

† THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT †

December 13, 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

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

- Held/Hopson

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

Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates

LSB Hymn #341

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, we implore You to hear our prayers and to lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; 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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Philippians 4:4-7

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL

Luke 3:7-18

P: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 3rd 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

Come, Thou Precious Ransom, Come

LSB **Hymn #350**

SERMON

“Building Your House Upon Sand”

Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

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: We pray...

C: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Comfort, Comfort Ye, My People

- Flor Peeters

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB Hymn #349

DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God. Amen.

POSTLUDE

Hark the Glad Sound

- Charles Ore

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SUNDAY - 9:00 a.m.
Sunday School Christmas Pageant

The order of worship is printed out on a separate insert with the pageant theme
“Christmas Is All About Jesus”
decorated by the children of our Sunday School.

Thank you to all of the Sunday School children and their teachers for preparing this very special illustration of the meaning of Christmas. We also especially thank the leaders who worked so hard to make this possible:

Pageant Director:	Betty Geiling
Assistant Director:	Jennifer Cook
Accompanist:	Marcia Kollmann
Youth & High School Choir Director:	George Heath
Sunday School Superintendent:	Lilann Skeckowski
Facilities Manager:	Michael Schultz

This pageant was originally written by Dorothy Schultz, former VLC member and Kindergarten teacher.

All able-bodied members of the congregation are asked to
help break down the set immediately following the pageant.
Thank you for your assistance!

* * * * *

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A: We pray...

C: **Come, O Lord, and save us.**

OFFERING/VOLUNTARY

Freu dich sehr

- Paul Manz

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

†HOLY COMMUNION†

PREFACE

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.**

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

C: **And also with you.**

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

LSB Hymn #347

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A: O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; 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

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Hark the Glad Sound

LSB Hymn #349

SILENT MEDITATION (*Congregation seated*)

POSTLUDE

Raise to God Songs of Highest Praise

- Marc Jordan

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VLC NEWS AND NOTES

POINSETTIAS ON THE ALTAR:

From the Albano Family.

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

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

In loving memory of Ruth Reichelt from Carolyn Driessnack.

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

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

FLOWERS ON THE CHANCEL WALL are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Herbert Stapf from his family.

Poinsettias may be purchased and placed on the altar and chancel walls for **December**. **The cost of the poinsettias is \$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 Bennett Family for providing the refreshments.

Additional volunteers are needed as coffee hour hosts, especially on December 20 and 27. 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, 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 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. 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

WE WELCOME INTO MEMBERSHIP:

DECKER, James & Lisa

HEHN, Rosemarie

WE REJOICE ON THE OCCASION of the baptism of Kylie Judith Dusovic, daughter of John and Kristen Morse-Dusovic. The baptism will take place at the 10:45 a.m. service. Godparents for Kylie are Patricia Williams and Alex Dusovic. Kylie was born on September 18, 2009.

VLC MUSIC MINISTRY: **Chancel Choir** will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8:00pm and will have a special rehearsal with strings at 9:00am on Sunday, Dec. 20; **Youth Choir** will rehearse on Thursday, Dec. 17, at 7:00pm and at 10:00am on Dec. 20 (before the Round-the-Table Carol Sing); **High School Choir** will resume on Sunday, Jan. 10, at 10:15am; **Village Brass** rehearses Tuesdays at 6:15pm and will play on Dec. 20 (Round-the-Table Carol Sing) and Christmas Eve at 8:00pm; **Village Bells** will rehearse this week on Thursday, Dec. 17, from 7:00 to 8:00pm and on Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:15am; **FaithWalk** will resume after Christmas; watch for further updates.

Wednesday morning Bible Study will meet on **December 16** at 10:45 a.m. We will look at the beautiful words of Isaiah 40: *“Comfort, comfort my people, says your God.”*

SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS - Following in the tradition of Kings College in Cambridge, England, this beautiful choir service has become an annual tradition at our church and school. Please join the Chapel School Select Choir on **Wednesday, Dec. 16, at 7:00 p.m.** to hear the Christmas story told through a festival of nine Scripture passages and carols. *Gloria in excelsis Deo!*

CONCERT FOR ANNA - The Schell Podoll family (Jenn, Steve, Nora and Henry) would like to invite the community to: **The Concert for Anna: Songs of Hope in the Season of Light on Saturday, Dec. 19 at 7 p.m.** A winter wonderland champagne & dessert reception will follow the concert. The evening will start with Broadway and art songs, venture into classical and end with some holiday favorites. There will be a voluntary donation at the door and the family has designed “I’m a Fan ‘a Anna” products to benefit the Anna Maxine Schell Podoll Service Learning Fund for The Chapel School. You may view them at www.schellpodoll.com. Recently Jenn and Steve shared this reflection about the journey since Anna passed away and their planning for this special concert in memory of our sister in Christ and a very special little girl:

“Putting together the products and organizing the concert – as well as writing the blog – have been a way to channel our grief into something positive and constructive. It’s so important to us to know that, although she is physically gone from the earth, Anna’s story will continue to reach people. If you are near, we hope you will join us for this amazing concert. If you are far, we hope a little Anna flair might find its way into your home. No matter where you are, we wish you an abundance of holiday peace, hope and joy.”

ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING - The 60th annual VLC Christmas choir service will be held on **Sunday, Dec. 20, at 10:45am.** Join the Chancel Choir (with string quartet), Youth Choir, Village Bells, and Village Brass in celebrating the birth of our Savior through music as we contemplate, *“What Child is This?”*

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.

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.**

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!

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.**

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.

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, 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.

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: **Growing a plant is a good way to show you're responsible enough for a pet.**

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

Special thanks to Betty Geiling, Jen Cook, Marcia Kollmann and the entire Sunday School Administration for all the help with this year's Christmas Pageant.

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.

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

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

On that Christmas day approximately two thousand years ago, Scripture tells how the angels, shepherds, and wise men all gave. The angels gave Jesus the gift of music as they told the world of Jesus' birth through their songs; the shepherds left their flocks to give honor to Baby Jesus; and the wise men brought Jesus gifts of gold, incense, and myrrh. They all gave because the world was receiving the best gift possible when God gave His Son Jesus.

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 Christmas tree healthy. If you buy a live tree, check the water in the base daily, and replenish it. And, always unplug the lights when leaving the house.

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.

We would like to thank Valerie & Mark Runge, Molly & Chris Nagel, Pat & Louis Albano, Wendy Haddad and Julie & Pastor Taylor for providing meals to a family blessed with a "new addition."

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:

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 event is **Christmas Caroling in Bronxville on Dec. 17**. Meet at the church at 6:00pm; pick-up at 7:00pm. 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, 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 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.

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 Carol Pfizenmaier
	9:00 a.m.	Deacon Tim Elwell
	10:45 a.m.	Joan Condon
Organist:	5:30 p.m.	Marcia Kollmann
	9:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.	Deborah Reiss
Lectors:	5:30 p.m.	Chuck Horvath
	9:00 a.m.	S. S. Pageant
	10:45 a.m.	Paul Grand Pre
Comm. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Chuck Horvath
	10:45 a.m.	Paul Grand Pre
Youth Wor. Assts:	5:30 p.m.	Luke Geiling
	9:00 a.m.	Wendy Snyder
	10:45 a.m.	Natalie Vidal
Ushers:	5:30 p.m.	Frank McGinnis, Sarah McGinnis
	9:00 a.m.	Ralph Schoene, Dan Chao, Robert Waldmann, John Divi
	10:45 a.m.	Mickie Hover, Carol Raff, Sylvia Essington, Ed Vidal
Altar Guild:	5:30 p.m.	Deacon Ann Terenzio
	10:45 a.m.	Joan Deery, Joan Condon
Altar Flowers:		Kim Rapillo
Childcare:		Volunteer
Sexton:		Alex Hartwell

NEXT WEEK IN WORSHIP

WED., Dec. 16, 2009 7:00 p.m. Service of Lessons and Carols
SAT., Dec. 19, 2009 5:30 p.m. Spoken Divine Service
SUN., Dec. 20, 2009 9:00 a.m. Worship Service and Sunday School
10:45 a.m. Round-the-Table Carol Sing

MESSAGE: "Blessed are You!"
Rev. Deric Taylor, preaching (5:30 & 9:00)

LESSONS: Micah 5:2-5a
Hebrews 10:5-10
Luke 1:39-45

Stewardship Update

Amount received last week: \$8,011

Amount received to date: \$137,573

Amount needed to date: \$152,605

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

Zephaniah 3:14-20

¹⁴Sing aloud, O daughter Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter Jerusalem! ¹⁵The LORD has taken away the judgments against you, he has turned away your enemies. The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst; you shall fear disaster no more. ¹⁶On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Do not fear, O Zion; do not let your hands grow weak. ¹⁷The LORD, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing ¹⁸as on a day of festival. I will remove disaster from you, so that you will not bear reproach for it. ¹⁹I will deal with all your oppressors at that time. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. ²⁰At that time I will bring you home, at the time when I gather you; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes, says the LORD.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Philippians 4:4-7

⁴Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. ⁵Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. ⁶Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Luke 3:7-18

⁷John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? ⁸Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our ancestor’; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. ⁹Even now the ax is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” ¹⁰And the crowds asked him, “What then should we do?” ¹¹In reply he said to them, “Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.” ¹²Even tax collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, “Teacher, what should we do?” ¹³He said to them, “Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.” ¹⁴Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what should we do?” He said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.” ¹⁵As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, ¹⁶John answered all of them by saying, “I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. ¹⁷His winnowing fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.”

¹⁸So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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