our theme this year is ***Saved to Serve***. We will focus on how we can serve others and ourselves through the gifts that God has given us.



**Calling all 9–12 graders!** Please join us after the 9 a.m. service for ***Donuts and Discussions***. We will meet on 3/5, 3/12, 3/19 and 3/26 around 10:30 a.m. in

**Room 209.** If you have any questions please call or email Amy Heath 914-439-3839 or [amyheath1023@gmail.com](mailto:amyheath1023@gmail.com).

### SUNDAY SCHOOL is offered during the 9 a.m. service until

**10:15 a.m.** If you have any questions please contact Sarah Gleason at [chrisnysarah@netscape.net](mailto:chrisnysarah@netscape.net).

**GET YOUR  
EARLY BIRD TICKETS!** 

**\$20/FAMILY gets you**

**20 TICKETS + 5 BONUS TICKETS**

\*Tickets purchased at the door will not include the "5 bonus tickets."

## CUB CARNIVAL



**Saturday, March 18th  
10-1 in the gym**

**HOSTED BY THE  
2023 GATHERING OF FRIENDS GALA**



*A generous portion of my devotional time with the Lord is aided by Christian Music. Each month I will share a favorite and I encourage you to take a listen on Apple Music, Spotify, YouTube or similar music service.*

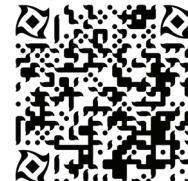
**Pastor Robert Hartwell**

Village Lutheran Church is a liturgical church which means we follow the ancient pattern of worship from the western tradition and our hymns and liturgical music flow from this and tend to be classical sounding to many ears. However, our church is very open to all worship forms and worship styles. Although we lack the set up and equipment to give most modern styles their due, you will sometimes hear our choirs share a modern piece. A great example is the song (and also album title) *Lamb* from Elevation Worship. *Lamb* is our unofficial theme song for the year and is a favorite of the Chapel School choirs who sing it.

Elevation Worship is both the name of the band and label, and this band continues a streak of dynamic live music with *LION*, the ensemble's 10th live album and the follow-up to 2021's Maverick City Music collaboration, Old Church Basement. The album contains a massive 15-track set. Featured performers include Elevation cofounder Chris Brown, Valley Boys, and Jonsal Barrientes, as well as Maverick City Music's Brandon Lake and Chandler Moore. Previously released singles, like the celebratory anthem *Might Get Loud* and the yearning, inspiring *Same God*, anchor the project. During the penitential days of Lent and the joys of Easter, *Lamb* will keep you focused on Jesus in compelling, live and very modern worship. Check it out on Spotify or your favorite music service.



Lamb – Elevation Worship  
March 4, 2022  
Elevation Music  
English  
<https://open.spotify.com/album/6PwjekXh33Xze41oTPhJUh?si=RHMtZi8SDi3vW1sEeRV3A>



Spanish version at <https://open.spotify.com/album/1PFy3At4783o15yGZQleWZ?si=x1vx5J5aRlqEtUx7c12miw>



Portuguese version at <https://open.spotify.com/track/2Unja5chfcRDI60rLvpZK?si=e7ff05c3a144479f>

## THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

### Lutheran Schools Week at The Chapel School March 5-10, 2023

*"Arise, shine; for your light has come. And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you."* (Isaiah 60:1)

**Sunday 3/5 – Lutheran Schools Sunday**

**Congratulations to TCS Kindergarten Teacher and Chapel School Award Honoree, Ms. Danielle DiCuio!**

Ms. D., as most people know her, has been a loving and dedicated Kindergarten Teacher at TCS for over 23 years. Her *team-first* attitude extends beyond the classroom, as she has taken on numerous responsibilities (Vacation Bible School, Chaperone Coordinator, Social Committee, Camp Instructor, Lutheran Schools Week Committee, Evening Receptionist and more) to help out wherever needs arise. Ms. D. will be receive her award at the 9 a.m. service on Lutheran Schools Sunday.

Monday 3/6 – Pajama Day; Tuesday 3/7 – Sports Day; Wednesday 3/8 – Disney Day; Thursday 3/9 – Neon Day & TECH Expo; Friday 3/10 – Chapel School Day & Fashion Show Assembly

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

**Join us for The 2023 Gathering of Friends Roaring 20s Gala at the VIP Club in New Rochelle on Friday, 3/24.**

**Congratulations to the Gathering of Friends 2023 Community Champion, Ms. Jean Hanson!**

The Community Champion is an individual who is a role model and emblematic of the community's values and standards of excellence, dedication, self-sacrifice, humility and faithfulness.



Tickets are on sale for our **Gathering of Friends Roaring 20s Gala on 3/24 at the VIP Club in New Rochelle** at: <https://www.gathering-of-friends.org>.

#### 2023 TCS Golf Outing - Golfers and Sponsors needed!

We're Back at Siwanoy! ... Join us on Monday, 6/5 for our 2023 TCS Golf Outing at Siwanoy Country Club in Bronxville. This is a great day of golf and a wonderful opportunity to raise money for scholarships for students at The Chapel School. Golfers and sponsors needed! Online registration is live! <https://vlcny.ejoinme.org/MyEvents/GolfOuting2023/Registration/tabid/1340472/Default.aspx>

**Registration for TCS's 2023 Summer Program is live!** In-Person Open Houses are scheduled for 3/11 (11 a.m. - 2 p.m.) and 4/23 (12:30 – 3:00 p.m.) <https://campscui.active.com/orgs/TheChapelSchool?orglink=camps-registration>

#### TCS OFFERING RECIPIENT

**MARCH – Make a Wish Foundation.**

SL2 (Student Leaders Service Learning) Project led by 8th Graders Gabe Sierra and Chloe Campbell.

## 2023 GATHERING OF FRIENDS



Let us journey back in time for an epic experience at the Gathering of Friends (GOF) Roaring 20's Gala on **Friday 3/24, at the VIP Country Club in New Rochelle**. The Gathering of Friends supports many programs and initiatives that benefit VLC & TCS. The GOF Roaring 20's Gala delivers a creative spin on this year's theme, "Refuge & Strength," with its iconic Lion symbol. With and through your support, we can make a powerful *Rrrroar* in creating a significant difference in the next generation and the community. Tickets on sale now at <https://tinyurl.com/2023GOF> or by scanning the QR Code.



## FELLOWSHIP NEWS

### VLC Senior LUNCH BUNCH

The next Lunch Bunch Luncheon will be held at VLC on **Tuesday 3/14 at 11:30 a.m.** Please join us for another delicious luncheon and an early spring festive time.

All reservations must be made by calling the VLC office at 914-337-0207 x1003 so that we can order enough food for everyone. If we don't get your reservation on time, it results in less food available for all participants. Thank you.

*Lunch Bunch  
End of Season  
Spring Luncheon*

**Siwanoy Country Club Terrace**  
351 Pondfield Rd.  
Bronxville, NY 10708

**TUESDAY  
JUNE 6  
12 NOON**

*Plated luncheon and cocktail. \$40*

**RSVP TO THE  
CHURCH OFFICE BY  
SUNDAY, JUNE 4TH.  
914-337-0207 (1003)**

**ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US FOR  
INTERESTING FELLOWSHIP, BEAUTIFUL  
LOCATION AND FINE FOOD.**



## LENT & HOLY WEEK 2023

**WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 7:30 pm**

**March 1 - The Upper Room: A Place of Service**

Pastor Robert Hartwell (Luke 22:14-38)

**March 8 - Gethsemane: A Place of Strength**

Pastor Mark Budenholzer (Luke 22:39-46)

**March 15 - The Betrayal: A Place of Eternal Love**

Pastor Robert Hartwell (Luke 22:47-53)

**March 22 - The Courtyard: A Place of Renewal**

Kevin Cook (Luke 22:54-62)

**March 29 - The Trial: A Place of God's Will**

Pastor Robert Hartwell and Music of The Chapel School (Luke 22:63 – 23:25)



**Palm Sunday Weekend – April 1/2**

Palm Processional (Matthew 21:1-11)

**Maundy Thursday 7:30 p.m. – April 6**

"The Last Supper: A Place of Forgiveness" (Luke 22:7-23)

**Good Friday Tenebrae 12:00 & 7:30 p.m. – April 7**

"Golgotha: A Place of Simple Love" (Luke 23:44-49)

**Holy Saturday 5:30 p.m. – April 8**

"The Tomb: A Place of Life" (Luke 23:50-56)

**Easter Sunday 9:00 & 10:45 a.m. – April 9**

"The Empty Tomb: A Place of Remembering" (Luke 24:1-11)

**Village Lutheran Church**

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)

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Permit No. 7793

#### 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

##### Gifts were received from:

Kevin & Deborah Cook  
In Thankfulness for the Alpha Program  
  
BeLynda Smith  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Louise Weber  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Tonya Powell  
In Honor of Jordan Jones and in  
Thankfulness to The Chapel School  
  
Kevin & Deborah Cook  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Mimi & Mark Blanco  
In Memory of Rev. Prof. Paul Boecler  
  
Mimi & Mark Blanco  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Mimi & Mark Blanco  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Clifford Peterson  
  
Mimi & Mark Blanco  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Merlin Rehm

Rev. Dr. James & Bonnie Zwernemann  
In Loving Memory of  
Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Bill Phipps  
In Memory of Francis "Butch" Coliskey  
  
Ken & Pat Huels  
In Memory of their uncle,  
Rev. Dr. Donald Miesner  
  
Ruth Recker  
In Loving Memory of  
Rev. Dr. Donald R. Miesner  
  
Kathy Coffey  
In Loving Memory of her mother,  
Helen Messner on the  
23rd Anniversary of her passing  
  
Rev. Dr. Robert & Sue Hartwell  
In Memory of Rev. Dr. Donald Miesner  
  
Rev. Dr. Robert & Sue Hartwell  
In Memory of Jim Finster  
  
A Generous Donor  
In Honor of Silvio Alfeo, Carla Alfeo  
and the Alfeo Family