



Village Voices



FEBRUARY

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2005

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

I am teaching a class at Concordia this semester on the inter-relationship of the teacher to parents, administration and church. As a Pastor who has spent his entire ministry serving in churches with parochial schools, I am excited to spend quality time with future educators talking about the partnerships and responsibilities that they will experience as educators who work "IN COMMUNITY".

As I have prepared for the class, I spent a good amount of time reviewing educational research on the affect of parents on children prior to their educational experience at school and the crucial role mothers and fathers play in development. Much of the research cam from studies done in the 20th century on children who were in orphanages or other institutions removed from parental influence and the stark impact this had on many children.

In many cases, it is heartbreaking to see how a lack of parental relationship can have on developing children.

All of us, regardless of our growing-up experience, also have a need of a relationship with our heavenly father. And like those unfortunate children studied, so many today have no relationship with their loving heavenly father. And even some of those who might respond that they are "religious" have not come to experience God as a loving father but rather "a god" of law and holy demands.

As a pastor in Christ's church, I am ever more resolved that the church and our parochial school play a pivotal role in our community. We have the awesome task of being that link between God's people. We GET TO share with our community that God not only created them, but loved them with the unfailing sacrificial love of Christ and that He longs to have a deep and meaningful relationship with them, one that will see them through this world and even into the world to come.

As we move step by step into our future, everyone in our community should be ever mindful of how important this task is and the role they play in making our task successful. Whether it is seeing to it that our financial obligations are met so that our ministry may increase and grow, becoming more actively involved in a "hands on" ministry, or our private commission to share God's love with those we meet, there is nothing more important that we will ever do than to help link up our neighbors and friends and family members with God our father through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Do you see your self in this important task, and are you committed to making sure that we do all we can for this community. It's a thought about our mission and the impact of a loving heavenly father upon his precious children that is straight from the Hart!

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Focus on Worship*
- *We Are a Church Family*
- *Pancake Supper*
- *2005 LENT and EASTER OBSERVANCES*
- *Fellowship Opportunities*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bible Study Opportunities	2
Chapel School	4
Memorial/Honored	8
Music Ministry	4
Parish Health	6
Seniors	6
Youth News	5

VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities



Daytime Bible Study

Join VLC Adjunct Pastor Allen Kebschull for an informative look at the lessons for the upcoming Sunday. The study meets on Wednesdays at 11:00 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

Prayer Opportunities this Month

Mondays, February 7 and 28 from 7:15-8:30 p.m. A small group of people meet to reflect on the Bible and lift up personal prayer concerns. If you have the weight of the world on your shoulders, take it to a Monday Prayer Meeting – you'll feel lighter when you leave.

Women's Bible Study

Join us on Saturday, February 5 at 8:30 a.m. in the Multi-Purpose room of the VLC for a study on Esther. Our focus will be on "Being spiritually useful means taking risks." Why did Esther become a risk-taker and what happened? What happens when you are faced with fear? How will you answer this important question: Will you lose your life to save it?

Please bring something to share for breakfast as well as your Bible and the Swindoll book. You should read Esther 5 & 6 and Swindoll's *Esther*, chapters 6 & 7.



Prayer Thoughts

"Prayer is not a benign, feel-good, stress-relieving exercise. Prayer releases the power of God to change the circumstances of the earth." (Jennifer Kennedy Dean)

"The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective." (James 5:16)

Another Mite Box In-Gathering:

The large MITE BOX will make a reappearance in mid-February on the piano in the multi-purpose room. Please use it for loose change or to empty your personal-sized mite box. All coins are cheerfully sent on to pay for mission grants selected by Lutheran Women in Mission or LWML and located either within our area or all around the world. Thank you for sharing these small gifts with others.

Our Annual Pancake Supper: Support for South Asia



On Ash Wednesday, February 9, a Pancake Supper will be hosted by VLC's Women's Ministries, Youth Groups and the Chapel School Service Learning Committee to raise funds for those affected by the devastating tsunami in South Asia. Donations will be sent to Lutheran World Relief and matched by *Thrivent Financial for Lutherans*, a fraternal organization. For sixty years, Lutheran World Relief (LWR) has been the relief and development arm of The Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod and a strong partner with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. LWR works diligently to attack poverty at its root causes and responds to disasters while epitomizing good stewardship of the money entrusted to it by church bodies, individuals and groups. The American Institute of Philanthropy has ranked LWR as one of only two international humanitarian organizations to earn an A+, its highest grade. **One hundred percent** of the money donated to LWR for "South Asia Tsunami/Wave of Giving" will go to relief and recovery efforts for communities affected by the tsunami.

You, your family and all of your friends are invited to attend this special event on February 9 from 5-7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room. Come for pancakes and syrup, spiral-cut ham, homemade applesauce, brownies and ice cream. Coffee, tea, cider, milk and juice will be served. The cost: individuals, \$15; couples, \$25; families, \$40. Of course additional donations are most welcome and all checks should be made out to LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF.

As we begin this season of Lent, one of reflection and soul-searching, we are reminded of God's awesome love and compassion for us and for all people. As we begin the season of Lent, the emphasis of this meal is not on our comfortable lives but on those whose lives were so tragically shaken on December 26. Let's come together as a community and share this table prayer: "Give us grateful hearts, O Father, for all thy mercies, and make us mindful of the needs of others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

“This Lenten Road”

The first week of February brings us to Transfiguration Sunday, honoring the moment when the disciples were given a glimpse of Jesus’ divine nature. This day begins a turning point from the light of the Epiphany season to the darkness of Good Friday and back to the renewed light of Easter. As we begin another Lenten journey on Ash Wednesday, February 9, we will take time each Wednesday to follow a series of meditations called “*This Lenten Road.*” Using familiar Bible stories, such as the conversion of Paul, the prodigal son and the good Samaritan, this series will help us to look at the choices that confront us and how we can follow the example set by Jesus in following God’s will. We invite you to set aside time over the next two months to renew your spirit in worship and prepare again for the triumph of the resurrection.

FEBRUARY 5/6 - Transfiguration Sunday

- Final week of “Off the Page” bible study session 2
- Boy Scout Service 3:00 p.m.

FEBRUARY 9 - Ash Wednesday

- Family Service at 5:30 p.m.
- Communion Service at 8:00 p.m.
- Pancake supper in support of South Asian Relief

FEBRUARY 12/13 - First Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 16 - Midweek Lenten Service 8:00 p.m.

- “The Road to the Wilderness”

FEBRUARY 19/20 - Second Sunday in Lent

FEBRUARY 23 - Midweek Lenten Service 8:00 p.m.

- “The Road Home”

FEBRUARY 26/27 - Third Sunday in Lent

WE ARE A CHURCH FAMILY

Each month, a member will share his/ her personal conviction about being a member of the Village Lutheran Church and why they support this ministry.

In the fall of 1949 we moved from an apartment in the Bronx to a house in Yonkers. Among the many adjustments that come with such a move with four young children was finding a new church home. For many reasons this was not going well until one day I had a telephone call from Reverend Howard Halter asking to come visit and tell us about the Community Church (Lutheran) in Bronxville.

A date and time was set and the children told to be on their best behavior, but children and pets (a dog and a cat) are unpredictable. Pastor Halter arrived and was introduced to the three girls, at which point my 3 and ½ year old son ran into the room, tripped over his shoe laces and lay flat at Pastor’s feet. This triggered a reaction from the pets, which ended up with the cat climbing the drapes and the dog barking furiously below.

A disaster? No. Probably one of the most important days in our lives. We were invited to attend services and joined the church in May 1950.

We soon found that there was something here for everyone: Sunday school, choir, bell ringing, and youth groups for the children. Bible study, Women’s Guild, bell ringing and more recently for me, the Seniors group.

I am convinced that the part the VLC played in the lives of my children was in a large part responsible for the fine Christian adults and parents they have become. As for me, I thank God every day for all I have learned and received at the Village Lutheran Church and for the many and cherished friends I have made over the years.

Helen Britz

MUSIC MINISTRY AT VLC – BURST INTO SONGS OF JOY



“How beautiful on the mountains are the feet of those who bring good news, who proclaim peace, who bring good tidings, who proclaim salvation, who say to Zion, ‘Your God reigns!’...Burst into songs of joy together.” (Isaiah 52)



YOUTH CHOIR – Rehearsals: Thursday, Feb 3, 10, and 17 all from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the MPR. Also, Sunday Feb. 6 rehearsal at 10:15 a.m. and sing at 10:45 a.m. service. Sunday Feb. 13 rehearsal at 8:15 a.m. and sing at the 9:00 a.m. service. If you have any questions, please call George Heath at 337-0207 x1012 or e-mail at GHeath@vlc-ny.org.

CHANCEL CHOIR - will sing on Sunday, Feb. 6, at the 10:45 a.m. service and at the 9:00 a.m. service on February 16 and 27. We will also sing at the 8:00 p.m. service on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 9. There is currently a special need for altos in the choir--so if you fit this description, please join us for rehearsals on Thursday nights at 8:00. Even if your schedule is crazy, come anyway--we are flexible!

FAITHWALK - Rehearsals will change from Mondays to Tuesdays, beginning February 1, and will be in the VLC sanctuary. We will rehearse at 7:30 p.m. on February 1, 8 and 15 in preparation for worship on February 20. New members are always welcome.



Black History Month at Chapel School

Chapel School is proud to be implementing *Volume 1* of *American Legacy Magazine's* Black History Month Curriculum Guide during January and February of 2005. For the past nine years, *American Legacy Magazine* has been a trailblazer, bringing African-American history and culture into the homes of Americans across this country. *American Legacy's* founder and publisher, Mr. Rodney J. Reynolds, is the proud father of two Chapel School alum, Jeremiah ('97-'01) and Joshua (Class of 2003).

The curriculum guide profiles the outstanding contributions of African-Americans in every facet of American society, including: the arts, science and technology, education, sports and business. First graders will be celebrating the centennial of the anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing", along with the music of Thomas Dorsey and the legacy of high jumper Alice Coachman. Second graders will be studying the artwork and inspiration of Elizabeth Carlett, the music of B.B. King, and the less familiar heroes of baseball's Negro Leagues. Third graders will be exposed to the lives of dancer/choreographer Katherine Dunham, Underground Stationmaster William Still, Freedom Ship Commander/Congressman Robert Smalls and a genealogical look at "Finding Roots". Fourth graders will study the Radio Revolution, the photography of Allen E. Cole and Bruce Davidson, Symphonist William G. Still and Architect Paul Williams. Fifth graders will learn about the WWII heroes of the Red Ball Express, African-Americans in the game of golf, Journalist Ted Poston of the NY Post and Aviator Eugene Bullard. Sixth graders will be exposed to the contributions of Aviator Bessie Coleman, Entrepreneur/Banker Maggie Lena Walker, Peace-Maker Ralph Bunche and Horse Trainer Edward Dudley Brown. Seventh graders will study the accomplishments of Aviator Charles Anderson and Basketball Superstar Bill Russell; and, they will examine David Walker's Appeal and the community of Greenwood, Oklahoma (a.k.a. The Black Wall Street). Eighth graders will study the "Trials of Black Lawyers", the noted work of Scientist Dr. William Everett Just, and the trailblazing feats of Racecar Driver Charlie Wiggins and the first African-American U.S. Senator, Hiram Revels of Mississippi.

This program was created with the counsel of educational consultants and provides instructional objectives, discussion questions, resource materials and classroom activities. Articles from *American Legacy Magazine* have also been provided as additional support to the curriculum. Assistant Principal Michael Schultz is the Chairman of a parent/teacher committee that works to enhance Chapel School's curriculum and educational programs. According to Michael, "We are truly blessed to have been given the opportunity to implement this program. It will enable our students to explore African-American history and culture with greater depth and breadth than ever before." Mr. Reynolds will be visiting Chapel School on Wednesday, March 2 from 9:15 until 10:00 am for an assembly. to share a little about himself, *American Legacy Magazine* and the importance of appreciating the spirit and richness of African-American heritage within the American mosaic.



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Village Youth

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

JOURNEY of FAITH



February
2005

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. Michael Schultz and Pastor Hartwell will be the primary leaders for this group.

Finally, the Crusader Youth Group is 9 - 12 grade, and will be lead 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. In January our remaining meetings are on the 20th and 27th. In February, we will meet on the 3rd, 10th and 17th. Please call Erika with any questions.

MINI GOLF, NEW ROC CITY -Saturday, February 5, 2005 at 1:00 p.m. We will meet at VLC and car-pool to New Roc City. We will need parent drivers and chaperones for this event. Please sign-up on the Youth Board by Sunday, January 30th (or call Erika). Cost will be \$6.50 per person, plus snack money.

LIFERS: GRADES 7 – 8

Meetings: Lifers regular meeting night will now be Thursdays, from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. We will usually meet in the Art Room. In February we will meet on the 3rd, 10th and 17th.

The Wounded Spirit - Youth Bible Study, Sundays, January 23 - February 6, 2005. This is our second set of Bible Studies this year. More Information below!!!

CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

Meetings: We will meet on Sundays....sometimes mornings, sometimes evenings. In February, we will meet on the 6th for open gym night (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.) and we will have a "special" breakfast meeting on the 13th, (more info below).

Pancake Dinner - Wednesday, February 9, 2005. This year we will share the responsibilities for this, with the Women's Ministries group at VLC. All of our profits will go towards the Tsunami Victims. Please plan to help out for this important fund raiser. The actual dinner is from 5:00 - 7:30 p.m. We need people to start helping out at 3:00 p.m. or as soon as you can get here. Please call Erika with any questions.

Easter Already? Sunday, February 13, 2005. The Church Leaders are very excited and thankful about what is happening in our Youth groups. They would like to join us for a special breakfast meeting to talk about youth growth, and a special emphasis will be given for this Easter Season. This meeting will combine high school and college age youth. Please mark your calendars, and plan to join us at 10:15 a.m. in the Youth Room!

The Wounded Spirit - Youth Bible Study, Sundays, January 23 - February 6, 2005. This is our second set of Bible Studies this year. More Information below!

LIFERS AND CRUSADERS

The Wounded Spirit - Youth Bible Study, Sundays, 1/23, 1/30, and 2/6, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m., (Art Room). We have all experienced bullying....as givers and/or takers and/or witnesses.....and IT HURTS. Sticks and stones, names and harsh words....they ALL HURT. Explore your feelings. Consider how your behavior affects those around you. Learn about how JESUS treated those who were different, less attractive, or unpopular. Discover how you can reflect Jesus, the model of nobility and strength, in how you treat those who are weaker. With God's help, be transformed and renewed and healed. We have great leaders lined up for this, including our own Crusader Youth, Peter Burroughs and Sarah Jahnke, and Youth Leader, Michael Schultz.

PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!

Parish Health News

Yoga classes are on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room. Drop in. Cost is \$10. Call Faith Forliano at 725-8035 for more information.

The Village Lutheran Church is a proud member of the Lutheran Counseling Center (LCC) Membership Assistance Program (MAP). Through this partnership, 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 insurances and uses a sliding scale. Call Pastor Hartwell to arrange for the MAP sessions. Isn't your mental health and happiness worth the time? LCC provides individual, couple, and family counseling, professional, yet Christian. Call (914) 337-0207 (ext. 1022) for details.

The "Village" Seniors



The last Seniors' luncheon was held on January 11. After a delicious meal, White Elephant Bingo was played and the many prizes were enjoyed by all the winners!

The next luncheon will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 8. As usual we will meet in the Multi-Purpose Room at 11:30 a.m. Your friends are invited to join us for a lovely afternoon of fellowship, food and fun! Please call the church office to make a reservation.

February / March Fellowship Opportunities:

SUPERBOWL PARTY is Sunday, February 6 at 5:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose room. It's potluck and we provide drinks. We'll watch the game on the big screen TV and play games too.

TENNIS PLAYERS - Keep Saturday night, March 5 from 8-10p.m. open for a VLC tennis tournament! Food will be included. Sign-ups and more information will come soon. Talk to Tony DeRosa or Sarah Gleason with any questions.



CONTEMPORARY MUSIC AT VLC



As part of VLC's commitment to "high quality worship in diverse forms" we have been seeking to incorporate contemporary music and worship styles in ways that make sense for our worship community. Over the past year, this included separate services in the Concordia chapel led by FaithWalk. While these services were well prepared and very meaningful, attendance has been limited by scheduling conflicts, holidays and the like.

Beginning this month, FaithWalk will be participating in blended worship primarily at the VLC. Worship in the Concordia chapel will still be offered at least once per semester as an outreach to the Concordia community—please watch for further announcements on specific dates. In this way, we hope to fulfill our goals of using contemporary music to: (a) praise God; (b) educate and uplift the congregation; and (c) reach out to the surrounding community, especially Concordia.

Throughout this period of change, God has continued to bless the members of FaithWalk and provided a strong core of worship leaders. We pray that this aspect of our music ministry will continue to glorify God and touch people's hearts.



2005 LENT and EASTER OBSERVANCES

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, a time of reflection and focus on the saving love of God which leads to the joyous celebrations of Easter. We invite you to come and be renewed through worship as we travel "This Lenten Road."

Wednesday, February 9

5:30 p.m. – Family Ash Wednesday Service

8:00 p.m. – Ash Wednesday Communion Service (“The Road to Damascus”)

5:00-7:30 p.m. – Pancake Supper in support of South Asian Relief

Wednesday, February 16

8:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road to the Wilderness”)

Wednesday, February 23

8:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road Home”)

Wednesday, March 2

8:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road to Jerusalem”)

Wednesday, March 9

8:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service (“The Road to Jericho”)

Wednesday, March 16

8:00 p.m. – Midweek Lenten Service (“The Bethany Road”)

Sunday, March 20

All Services – Palm Sunday and Reading of the Passion

Thursday, March 24

8:00 p.m. – Maundy Thursday Service with First Communion

Friday, March 25

12:00 p.m.– Tenebrae Service

8:00 p.m. – Tenebrae Service

Saturday, March 26

5:30 p.m. – Easter Vigil

Sunday, March 27

8:00 a.m. – Sunrise Service

9:00 and 10:45 a.m. – Festival Easter Worship

8:00 a.m. to noon – Continental Breakfast



Check out the VLC & Chapel School Piano Bookshop located in the Friendship Room. The VLC features an honor-system book & resource shop. Each month at least 5 new resources will be featured that Pastor Hartwell or someone from the staff recommends. Simply drop a check made out to the VLC in the payment box. You may also use a credit card form.

Memorial/Honored Voices

Thanks to Mrs. Dorothy Glardon for her gift in memory of her beloved husband, Eugene.
and to Rev. and Mrs. Robert Maschke of Kohler, WI for their gift in honor of the teaching ministry of Samuel Maschke.

We Stand Corrected...

Thanks to longtime member Ken Werring, a correction to the article in January's VILLAGE VOICES is here offered: "The article on the refurbished baptismal font in the narthex refers to the carved statue of Christ as having been carved in the early 60s. NO WAY! Take note that the carver/artist had signed the statue AND included the date of the carving: 1949! Also, the dedication of the original new sanctuary is 1949. The statue was being carved as the building was being constructed!" Thanks, Ken, for keeping our history in front of us.

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