



# Village Voices



## *Straight from the Hart*

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

*For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. (Jeremiah 29:11)*

On May 13, I had the great privilege of being asked by the graduating class of Concordia College to share God's Word at their baccalaureate service. Here is a portion of what I had to say, much of which is appropriate for our lives as well.

The Book of Jeremiah from the Hebrew Scriptures was written by the prophet Jeremiah to the faithless people of his time. His job was to cause them to repent of their ways and turn back to God. Speaking of the text of Jeremiah, Paul Kretzmann, sainted professor of our sister Concordia in St. Paul, says that the prophecies of Jeremiah are "veritable gems of epigrammatic utterances" which is Professor Talk for valuable insights into the human condition or even simpler: your life in a nutshell.

It is a veritable gem of epigrammatic utterance as it states two very important principals: God has plans for you and that God and His plans are good.

God has plans for you. For the graduating senior this is a comforting thought. As life ends with academia and the "real world begins" how great to know there is a plan. In the midst of a sensation that one graduate describes as "floating on the cloud of uncertainty," how on the mark to know that there is a plan. But notice that I said "God" has plans. They are not our plans. We did not create them. We like to think that we can plan and make everything work out.

This fallacy is found in our hearts, in workplaces, in churches and even in institutions like Concordia. But it is a fallacy that causes us to turn our eyes away from God and His plans and instead try to become the creator, resting our faith in us. But we are best situated when we follow the Master's plans.

Also know that God and His plans are good.

His goodness was seen in His loving ability to sacrifice everything for you, including His beloved son; to stretch out Jesus on that cross so you would never feel the punishment of sin and, by the power of the spirit, to allow Jesus to walk through the empty tomb to give you the promise of God and the victory that overcomes the world.

God's goodness is seen in humanitarian efforts around the world as the least among us find shelter and nourishment.

It is found in a smile instead of anger, in a word of cheer amid fear. It is found when we will not give up on people or give in to defeat but always hope, always persevere, always love.

God not only has plans for you today, but because God is good, we can know that his plans are good for us and that we can trust in Him.

May you rest in God's hope this day. A thought about God's plans that is straight from the Hart.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Good News Christian Coffee House*
- *Rose Sunday*
- *Evangelism Corner*
- *90/60 Plan and Purpose Events coming soon!*

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## VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

### LWML Bible Study

The next LWML Bible Study will meet on June 3. The topic will be Fruit of the Spirit - Kindness. Please join us for our last Bible Study of this season. We will meet at 8:30 am in the Friendship room. Please bring a light breakfast item to share. Coffee will be provided.

### Daytime Bible Study

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

### SUMMER BIBLE STUDY Discussing the Da Vinci Code

The Village Lutheran Church will host a summer Bible study series called *Discussing the Da Vinci Code*. This video study is hosted by the nationally respected writer and Christian speaker Lee Strobel. He explores the book and movie with a critique and exploration of the work filmed on location at the European sites that the movie and book feature. The study will be held on Wednesdays July 12, 19, 26 and concludes Wednesday, August 2. The classes will meet from 7:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room and Green Mountain Flavored Coffees and other refreshments will be served. There is no cost and the public is invited. Call 914-337-0207 or log on to VLC-NY.ORG for more information.

## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

### A Time to Celebrate

Ecclesiastes 3:1 reminds us that "there is a time for everything," and June is a time for celebration. There is something to celebrate and recognize during every weekend of June and we invite you to participate fully in these joyful services.

Please also take note there will be no change to a "summer schedule." Our regular schedule of service times now continues year-round with services on Saturday at 5:30 p.m. and on Sunday at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Thus, while we close the academic year and look forward to the rest and relaxation of summer, our worship life will not cease but will remain a weekly opportunity for spiritual rest and refreshment.

### Worship & Fellowship Opportunities in June

#### June 3-4 – The Day of Pentecost

- ◆ Releasing of the Dove after the 9:00 a.m. service
- ◆ Baccalaureate Service at 10:45 a.m.
- ◆ Annual Church Picnic on Sunday at 12:00 noon

#### June 10-11 – Celebration of the Holy Trinity

- ◆ Atlantic District Convention Eucharist Saturday at 12:00 noon
- ◆ Good News Christian Coffee House Saturday at 7:00 p.m.

#### June 17-18 – Second Sunday after Pentecost

- ◆ Fathers' Day celebration
- ◆ Contemporary music with FaithWalk at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m.

#### June 24-25 – Rose Sunday

- ◆ Celebration of "Christmas in June" with roses and music
- ◆ Sunday School awards and recognitions



Congratulations to our graduating class of 2006. We send our best wishes to the following students as they move on to high school next year.

Elizabeth Bailey, Juliana Barbera, Jessica Frost, Brandon Hight, Scott Johnson, Calvin Kendrick, Malcolm Murray, Stephan Owens, Mallory Pendleton, William Petrunia, Aaron Savage, Lisa Wolfgang.

There are several important dates during the month of June here at The Chapel School. Please join us on the following dates:

**June 4<sup>th</sup>** – Baccalaureate Service at 10:45 service at VLC.

**June 10<sup>th</sup>** – Grade 8 Graduation Service at 3:00pm at VLC.

**June 20<sup>th</sup>** – Fifth Annual Chapel School Golf Outing at Leewood Golf Club.

The Pro Deo Et Schola Award will be presented to George and MaryLou Grundman on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>. The award is given in grateful recognition of meritorious service for the nurture and enhancement of Christian ministry. George and MaryLou have been long time supporters of The Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School and were instrumental in the completion of our Christian Education Building.

The 2005 Chapel School Golf Outing will be held on Tuesday, June 20th at Leewood Golf Club in Eastchester. Join us for 18 holes of golf plus cart, brunch, unlimited beverages, raffle, longest drive – men & women, closest to the pin – men & women, RSI Sports Memorabilia silent auction and dinner and awards presentation. Register in the school office. If you do not play golf, join us for dinner. WPLJ's Todd Pettengill and ABC's Bill Evans will be your hosts for the evening. Non-Golf Dinner Guests are \$85. We are also looking for sponsorships. Perhaps you, your family or your place of business would like to sponsor a hole for \$300. Sponsorships range from the hole sponsorship of \$300 to a major underwriting of \$5,000, with a number of other options in between. Contact Jim Dhyne if you are interested.

There are still openings in our Summer Program. There are 8 one week sessions available throughout the summer. Programs are offered for children ages 3-10. Sign your child(ren) up in the school office.

## ***MAY CONFIRMATION***

On May 21st, five Confirmands received the Rite of Confirmation. Please join us in praying for and celebrating the faith of:



David Blanco  
Christine Jahnke  
Katherine Maxeiner  
Eric Nelson  
Max Pettinati

## ***ROSE SUNDAY***



ROSE SUNDAY will be held on Saturday, June 24 and Sunday, June 25 at all services. This special Christmas in June service

will feature special music and a beautiful display of roses from the gardens of VLC and Chapel School families. Please mark the day and keep your roses in shape for the big day.



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

**CHANCEL CHOIR** will continue to sing at the 9:00 a.m. service through June 25 and rehearse on Thursdays from 8:00-9:30 p.m. We will also sing for the Atlantic District Convention Eucharist on Saturday, June 10, at 12:00 p.m.

**YOUTH CHOIR** Regular rehearsals will be on Thursdays, June 1 and 8 in the Multi-purpose room from 7-8 p.m. On Sundays, June 4 and 11, we will rehearse at 8:15 a.m. and sing at the 9 a.m. service.

**VILLAGE BELLES** will sing at the 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. services on June 11 and June 25. Rehearsals will continue each Wednesday from 7:15-8:30 p.m. through June 21.

**FAITHWALK** will lead the worship music on June 18 at 9:00 and 10:45 a.m. Rehearsals are currently scheduled for Tuesday, June 6 and 13, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the church. New members are always welcome, so why don't you give it a try. For more information, contact Deborah Reiss at DReiss@vlc-ny.org or call 914-337-0207 ext. 1018.

**ATLANTIC DISTRICT CONVENTION**  
**JUNE 8-10**

The 56<sup>th</sup> regular convention of the Atlantic District (the regional grouping of Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod congregations including the VLC) will meet at Concordia College on June 8-10, 2006. In celebration of its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, the District will hold a Jubilee Festival Banquet on Friday evening which will also honor our own Associate Pastor Deric Taylor. The Chapel School Choir has also been invited to sing for other celebration events on Friday. The VLC will host the closing Convention Eucharist on Saturday, June 10, at 12:00 p.m., and our Chancel Choir has been invited to sing. We look forward to using this time to launch another 100 years of *Engaging the World with the Gospel of Hope!*

**BACCALAUREATE SUNDAY**

On Sunday, June 4, we will celebrate the accomplishments of all of this year's graduates. The Chapel School 8th Graders are invited to robe and process at the 10:45 a.m. service, and all graduates will receive a small gift from the church. We would also like to acknowledge the names and schools of the 2006 graduates from any high school, college or graduate school. Please fill out the Baccalaureate information on the tear-off form in the church bulletin and put it in the offering plate, or contact the Church Office at 914-337-0207, x 1003.

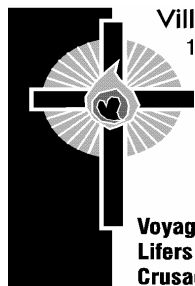
**The "Village" Seniors**



**The next Senior Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, June 13th at the Siwanoy Country Club.**

The cost is \$30 per person for this beautiful catered lunch with cocktails at our beautiful

Bronxville Club. Please make your reservations by filling out the tear-off in the bulletin or by calling Charlotte Vogt (914-793-1264).



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# Village Youth

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

**2005-2006**



June  
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 June we will meet on the 1<sup>st</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Ice Cream Social** ~ Thursday, June 22<sup>nd</sup>. Please join us in welcoming all incoming 3<sup>rd</sup> graders!!! 6:00 – 7:00 pm.

## LIFERS: GRADES 7 – 8

No meetings scheduled in June

## CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

No meetings scheduled for June

**Next Summer our Mission Trip** is to New Orleans, July 16 – 21<sup>st</sup>. All youth going to New Orleans, please make sure you received the packet of information. If you did not, please contact Erika ASAP.

## Congratulations to Our VLC Deacons!



The Village Lutheran Church is pleased to celebrate the graduation of our first three Deacons In Training. At the closing service of the Atlantic District Convention, Wendy Haddad, and Victor (Vic) and Ann Terenzio will graduate the two year training portion of the Deaconate courses. The three must now complete their 200 hour internship and pass their theological interview in order to be authorized for commissioning as an Atlantic District Deacon. Once commissioned, Wendy, Ann and Vic will be Deacons of the Village Lutheran Church. They will wear a special diagonal Deacon stole over their robe in worship and be given authority and responsibility in ministry areas of the church. The Deaconate program is a Biblical model based on the Deaconate Ministry of the early church (Acts 6) and allows lay people to receive theological training and to be given lay-clergy status as a minister in the church. Currently the VLC has four students enrolled in the first year deaconate training: Carol Pfizenmaier Piedmont, Bryan Schmeling, Camille Strawbridge, and Tim Elwell. New classes form in October at the VLC. Interested persons should see Pastor Hartwell or Taylor for details.

# Evangelism Corner

*"We loved you so much that we were delighted to **share with you** not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us."* I Thessalonians 2:8. (Emphasis added.)

You know how it is, your car needs to be repaired, the plumbing in the house is not working properly, your tooth is in pain and you need to find a dentist.... What do you do? Well, if you are like most people, you ask someone you trust who they use. Sure, you could just simply let those "fingers do the walking" through either the phonebook or on the keyboard, but most of the time people feel more secure when they get information from someone they know and trust.

In the same way, when you find a great mechanic, plumber, or dentist you feel compelled to share this with others. Most people are happy and proud to have someone they trust as well as someone who treats them well. They want to let others know about it. It's like having special bragging rights- "My plumber is the best one in the world! He does not charge you a great deal, he is kind and courteous, and does not leave a mess when he is done!"

In the text above, St. Paul is speaking about his joy in sharing the Gospel (and themselves) with the people of Thessalonica. His love for them was so great that he truly enjoyed speaking with them about Jesus, as well as working among them in other tasks. WOW! What a double privilege and blessing!

We too are blessed like St. Paul. As excited as we are about our plumbers, mechanics, and dentists, we too are also free to be excited about the wonderful Gospel message of forgiveness and everlasting life in Christ Jesus. God has given us the "green light" to go ahead and share with others His wonderful good news - namely, that He loves us and His world, with a never-ending love. Now that is something to get excited about!

May the Spirit of the living God flow through you, as you share with others the hope you have within you!

God bless and keep you!

Pastor Deric Taylor

## ANNUAL CHURCH AND CHAPEL SCHOOL PICNIC - JUNE 4th.



Join over 200 VLC and Chapel School families for our 3rd annual picnic on Sunday June 4th! We will be grilling hot dogs and hamburgers with all of your favorite toppings beginning at noon. All you need to bring is a picnic side dish or dessert to share and drinks for your family (water and lemonade provided). Games, prizes, water balloons, and a "bounce house" will provide fun for the whole family while you relax and spend an afternoon with fellow church and school members! We are excited to see you there! Can you help mail flyers to new school families or copy bulletin inserts? Will you help to set up or shop for needed food items? Check the bulletin tear-off for ways that you can help make our picnic a success!

# Parish Health News

## Living by the Numbers:

Date of birth, Social Security number, PIN. You know so many numbers, but do you know the ones that could save your life? Your blood pressure numbers. The lower they are, the better. Need to get yours lower? Consider buying a home blood pressure monitor (about \$30 and up). Then, twice a day, check your blood pressure, and write down your readings. People with hypertension (high blood pressure) who do this are more likely to get their blood pressure back to healthy levels.

You are as healthy as your arteries. The better care you take of your arteries and the healthier *they* are, the healthier *you* will be.

Lowering your blood pressure improves artery health by reducing strain on fragile blood vessels so they stay elastic. Since it takes a lot less pressure to force fluid through soft, flexible arteries than through resistant, hard arteries, your heart benefits, too. It doesn't have to work as hard to keep blood coursing through your body.

The proven strategy for lowering blood pressure is a trio of diet, exercise, and medication. Here's how home monitoring will help. Research shows that people with hypertension who regularly test their blood pressure are more likely to follow their treatment plan, and they also check in with their health care providers more often. And, their health care providers stay more involved, making needed changes to the treatment plan when necessary.

What's considered "normal" for blood pressure? According to the 7th Report of the Joint National Committee on Prevention, Detection, Evaluation, and Treatment of High Blood Pressure (JNC 7), normal blood pressure is 120/80, or lower.

**References:** *Self-monitoring of blood pressure promotes achievement of blood pressure target in primary health care. Halme, L., Vesalainen, R., Kaaja, M., Kantola, I.; Home measurement of blood pressure study group. American Journal of Hypertension 2005 Nov;18(11):1415-1420.*

**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 7 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 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 sign up on the tear-off sheet. You will be asked to prepare and deliver one dinner to the happy family on a rotating basis.

**Thank you to Ruth DeRosa, Ann Terenzio, Faith Forliano, Kathy Gerber and Carol Piedmont, who as St. Monica's Circle volunteers brought dinners to new parents.**

**Yoga classes** - meet on Mondays at 7 p.m. **Yoga class will run through Monday, June 26.** The classes are on a beginners level, yoga mats are provided and students range from high school and college students through senior citizens. The cost is \$10. Call Faith Forliano 725-8035 for more information.



In 2006, the VLC celebrates 90 years and Chapel School celebrates 60 years. Be watching for special 90/60 Plan and Purpose events in the months to come.

CELEBRATING GOD'S PLAN AND PURPOSE FOR  
CONGREGATION, CHILDREN AND COMMUNITY!

## Fellowship News

### Good News

**Gourmet Christian Coffee House  
Join us for Warm Fellowship and Fun  
on Saturday June 10, 2006**

Christian Jazz artist Tyrone Birkett will present a concert in Bronxville at the Village Lutheran Church's Good News Christian Coffee House on Saturday, June 10th. The Coffee House opens at 6 pm with Green Mountain Flavored Coffees and pastries from the Bronxville Pastry Shop. The Concert begins at 7 pm sharp. Cost for the Coffee House is \$5 per person. College and High School Students and Seniors get in free with valid ID. A love offering will be taken for the musician. For more information call 914-337-0207 or [www.vlc-ny.org](http://www.vlc-ny.org).

**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 from**

Mrs. Sylvia Essington  
In Memory of Anna & Leon Liebold

Mrs. Agnes Johnson  
In Memory of George R. Johnson

Mrs. Claudia E. Oesterreich  
In Memory of Hans Hover

Mrs. Louise Weiglein  
In Memory of Lois Veit

**Our sincere thanks to all!**

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