



Village Voices



JANUARY

A PLACE FOR YOU

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2006

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

Trinity Lutheran Church in Hawthorne is our sister congregation. She is the northern most church in our Westchester Circuit. In December, her Pastor, the Rev. Murray Martin, retired leaving the church vacant. As her sister congregation, the Village Lutheran Church was asked to provide pastoral oversight. In the tangible arena this means that Pastor Taylor and I will set up a preaching schedule, oversee the deacon in training that will lead worship on most Sundays, officiate at weddings and funerals, offer insight at Board meetings and officiate at the Holy Communion service once a month.

Our staff will also serve as advisors, helping Trinity prepare for her next pastor. Trinity is a congregation of about 100 families. Although it is a much smaller congregation and school (pre-school only), Hawthorne is like most of Westchester, a growing community. The mission of the congregation is "Offering a Changeless Christ for a Changing World." One can imagine that God will continue to use this congregation in a mighty way to share God's love.

In the spiritual arena, I am asking all VLC members and Chapel School families to commit to pray for Trinity Lutheran Church and preschool each day. Ask God to bless their ministry, prepare them for the future and to help the Pastor that God has chosen for them to also become ready to accept the call.

Although not uncommon for congregations to assist their sister congregations in vacancy settings, I must say I do feel obligated to help them. I am very excited to partner in this way. Whether the vacancy lasts six months or a year and six months, God will use us to assist our brothers and sisters in Christ in Hawthorne. It will also be a valuable learning experience as we learn from them regarding their strengths and uniqueness. Perhaps there are areas of partnership that we can explore as we move forward into our future?

During the season of Epiphany, when we think of missions and sharing Christ in the world, this partnership is one more way that God is using this ministry to further the kingdom and shaping us for the journey ahead. We are not talking about missions in the abstract. We have a concrete mission opportunity as we partner with Trinity Hawthorne, and expand our scope of ministry with our brothers and sisters. Please pray with me for this exciting opportunity. That's a thought that is straight from the Hart.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Focus on Worship*
- *Good News Coffee House*
- *Christmas Un-decorating Party*
- *Chamber Music at Concordia*

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VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

The New VLC (Victorious Ladies of the

Cross) Bible Study continues on Saturday, January 21 at 8:30 a.m. The topic is Fruit of the spirit: Patience. 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 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.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

"The Mystery of Christ"

The Epiphany season begins on January 6, the traditional date when we remember the wise men who came to see Jesus, and continues until Ash Wednesday, when we enter into the season of Lent. Having already celebrated Christmas and rung in the new year, we spend these winter weeks rejoicing that our Lord made himself known to us and came to save all people on earth. In the Epistle reading for Epiphany Sunday, St. Paul hopes that the Ephesians will begin to appreciate the mystery of Christ, *"that through the gospel the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus"* (Eph. 3:6).

In a world where so much strife and passion work to drive us apart, we hold on to this sacred mystery that in Jesus Christ we are all one. Paul used his gifts to preach and to teach this great truth. God fills us with His grace and calls us also to live together as his people.

DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1

- New Year's Eve service Saturday at 5:30 p.m.
- New Year's Day service Sunday at 10:45 a.m. (one service only)

JANUARY 7-8

- Celebration of the Epiphany
- Undecorating party Sunday at 5:00 p.m.

JANUARY 14-15

- Second Sunday after the Epiphany
- Pastor Taylor asks "Is Anybody Listening?"

JANUARY 21-22

- Third Sunday after the Epiphany
- Praise and worship with FaithWalk

JANUARY 28-29

- Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany
- Continued introduction of new hymnal liturgy



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

CHANCEL CHOIR will resume regular rehearsals from 8:00 to 9:30 pm. on Thursday, January 5, and will sing at the 9 a.m. service on January 8 (Epiphany Sunday), 15, 22 and 29.

YOUTH CHOIR rehearsals will resume on Thursday, January 5 in the Multi-purpose room at 7-8 p.m. and the January schedule will be distributed. On Sunday January 8, we will rehearse at 8:15 a.m. and sing at the 9 a.m. service.

VILLAGE BELLES will go back to regular Wednesday evening rehearsals from 7:15 to 8:30 p.m. starting January 4. Please look at your schedules to determine any dates you will be away.

FAITHWALK will be the music leaders in worship this month on January 22 at the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services. Rehearsals will be Mondays, January 9 and 16, from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. For more information contact Debbie Reiss, Minister of Music, at DREISS@vlc-ny.org or call 914-337-0207, x1018.

Parish Health News

Health news and info from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell

Please plan to attend an important educational offering at the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School. This presentation, "Nutrition - Eat Well, Play Hard and Other Health Issues" will be offered on **Thursday, January 5, 2006 at 6 p.m.** in the Chapel School cafeteria. Guest speakers are Joan Bevers, RN and Joan Silva, RN. The presentation is free. To register, call Joy Elwell at (914) 337-9300, ext. 2243.

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).

Fellowship News

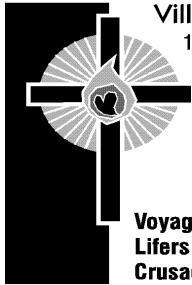
PIZZA AND CHRISTMAS UN-DECORATING:

Join us to celebrate the new year and help un-decorate our church from the Christmas season! **SUNDAY, JANUARY 8 from 5-7 p.m.** we will have a pizza dinner and take down all of our beautiful decorations and "deck our halls" for 2006! Join us for fellowship and fun!

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 11th**. Details to follow.

The "Village" Seniors

The VLC Seniors next Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, January 10, at 11:30 a.m. We will be playing "White Elephant Bingo". Please bring any unwrapped "prizes" you may be able to contribute. Reservations should be made by completing the tear-off from the Sunday bulletin or by calling Charlotte Vogt at (914) 422-5646. Bring your friends and neighbors, too.



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Village Youth

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

2005-2006

a
place
for
YOUTH

January
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 January we will meet on the 5th, 19th and 26th. Please feel free to call Erika with any questions!!

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.

LI FERS: 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 January we will meet on the 5th, 19th, and 26th.

Confirmation Retreat ~ January 6 – 8, 2006. You should have received an information packet about this retreat including a release form that needs to be filled out. If you have not received this please contact Michael or Erika Schultz ASAP. Thanks!!

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 January we will meet on the 15th for Pizza Game Night from 5:30 – 7:00 pm. We will meet at 10:15 am on January 22nd for a regular meeting in the Youth Room.

Next Summer our Mission Trip is to New Orleans, July 17 – 21st. All youth going to New Orleans, please make sure to attend, the January 22nd meeting for our fund raising planning!!!!

ALL YOUTH: Grades 3 – 12

Christmas Gift Giving ~ Many Thanks to all Youth that participating in this servant event, donating gifts to children at risk of Foster Care in the Mt. Vernon and New Rochelle area. This is an often missed population of children and your gifts mean so much to them!!!



Youth Sunday ~ February, 4 and 5, 2006!!! Save the date, more information to come at youth meetings!!!

Happy New year !!!



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

CHAMBER MUSIC AT CONCORDIA

Music at Concordia presents an evening of chamber music on **Saturday, January 21, at 7:00 p.m.** with Lawrence Dutton, Viola, and the Concordia Conservatory Chamber Ensemble in a program of Debussy, Brahms and Mozart. Tickets are \$18 general admission or \$10 for students and senior citizens. To order advance tickets or get more information, please contact Deborah Reiss at 914-337-0207, ext. 1018, or e-mail DLR@concordia-ny.edu.

Memorial/Honored Voices

Memorial Gifts were received
in Memory of Robert Krull from
Herman and Dolores Hansen

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

www.vlc-ny.org

Bronxville, New York 10708

172 White Plains Road

CHAPEL SCHOOL

THE VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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