



# Village Voices



FEBRUARY

A PLACE FOR YOU

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2006

## *Straight from the Hart*

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

When our children were about a year old (almost 12 years ago), the custodian at the church where I served came rushing into my office. "Come help me Pastor," he said with a wink. Going outside, he pointed to some bushes. He then told me to, "go look inside."

Inside the bushes was a small white rabbit, clearly tame, that had run away or been abandoned. "You gotta take him home Pastor. The dogs will get him for sure if you don't. Besides, those twins of your could use a pet."

Well, what was I to say? Taking the small frightened rabbit home I prayed that Sue's answer would be the same as mine.

Several weeks ago, after a long life in bunny years, Fluffy the bunny went to the big meadow in the sky. After we broke the news, we reminisced about how he had been a Hartwell almost as long as my children. I can still see him being held in my daughter's arms like a baby as she carried that patient bunny around.

Now in the doldrums of winter, the cage stands empty in the parsonage yard. I have to admit I miss him too.

I know that many parishioners can echo the sentiment of losing a pet. Perhaps a dog or cat that was a special part of life.

And of course, even those who do not possess an ache in the heart for a lost pet, know the heartbreaking reality of losing a beloved loved one.

These days of winter are bleak, no matter how odd the weather cycle is behaving. You may be discouraged today over a loss, or perhaps you just feel "blue." After my children learned the news of Fluffy's passing they expressed grief. It was a first "taste" of an experience that they will have over and over. "It's okay to be sad," I said. "Being sad means you understand how special Fluffy was to you. The sadness will weaken over time and if it seems too much, come and talk to me or someone you trust, and they can help you."

This is not just "bunny" advice. If you are sad today, know that it is okay. Tomorrow will be different than today. And don't be afraid to talk to someone. Our Pastoral staff, our Parish Health staff, our Counseling Center, and our community of friends stand ready to be a listening ear. God cares about you so much.

That's a thought about grief and sadness that is straight from the Hart!

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Focus on Worship*
- *Good News Coffee House*
- *Easter Baptisms*
- *Concert of Praise*

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## VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

### LWML Bible Study

The next LWML Bible Study will meet on Saturday, February 25 at 8:30 a.m. Please bring something to share (bagels, fruit, muffins, orange juice, etc.) Coffee will be provided.

### Daytime Bible Study

Join VLC Adjunct Pastor Allen Keschull for an informative look at the Messianic Prophecies. 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 on Wednesdays at 7:30 pm through 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.

## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

### "Proclaiming the Gospel"

St. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 (the Epistle reading for February 5, 2006) that he has been entrusted with a commission to proclaim the Gospel to all people. Not only that, he intends to use a variety of means—to "become all things to all people"—in order to help them come to salvation. We also share this mission and, like Paul, try to make use of our diverse backgrounds and talents to win over those who are skeptical or hurting or who have never heard the Good News.

This month gives us a chance to hear the Gospel proclaimed through the young people of our congregation on Youth Sunday, February 4-5, to celebrate the blessings of God with music in the Concert of Praise on February 12 and to explore the rich tradition of the African-American community in honor of Black History Month. Join your voice with these many others to praise and worship our gracious God.

#### FEBRUARY 4-5

- Youth Sunday
- SuperBowl Party Sunday at 5:30 p.m. (bring a dish to share)

#### FEBRUARY 11-12

- Concert of Praise on Sunday at 4:00 p.m. (transportation available)
- Adult tennis tournament on Saturday at Concordia Club
- Coffee House with "Issues of Faith" on Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

#### FEBRUARY 18-19

- Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany

#### FEBRUARY 25-26

- Transfiguration Sunday
- Guest choir from Baltimore Lutheran HS on Sunday at 9:00 a.m.

#### MARCH 1, 2006 ASH WEDNESDAY

- Concordia Chapel at 11:00 a.m.
  - Services at 12:00, 5:30 and 8:00 p.m.
- "If/Then is Still Grace"- Pastor Hartwell, preaching

**Deacon News:** Wendy Haddad, and Ann and Vic Terenzio have passed their Deacon-in-Training Interviews (January 14, 2006) and are now official Deacon Interns of the VLC. In other news, our "Pilgrimage to Bethlehem" offering at Christmas collected \$2,000 to help offset Deacon training expenses. Good job Deacon Interns and all who contributed to "Pilgrimage to Bethlehem."



We have already received more applications for the 2006-2007 school year than we have ever received before at this date. If you are planning on sending your child to Chapel School next year and have not yet submitted an application, it is important that you address this immediately. Enrollment is now open to outside families of the VLC & Chapel School. Several classes have already reached capacity and it appears that we will reach capacity at a number of other grade levels. If you know of someone who is interested in sending their child to Chapel School, please encourage them to proceed quickly with the application process.

Believe it or not, we are already planning for our Sixth Annual Chapel School Golf Outing. It will again be held at Leewood Golf Club on Tuesday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Please save the date and plan on attending. If you would like to serve on the golf outing committee, please contact principal Jim Dhyne at 337-3202 ext. 1002. Each year our Outing has grown in number of participants and sponsors. We are looking at making this year's Outing the biggest yet.



Chapel School will once again be offering a Summer Program this coming summer. Our program will be offered to children ages 3 through 10. Mrs. Lynn Lena is our Director of Summer Programs and a number of Chapel School faculty members will be working with her. There will be 8 weeks of flexible scheduling throughout the summer. More information will be out in the near future.

## Financial Discipline is Essential in Achieving One's Financial Goals

*This information is presented as a public service by Financial Consultant for Thrivent Financial for Lutherans William O'Doherty, FIC, CLTC. For more information call Toll-free: 800-838-1159 or 201-634-9810. Email william.odoherty@thrivent.com*

### Delaying Today's Gratification for Tomorrow's Rewards

Americans don't follow the sage advice of Benjamin Franklin; "A penny saved is a penny earned." Savings rates in our country have hit an all time low – just four percent of Americans are saving any of their after-tax income. Getting started is relatively painless when balanced against the rewards it holds for future goals. Start by setting long-term goals; like saving for a family vacation, for a down payment on a home, car or boat or a home improvement project. Making the commitment to forgo morning coffee from the neighborhood coffee shop or lunches out with co-workers can all contribute to your monthly savings goal. Think about how those outings add-up over a month. Spending \$5 each morning at the coffee shop adds up to \$25 a week and \$100 a month. Ten dollar lunches twice a week add up to \$80 a month. Over one year by forgoing both you can easily save over \$2,100! Now that's a great start towards a wonderful reward.

Registered representative for securities offered through Thrivent Investment Management Inc., 625 Fourth Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn., 55415-1665, 1-800-THRIVENT (800-847-4836), a wholly owned subsidiary of Thrivent Financial for Lutherans. Member NASD. Member SIPC.



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

**CHANCEL CHOIR** will sing at the 9 a.m. service on February 12 and 26 and will also prepare for Ash Wednesday on March 1. Rehearsals are each Thursday from 8 to 9:30 p.m. in the church.

**YOUTH CHOIR** rehearsals will be on Thursdays, February 2, 9 and 16 in the Multi-purpose room from 7-8 p.m. On Sundays February 5, and 12, we will rehearse at 8:15 a.m. and sing at the 9 a.m. service. We will participate in the Atlantic District Concert of Praise on February 12 at 4 p.m. at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY.

**VILLAGE BELLES** will ring in worship on February 12 and also prepare for Ash Wednesday on March 1. Rehearsals are each Wednesday from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. in the church.

**FAITHWALK** will take a break until the spring and look for additional dates when members are available. Thank you to all who have participated so far this year...new members are always welcome.

**CONCERT OF PRAISE**

**Sunday, February 12, 2006 – 4pm**



Please join with our church and our sister congregations in the Atlantic District for a free concert of praise to celebrate 100 years of blessings. George Heath has been invited to direct a youth mass choir which will include the VLC Youth Choir and Chapel School Select Choir. Additional music will be led by an adult mass choir directed by Cindy Holden (St. John's, Sayville) and Henry DeVries (Trinity, Hicksville) along with many other choirs, ensembles and instrumentalists. We plan to take a caravan of vehicles to the concert site at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City, NY (departure times to be determined; refreshments will be provided). Picture hundreds of voices joined together in song...brass, handbells and other instruments lending excitement and beauty...inspirational words from District President David Benke. This festive afternoon will both glorify God and renew your soul.

In order to facilitate the caravan planning, please let us know whether you plan to attend the concert and if you would be willing to drive. Contact the church office at 914-337-0207, ext. 1003, or fill out the tear-off in the Sunday bulletin.

**Fellowship News**

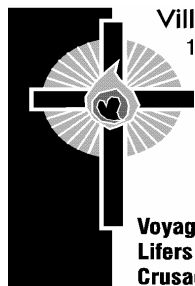
**ARE YOU READY FOR SOME FOOTBALL?**  
Join us for VLC's annual SuperBowl party on Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>. We will begin the pot-luck dinner at 5:30 p.m. with games and trivia before kickoff on the big screen TV! You only have to be a fan of fun and food to come! So, bring a dish to share and join us for an exciting night of fellowship!

**Tennis Anyone? Save the Date:** Join the VLC and Chapel School Fellowship Action Group for an adults tennis tourney at the Concordia Club, **Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup>**. Details to follow.

**The "Village" Seniors**



The VLC Seniors next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, February 14, at 11:30 a.m. We will have a Chinese luncheon followed by a presentation on China by VLC members Lydia and Daniel Chow. Reservations are mandatory and should be made by completing the tear-off from the Sunday bulletin or by calling Charlotte Vogt at (914) 422-5646.



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# Village Youth

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

2005-2006



February  
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 February we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Mini Golf ~ Sunday, January 29, 12:00 pm.** Come test your ability and have a lot of fun at Glow in the Dark Mini Golf!! We will need volunteer drivers to get us to and from New Roc City! Sign-up of the Youth Board, or call Erika.

## 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 February we will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>.

**Youth Sunday ~ Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.** We will also be responsible for the 5:30 p.m. service on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing this at Youth meetings, but will have a **rehearsal on Saturday, February 4, from 4:00 – 5:30!** Please plan to participate in this.

## 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 February we will meet on the 26th for Pizza Game Night from 5:30 – 7:00 pm.

**Youth Sunday ~ Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup>.** We will also be responsible for the 5:30 p.m. service on Saturday, February 4<sup>th</sup>. We will be discussing this at Youth meetings, but will have a **rehearsal on Saturday, February 4, from 4:00 – 5:30!!** Please plan to participate in this!!



Happy  
Valentine's  
Day!!!!

**REMEMBER-  
YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS  
WELCOME!!**



# Parish Health News

**Health Tip:** Are you a teenager? Do you have a teenager at home?

Many teenagers are interested in, or concerned about anabolic steroids. This class of drugs is used by athletes interested in building their muscles or enhancing their athletic abilities. These drugs are legally available only through a prescription from a licensed health care provider. Some people obtain these drugs illegally. Using anabolic steroids can lead to serious health problems, some irreversible.

The American Academy of Pediatrics lists some information you should know:

## How are steroids used?

Steroids can be taken in the following two ways:

- By mouth (pills)
- Injected with a needle (Athletes who share needles to inject steroids also are at risk for serious infections including Hepatitis B and HIV, the AIDS virus.)

Some athletes take even higher doses, called "megadoses," to produce faster results. Others gradually increase the amount they take over time, which is called "pyramiding." Taking different kinds of anabolic steroids, possibly along with other drugs, is a particularly dangerous practice known as "stacking."

## Will steroids make me a better athlete?

No. Steroids *cannot* improve an athlete's agility or skill. Many factors help determine athletic ability, including genetics, body size, age, sex, diet, and how hard the athlete trains. It is clear that the medical dangers of steroid use far outweigh the advantage of gains in strength or muscle mass.

## What are the side effects of steroids?

Steroids can cause serious health problems. Many changes take place inside the body and may not be noticed until it is too late. Some of the effects will go away when steroid use stops, but some may not.

**For both sexes: Possible side effects for males and females include the following:**

- High blood pressure and heart disease
- Liver damage and cancers
- Stroke and blood clots
- Urinary and bowel problems, such as diarrhea
- Headaches, aching joints, and muscle cramps
- Nausea and vomiting
- Sleep problems
- Increased risk of ligament and tendon injuries
- Severe acne, especially on face and back
- Baldness

**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 (914) 337-0207 when your child is expected to come home, so that we may coordinate volunteers.
- If you wish to volunteer with St. Monica's Circle, please notify the church office at (914) 337-0207. You will be asked to prepare and deliver one dinner to the happy family on a rotating basis.

**Yoga classes** are offered on Monday evenings at 7 pm, in room 207, and are on a "drop-in" basis. Classes are \$10 each. If you have questions, please call Faith Forliano at (914) 723-8035 .

*The VLC is a proud member of the Lutheran Counseling Centers (LCC) Membership Assistance Program (MAP). VLC members and friends can access professional counseling at the rate of only \$25 per session. (For up to 4 sessions). LCC also takes major health care insurance & uses a sliding scale. Call Pastor Hartwell at 337-0207 (1022).*

## Ea ster Ba pti sm s



In the ancient church, baptisms were held on the Saturday before Easter at the Easter Vigil service. Although modern practice allows baptisms at any point in the church year, this holiday service remains a very special time to welcome both adults and children to the faith through baptism. If you are an adult who has never been baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit or if you are the parent of a child who has never received their baptism, please consider speaking to Pastor Hartwell or Taylor about scheduling the baptism as a part of this festive Easter service (Saturday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m.).

**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**

## *Memorial/Honored Voices*

### **Memorial Gifts were received**

**In Memory of Robert Krull from**

Henry and Dolores Hansen

**In Memory of Walter Scholwin from**

Donald and Judith Weisberg, Gustave and Maryann Von Holten, Frederick and Patricia Winkelmann, Thomas and Helen Biele

**In Memory of George Walters from**

Irmgard Walters

**In Memory of Irwin Fellerman from**

Nina Fellerman

**In Memory of George Johnson from**

Agnes Johnson

Our thanks to all .

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