



Village Voices



DECEMBER

A PLACE FOR YOU

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2005

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.
Psalms 51:7-9



The Christmas season is upon us again. One of the basic symbols of Christmas for us in the United States is snow. You will undoubtedly see snow scenes and snow men (and women) and snow flakes everywhere.

Of course this is in sharp contrast to most of the USA that will not see any great amounts of snow until later in January (we hope!).

Snow is an apt theme for the Christmas holiday, however. In the Psalms, snow is a metaphor for the forgiveness Jesus gives us. The infant of the manger is also the savior of the cross and empty tomb who has forgiven us all our sins.

There is a hymn called "Whiter Than Snow" by James L. Nicholson with music by William G. Fischer that says,

*Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole;
I want Thee forever to live in my soul.
Break down every idol, cast out every foe;
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Refrain: Whiter than snow, yes, whiter than snow.
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
Lord Jesus, Thou seest I patiently wait,
Come now, and within me a new heart create;
To those who have sought Thee, Thou never saidst "No,"
Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.*

My prayer for you this holiday season, amidst the busyness, is that you might find time to focus on the great love of Jesus: His death, His resurrection and His Spirit that gives us the assurance of His forgiveness. That's a snowy message that is straight from the Hart!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Music of the Season*
- *Crossroads*
- *Holiday Worship Schedule*
- *Christmas Feast*
- *Good News Gourmet Coffee House*

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VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

The New VLC (Victorious Ladies of the Cross) Bible Study continues on Saturday, December 17 at 8:30 am. Please bring something to share (bagels, fruit, muffins, orange juice, etc.) Coffee is provided.

Daytime Bible Study

Join VLC Adjunct Pastor Allen Kebschull for an informative look at the Book of Hebrews. The study meets on Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

"Blessed Are The Peacemakers" is the title of our six-session Bible Study held every Wednesday at 7:30 pm beginning on January 4, 2006 - February 8, 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn how we as Christians respond to conflict in a Biblical way. Since conflict is inevitable on this side of heaven, God in His wonderful grace has given us all the tools to respond to any kind of conflict in a manner which empowers us "to glorify God, serve other people, and grow to be like Christ," (taken from the Peacemaker's brochure.) Please join Pastor Taylor as he leads this Bible study. For additional information please call Pastor Taylor at 337-0207 ext. 1021.

Crossroads

The development office has been actively seeking new avenues of revenue for The Lutheran Village Church and Chapel School. In recent weeks, it has been my pleasure to meet many church leaders, donors to the Step by Step campaign, congregants and volunteers. They have inspired our effort to successfully complete the campaign, as well as continue building our annual fund profile into a vigorous and sustainable revenue source.

We have initiated the preliminary planning for the 2006 Auction, the major fund raising event of the spring. If you are interested in participating on this committee, please contact Ms. Dina Foster Osbourne at 337.0207x1040 as soon as possible. We promise you an effective responsible committee, with focused meetings, defined objectives, and hopefully some good fun and an opportunity to socialize. So, please think about joining the 2006 Auction committee.

Many friends, benefactors, congregants, parents, and alumni who have contributed to the Step by Step campaign **will be receiving a letter identifying their pledge commitment and the status of the commitment year to date.** It is our objective to provide you with an accurate report of your pledge. The SPS capital campaign is seeking to achieve its goal by the spring of 2007. As you consider your end of the year charities, please remember the Step by Step campaign.

The Katrina **Emergency Tax Relief Act**, signed into law on September 23, 2005. allows donors to write off deductions up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for cash donations made directly to a public charity during a window to expire on December 31, 2005. This tax break is significant and offers a number of tax incentives for giving during this period, particularly for those contemplating MAJOR GIFTS. In brief, the new law allows donors to write off up to 100% of their adjusted gross income (AGI) for CASH donations they made from August 28, 2005 through December 31, 2005. These gifts do not need to be related to the Katrina relief effort. There are many key features to the new law. If you are interested in donating to the Lutheran Church and Chapel School or the Step by Step capital campaign, please contact my office **for further information at 1.914.337.0207 x 1039.** As always, donors should consult with their own tax advisors before making such gifts in reliance on the new legislation.

I hope each of you enjoyed a Happy Thanksgiving. Know that your gifts and personal charity are part of the circle of life in which we all must give more than we receive. The Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School, almost 90 years old, is a Bronxville benchmark for community service, philanthropy, and the Lutheran spirit of compassion and generosity.

VLC/CS Office of Development -William D. Damato, Director-914.337.0207 x1039-wdamato@vlc-ny.org

MUSIC OF THE SEASON

One of the joys of the holiday season is the abundance of music. Listed below are details on just some of the unique traditions and celebrations taking place at the VLC. For a full listing of holiday observances and activities, please refer to the calendar on page 7.

ADVENT VESPERS

Each Wednesday in Advent, from November 30 through December 21, the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School will offer a musical evening service at 7:30 p.m. Chapel School choirs will provide the music for each of the first three services, culminating in a beautiful service of lessons and carols presented by the Select Choir on December 14. The final service on December 21 will feature a hymn sing. Pastor Taylor or Pastor Hartwell will offer a brief message each week. Please join your voices with those of our young people and prepare your hearts for the coming of the Christ child.

ROUND-THE-TABLE CAROL SING and CHRISTMAS FEAST

Our annual service of lessons and carols led by the choirs of the Village Lutheran Church will be presented on **Sunday, December 18, at 10:45 a.m.** This year's theme comes from John Rutter's setting of a poem by Robert Herrick, *What Sweeter Music*. The Chancel Choir, Youth Choir, Village Belles and Village Brass will be joined by a professional string quartet to lift our songs of gladness in music of the season. Immediately following the service will be the Christmas Feast, a catered dinner at the VLC. Be sure to make room on your calendar for this feast of music, food and drink.

GERMAN CHRISTMAS SERVICE

The VLC invites you to celebrate a German Christmas on **Sunday, December 18, at 5:00 p.m.** Once again, Pastor Gerry Coleman will preach and the New Rochelle Männer und Damen Chor will sing. A reception with German food and *gemütlichkeit* follows the service. *Fröhliche Weihnachten!*

Fellowship opportunities:

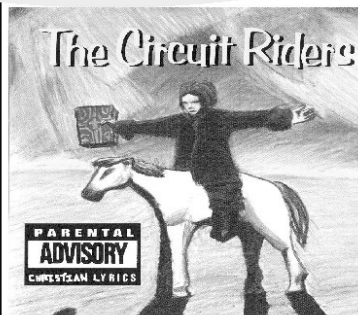
Lower Westchester's
Good News
Gourmet Coffee House
 Flavored Green Mountain Coffees + Delicious Pastries + Warm Fellowship
 and Fun

Saturday
 December 10,
 2005

6:00 PM
 Coffee House
 Doors Open

7:00 PM
 Concert Begins

Village
 Lutheran
 Church
 +
 172 White
 Plains Rd.
 +
 Bronxville, NY
 +
 (914) 337-0207
 VLC-NY.ORG



Adults: \$3
 Children: \$2
 High School/College/Retirees:
 Free with Valid ID

For more info go to:
WWW.VLC-NY.ORG

Coming January 14:
 "Psalm 96"



The VLC is handicapped accessible. The Coffee House is on the ground level through school doors.

Annual Village Lutheran Church Holiday Feast

After the Round the Table Carol Sing at 10:45 AM at the Church,
 Join fellow members and friends after for an afternoon of wonderful
 food and holiday cheer at

Pondfield Road
Swanoy Country Club
 Bronxville, NY

Sunday, December 18
 Appetizers 12:00-1:00 PM
 Christmas Luncheon 1:00-3:00 PM

\$35 pp

Reservations required. Purchase ticket(s) at Coffee Hour, fill-out tear off form in the
 bulletin or call 337-0207 (1003).



TO THANK AND PRAISE THE LORD
Your Place in the VLC Music Ministry

CHANCEL CHOIR will sing at the 9:00 a.m. service on December 4, at 10:45 on December 18 (Round-the-Table Carol Sing) and at 8:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are each Thursday from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. If anyone is interested in singing with the choir on Christmas Eve (all voice parts welcome), please come to rehearsal on Thursday, December 22. We will be off the week after Christmas and resume rehearsals on January 5.

YOUTH CHOIR rehearsals will be held in the Multi-purpose room on Thursdays, Dec 1, 8, and 15 from 7-8 pm and Sundays, Dec 4, and 11 from 8:15-8:50 am and we will sing at the 9 am service. Please note that we will rehearse on Dec. 18 at 10 am and we will sing at the 10:45 service. On Dec. 24, The Christmas Eve service, we will rehearse at 4:30 pm and sing at the 5pm service. The Youth Choir Christmas Party will be held on December 22 from 7-8 pm in the Multi-purpose room.

VILLAGE BELLES will rehearse on THURSDAYS at 7:00 p.m. during the month of December. We will sing on December 18 at 10:45 for the Round-the-Table Carol Sing and at the 8:00 p.m. service on Christmas Eve. There is no rehearsal the week after Christmas.

FAITHWALK will reconvene in January. Specific dates and times will be announced at the beginning of the month. Thank you to all those who participated in the November service. We look forward to more joyful music.

For more information contact Debbie Reiss, Minister of Music, at DREISS@vlc-ny.org or call 914-337-0207, x1018.



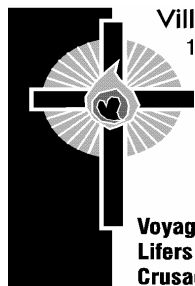
We have held two very successful and well attended K – 8 Open House for prospective families already this year, and two very successful and well attended Pre-K Open Houses. There is no doubt that there will be limited openings at many grade levels in The Chapel School next year. We are now accepting applications from outside families and siblings of current students for the 2006-2007 school year. The re-enrollment process of current students began in November.

The Village Lutheran Church members and siblings of current Chapel School students will have the next priority after current students **IF THEY APPLY BEFORE December 15th**. We cannot stress enough how important it is for church members and siblings of current students to meet this deadline.

If you know someone who is interested in possibly attending The Chapel School next year, please have them attend one of our upcoming Open Houses. Our next K-8 Open House is Thursday, December 1, at 9:00am and our next Pre-K Open House is Friday, December 9, at 1:15pm. For Pre-K in particular, the earlier you get your application submitted, the better chance you will have of getting your child enrolled.

The Chapel School is still collecting "Box Tops For Education". General Mills gives us cash when we redeem these box tops. The cash is used to purchase classroom "extras". Please help support this effort and bring box tops into the school office or the receptionist.

We hope to see everyone at our Christmas Programs. December is an extremely busy month, and many gifts will be bought, given and received. Hopefully we will all take time out of our busy schedules and celebrate the greatest gift of all, the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. On behalf of the entire board, faculty and staff of The Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School we want to wish you a Blessed Christmas and a joyful and prosperous New Year.



Village Lutheran Church & Chapel School
172 White Plains Road · Bronxville, NY 10708

Erika & Michael Schultz
(914) 395.1954
tyandbash@aol.com

Village Youth

Voyagers ~ Grades 3-6
Lifers ~ Grades 7-8
Crusaders ~ Grades 9-12

a
place
for
YOUTH

December
2005

2005-2006

This year the Youth Groups remain unchanged.

The Voyagers Youth Group consists of 3 - 6 grade and is run primarily by Erika. The Confirmation II (7th Grade) and Confirmation III (8th Grade) constitute the Lifers Youth Group. Pastor Hartwell, Pastor Taylor and Michael Schultz will be the primary leaders of this group. Finally, the Crusader Youth Group is 9 - 12 grade, and will be led by Erika and Michael.

VOYAGERS: GRADES 3 – 6

Meetings: Voyagers will meet Thursday nights from 6:00-7:00 p.m. We will usually meet in the Multi-Purpose Room. Please enter the building through the main school doors. In December we will meet on the 1st, 8th, 15th and 22nd. Please feel free to call Erika with any questions!!

Christmas Party ~ Thursday, December 15, 6:00 - 7:00 PM. Plan to join us for a fun filled meeting celebrating Christmas. We will also wrap our donated Christmas gifts at this time (see below for more info). Bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$10 limit) and a dessert to share.

LIFERS: GRADES 7 – 8

Meetings: The Lifers regular meetings for Confirmation I and II classes are on Thursdays from 6 - 7:00 pm. We will usually meet in the Art Room. In December we will meet on the 1st, 8th, 15th, and 22nd .

Gift Wrap ~ Thursday, December 15, 6- 7:00 PM. Please bring your unwrapped gift to this meeting (see below for more information). We will wrap them together.

Caroling ~ Thursday, December 22, 6 - 7:00 PM. Please join us with the Voyager Youth Group as we go caroling. We will need adult volunteer drivers for this. Please let Erika know if your parent/guardian can help drive.

CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

Meetings: The Crusaders regular meetings will be held on Sundays. Sometimes after the 9:00 am service and sometimes on Sunday evenings. . In December we will meet on the 4th at 10:15 AM in the Youth Room. We will have our Christmas Party on Sunday December 11, 5:30 - 7:00 PM. Please bring you unwrapped Christmas gift (see below for more information). We will wrap them together. Also, bring a gift for the gift exchange (\$10 limit).

Next Summer our Mission Trip was changed so that we can aide in the Katrina Relief. We will be traveling to New Orleans, July 17 - 21, 2006.

ALL YOUTH: Grades 3 - 12

CHRISTMAS GIFT GIVING ~ For children in Preventive Services and Protective Custody in the Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle area. This has been very successful in the many years that we have participated. In the last few years we were the sole providers to these children. It means so much to the children and especially their parents/guardians. We would like each youth to sign-up for one (or two) child(ren) to buy a gift for, (\$10 - \$15). In December Erika will receive a list of ages and genders needed. Then, each youth will be assigned "gift information" to be followed. UNWRAPPED gifts will be wrapped at the December 11th Party for Crusaders and the December 15th meeting for Voyagers and Lifers. All three Youth Groups will be involved with this and will share the sign-up sheet. The sign-up sheet will also be on the Youth Board and available during regular meetings. Thanks.



**YOUR FRIENDS ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME!!**

Parish Health News

Health news and info from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell

Health Tip: Medications

- Know the name of your medications.
- Write down a list of your medications, with their dose and frequency.
- Take your medications until they're gone. This is particularly true for medications such as antibiotics. These medications need to be taken for the total duration of time that they're prescribed to completely clear the infection and to keep it from coming back.
- Keep on taking your medications. Don't just quit if your refills run out. You or the pharmacist should call the prescriber's office for a refill.
- Know what to do if you forget a dose. This may be different for each different medication. Ask your pharmacist or health care provider.
- Read the label each time you get your medication. Look at the pills to make sure they look the same as the old ones. If you have questions, contact your pharmacist immediately.
- Ask your pharmacist about over-the-counter medicines. Despite the fact that they are available without a prescription, they may have definite risks, especially for patients with heart disease, or those on several medications.
- Don't mix pills in bottles with other pills - keep them in their original container (unless you place them in a dispenser).
- When you travel, plan ahead! Get enough medication to take over your vacation. Carry your medications with you or on your carry-on. Don't pack them in the suitcase that may get lost.
- Don't take another person's medication, or give them yours.
- If you have a hard time "keeping your medicines straight", then:
 - Have someone help you lay them out
 - Buy one of the simple and inexpensive devices at the drug store that allow you to put in a week's worth of medicine at once.
- Bring your medications in their bottles to your health care provider for your office visits.
- Side effects: Ask about side-effects that might occur.
- If you have questions, ask! There really are no stupid questions. You will not be the first to ask.
- Tell your doctor about any over-the-counter medications you may be taking.
- Keep a record of any medications you may have had in the past that didn't work, or didn't agree with you.

Flu Shots: VLC members who were unable to come to the Health Fair, and who still need a flu shot should contact Joy Elwell at (914) 337-9300, ext. 2243.

Blood pressure screening will be held on December 4th, during Coffee Hour. Additionally, we will begin a new health initiative, "Bring Your Pills to Church Day". If you take prescription medications, bring them with you. We will have registered nurses available to review your medications, and answer questions you may have, including side effects and drug interactions.

Yoga classes are offered on Monday evenings at 7 pm, in the Multi-Purpose Room, and are on a "drop-in" basis. Classes are \$10 each. If you have questions, please call Faith Forlano at (914) 723-8035 .

The VLC partners with The Lutheran Counseling Center. For more information on counseling, call Pastor Hartwell at (914) 337-0207.



SPECIAL HOLIDAY OBSERVANCES AND ACTIVITIES



The holiday season begins November 27 (the Sunday after Thanksgiving) with the First Sunday in Advent and continues through January 8 with the celebration of Epiphany. Please make note of the many special holiday observances and activities listed below and share this wonderful time of year with your friends at the Village Lutheran Church.

- November 27** Church Decorating Party, 5:00-7:00 p.m.
- November 30** Advent Vespers with Grade K and 1-2 choirs, 7:30 p.m.
- December 7** Advent Vespers with Grade 3-4 choirs, 7:30 p.m.
- December 10** Concordia Christmas Concert, 7:00 p.m. (Sommer Center)
- December 11** Sunday School Pageant, 9:00 a.m.
Pilgrimage to Bethlehem (all services)
Concordia Christmas Concert, 4:00 p.m. (Sommer Center)
- December 14** Lessons and Carols with Chapel School Select Choir, 7:30 p.m.
- December 18** Round-the-Table Carol Sing, 10:45 a.m.
Holiday Feast, 12:00 p.m. (Siwanoy Country Club)
German Christmas Service, 5:00 p.m.
- December 21** Advent Vespers with Hymn Sing, 7:30 p.m.
- December 24** Family Christmas Eve Service, 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Carols and Candles, 8:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Communion Service, 11:00 p.m.
- December 25** Festival Christmas Day Service, 10:45 a.m. (one service only)
- December 31** New Year's Eve Service, 5:30 p.m.
- January 1** New Year's Day Service, 10:45 a.m. (one service only)
- January 8** Celebration of Epiphany
Church Undecorating Party, 5:00-7:00 p.m.



Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School...A place for you.



The "Village" Seniors

The December Seniors' luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Dec. 13th, at 11:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room. The Chapel School Choir will once again start the Christmas season for us with their beautiful songs and voices. For those who wish to participate, we will have a grab bag. Gifts should be wrapped and marked for a "woman" or "man" (\$5+). Please come & bring your friends who would enjoy a lovely afternoon, by simply completing the tear-off sheet or by calling Charlotte Vogt at (914) 337-0207

Memorial/Honored Voices

Memorial Gifts were received
in Memory of Robert Krull from

William E. Podszus

Philip and Deborah Rainaldi

Walter and Eleanor Olam

In Memory of Steven Ralph Schultz from

Ralph and Dorothy Schultz

Our thanks to all .



Please join us for worship:

Saturdays at 5:30 pm

Sundays at 9 am and 10:45 am

Sunday School is held during the 9 am service



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
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Bronxville, NY 10708

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CHAPEL SCHOOL
172 White Plains Road
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