

## † SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT †

### Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

December 6, 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 - 10:45 a.m.**

Spoken Divine Service

**PRELUDE**

(5:30)

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

- J. S. Bach

(10:45)

Variations on an Old French Tune

- Michael Keller

*Village Bells*

**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**

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel (v. 1-5)

LSB Hymn #357

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

### **+LITURGY OF THE WORD+**

#### **OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Malachi 3:1-4

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **EPISTLE**

Philippians 1:3-11

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

#### **GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

On Jordan's Bank the Baptist's Cry

LSB **Hymn #344**

#### **SERMON**

“Specific Word, Person, Time and Place”

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**

(5:30)

Freu dich sehr, o meine Seele

- Paul Manz

(10:45)

Veni, Emmanuel

- George Lachenauer

## 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, whose way John the Baptist prepared, proclaiming Him the promised Messiah, the very Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. 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 and PILGRIMAGE TO BETHLEHEM**

*(Worshippers are invited to stop at the side altars after receiving Communion to bring their special gifts. Please also use this time for meditation and prayer, especially for our seminarians, deacon programs and other forms of ministry.)*

Once in Royal David’s City  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

LSB Hymn #376  
LSB Hymn #366

**POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

**A:** Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son’s body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may together with all Your saints celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**BENEDICTION**

**CLOSING HYMN**                      Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord (v. 1-4)                      LSB Hymn #352

**DISMISSAL**

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

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

**POSTLUDE**

(5:30)                                      Herr Christ, der ein’ge Gottes Sohn                                      - J. S. Bach  
(10:45)                                      Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland    - Kenneth T. Kosche

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# Pilgrimage to Bethlehem

The focus in worship today, a Pilgrimage to Bethlehem, is a long tradition at our church. At the Pilgrimage, worshippers bring a gift to Jesus. This year the proceeds will benefit religious education scholarships. We regularly support our members or faculty or staff who are seeking training to become deacons or a Lutheran-trained teacher in the LCMS, with a tuition scholarship. We are also so pleased that a son of the congregation, Christopher Kollmann, is completing his second year at Concordia Seminary in St. Louis and will go on Vicarage in the fall of 2010. We continue to support his training.

To seek training to serve in the church, whether as a deacon or teacher or pastor, is a high and holy calling. It is our privilege as a congregation to support this process. Philanthropists John and Deborah Vergara have made a \$5,000 challenge gift to our Pilgrimage this year. It is their hope that the members and friends of the Village Lutheran Church would use this challenge to dig “extra deep” and give a special gift. By the time Pilgrimage is over we hope to have doubled their gift for a total of \$10,000.



**YOUTH CHOIR ANTHEM**

A Story for All People

- Collins/Kallman

*As people wait in darkness, in fear of endless night,  
 send forth Your word of comfort, a message of great light.  
 The world stands proud before You, conflicted, hungry poor.  
 Come scatter pride and foolishness, and mend all souls with Savior love once more.  
 A story for all people, old story new today. A song of love and healing, a light to show the way.  
 We come into Your presence, in hope and joy restored.  
 With eager hearts we listen, and gather 'round Your word.  
 We watch and wait Your coming, and pray for greater trust,  
 to know that while we wait for You, Emmanuel, You watch and wait with us. A story...  
 A time of preparation: the guest is drawing near,  
 as mountain places crumble and straightened paths appear.  
 Prepare a humble welcome in ev'ry heart and home,  
 and celebrate the promise of our God who is, and was, and is to come. A story...  
 You call us to repentance, to turn and start a gain.  
 You send Your Holy Spirit to drown the pow'r of sin.  
 We wonder in Your mercy, Your singing festal voice;  
 and in Your meal of bread and wine we join the invitation to rejoice! A story...  
 Renewed by this encounter, we'll go out and proclaim.  
 We'll tell of Your salvation, and magnify Your name.  
 The servant words of Mary will swell the faithful soul,  
 and You will bring Your children home the day when all creation will be whole. A story...*

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**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON**

Malachi 3:1-4

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

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

Philippians 1:3-11

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.****CHANCEL CHOIR ANTHEM**

Comfort, Comfort

- John Ferguson

**BENEDICTUS** (*Luke 1:68-79*) (Congregation rising)

P: Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, for He has looked favorably on His people and redeemed them.

C: **He has raised up a mighty savior for us in the house of His servant David, as He spoke through the mouth of His holy prophets from of old,**

P: that we should be saved from our enemies and from the hand of all who hate us.

C: **Thus He has shown the mercy promised to our ancestors, and has remembered His holy covenant, the oath that He swore to our father Abraham,**

P: to grant us that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve Him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before Him all the days our days.

- C: And you, child, will be called the prophet of the Most High; for you will go before the Lord to prepare His ways, to give knowledge of salvation to His people by the forgiveness of their sins.**
- P: By the tender mercy of our God, the dawn from on high will break upon us, to give light to those who sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
- C: and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**GOSPEL**

Luke 3:1-6

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**

On Jordan’s Bank the Baptist’s Cry

LSB Hymn #344

**SERMON**

“Specific Word, Person, Time and Place”

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.

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**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

A: Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

**OFFERING/HANDBELL VOLUNTARY**

Variations on an Old French Tune

- Michael Keller

**COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **PILGRIMAGE TO BETHLEHEM**

*(Worshippers are invited to proceed down the center aisle and stop at the side altars to bring their special gifts. Please also use this time for meditation and prayer, especially for our seminarians, deacon programs and other forms of ministry.)*

Once in Royal David's City  
It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

LSB Hymn #376  
LSB Hymn #366

## **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.**

## **BENEDICAMUS**

**P:** Let us bless the Lord.

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

## **BENEDICTION**

## **RECESSIONAL HYMN**

Let the Earth Now Praise the Lord

LSB Hymn #352

## **SILENT MEDITATION** (Congregation seated)

## **POSTLUDE**

Nun komm, der Heiden Heiland

- Kenneth T. Kosche

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# VLC NEWS AND NOTES

## **POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR:**

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 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Heaven, from daughters Kathy Coffey & Mary Messner Martin.

**Poinsettias** may be purchased and placed on the altar and chancel walls for **December 13 and 20**. **The cost of the poinsettias are \$22.00**. We would appreciate it if those who sponsor flowers during this time allow the plants to remain in the church throughout the Christmas season. If you're interested in sponsoring poinsettias, please sign up on the flower chart located in the narthex. **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 MULTIPURPOSE ROOM** after the 9:00 a.m. worship service for cake, coffee and fellowship. Thanks to the Sunday School Staff for providing the refreshments.

**Additional volunteers are needed as coffee hour hosts**. Please sign up on the calendar schedule hanging on the Fellowship bulletin board in the Multipurpose Room. Pair with another friend/family and help us share time together as a church community.

**PRAYER LINE:** Please remember those members or friends who are hospitalized or recovering from an illness especially Dawn Galloway, Sheila Giglio, Lyn Hartwell, Adrienne Hiddleston, Scott James, David Just, Irene Krolides, Gene Lunog, Janet Lunog, Sylvia Puig. 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 Ruth Reichelt, who passed away on November 14, 2009. The family of Steve Fertile, friend of Johanna Kmetz, who passed away on November 21, 2009. The family of Muriel Henry, aunt of Jeanette Van Duyne, who passed away on November 29, 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:** Preparations are in full swing for the Advent and Christmas season. We welcome in new or returning members and encourage you to join us for this special time of year. **Chancel Choir** will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 8:00pm; **Youth Choir** will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 10, at 7:00pm and sing at the 9:00am Sunday School Pageant on Dec. 13; **High School Choir** will rehearse on Sunday, Dec. 13, at 8:30am and sing at the 9:00am Sunday School Pageant; **Village Brass** rehearses Tuesdays at 6:15pm and will play on Dec. 19 (Concert for Anna), Dec. 20 (Round-the-Table Carol Sing) and Christmas Eve at 8:00pm;

**Village Bells** will rehearse on Wednesday, Dec 9, at 7:15pm; **FaithWalk** will resume after Christmas; watch for further updates.

**Wednesday morning Bible Study** will meet on **December 9** at 10:45 a.m. We will study chapter 39 of Isaiah, the conclusion of the first part, and prepare to look at the Messianic prophecies of the second part.

**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 women of VLC have started a PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY.** 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.

**HOLIDAY MUSICAL** - We are pleased to inform you that Abby Geiling, Hannah Geiling, Luke Geiling, Claire Horvath, Rose McClelland, Meghan Jahnke, Alyson Schultz, Bradley Taylor and Molly Warnken, members at the Village Lutheran Church, are participating in Concordia Conservatory's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Holiday Musical, "Ten Years of Holiday Magic," this weekend (find more details in the Community News section).

**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.**

**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 services: **December 8, January 12. Volunteers are needed on Tuesday, December 8** to help pass out Christmas Stockings to the residents. We will also be collecting Christmas Stockings filled with candy and items that a senior might enjoy. Donations should be made prior to **Sunday, December 6.**

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: **Invite the new kid to play with you during recess.**

**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 Village Lutheran Church will host the **Good News Christian Coffee House** on **Saturday, December 12, 2009** with music by Servants of the Shepherd. 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.

**Women's Bible Study/LWML** will meet in December. We will discuss **Chapter 4: A Willful Bride, Rebekah the Wife, on December 19 at 8:30 a.m.** If you were thinking of joining us and have not yet, it is not too late. Please take time out of this busy season to spend some time in reflection and Bible study. If you have any questions, please see Julie Taylor.

**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’s Sunday School lesson** is the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:5-25). The children learned that God in His mercy promised to send John to prepare sinful people for the coming of the Lord. God in His Word calls us (sinful people) to repentance, declaring us righteous because of His Son, Jesus. *In your family discussions, ask the children to retell the story they learned. Talk about times when you have doubted God’s Word and how because of Jesus, God forgives our doubts, granting us faith to believe through the power of the Holy Spirit.*

**The Sunday School Christmas Pageant** rehearsal will take place on **Saturday, December 12 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (note the new time!)**, and the Pageant will be on **Sunday, December 13 at the 9:00 a.m.** service. **The Cherub Choir** will participate in the Pageant and also 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.

### **SENIORS NEWS**

Help us celebrate the birth of the Christ Child with a lovely Christmas lunch and special music by The Chapel School children singing Christmas favorites on **Tuesday, December 8**. Wear red and bring a friend for a beautiful holiday tradition. If you would like to be included in the grab bag, bring a gift (\$1) wrapped and labeled woman or man. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. with lunch at 12 noon and the children’s music at 12:45 p.m.

### **SOCIAL MINISTRY NEWS**

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

**OPERATION BARNABAS** - Chaplain Alexander Knowles, brother of Voyager Youth Group leader Erika Schultz, was featured in an article about the LCMS Operation Barnabas congregational program to provide support for military and veterans’ families. The article was published in the November 2009 edition of the Lutheran Witness, and copies are available on the tract rack. God bless Chaplain Knowles, his family and all our veterans and active duty military.

### **FELLOWSHIP NEWS**

**The annual VLC Holiday Feast** will be held on **Sunday, December 20**. Due to a scheduling glitch at Siwanoy, we have found a wonderful new host, the **New York Athletic Club, Shore Road, Pelham Manor, NY.** (914) 738-2700. Commencing right after the “Round-the-Table Carol Sing,” there will be appetizers at 12:30 pm with lunch served at 1:15 p.m. The cost is \$40 per person and reservations are required. Make your reservations by filling out the tear-off, or contacting the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003.

### **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

The very beginning of Jesus’ life on earth revealed episodes of giving. At the birth of Jesus, shepherds from the field went to the birthplace to give praise to God and to worship the newborn king. The shepherds said, “*Let’s go the Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened*” and they went “*praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told*” (Luke 2:15-20). Later Magi came and they “*... opened their treasures and presented [Jesus] with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh*” (Matthew 2:11).

**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** - December is “Stress relief month”. One tip to help: Keep your sense of humor. If the soufflé looks like a pancake, it’s not the end of the world. Actually, you will probably laugh about it...next year.

**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. We ask for your help in the following ways:

**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 students have been busy preparing their programs. Come and hear them share the Christmas story through music:

**Monday, Dec. 7** - Kindergarten Program - 7:00pm in the MultiPurpose Room

**Tuesday, Dec. 8** - Band and Grade 6-8 Choir Concert - 7:30pm at Concordia Sommer Center

**Tuesday, Dec. 15** - Grade 3-5 Concert - 7:30pm at Concordia Schoenfeld Center

**Wednesday, Dec. 16** - Select Choir Lessons and Carols - 7:00pm in the church

**Tuesday, Dec. 22** - Grade 1-2 Concert - 7:30pm at Concordia Schoenfeld Center

## YOUTH NEWS

**Voyagers (3rd-6th)** - Meetings are held in the Multi-Purpose Room 6 - 7 p.m. on Thursdays. The next meeting is the **Christmas Party on Dec. 10**. Optional gift exchange. Bring a dessert to share. Questions, call Erika (914)395-1954 or e-mail [tyandbash@aol.com](mailto: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](mailto:Dtaylor@VLC-ny.org).

**Crusaders (9th-12th)** - **LC-MS Gathering Check Up meeting, Dec. 13** in the Lunch room at 10:30 a.m.  
**Crusader Youth Movie Trip to Disney's 'A Christmas Carol' on Dec. 13**, leaving church for Palisades Mall at 12:15 and returning about 6 p.m. Cost: \$10 for movie tickets, more for snacks and shopping. RSVP to Mindy at [vlccrw10@optonline.net](mailto:vlccrw10@optonline.net) or 914-263-3673 ASAP so we can be sure we have enough tickets: Drivers Needed!!  
Caroling with the Lifer's on **Dec. 17 at 6 p.m.** Details to follow. 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](mailto:VLCcrw10@optonline.net).

## COMMUNITY NEWS

**LOST AND FOUND in Concert - Friday, December 11 at 7 p.m.** Spaghetti Dinner at 5:30 p.m. at St. Paul Lutheran Church in Flemington, NJ. Tickets: \$7.50 Concert only, \$12 Concert & Dinner.

**Join VLC Member and Concordia College Faculty Dr. Apold, Dr. Elwell and Pastor Hartwell** (who will be giving the address to graduate's at the Celebration of Program Completion of Concordia's Nursing Program on **Friday, December 11, 2009** in Sommer Center for Worship & the Performing Arts at 6:30 p.m. Followed by a light reception. RSVP by calling Ruth Leich (914)337-9300 x 2280.

**The Westchester Chorale presents: A Celebration of American Song on Saturday, December 12, 2009 at 4:30 p.m.** It will be held at the Larchmont Avenue Church, 60 Forest Park Avenue, Larchmont, NY. Tickets: \$25 General Admission, \$20 Seniors, \$10 Students. Visit [www.westchesterchorale.org](http://www.westchesterchorale.org) or call 914-961-4546.

**The Legend of St. Nicholas at Cultural Arts Playhouse on Friday, Dec. 18 at 8:30 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 19 at 3 p.m. & 8 p.m.** Call to order tickets to this new musical! 914-630-0804. 931c E. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Tickets: Adults \$24, Seniors \$20 & Children \$16.

**'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!

**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](mailto: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](mailto: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 Wendy Haddad
	10:45 a.m.	Ralph Schoene
Organist:	5:30 p.m.	Kevin Warnken
	9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.	Deborah Reiss
Lectors:	5:30 p.m.	Morris Mayer
	9:00 a.m.	James Decker
	10:45 a.m.	John Eaton
Comm. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Morris Mayer
	10:45 a.m.	Lydia Chao
Youth Wor. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Kaitlyn Gotte
	9:00 a.m.	Andrew Snyder
	10:45 a.m.	Volunteer
Ushers:	5:30 p.m.	Chuck Horvath
	9:00 a.m.	Anton DeRosa, Ruth DeRosa, Mindy Warnken, Richard Graham
	10:45 a.m.	Richard Allen, Carlette Allen, Robert Hehn, Carolyn Driessnack
Altar Guild:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Ann Terenzio
	10:45 a.m.	Deacon Intern Faith Forliano, Deacon Carol Pfizenmaier, Joan Condon
Altar Flowers:		Kim Rapillo
Childcare:		Amy Heath, Brianna Blanco
Sexton:		Molly Warnken

**NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP**

SAT., Dec. 12, 2009 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service  
SUN., Dec. 13, 2009 9:00 a.m. Sunday School Christmas Pageant  
10:45 a.m. Worship Service with Holy Communion  
4:00 p.m. German Christmas Service

MESSAGE: "Building Your House Upon Sand"  
Dr. Robert Hartwell, preaching (5:30 & 10:45)

LESSONS: Zephaniah 3:14-20  
Philippians 4:4-7  
Luke 3:7-18

**Stewardship Update**

Amount received last week: \$5,830

Amount received to date: \$129,562

Amount needed to date: \$145,970

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

### **Malachi 3:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup>But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire and like fullers’ soap; <sup>3</sup>he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. <sup>4</sup>Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Philippians 1:3-11**

<sup>3</sup>I thank my God every time I remember you, <sup>4</sup>constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, <sup>5</sup>because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. <sup>6</sup>I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. <sup>7</sup>It is right for me to think this way about all of you, because you hold me in your heart, for all of you share in God’s grace with me, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel. <sup>8</sup>For God is my witness, how I long for all of you with the

compassion of Christ Jesus. <sup>9</sup>And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight <sup>10</sup>to help you to determine what is best, so that in the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, <sup>11</sup>having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Luke 3:1-6**

<sup>1</sup>In the fifteenth year of the reign of Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, and Herod was ruler of Galilee, and his brother Philip ruler of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias ruler of Abilene, <sup>2</sup>during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John son of Zechariah in the wilderness. <sup>3</sup>He went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins, <sup>4</sup>as it is written in the book of the words of the prophet Isaiah, “The voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. <sup>5</sup>Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth; <sup>6</sup>and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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