



Village Voices



NOVEMBER

A PLACE FOR YOU

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2005

Taylor Made

By Rev. Deric Taylor

Giving Thanks – A Good Thing to Do!

“Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe;” Hebrews 12:28 (NRSV)

The month of November has always been for me a time of great joy and anticipation. November means Thanksgiving Day is coming soon, and right after Thanksgiving Day is Christmas! The air is brisk with autumn’s coolness. Celebrations and parades fill the air with fall festivals for the harvest. Humidity is down, no more pesky mosquitoes; the air conditioners are off and away for another season. In addition to enjoying this month, it also reminds us of the natural desire to give thanks. As Christian people we focus that thanks to our gracious God. The one who has given us all things!

Giving thanks has been something people have done since the beginning of time. The practice of having a harvest festival to honor God or other false deities was a common celebration. The ancient Greeks honored the goddess of grain or corn called *Demeter*. The festival was called *Thesmophoria* and was celebrated in autumn. The Romans celebrated a harvest festival called *Cerelia*, giving honor to *Ceres*, their goddess of corn. (This is believed to be where we get the word *cereal* from.) It was held each year in the beginning of October, when the first fruits of the harvest, as well as pigs, were offered to *Ceres*. The celebration would also include games, music, parades, and a feast. For over 3,000 years Jewish families have celebrated *Sukkoth*. This day is celebrated 5 days after *Yom Kippur*, The Day of Atonement, and was named after the huts that the Children of Israel stayed in as they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years with Moses. The celebration lasted about a week. The people gave thanks to God as they memorialized their journey from Egypt to Canaan, as well as giving thanks for the harvest. And speaking of Egypt, the Egyptians celebrated a festival in honor of their god *Min*, whom they believed was the god of vegetation and fertility. This festival was held however, in the springtime.

So this custom, that we observe year after year, is not just something we do in the United States, or even in the Christian tradition. It has been done since the beginning of time (remember Cain and Abel) and by many cultures.

What makes this a unique thing for us is that in the midst of giving thanks, our focus is to do so in worship and reverence to God, as the writer to the Hebrews points out. We don’t give thanks to a deity of vegetation, but to the one and only God who created all things and sustains all things, the God who loves us so much that he gave His Son Jesus as a sacrifice for all our sins and the sins of the whole world. This goes beyond the simple thanks for food and shelter, to the very heart of life itself, salvation. Our thanksgiving to God is for what He has done for us in Christ, and for what he continues to do for us through His Holy Spirit. It is a thanksgiving for the one who promises a “kingdom that can not be shaken.” Thanks be to God!

In the middle of your thanksgiving celebrations, may the center of all that you do with family, friends, and loved ones, praise God in “reverence and awe.” For this indeed is a good and gracious thing!

To Him be all thanksgiving and praise, today and always! Amen!

God Bless,

Pastor Deric Taylor

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Focus on Worship**
- **Crossroads**
- **November Voters’ Assembly**
- **Pastoral Care Team**
- **Health Clinic**
- **All Saints Day**

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bible Study Opportunities	2
Memorial/Honored Voices	8
Chapel School News	7
Music Ministry	4
Parish Health	6
Seniors	6
Youth News	5

VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

The New VLC (Victorious Ladies of the Cross) Bible Study continues on Saturday, November 19 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 Keschull for an informative look at the Book of Hebrews. The study meets on Wednesdays at 10:45 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

"King of Kings and Lord of Lords: Jesus and the Book of Revelation" is a four week Bible study on the last book of the Bible. The study will be led by Pastor Gerry Coleman (Concordia College - New York) who has presented this study at conferences all over the United States. Textually, he will focus on the Christology of the Biblical presentation and the study will be enhanced by art, music, and literature. Please feel free to attend any of the four sessions and don't refrain from coming just because you can't commit to all four (although you will not want to miss a single presentation). The class meets on Wednesdays (October 26th through November 16th) from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room of the Village Lutheran Church. A "smart media classroom" set-up with visuals and audio will be used.

Once again the VLC will observe All Saints' Day (November 6) in two very special ways.

First, a special All Saints' Day Memorial Folder will be created which lists the names of loved ones from our community who have died in faith. On All Saints' Day we will spend a moment silently to remember all those listed and also speak aloud the names of those who received the rite of Christian funeral/memorial through our church last year. If you would like to submit a name to be listed in the Folder, you may fill out the tear-off in the church bulletin or e-mail the VLC at "allsaintsdaynames@VLC-NY.ORG."

Second, a floral display will grace the Columbarium as a reminder of eternal life in Christ. A memorial gift in any amount may be given to help offset the costs. Memorial gifts will be listed in the folder. Let us take comfort and hope from Jesus who is "the resurrection and the life."

Worship: Join us for Sprain Brook Manor Nursing Home Service at Sprain Brook Manor in Scarsdale at 2 p.m. on the 2nd Monday of the month. Future services: November 14 and December 12.

Someone's turning 90!

Did you know that the VLC will celebrate her 90th anniversary in 2006. Please begin praying about ways we can celebrate this milestone in the life of our congregation.

Check out the VLC & Chapel School Piano Bookshop in the Friendship Room.

On Sale: Selected Sermons of Norman Nagel (Now \$15), Tame Your Fears (Now \$10), When I Lay My Isaac Down (Now \$12), Esther (Now \$12).

New at the bookshop: God's Politics (\$22), Chronicles of Narnia Set (\$33), Captivating (\$20), The PDL: What Am I Here For? (\$16), A Family Guide to Narnia (\$13), Looking for God in Harry Potter (\$14), The Lutheran Handbook (a funny yet informative look at being a Lutheran) (\$13). Also new selections of DVD and CD's. Personal checks as well as Mastercard, Visa and American Express gladly accepted.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

“Inheriting the Kingdom”

The first Sunday in November is always observed as All Saints Sunday, a day when we remember those who have died in faith and now rest with the Lord. The other Sundays in November also focus—some may feel uncomfortably so—on endings. The readings speak of judgment and separation of good and evil. However, and more importantly, they remind us that salvation is promised to all those who belong to Christ. When the time comes for us to stand before the throne of glory, we will be welcomed into everlasting life with the One who sacrificed to save us. We will inherit the kingdom prepared for us from the foundation of the world (Matthew 25:34). While we are still on this side of heaven, we rejoice in the sure promise of God’s grace and remember that we are continually blessed through faith.

NOVEMBER 5-6 – All Saints Sunday

- Special remembrance booklet and memorials
- Voters’ meeting at 12:00 noon

NOVEMBER 12-13 – 26th Sunday After Pentecost

- Health Fair (rescheduled from October)
- Good News Gourmet Coffee House

NOVEMBER 19-20 – Christ the King Sunday

- Musical leadership by FaithWalk
- Final Sunday in the church year

NOVEMBER 23 – Thanksgiving Eve

Festival worship service at 7:30 pm

NOVEMBER 26-27 – First Sunday in Advent

- Advent wreath is lit with first candle
- Church decorating party on Sunday at 5:00

NOVEMBER 30 – Midweek Advent Vesper Service

- Musical services each Wednesday in Advent at 7:30 pm
- Kindergarten and Grade 1-2 choirs lead Nov. 30

Crossroads: VLC/CS Office of Development

Jeremiah 29:11 “...to give you a future with hope.” It is with great appreciation and the knowledge of opportunity that I accepted the position of director of development for the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School. This quote from Jeremiah, you may recall, is from Pastor Hartwell’s “Straight from the Hart” message in the previous issue of *Village Voices*. It is my goal to contribute to that future of hope through my service to your community. The Village Church and its traditions of prayer and service in the Bronxville community and the neighboring towns and villages is a history of profound respect, recognition and esteem. I will work to cherish that tradition and do my best to assist you in achieving your plans.

At this time and day the challenge in dollars is great, almost \$8 million dollars.

The task may seem almost insurmountable, but we will work together to achieve the goal, secure in the knowledge of the VLC/CS mission. Mr. Kevin Cook, whom you all know and love, has left a wonderful heritage of successful fund raising and an infrastructure that will allow the development office to grow. The **Step by Step** campaign he and the board of trustees so successfully initiated continues accepting contributions and researching development opportunities.

Let me take this opportunity to thank Pastor Hartwell and Mr. James Dhyne and so many of the personnel and members who have welcomed me to the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School.

We recently received a gift of \$5000 from the estate of Mr. Herbert Heise. This wonderful gift to the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School Step by Step campaign will help the mission of the church for years to come. After providing for your family and others, you can create a legacy for the Church and Chapel School through a bequest in your will, or through a planned giving program that will allow you to carefully manage your estate and minimize the taxes on your appreciated securities and other income. For more information about making a bequest or planned gift giving please call me at 914.337.0207x 1039.

I look forward to meeting as many of you as I can, and know that I welcome your suggestions, ideas, and any history that you think will help me provide the very best for the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School. “Crossroads” is the title for this column from the development office that will keep you updated and informed of the development office activities. Again, thank you for the opportunity to be a part of the Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School.

William Damato



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

CHANCEL CHOIR will sing at the 9 am service on November 6, 13 and 20 as well as on Thanksgiving Eve. There will be no rehearsal on Thanksgiving Day. Other rehearsals are on Thursdays from 8 to 9:30 pm.

YOUTH CHOIR rehearsals will be held in the Multi-purpose room on Thursdays from 7-8 pm on Nov. 3, 10, 17 and Sundays from 8:15-8:50 am on Nov. 6 and 20. Please note that we will be singing on Nov. 23, the Thanksgiving Eve service, at 7:30 pm and we will meet for rehearsal at 7pm in the Multi-purpose room.

VILLAGE BELLES will ring in worship on November 6 and on Thanksgiving Eve. Please note that rehearsal that night will begin at 6:45 pm. Other rehearsals are Wednesdays from 7:15 to 8:30 pm.

FAITHWALK will rehearse the first two Mondays in November (Nov. 7 and 14) from 7:30 to 8:30 pm and lead worship on November 20. All those interested in contemporary worship are welcome to make this two-week commitment and lend your talents.

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



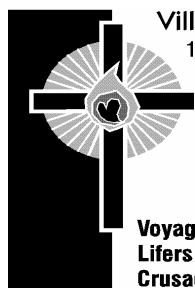
Operation Kids Need to Be Kids:

13 BIG boxes filled with hundreds of toys were sent to victims of Hurricane Victims from the VLC and Chapel School to hurricane victims. Thanks everyone!

Blessing Basket

The VLC collects non-perishable food that is given to Eastchester Community Action Program (ECAP) for area food pantries. You can drop your donation of food items in the Friendship Room in the blessing basket under the piano bookshop. A volunteer or volunteers are needed to make a once a month run to ECAP to drop off the food. This is a great volunteer effort for a family, even with young children, a junior high or high school student looking for community service hours or a senior who wants to make volunteer service at flexible times that are convenient. To sign up to help, fill out the tear off sheet or call the church office at 914-337-0207 (1003) or KGRAP@VLC-NY.ORG.





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

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November
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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 November our meetings will be on the 3rd and 17th.

Special Meeting ~ During our regular meeting time on November 3rd, Jamie Nagel and his fellow Counselors from Camp SonRise will be leading a very special devotion. Please make sure to attend this meeting!!

Halloween Party ~ Friday, October 28th. Please bring in one bag of candy for the party. See below for more information!!

Please feel free to call Erika at anytime throughout the year with any questions!!

LIFERS: GRADES 7 - 8

Meetings: The Lifers regular meeting night is on Thursday from 6:00 - 7:30 pm. We will usually meet in the Art Room. In November our meetings will be on the 3rd, 10th, and 17th.

Halloween Party ~ Friday, October 28th. Please bring in one bag of candy for the party. See below for more information!!

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. Next Summer our Mission Trip will be to Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, July 20 - 26, 2006. Our first fund raiser will be on November 20th with a bake sale. Please plan to donate much needed bake goods before the 9:00 am service.

Halloween Party ~ Friday, October 28th. Please bring in one bag of candy for the party. See below for more information!!

ALL YOUTH: Grades 3 - 12

Youth Halloween Party ~ Friday, October 28th. Please help work at our annual Halloween Haunted House and Party for our friends of VLC and Chapel School. This event is a lot of fun, but a lot of work too. Please note that while the 3rd graders are invited to attend, we ask that they come and enjoy the fun with their parent(s) or guardians at 7:00 pm. Youth that are willing to help out with the Haunted House and Party should be at VLC by 4:00 pm. Please plan to bring a bag dinner; drinks will be provided.

**YOUR FRIENDS ARE ALWAYS
WELCOME!!**

Parish Health News

Health news and info from your Parish Health Practitioner Joy Elwell

November is American Diabetes Month. Diabetes affects more than 18 million Americans, more than 6% of the population. Complications from diabetes can include blindness, heart disease, kidney disease, stroke, and amputation. Early diagnosis and careful monitoring can reduce the chances of complications.

Check with your health care provider if you have any of the following symptoms: fatigue, excessive thirst, excessive hunger, excessive urination, or unexplained weight loss. Not everyone has symptoms, so if you're over 40, ask your health provider for a blood test to be sure. Diabetes can be controlled with diet, exercise, and medication.

Our Annual Health Fair has been rescheduled for November 12, 9AM-1PM, and November 13, during Coffee Hour, at 10:15AM. Flu shots, blood pressure screening, depression screening, and health education will be available. Please come and bring a friend!

If you are interested in joining the Parish Health Cabinet, please call Pastor Hartwell or Joy Elwell at (914) 337-9300, ext. 2243.

Yoga classes are on Monday at 7 p.m. in the Multi-purpose room. Drop in. Cost is \$10. Call the church office at 914-337-0207 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 next luncheon will be held at the VLC on November 8 at 11:30 am in the Multi-purpose room. Lunch starts at 12 Noon. This month the speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Patrick Bayens, Professor of Religion at Concordia College as he discusses his recent travels. Reservations must be made in advance by either completing the tear off slip in the Sunday Bulletin or by calling the church office at (914) 337-0207. Hope to see you there.

Congratulations

On November 13 at 4:00 pm

Rev. Greg Dwyer

will be installed as

Pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church

in Yonkers.

Please pray for Pastor Dwyer and our brothers and sisters in Christ at our sister congregation.



Our first K – 8 Open House for prospective families was very well attended. It appears that once again there will be limited openings at The Chapel School next year. We are now accepting applications for the 2006-2007 school year. The re-enrollment process of current students will begin in early November. All current students will need to get their re-enrollment forms in by December 15th to keep their priority consideration. An admissions committee will meet early in the calendar year to select applications to fill the remaining positions. 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.

There is no doubt that many of our classes will reach capacity. If you or someone you know is interested in possibly attending The Chapel School next year, please attend one of our upcoming Open Houses. Our next K-8 Open House is Thursday, November 3rd at 9:00am and our next Pre-K Open House is Friday, November 4th 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.

Chapel School students celebrated Hispanic Heritage month during the months of September and October. Teachers and students were involved in many different projects learning about the different Hispanic cultures in our world. The activities culminated on October 13th with the display of students’ work, a program led by storyteller, musician and poet David Gonzalez and a local group of Colombian dancers. Parents prepared and served wonderful food from many different Hispanic countries.

Pastoral Care Team :



The VLC cares deeply about Pastoral Care during times of crisis of body, mind or spirit. In addition to our on-site Lutheran Counseling Center, Pastor Hartwell and Pastor Taylor meet regularly to pray for and discuss the needs of the congregation and community. In addition, Joy Elwell, the VLC's Parish Nurse Practitioner also makes caring visits. Joy can minister to the spirit, as well as offering insight into medical and physical needs. This year the VLC also had three Deacons-in-Training. Vic Terenzio, Ann Terenzio and Wendy Haddad will make pastoral calls bringing communion and prayers to the sick or homebound as a part of their internship. If you have an emergency, contact the VLC's Coordinator of Pastoral Care, Pastor Taylor (or any of our Pastoral Care Team) at 914-337-0207.

Voters' Assembly:

The annual fall voters' assembly will be held on Sunday, November 6th at 12 noon in the Multi-Purpose Room. The sale/further use of the Homestead Teacherage will be on the agenda.

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

Anna Campbell, Dorothy Dixius, Patty Moukas,
Tom and Chrysanthe Moukas,
Oscar and Eleanor Paschke, Emil Karawan,
Linda Mueller, Ilse Leibold, Greta Krull,
John and Anita Luhrs, Edwin and Ingeborg Lucie,
Cora Schults, Jack and Karyn Khare,
William and Louise Podszus, Dorothea Roche,
Henry Ihlein, Edward and Anne Weickel,
John and Barbara Trezza, Harold and Dana Schmidt.

In Memory of Fritz Jenne
F. Ruggiero & Sons, Inc.

In Memory of George R. Johnson
Agnes Johnson

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CHAPEL SCHOOL
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, New York 10708
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