

† FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT †

December 20, 2009

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

- *The order of worship for each of our three weekend services is indicated in the bulletin and the hymnal, “Lutheran Service Book” (LSB), is located in the pew racks in front of you.*
- *We extend a special word of welcome to first-time visitors and invite you to take a welcome kit located by the Jesus Fountain in the church entrance.*
- *Welcome cards are available in the pew rack to assist you in providing information, such as new or updated addresses and phone numbers, prayer requests or other comments or questions, to the pastors or church office. Church offerings and welcome cards will be collected during the offering time or may be left in the wicker basket by the Jesus Fountain after the service.*

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

SATURDAY - 5:30 p.m.
Spoken Divine Service

PRELUDE

Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne

- arr. Myra Schubert

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of Your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

C: Gracious God, have mercy on us. In Your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by Your Spirit so that we may live and serve You in newness of life, to the honor and glory of Your holy name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

ADVENT KYRIE

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: All those who await His appearance pray:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

OPENING HYMN

The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

LSB Hymn #348

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, Lord Christ, and come. With Your abundant grace and might free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

+LITURGY OF THE WORD+

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5-10

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st 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

O Jesus So Sweet, O Jesus So Mild

LSB **Hymn #546**

SERMON

“Blessed are You!”

Rev. Deric Taylor

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

O Savior Sweet

- J. S. Bach

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

+LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST+

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. You comforted Your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom You will also make all things new in the day when He comes to judge the world in righteousness. Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

C: Holy, holy, holy Lord. God of power and might. Heaven and earth are full of Your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD and MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Through Him, with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Lord gave 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.

AGNUS DEI

P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world:

C: Grant us Your peace.

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

C: And also with you.

DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: God for whom we wait, in this meal You give us a foretaste of that day when the hungry will be fed with good things. Send us forth to make known Your deeds and to proclaim the greatness of Your name; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Rejoices

LSB Hymn #933

DISMISSAL

P: The Divine Service is ended. Go in peace to serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

- J. S. Bach

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SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m.
Service of Prayer and Preaching

PRELUDE Thou Didst Leave Thy Throne - arr. Myra Schubert

ENTRANCE HYMN (*Congregation rising*) AGPS Hymn #228
The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns

INVOCATION and CONFESSION

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

C: **Amen.**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: **But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**

P: Most merciful God,

C: **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways, to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P: Almighty God, in His mercy, has given His Son to die for us and, for His sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

ADVENT VERSICLES

P: The Spirit and the Church cry out:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: All those who await His appearance pray:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: The whole creation pleads:

C: **Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Blessed is He who comes as king, who comes in the name of the Lord.

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

ADVENT CANTICLE Light One Candle AGPS Hymn #163

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up Your power, Lord Christ, and come. With Your abundant grace and might free us from the sin that binds us, that we may receive You in joy and serve You always; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Micah 5:2-5

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Hebrews 10:5-10

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE (*Congregation rising*)

P: “You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give Him the name of Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.”

C: **“I am the Lord’s servant....May it be to me as you have said.”** (*Luke 1: 31-32, 38*)

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-45

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 1st 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.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

(After the message, children and teachers in Grades 3-6 go to their Sunday School classes)

HYMN OF THE DAY

Jesus, Name Above All Names

AGPS **Hymn #145**

SERMON

“Blessed are You!”

Rev. Deric Taylor

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

O Savior Sweet

- J. S. Bach

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord, and trusting in 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. (Matt. 6:9-13)**

LITANY OF THANKSGIVING

P: Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.

C: **And His steadfast love lasts forever.**

P: My soul, give thanks to the Lord; all my being, bless His holy name.

C: **My soul, give thanks to the Lord, and never forget all His blessings.**

P: It is He who forgives all your guilt, who heals every one of your ills, who redeems your life from the grave, who crowns you with love and compassion, who fills your life with good things, renewing your youth like an eagle’s.

C: **My soul, give thanks to the Lord!**

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN

My Soul Now Magnifies the Lord

AGPS Hymn #177

SILENT MEDITATION (*Congregation seated*)

POSTLUDE

Now Sing We, Now Rejoice

- J. S. Bach

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SUNDAY - 10:45 a.m.
Round-the-Table Carol Sing

The liturgy for this service is printed out on a separate insert:

“What Child is This?”

If you do not have a copy in your bulletin, please ask an usher for assistance

Notes on the Service:

In medieval England it was customary for the Lord of the Manor to give a Christmas dinner for all of his servants and serfs. After the dinner, the local priest, the knights, and all of the assembly joined to worship the Christ Child by the singing of Christmas carols. The VLC’s Round-the-Table Carol Sing was initiated in 1950 under the leadership of Doris Voester, who served as organist and Minister of Music at the time, and the tradition has been upheld every year since.

Our theme this year is “What Child is This?” The shepherds were the first ones to receive the news of Jesus’ birth, and they hurried off to Bethlehem to see this special child with their own eyes. May we also run with anticipation and joy to meet our Savior, who came as a little child to save us and will come again in glory to bear us home.

VLC NEWS AND NOTES

POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR:

In loving of John Spring from Deb Reiss.

In loving memory of the Blanck & Bevers Families.

In loving memory of Gary John Bevers.

In loving memory of Grace Wnuck.

In loving memory of Carol (Wnuck) Heyde.

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.

The Great Porch is also adorned with beautiful Christmas wreaths. If you're interested in sponsoring a wreath, please contact Kim Rapillo in the church office, 337-0207, ext. 1003.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE LUNCHROOM after the 9:00 a.m. worship service for a light reception. Thanks to Pastor Hartwell for providing the refreshments. **Please sign up to host Coffee Hour on the tear-off sheet.**

PRAYER LINE: Please remember those members or friends who are hospitalized or recovering from an illness especially Dawn Galloway, Sheila Giglio, Lyn Hartwell, Adrienne Hiddleson, Scott James, David Just, Irene Krolides, Gene Lunog, Janet Lunog, Warren Podszus, Sylvia Puig, 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 Muriel Henry, aunt of Jeanette Van Duyne, who passed away on November 29, 2009. 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: **Chancel Choir** will warm up at 7:30pm on Christmas Eve and then will be off until Thursday, Jan. 7; **Youth Choir** will rehearse at 4:30pm on Christmas Eve and then will be off until Thursday, Jan. 7; **High School Choir** will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:15am; **Village Brass** will play for Christmas Eve at 8:00pm; **Village Bells** will rehearse on Christmas Eve at 7:00pm and then will be off until Wednesday, Jan. 6; **FaithWalk** will look for a service date in January or February; watch for further updates.

Wednesday morning Bible Study will **not** meet on December 23; the next session will be on **January 6** at 10:45 a.m., when we will complete Isaiah 40.

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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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).

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

Today in Sunday School children studied Luke 1:57-80, the story of John’s birth. Zechariah spoke God’s Word announcing that this baby John would give people knowledge of salvation in the forgiveness of sins, God speaks through His Holy Word to give me knowledge of salvation and forgiveness through Jesus, His Son. In your family discussions, talk about how sin causes us to doubt and fear, and just as God provided John to preach forgiveness and the message of Christ Jesus, the Savior, He provides us with faithful preachers to point us to the Savior from sin, death, and the devil.

The Cherub Choir will sing on **Thursday, December 24 at the 5:00 p.m.** service. Please have the children arrive 15 minutes early to rehearse. We will meet in the school reception area. Questions, call Betty Geiling at 914-772-5589.

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.

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.

PARISH HEALTH NEWS

Health tip from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell - Keep your pets safe during Advent and Christmas. 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!

Christmas Concerts - The final program for this season will be the **Grade 1-2 Concert** on **Tuesday, Dec. 22**, at 7:30pm in the Concordia Schoenfeld Center. Thank you to Mr. Heath, Mrs. Kollmann and all of the students for their beautiful music.

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

And Glory Shone Around - A Christmas Cantata Celebrating Love's Perfect Light by Lloyd Larson and Douglas E. Wagner. The First Baptist Church/Bronxville Chancel Choir on **Sunday, December 20, 2009 at 4:00 p.m.** No Admission charge. A free-will offering will be received. The church is located at 407 New Rochelle Road, Bronxville, N.Y.

'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 call books and training. No prior experience needed. Classes begin February 3, 2010. Call Sister Eileen or 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:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Wendy Haddad
	9:00 a.m.	George Pietarinen
	10:45 a.m.	Morris Mayer
Organist:	5:30 p.m. & 9:00 a.m.	Marcia Kollmann
	10:45 a.m.	Deborah Reiss
Lectors:	5:30 p.m.	Patrick Durkin
	9:00 a.m.	Mimi Blanco
	10:45 a.m.	Round-the-Table
Comm. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Patrick Durkin
Youth Wor. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Sean Durkin
	9:00 a.m.	Wendy Snyder
	10:45 a.m.	Jason Napolitano
Ushers:	5:30 p.m.	Chuck Horvath
	9:00 a.m.	Bill Vogt, Grant Geiling, Frank McGinnis, Sarah McGinnis, Warren Wong
	10:45 a.m.	Georgine Read, Dan Chao, Skip Hansen, Katrina Vidal
Altar Guild:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Wendy Haddad
Altar Flowers:		Kim Rapillo
Childcare:		Catherine Manning
Sexton:		Natalie Vidal

NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP

THU., Dec. 24, 2009 5:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
8:00p.m. Christmas Eve Carols, Choirs and Candles
11:00p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

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

SAT., Dec. 26, 2009 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service / 6:30p.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: \$8,933

Amount received to date: \$146,506

Amount needed to date: \$159,240

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

Micah 5:2-5

²But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. ³Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. ⁴And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; ⁵and he shall be the one of peace.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hebrews 10:5-10

⁵Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body you have prepared for me; ⁶in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. ⁷Then I said, 'See, God, I have come to do your will, O God' (in the scroll of the book it is written of me)." ⁸When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings"

(these are offered according to the law), ⁹then he added, "See, I have come to do your will." He abolishes the first in order to establish the second. ¹⁰And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Luke 1:39-45

³⁹In those days Mary set out and went with haste to a Judean town in the hill country, ⁴⁰where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. ⁴¹When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the child leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit ⁴²and exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. ⁴³And why has this happened to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? ⁴⁴For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy. ⁴⁵And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her by the Lord."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.