

† CHRISTMAS EVE †

December 24, 2009

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- *The order of worship for each service this evening is printed out in the bulletin. We will also celebrate a festival Eucharist on Christmas Day at 10:00 a.m.*
- *We extend a special welcome to all visitors and are so glad that you have come to worship at the Village Lutheran Church. If you are here for the first time, please take a welcome kit located in the church entrance as an introduction to our church and a reminder of your visit.*
- *To provide visitor information, member updates, or submit comments/requests to the pastors and church office, please fill out the sign-up sheet in the bulletin. Church offerings and sign-ups will be collected during the offering time or may be left in the wicker basket by the Jesus Fountain after the service.*
- *Our regular weekend worship services are Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and Sunday at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Please come back and worship with us!*

COMMUNION STATEMENT

- *The congregation of 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.*
- *Non-Alcoholic Fruit of the Vine: Persons who are sensitive to alcohol are welcome to receive the blood of Christ in the sacrament using non-alcoholic grape juice. The juice is located in the center circle of each individual tray and is lighter in color. Wine is always available with the Common Cup or Individual Cups.*
- *Gluten-free consecrated hosts (the bread of Holy Communion) are available for all those with allergies or intolerance to gluten. Simply say "Gluten-Free" to the minister or bring your bulletin forward and point to the Gluten-Free symbol prior to receiving the bread.*
- *Communion may be brought to those with limited mobility. Please alert a Pastor or usher if you wish to commune in this way.*



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

5:00 p.m. - Family Service

PRE-SERVICE MUSIC

Carols with Instruments

PROCESSIONAL HYMN (Congregation rising) (LSB Hymn #379)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

CHERUB CHOIR ANTHEMS

INVOCATION and OPENING SENTENCES

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

C: **Amen.**

P: Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which shall be to all people; for to you is
born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.

C: **To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.**

P: And this will be a sign for you: You will find a baby wrapped in swaddling clothes and
lying in a manger.

C: **Glory to God in the highest, and peace to His people on earth.**

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Hymn #380, v. 1, 3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: let us pray. Almighty God, You gave us Your only Son to take on our human nature and to illumine the world with Your light. By Your grace adopt us as Your children and enlighten us with Your Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Redeemer and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM How Sweet the Sound of Christmas - Grier/Everson

O how sweet the sound the herald angels sing, as the heav'ns rejoice in His birth.

Heav'nly choirs resound, with happy news they bring a message of love sent down from above.

O how sweet the sound of the king.

O how sweet the sound the newborn baby makes; fills the air with stillness and calm.

Feel the love abound in this, His holy place, as He slumbers in peace, angels watch o'er His sleep.

O how sweet His amazing grace.

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that makes all men rejoice.

For Him we raise our voices in song and sing His praise, our voices we raise.

O how sweet His amazing grace.

Text © 1986 Heritage Music Press

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL CANTICLE (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #388, v. 3)

Refrain: Go, tell it on the mountain, over the hills and ev'rywhere;

Go, tell it on the mountain that Jesus Christ is born!

Down in a lonely manger the humble Christ was born;

And God sent us salvation that blessed Christmas morn. *Refrain*

THE CHRISTMAS GOSPEL

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM Were You There on That Christmas Night - Natalie Sleeth

Were you there on that Christmas night when the world was full of a holy light?

Were you there to behold, when the wonder foretold came to earth?

Did you see how they hailed Him King with the gifts so rare that they chose to bring?

Did you see how they bowed as they praised Him aloud at His birth?

Did you hear how the choirs of angels sang at the glory of the sight?

Did you hear how the bells of heaven ran all through the night?

Did you know it was God's own Son, the salvation of the world begun?

Did you know it was love, that was sent from above to the earth?

Text © 1976 Hope Publishing Co.

FAMILY MESSAGE

“Walking in the Light”

Pastor Hartwell

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Little Town of Bethlehem

(LSB Hymn #361, v. 1, 4)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!

Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;

Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.

The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;

Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.

We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;

Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

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.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Stille Nacht

- John Leavitt

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

CANTICLE OF LIGHT (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #363)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

'Round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, "Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!"

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

CLOSING PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, You made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus' presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of His glory; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(LSB Hymn #387)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

SILENT MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE

On Christmas Night

- Bryan Glyncannon

* * * * *

8:00 p.m. - Carols and Candles

HANDBELL PRELUDE

The Joy of Christmas

- Lloyd Larson

INVOCATION (Congregation rising)

P: In the name of the Father,

C: whose infinite love brings us here tonight.

P: In the name of the Son,

C: whose wondrous birth we celebrate.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C: whose gift of faith enables us to believe.

P: Let us pray: O God, You once caused this holy night to shine with the brightness of the true Light. By Your Spirit we have known the mystery of that Light here on earth. Bring us also to the full measure of its joys in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(LSB Hymn #361, v. 1, 3-4)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

INTROIT and INVITATORY

P: Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth.

C: Sing to the Lord, praise His name; proclaim His salvation day after day.

P: Declare His glory among the nations, His marvelous deeds among all peoples.

C: Ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name; bring an offering and come into His courts. (*Psalm 96:1-3, 8*)

P: The Word became flesh, and we have seen His glory.

C: O come, let us worship Him.

OFFICE HYMN

(LSB Hymn #379, v. 1, 3-4)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem.
Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav'n above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain.*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of
Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our
Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our Judge;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy
Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BRASS ANTHEM

Hark! The Herald Angels Sing

- Lloyd Larson

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

- Harold Darke

In the bleak mid-winter frosty wind made moan, earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;

Snow had fallen, snow on snow. In the bleak mid-winter long ago.

Our God, heav'n cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;

Heav'n and earth shall flee away, when He comes to reign.

In the bleak mid-winter, a stable place sufficed the Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim worship night and day,

a breastful of milk and a manger full of hay;

Enough for Him, whom angels fall down before, the ox and ass and camel which adore.

What can I give Him, poor as I am? If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb.

If I were a wise man, I would do my part, yet what I can I give Him, give my heart.

A DRAMATIC RETELLING OF THE CHRISTMAS STORY

(The Christmas Gospel according to St. Luke 2:1-20 in the King James Version of Holy Scripture.)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

(LSB Hymn #368)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

SERMON

“Glory to God”

Rev. Deric Taylor

HYMN OF PRAISE

(LSB Hymn #380, v. 1&3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!”
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, “Christ is born in Bethlehem!”
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, “Glory to the newborn King!”

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: We pray:

C: **Glory and praise to You, O living God.**

OFFERING/HANDBELL VOLUNTARY

O Holy Night

- Sandra Eithun

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM Christ Was Born on Christmas Day - Parker/Shaw

*Christ was born on Christmas Day, wreath the holly, twine the bay;
Christus natus hodie; the Babe, the Son, the Holy One of Mary.
He is born to set us free, He is born our Lord to be,
ex Maria Virgine, the God, the Lord, by all adored forever.
He came among us at Christmastide in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide love's diadem
Jesu, Jesu, all the world this day is come to praise You.
Joseph dearest, Joseph mine, help me cradle the Child divine;
God reward thee and all that's thine in Paradise, so prays the Mother Mary.
Gladly, dear one, lady mine, help I cradle this Child of thine;
God's own light on us both shall shine in Paradise, as prays the Mother Mary.*

Traditional German Carol

RITUAL OF LIGHT (Congregation rising)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: And they will call Him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.”

(The ushers will light their candles and proceed down the aisle to spread the light among the congregation. After all the candles are lit, we join in singing “Silent Night”)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright

'Round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,

Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;

Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!

Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love's pure light

Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,

Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 14

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it....And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth.

(The candles are extinguished)

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(LSB Hymn #387)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing.

Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let men their songs employ
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and plains repeat the sounding joy.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

SILENT MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE

On Christmas Night

- Bryan Glyncannon

* * * * *

11:00 p.m. - Christmas Eve Eucharist

PRELUDE

An American Carol

- Richard Warner

ENTRANCE HYMN (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #361)

O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above
While mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the king and peace to all the earth!

How silently, how silently the wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts the blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming; but, in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still the dear Christ enters in.

O holy Child of Bethlehem, descend to us, we pray;
Cast out our sin, and enter in, be born in us today.
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;
Oh, come to us, abide with us, our Lord Immanuel!

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

P: In the name of the Father,

C: whose infinite love brings us here tonight.

P: In the name of the Son,

C: whose wondrous birth we celebrate.

P: In the name of the Holy Spirit,

C: whose gift of faith enables us to believe.

P: O God, on this holy night we gather to celebrate the gift of Your answer to our sin and need. Even before we ask it You have provided for us what we need the most.

C: Grant us the gift of Your forgiveness as we confess the sin with which we have offended You. May the love You have for the whole world be upon us; may Your Son be born in us this day; and may Your forgiveness cleanse us and give us life for the sake of His name. Amen.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God to all of you; and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I 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 Hymn #387, v. 1, 3-4)

Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room and heav'n and nature sing.

No more let sins and sorrows grow, nor thorns infest the ground.
He comes to make His blessings flow far as the curse is found.

He rules the world with truth and grace and makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness and wonders of His love.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O God, You make us glad with the yearly remembrance of the birth of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ. Grant that as we joyfully receive Him as our Redeemer, we may with sure confidence behold Him when He comes to be our judge; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Isaiah 9:2-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Titus 2:11-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

SOLO

Corpus Christi Carol
George Heath, baritone

- Benjamin Britten

GOSPEL (Congregation rising)

Luke 2:1-20

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

(The Gospel is read)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

HYMN OF THE DAY

(LSB Hymn #368)

Angels we have heard on high, sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply, echoing their joyous strains: Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?
What the gladsome tidings be which inspire your heav'nly song? Gloria in excelsis Deo!

Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the newborn King. Gloria in excelsis Deo!

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: We pray:

C: Glory and praise to You, O living God.

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

In the Bleak Mid-Winter

- Cindy Berry

COMMUNITY INFORMATION

OFFERTORY (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #380, v. 1&3)

Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King;
Peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled!"
Joyful, all ye nations, rise, join the triumph of the skies;
With th' angelic host proclaim, "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail, the Sun of Righteousness!
Light and life to all He brings, ris'n with healing in His wings.
Mild He lays His glory by, born that man no more may die,
Born to raise the sons of earth, born to give them second birth.
Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the newborn King!"

†HOLY COMMUNION†

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

P: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on Your creation and sent Your Son to live among us and die for the sins of the world so that whoever believes in Him will have eternal life. As You sent the joyful message of His birth to the shepherds, You sent it to us also. We thank You for the gift of forgiveness that comes to us through Jesus Christ. Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

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. (Matt. 6:9-13)

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

(LSB Hymn #364)

Away in a manger, no crib for a bed, the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down where He lay, the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the baby awakes, but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus! Look down from the sky, and stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay close by me forever and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care, and take us to heaven to live with Thee there.

RITUAL OF LIGHT (Congregation rising)

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

C: the light no darkness can overcome.

P: The people walking in darkness have seen a great light;

C: on those living in the land of the shadow of death a light has dawned.

P: For to us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

C: And they will call Him Immanuel – which means, “God with us.”

(The ushers will light their candles and proceed down the aisle to spread the light among the congregation. After all the candles are lit, we join in singing “Silent Night”)

Silent night, holy night, all is calm, all is bright
‘Round yon virgin mother and Child, holy infant, so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night, holy night, shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar, heavenly hosts sing, “Alleluia!
Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!”

Silent night, holy night, Son of God, love’s pure light
Radiant beams from Thy holy face with the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth! Jesus, Lord, at Thy birth!

THE GOSPEL OF LIGHT

John 1:1-5, 14

P: In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came into being through Him, and without Him not one thing came into being. What has come into being in Him was life, and the life was the light of all people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it....And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

(The candles are extinguished)

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

(LSB Hymn #379)

O come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant! O come ye, O come ye to Bethlehem. Come and behold Him born the King of angels.

Refrain: O come, let us adore Him. O come, let us adore Him.
O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord!

Highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal, born of a virgin, a mortal He comes;
Son of the Father now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

Sing, choirs of angels, sing in exultation; sing, all ye citizens of heav’n above!
Glory to God in the highest. *Refrain*

Yea, Lord, we greet Thee, born this happy morning; Jesus, to Thee be glory giv’n!
Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing! *Refrain*

SILENT MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

POSTLUDE

Adeste Fidelis

- Kevin Hildebrand

* * * * *

VLC NEWS AND NOTES

POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR:

In loving memory of the Blanck & Bevers Families.

In loving memory of Gary John Bevers.

In loving memory of Grace (Evjen) Wnuck.

In loving memory of Carol (Wnuck) Heyde.

In loving memory of John Spring from Deborah Reiss.

To the Glory of God & in thankfulness for the congregation from the Hartwell family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from the Gotte Family.

In loving memory of William G. Podszus from Louise, Elaine, Edward, William & Sue.

In loving memory of William G. Podszus from Warren, Marla, Rebecca, Ryan & Brendan.

From the Albano Family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from Rev. Deric, Julie & Bradly Taylor.

In loving memory of our loved ones from Robert & Lynette Taylor.

In loving memory of Ruth Reichelt from Carolyn Driessnack.

In loving memory of our dear mother, Ruth Reichelt, from her family.

In loving memory of our loved ones from the Rockhill family.

From the Horvath Family - Claire, Ann & Chuck.

In loving memory of all our loved ones, from Betty & Bob Roberts & family.

In loving memory of William Messner's 10th Anniversary in Heaven, from daughters Kathy Coffey & Mary Messner Martin.

THE BEAUTIFUL CHRISTMAS WREATHS ON THE GREAT PORCH:

In loving memory of Hans Hover from his wife Mickie.

In loving memory of John Britz from his wife Helen.

In loving memory of Gary John Bevers from his family.

PRAYER LINE: Please remember those members or friends who are hospitalized or recovering from an illness especially Dawn Galloway, Sheila Giglio, Carroll Hanson, Lyn Hartwell, Adrienne Hiddleson, Scott James, David Just, Madison Klein, Irene Krolides, Gene Lunog, Janet Lunog, Warren Podszus, Sylvia Puig, John Rapillo, Julio Sanchez. Also keep our shut-in/ homebound members & friends in your prayers.

Names are listed for 3 weeks.

PASTORAL VISITS TO THE SICK: HIPAA legislation prohibits hospitals from sharing names of those receiving care, even to clergy. If you are hospitalized or learn of a fellow VLC member who is hospitalized, please call the church office at 914-337-0207 x 1003, so a visit can be made.

BEREAVEMENT PRAYER LINE: We include in our prayers all those in our community that have recently lost a loved one, especially: The family of Herbert Stapf, cousin of Charlotte Vogt, who passed away on December 6, 2009. Please share the information on the tear-off sheet in the bulletin or call the church office 337-0207 x1003

Let us continue to pray for the soldiers, Marines, airmen, sailors and special forces who put their lives in harm's way, especially Joshua Alvarado AFSOS, Maj. Daniel Cahill, Sgt. Marco Cerbone, Chris Finocchio, Andrew Flink AFSOS, Bill Kavanagh, Chris Lena, Nick Lion, Olivia Lion, Dan Miller, Maj. Bradley Rakov, LCDR Christopher Rakov, Brent Smith.

CHURCH NEWS

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY: Updated scheduling information for Round-the-Table Carol Sing!! Chancel Choir will rehearse with the strings at **6:15pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6**; there will be no rehearsal on Thursday, Jan. 7, but we will sing at 9:00am on Sunday, January 10; **Youth Choir** will rehearse at 7:00pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6 and Thursday, Jan. 7; **High School Choir** will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:15am; **Village Brass** will play for the rescheduled Round-the-Table Carol Sing on Jan. 6 at 7:30pm; **Village Bells** will rehearse at **7:00pm on Wednesday, Jan. 6**; **FaithWalk** will look for a service date in January or February; watch for further updates.

PRAYER SERVICES are held regularly on the last Saturday of the month. Beginning at 6:30 p.m. (following the regular Saturday service), these brief moments for meditation & prayer offer personal prayers at the altar and the ancient tradition of anointing with oil. **The next service is Saturday, December 26, at 6:30 p.m.**

ST. STEPHEN'S DAY OBSERVANCE - December 26 is St. Stephen's Day, when the church honors Stephen, a deacon and martyr for Christ. Our VLC deacons and deacon graduates will be honored on the **weekend of December 26-27** and Deacon Graduate Morris Mayer will be the preacher. We pray that God would continue to bless this special form of ministry.

Wednesday morning Bible Study will not meet on December 30; the next session will be on **January 6** at 10:45 a.m., when we will complete Isaiah 40.

EPIPHANY ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING - Our annual choir service had to be postponed because of the snowstorm on December 20. We will now offer this service of lessons and carols as a **special Epiphany service on Wednesday, January 6, 2010, at 7:30 p.m.** Come and celebrate "Little Christmas" with music by the Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Village Bells, Village Brass and string quartet.

The Village Lutheran Church will host the **Good News Christian Coffee House on Saturday, January 9, 2010** with music by Psalm 96. The Coffee House opens at 7 p.m. with gourmet coffee and pastries, and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$5/Adult, Seniors, Students. Children \$2 (ages 5-12). A love offering will be taken to offset expenses.

Join us for monthly worship at Sprain Brook Manor Rehabilitation in Scarsdale. Services are normally held at 2:00 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month. Future service: **January 12, February 9.**

LISTEN TO WORSHIP WHILE TENDING TO CHILDREN - The Care Room is now equipped with remote speakers so that children and caretakers can hear what's going on in the service. There are also speakers in the Friendship Room for families who need to take upset children out for a break. You don't have to miss a thing!

Each week we will share a thought from the book, *Life's Little Book of Wisdom For Kids* (Barbour Publishing, [www. barbourbooks.com](http://www.barbourbooks.com)). This week, remind that special child in your life: **There's no such thing as too many friends.**

LWML Mite Box Report: Mission Grant #10 has been completed thanks to all who have so generously to the Mite Box collection. The next Mission Grant to be met is #11 (Beautiful Feet). This Mission Grant will bring hundreds of college students together to learn about missions around the world, how they can be involved, and build them up to both lead mission education on their campuses and serve the Lord and Churches around the world on the mission field. Mite Boxes can be obtained in the Multi-Purpose Room on the piano. You can take home a Mite Box, fill it with loose change and return it to the big Mite Box.

The women of VLC have started a PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY. A Prayer Shawl is a soft, warm shawl, knitted or crocheted, which is given to persons who are ill, have suffered a loss, or are in the midst of a crisis. The shawl is intended to provide warmth, comfort, a “hug”, and to be a reminder of God’s embracing arms, which are always around us. When the prayer shawl is completed, it will be turned into the church office where it will be blessed with special prayer and delivered by the Pastors or Deacons to someone in need. Anyone that can participate by knitting or crocheting a shawl or to assist in this endeavor, please contact Shawl Coordinator, Erika Doherty, at 914-337-1080. For more information, see the pamphlets in the Tract Rack, in the Narthex of the church.

GATHERING OF FRIENDS X - Save the date & get involved! Friday, March 12, 2010. Gala Dinner and Auction benefitting Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School. For more information or to get involved, please contact: Ellen Bryceland, Event Chair at 914-439-2911 / e-mail eobb46@gmail.com, or Jeanette Van Duyne, Development Assistant at 914-337-0207 x 1040 / e-mail jvandyne@vlc-ny.org.

Village Lutheran Church & The Chapel School Stays Green with X3 Clean! VLC/TCS is now providing alcohol-free foam hand sanitizers in all classrooms and offices, and now has wall-mount units posted throughout the building. X3 Clean is “green”, but we have seen test results wherein it has proven effective against H1N1 (Swine-like flu).

SENIOR NEWS

Upcoming Seniors’ Luncheons - Save the dates!

January 12 - Deacon Carol Pfizenmaier discusses her recent mission trip to Malawi, Africa..

February 9 - BINGO and Chinese Banquet.

March 9 - Rich O’Donnell, Appraiser for Eastchester shares tax issues for seniors.

Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and lunch begins at 12 noon. All VLC Seniors, Loehman Village Residents and community Members welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

There will be Total Family Worship (no classes) on the weekend of December 26-27, 2009. **Sunday School classes resume, and attendance awards will be given out, on January 3, 2010.**

FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Church and School Undecorating Party - Sunday, January 3, 2010 at 12 noon. Bring your left-over Christmas Cookies/Treats. Pizza and soda provided. RSVP by calling 914-337-0207 (1003) or filling out the tear-off.

STEWARDSHIP NEWS

End of Year Giving: Would you like to make an end of year gift to Village Lutheran Church or The Chapel School? Gifts may be mailed in to: 172 White Plains Road, Bronxville, New York 10708 or made electronically on-line (up to Dec. 31, 2009 at www.VLC-NY.ORG (Click on “GIVING”) or www.THECHAPELSCHOOL.ORG (Click “Giving” and then “Giving on Line”).

The wise men brought Jesus gifts, but, before presenting their gifts, they first gave Him honor through giving of themselves. Matthew 2:10-11 says, “*When they saw the star they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with His mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasures and presented Him with gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.*” Our gifts to God are worthless unless given in faith (Hebrews 11:6) from hearts completely devoted to Him.

The Simply Giving Program - Just as you rely upon receiving income on a regular basis, Village Lutheran Church relies upon your regular contributions. Village Lutheran Church deeply appreciates the efforts of congregation members to make consistent donations throughout the year. To assist you, the church provides a convenient electronic giving option for setting up regular contributions: This program is offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Contact Jeanette Van Duyne (914) 337-0207, x1040.

SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS

Help the Hungry at Christmas! Want to help at a local soup kitchen or food pantry this holiday season? See the list of agencies on the tract rack by the church entrance.

The **Blessing Basket** collection will continue under the piano in the Friendship Room. Non-perishable items will be taken to ECAP.

PARISH HEALTH NEWS

Health tip from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell - Keep your pets safe at Christmas time. Christmas decorations, which are very dangerous for cats and dogs, include: ribbon, tinsel, wires from lights, ornament hangers, the water in the base of the Christmas tree, poinsettias, amaryllis, holly and Christmas cactus. Make sure to secure your tree so your pet can't tip it over. Pick out some safe toys so your pet will be occupied and enjoy a happy (and safe) Christmas, too!

Yoga is held on **Mondays at 7 p.m.** in the Multi-Purpose Rm. Cost \$10. If you need more information call Faith Forliano 725-8035. No pre-registration required.

St. Monica's Circle: St. Monica (b.333, d.387), the mother of St. Augustine, is a patron saint of mothers. A caring initiative for families growing through childbirth and adoption, St. Monica's Circle will provide 5 meals to benefit the growing family.

If you are expecting a child through pregnancy or adoption, please notify the church office at 337-0207 when your child is expected to come home, so that we may coordinate volunteers.

St. Monica's Circle has become aware of a family in need. This young family will suddenly and unexpectedly be adopting a newborn baby boy in the next few weeks from a family member who is not well. They have no baby supplies, clothes, etc. If you have baby supplies or baby clothes, up to size 18 months, that you would like to donate, please call the church office (914)337-0207 x 1003 and speak with Kim Rapillo. She will be helping to identify what is needed for this family.

AED: Village Lutheran Church and The Chapel School have three **Automated External Defibrillators** (AED) located on each level of our campus: by the lunchroom, outside the gym and outside the sanctuary (in the closet marked AED) in the Friendship Room. These life saving devices are easy to use in the event that someone on our campus experiences distress and their heart stops beating.

Lutheran Counseling Center provides caring, Christian professional counseling right on our campus. Under LCC's Membership Assistance Program (MAP), VLC members & friends can access these services at the rate of only \$25 per session (for up to 4 sessions). Major health care insurance companies reimburse for LCC services and LCC uses a sliding scale. Call Pastor Hartwell at 337-0207 (1022).

CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

The next **Chapel School Open House** will take place on **Friday, January 8**, with a presentation for Grades K-8 at 9:00 a.m. and a Preschool presentation at 1:15 p.m. Invite families with young or elementary school-aged children to see how much The Chapel School has to offer!

YOUTH NEWS

Voyagers (3rd-6th) - Meetings are held in the Multi-Purpose Room 6 - 7 p.m. on Thursdays. The next meeting will be held on **January 14, 2010**. Questions, call Erika (914)395-1954 or e-mail tyandbash@aol.com.

Lifers (7th-8th) - Meet on Thursdays from 6 - 7 p.m. for Confirmation. Please visit our VLC website under the youth section for more information or contact Pastor Taylor at (914)337-0207 (1021) or e-mail Dtaylor@VLC-ny.org.

Crusaders (9th-12th) - LC-MS Gathering Check Up meeting, Jan. 10 in the Lunch room at 10:30 a.m. Watch the bulletin board and our Facebook page (vlccrw10) for upcoming events! Be a part of Crusader Youth! For questions/concerns about our Crusader Youth, please contact Mindy at VLCcrw10@optonline.net.

COMMUNITY NEWS

‘Hearts to Home’ for the Holidays: The Bronxville High School Youth Council will be purchasing calling cards for our troops to call home over the holidays. They will continue to collect donations through the end of December. The cost of each card is \$15. Please send checks made out to ‘Hearts to Home’ to: 100 White Plains Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. Thank you and Happy Holidays!

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A GREAT NEW YEAR’S RESOLUTION...Help others learn English. The Adult Learning Center, located at 138 Centre Avenue in New Rochelle, is looking for volunteers who would be willing to give two or more hours a week teaching basic English to adult students. We will provide all books & training. No prior experience needed. Classes begin Feb. 3, 2010. Call Sister Eileen/Sister Mary (914)633-7298.

MEALS ON WHEELS 10708, INC. NEEDS VOLUNTEERS! Can you spare approximately 1 ½ hours one day a week (or at least a month) to assist us in the delivery of the noon-day meal to our clients, located mainly in the Bronxville area? Meals are delivered every day of the week, including weekends and holidays - 365 days per year. Our clients, most of whom are homebound, elderly or disabled, will be most appreciative of your help. To volunteer or obtain more information, call the Meals-On-Wheels Office at 787-3027 or e-mail MOW1973@aol.com.

An Invitation to Join the District’s “Stop, Drop and Pray” Team - Do you believe in God’s power through prayer to dramatically increase the effectiveness of our mission and kingdom work? Are you a member of the Atlantic District Mission Society’s “Stop, drop and pray” network? If not, I invite you to join our prayer team today in seeking out God’s blessing and provision for all our outreach efforts. We seek to faithfully partner with the Lord in the essential work of extending the kingdom of God on earth. When you join “Stop, drop and pray,” you’ll receive a free weekly E-Letter reminding you to stop what you are doing and take time out to pray for specific mission projects and events throughout the District. To enroll, simply contact me at carol.mittelstaedt@ad-lcms.org or call Carol at 914-337-5700 x 6.

PARTICIPANTS IN THE SERVICES

Assisting Minister:	5:00 p.m.	Morris Mayer
	8:00 p.m.	Deacon Carol Pfizenmaier
	11:00 p.m.	Ralph Schoene
Organist:		Deborah Reiss
Lectors:	5:00 p.m.	Chuck Horvath
	8:00 p.m.	Chris Gleason
		John Eaton (Gospel)
	11:00 p.m.	Andrea Maxeiner
Comm. Assts:	11:00 p.m.	Andrea Maxeiner, James Maxeiner
Youth Wor. Assts:	5:00 p.m.	Bradly Taylor
	8:00 p.m.	Andrew Snyder
	11:00 p.m.	Diana Mayer
Ushers:	5:00 p.m.	John Divi, Frank McGinnis, Deacon Intern Betty Roberts, Will Snyder.
	8:00 p.m.	Carolyn Driessnack, Carlette Allen, Richard Allen
	11:00 p.m.	Mickie Hover, Katrina Vidal, Ed Vidal, Georgine Read
Altar Guild:	11:00 p.m.	Deacon Ann Terenzio
Altar Flowers:		Kim Rapillo
Sexton:		Greta & Rebecca Kollmann

THIS WEEK IN WORSHIP

FRI., Dec. 25, 2009 10:00 a.m. Festival Christmas Day Worship

SAT., Dec. 26, 2009 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service / 6:30 p.m. Prayer Service

SUN., Dec. 27, 2009 9:00 a.m. Total Family Worship Service and Holy Communion

10:45 a.m. Worship Service and Holy Communion

St. Stephen's Day Observance

Message by Deacon Program Graduate Morris Mayer

Stewardship Update

Amount received last week: \$8,710

Amount received to date: \$155,216

Amount needed to date: \$165,875

\$6,635 average weekly need to meet our 09-10 commitment

Isaiah 9:2-7

²The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness on them light has shined. ³You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. ⁴For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. ⁵For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. ⁶For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will do this.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Titus 2:11-14

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all, ¹²training us to renounce impiety and worldly passions, and in the present age to live lives that are self-controlled, upright, and godly, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope and the manifestation of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. ¹⁴He it is who gave himself for us that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify for himself a people of his own who are zealous for good deeds.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Luke 2:1-20

¹And it came to pass in those days, that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be taxed. ²(And this taxing was first made when Cyrenius was governor of Syria.) ³And all went to be taxed, every one into his own city. ⁴And Joseph also

went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judaea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem; (because he was of the house and lineage of David) ⁵to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child. ⁶And so it was, that, while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. ⁷And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. ⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. ¹⁵And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this thing which is come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us. ¹⁶And they came with haste, and found Mary, and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. ¹⁷And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. ¹⁸And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. ¹⁹But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart. ²⁰And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.