

† ST. STEPHEN, DEACON AND MARTYR †

December 26-27, 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.
SUNDAY - 9:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Service of Hymnic Holy Communion

PRELUDE Carol - Carl Schalk

OPENING HYMN It Came Upon the Midnight Clear LSB **Hymn #366**

INVOCATION and INTROIT (*Psalm 17:5-8*)

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

C: **Amen.**

P: My steps have held to Your paths; my feet have not slipped.

C: **I call on You, O God, for You will answer me; give ear to me and hear my prayer.**

P: Show the wonder of Your great love, You who save by Your right hand those who take refuge in You from their foes.

C: **Keep me as the apple of Your eye; hide me in the shadow of Your wings.**

All: **Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

KYRIE (*sung to the hymn "The King Shall Come When Morning Dawns"*)

Have mercy on Your people, Lord. Have mercy, Christ, our King.

Renew us by Your mercy, Lord; accept the prayers we bring.

GLORIA (*sung to the hymn "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing"*)

"Glory be to God on high!" This is now our joyful cry.

Peace to all who live on earth, grace and favor for new birth.

You we praise and glorify, worship You, O Lord most high.

Gracious Father, heav'nly King, to Your name alone we sing:

Praise the glory of Your name, now and evermore the same!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Grant us grace, O Lord, that like Stephen we may learn to love even our enemies and seek forgiveness for those who desire our hurt; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

2 Chronicles 24:17-22

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

Acts 6:8 – 7:2, 51-60

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

VERSE HYMN (Congregation rising)

(LSB Hymn #376, v. 5)

Not in that poor, lowly stable with the oxen standing by
Shall we see Him, but in heaven, set at God's right hand on high.
Then like stars His children, crowned, all in white, His praise will sound!

GOSPEL

Matthew 23:34-39

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 23rd 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 God Rest You Merry, Gentlemen *Traditional English Carol*

God rest you merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,
For Jesus Christ our Savior was born upon this day,
To save us all from Satan's pow'r when we were gone astray:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our heav'nly Father a blessed angel came,
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same,
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,
And with true love and brotherhood each other now embrace;
This holy tide of Christmas all others doth deface:
O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy, O tidings of comfort and joy.

MEDITATION

Morris Mayer, Deacon Program Graduate

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

What Child is This

- Samuel Wellman

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

†HOLY COMMUNION†

ADMONITION TO COMMUNICANTS and LORD'S PRAYER

P: I exhort you in Christ that you give attention to the Testament of Christ in true faith, and above all take to heart the words with which Christ presents His body and blood to us for forgiveness; that you take note of and give thanks for the boundless love that He showed us when He saved us from the wrath of God, sin, death and hell by His blood; and that you then externally receive the bread and wine, that is, His body and blood, as a guarantee and pledge. Let us then in His name, according to His command, and in His own words administer and receive the Testament.

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.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION and SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

AGNUS DEI (*sung to the hymn "On Jordan's Bank"*)

O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, who takes the sin of the world away,
Have mercy on us, grant us peace, and fill us with Your love and grace.

DISTRIBUTION

Away in a Manger

What Child is This

LSB Hymn #365

LSB Hymn #370

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen Your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on Your grace. May Your Word take flesh in us, that we may be Your holy people, revealing Your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Good King Wenceslas

from Piae Cantiones

Good King Wenceslas looked out on the Feast of Stephen,
When the snow lay round about, deep and crisp and even:
Brightly shone the moon that night, through the frost was cruel,
When a poor man came in sight, gath'ring winter fuel.

“Hither, page, and stand by me, if thou know’st it, telling,
Yonder peasant, who is he? Where and what his dwelling”
“Sire, he lives a good league hence, underneath the mountain,
Right against the forest fence, by Saint Agnes’ fountain.”

“Bring me flesh, and bring me wine, bring me pine-logs hither:
Thou and I will see him dine, when we bear them thither.”
Page and monarch, forth they went, forth they went together;
Through the rude wind’s wild lament and the bitter weather.

“Sire, the night is darker now, and the wind blows stronger;
Fails my heart, I know not how; I can go no longer.”
“Mark my footsteps, good my page; tread thou in them boldly:
Thou shalt find the winter’s rage freeze thy blood less coldly.”

In his master’s steps he trod, where the snow lay dinted;
Heat was in the very sod which the Saint had printed.
Therefore, Christian folk, be sure, wealth or rank possessing,
Ye who now will bless the poor, shall yourselves find blessing.

SILENT MEDITATION (Congregation seated)

DISMISSAL

POSTLUDE

Tempus adest floridum

- J. Wayne Kerr

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VLC NEWS AND NOTES

PLEASE JOIN US IN THE MULTIPURPOSE ROOM after the 9:00 a.m. worship service for cake, coffee and fellowship. Thanks to Georgine Read for providing the refreshments.

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 Hiddleston, 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

Today a Pastor's Discretionary Fund Offering is received. The Discretionary Fund allows our Pastors to reach out with the love of Christ in the name of our congregation as needs arise. With the present economy, we have seen a rise in people from our community and our own congregation who need a little assistance to make it through these times. If God has blessed you, won't you consider a gift to the Discretionary Fund? Use the "**Love Offering**" envelope. Gifts of any size are appreciated and help us to share the Love of Christ.

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; **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** and play for the service at 7:30; **FaithWalk** will look for a service date in January or February; watch for further updates.

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.**

Women's Bible Study/LWML - January 16 at 8:30 a.m. Please read Chapter 5 of *Slightly Bad Girls of the Bible: Using Her Wits, Rebekah the Mother*. We will also be discussing a new mission project. If you are able, please bring a breakfast item to share. Questions? Call Julie Taylor, 793-9075.

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, January 30, at 6:30 p.m.**

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). This week, remind that special child in your life: **Put your entire trust in the master Jesus. Then you'll live as you were meant to live.**

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) today. **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”).

Our free gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life cost Jesus His life. *“Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends”* (John 15:13). Because of His great love for us, He willingly suffered and died on our behalf. Christ made us righteous in the sight of God. When we give faithfully, we express our thanks and gratitude for our new lives in Jesus. We give to worship and glorify Him. Jesus said, *“It is more blessed to give than to receive”* (Acts 20:35).

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

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 - Meditation for the mind and heart: A study was presented to the American Heart Association suggesting that at least in the case of people with established heart disease, meditation may have physiological benefits. Mediators were found to remain to be disease free longer and reduce their blood pressure.

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:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Wendy Haddad
	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Intern Betty Roberts
	10:45 a.m.	Joan Condon
Organist:	5:30 p.m.	Deborah Reiss
	9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.	Deborah Reiss
Lectors:	5:30 p.m.	Morris Mayer
	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Intern Betty Roberts
	10:45 a.m.	John Eaton
Comm. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Morris Mayer
	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Intern Betty Roberts, John Divi, Mark Blanco
	10:45 a.m.	Richard Allen
Youth Wor. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Diana Mayer
	9:00 a.m.	Andrew Snyder
	10:45 a.m.	Stefanie Introcaso
Ushers:	5:30 p.m.	Volunteer
	9:00 a.m.	Anne Losee, Richard Graham
	10:45 a.m.	Ralph Schoene, Mickie Hover, Carolyn Driessnack, Georgine Read
Altar Guild:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Ann Terenzio
	9:00 a.m.	Ellen Spring, Deacon Intern Betty Roberts
	10:45 a.m.	Joan Condon, Helen Britz
Altar Flowers:		Kim Rapillo
Childcare:		Tracey Mahoney
Sextons:		Greta & Rebecca Kollmann

NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP

THU., Dec. 31, 2009 5:30 p.m. New Year's Eve Worship

SAT., Jan. 2, 2010 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service

SUN., Jan. 3, 2010 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School

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

SERMON: "Children of God"

Rev. Deric Taylor, preaching

LESSONS: Jeremiah 31:7-14
Ephesians 1: 3-14
John 1:10-18

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

2 Chronicles 24:17–22

¹⁷Now after the death of Jehoiada the officials of Judah came and did obeisance to the king; then the king listened to them. ¹⁸They abandoned the house of the LORD, the God of their ancestors, and served the sacred poles and the idols. And wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this guilt of theirs. ¹⁹Yet he sent prophets among them to bring them back to the LORD; they testified against them, but they would not listen. ²⁰Then the spirit of God took possession of Zechariah son of the priest Jehoiada; he stood above the people and said to them, “Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken the LORD, he has also forsaken you.” ²¹But they conspired against him, and by command of the king they stoned him to death in the court of the house of the LORD. ²²King Joash did not remember the kindness that Jehoiada, Zechariah’s father, had shown him, but killed his son. As he was dying, he said, “May the LORD see and avenge!”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Acts 6:8—7:2, 51–60

6⁸Stephen, full of grace and power, did great wonders and signs among the people. ⁹Then some of those who belonged to the synagogue of the Freedmen (as it was called), Cyrenians, Alexandrians, and others of those from Cilicia and Asia, stood up and argued with Stephen. ¹⁰But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he spoke. ¹¹Then they secretly instigated some men to say, “We have heard him speak blasphemous words against Moses and God.” ¹²They stirred up the people as well as the elders and the scribes; then they suddenly confronted him, seized him, and brought him before the council. ¹³They set up false witnesses who said, “This man never stops saying things against this holy place and the law; ¹⁴for we have heard him say that this Jesus of Nazareth will destroy this place and will change the customs that Moses handed on to us.” ¹⁵And all who sat in the council looked intently at him, and they saw that his face was like the face of an angel. **7** ¹Then the high priest asked him, “Are these things so?” ²And Stephen replied...

“Brothers and fathers, listen to me. ⁵¹You stiff-necked people, uncircumcised in heart and ears, you are forever opposing the Holy Spirit, just as your ancestors used to do. ⁵²Which of the prophets did your ancestors not persecute? They killed those who foretold the coming of the Righteous One, and now you have become his betrayers and murderers. ⁵³You are the ones that received the law as ordained by angels, and yet you have not kept it.” ⁵⁴When they heard these things, they became enraged and ground their teeth at Stephen. ⁵⁵But filled with the Holy Spirit, he gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶Look, he said, “I see the heavens opened and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God!” ⁵⁷But they covered their ears, and with a loud shout all rushed together against him. ⁵⁸Then they dragged him out of the city and began to stone him; and the witnesses laid their coats at the feet of a young man named Saul. ⁵⁹While they were stoning Stephen, he prayed, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” ⁶⁰Then he knelt down and cried out in a loud voice, “Lord, do not hold this sin against them.” When he had said this, he died.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Matthew 23:34–39

³⁴[Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples,] “Therefore I send you prophets, sages, and scribes, some of whom you will kill and crucify, and some you will flog in your synagogues and pursue from town to town, ³⁵so that upon you may come all the righteous blood shed on earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the sanctuary and the altar. ³⁶Truly I tell you, all this will come upon this generation. ³⁷Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁸See, your house is left to you, desolate. ³⁹For I tell you, you will not see me again until you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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