



# Village Voices



NOVEMBER

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2004

## *Straight from the Hart*

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

A group of students were asked to list what they thought were the present "Seven Wonders of the World." Though there were some disagreements, the following received the most votes:

While gathering the votes, the teacher noted that one student had not finished her paper yet. So she asked the girl if she was having trouble with her list. The girl replied, "Yes, a little. I couldn't quite

- |                           |                          |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Egypt's Great Pyramids | 5. Empire State Building |
| 2. Taj Mahal              | 6. St. Peter's Basilica  |
| 3. Grand Canyon           | 7. China's Great Wall    |
| 4. Panama Canal           |                          |

make up my mind because there were so many." The teacher said, "Well, tell us what you have, and maybe we can help." The girl hesitated, then read, "I think the 'Seven Wonders of the World' are:

1. To see
2. To hear
3. To touch
4. To taste

She hesitated a little, and then added,

5. To feel
6. To laugh
7. And to love.

The room was so full of silence you could have heard a pin drop. The things we overlook as simple and "ordinary" are truly wondrous!

During this Thanksgiving season, I would add to the above list the Wonder of ALL Wonders: the LOVE of God for us. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

God loves us even though we do not deserve it! Today many among us claim the promise of being children of God. We have been washed in the waters of Holy Baptism (Acts 2:38). Because this grace was poured out upon us we place our trust in Him (Hebrews 11:6) and repenting of our sins (2 Corinthians 7:9-10) confess Jesus as Lord (Romans 10:9-10). How awesome is this!

Truly, the LOVE of God is THE Wonder of ALL Wonders. It is amazing, incomprehensible! Perhaps someone reading this greeting has never received this love. May this thanksgiving be a time you receive his grace. The waters of baptism are ready. How thankful you will be to feel the love of God, to laugh as you feel God's forgiveness and to be loved by Him who first loved us. For these thy gifts, Oh God, make us truly grateful. That's a thought that is straight from the Hart.

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Off the Page and Into the Heart*
- *Focus on Worship*
- *Harvest Home*
- *Atlantic District Listening Post*
- *We Are a Church Family*

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## VLC Bible Study / Prayer Opportunities

### Daytime Bible Study



Join VLC Adjunct Pastor Allen Keschull 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

Join us for gatherings on Monday nights. Spend 75 minutes of quiet time with others as we lift up concerns of world, friends, family and self. November dates: Mondays 7:15-8:30 p.m., November 1, 15 and 29. On Monday, November 1, we will also “Pray the Vote.”

E-mail and Phone Prayer Chain members and those interested in participating: There will be a brief meeting (10 minutes) on Sunday, November 14 at 10:25 a.m. for all links in this prayer ministry to touch base on prayer etiquette.



### LAST CALL!

#### Rivers of Refreshment Retreat for Women

Saturday, November 13

featuring Christian author and speaker, Carol Kent

Registration 9:30 a.m. in the Sommer Center at Concordia College

Sessions completed by 1:15 p.m.

Book-signing to follow. (Carol’s books available for sale.)

Tickets on sale now: \$15 pre-paid or \$20 at the door

Optional lunch (salad and sandwich) is available afterwards for \$10.

Call 914-337-0207, ext. 1112 for more information.

See [www.vlc-ny.org](http://www.vlc-ny.org) for retreat brochure and registration.

This event is sponsored by Women’s Ministries of the VLC and funding has been generously provided by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

**Women’s Bible Study reminder: Due to the November 13<sup>th</sup> Retreat, the next Esther study has been postponed to Saturday, December 4.**



### Piano Bookshop Exclusive:

Check out the VLC & Chapel School Piano Bookshop located in the Friendship Room. In an effort to help our congregation and school families find good Christian books for Christian growth and entertainment, the VLC features an honor-system book and resource shop. Each month at least 5 new resources will be featured that Pastor Hartwell, or someone from the staff recommends. These books are available for purchase. Simply drop a check made out to the VLC in the payment box. You may also use a credit card form. The Piano Bookshop will be available through the week during regular church office hours from 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. or after services or special events. Piano Bookshop for the fall features: **“Ultimate Bible Songs for Kids-4 CD Set” \$20 each.** **“The Passion of the Christ Widescreen DVD” \$25 each.** **“Life of the Beloved” Henri Nouwen; \$13 each.** **“The Truth Behind the DaVinci Code” Richard Abanes; \$11 each.** **“Blue Like Jazz-Non-religious thoughts on Christian Spirituality” Donald Miller; \$15 each.** **“Twelve Ordinary Men” John MacArthur; Hardcover; \$18 each.**



### Off the Page and Into the Heart: Spiritual Growth Blocks

It’s an exciting time at the Village Lutheran Church! At long last, Christian education on Sunday morning is available to all children, teens and adults! From October 31 to November 21, everyone will have the opportunity to *know...the love of Christ*. As Pastor Hartwell has reminded us, Christian education is central to two of VLC’s core values: our Lutheran heritage of grace alone, faith alone and Scripture alone; and the desire for high quality Christian education and relevant preaching. We know the importance of Christian education for children. The VLC provides weekly classes through its Sunday School and daily nourishment through The Chapel School. In addition, some of our youth and adults experience weekly or monthly opportunities for growth through Bible study. Now there is something for everyone—a variety of age-appropriate topics shared in diverse ways! Join us as we take the love of Christ *off the Page*, study it, and bring it *into the Heart* while growing closer to Jesus.

## LWMS: Mite Box Missions

A big thank you to those members of the VLC who have participated in Mite Box Missions. October's collection was \$48, bringing our 2004 total to \$301.86 (almost twice as much as our total for 2003!). All those pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters, half dollars, silver dollars and paper dollars are helping our Lutheran missions. Mite-collector, Carolyn Driessnack writes that "among the 'mites' there have been coins from Canada, Australia, England, Republic of Malta, Bermuda, Niederlanden (Netherlands), Eire (Ireland), 2 Euros, a parking token, and a Sports Plus Golf token, with no cash value (sob!) Alas, these coins could not be turned into 'mission mites' but it made the counting interesting. Except for the "Euros" some of these coins may be extinct."

Everybody can assist in the spreading of the Good News through the use of small MITE BOXES. Help yourself to one from the piano in the multi-purpose room, take it home and fill it during the next month with loose change. Then bring it to church and empty it into the large MITE BOX. Your MITES support the **Beth El Messianic Congregation Storefront Ministry** in New York. As the Jewish population of Queens has increased with 35,000 Russian Jews, Beth El Messianic Congregation has determined to reach out to them by providing an alternate facility for the Jews in this area who will not enter a Christian church. With a price tag of \$20,139.11, your mites will provide rental funds for a storefront facility that will enhance the effectiveness of Beth El's ministry to this large Jewish populace.

*Prayer: Dear Heavenly Father, we rest on Your promise to equip those whom You send to serve. We thank and praise You for the many concerned workers who desire to remove barriers to sharing the Good News to all people. Bless their efforts and help them bear good fruit. In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.*

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## WE ARE A CHURCH FAMILY

*Each month in 2004 a member will share his/ her personal conviction about being a member of the Village Lutheran Church and why they support this ministry.*

The Village Lutheran Church has been our congregation for four years and God has blessed us richly in our new home. We moved from my childhood congregation in CA and found a welcome family here. My husband Matt, our children Oscar(6), Isabel(4), Owen(2), and I are slowly getting involved and through this involvement the Church has become our own. My Grandmother once told me that it takes three years for a new church to feel like a home. I agree it might take that long, but I also would add that the more involved in the ministry and service of that church one becomes, the more quickly it becomes yours. I am saved by grace alone, but it is through my works that I show gratitude to God.

I am *retired* for a time from teaching and I am focusing on my family. Our first job as Christian parents is to lead our children to Christ. As most parents we struggle daily with God's command to "*train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it*" (Prov. 22:6.) We need our Christian community and church to help us. Oscar went to public kindergarten at a very good school, but just a fine education is not our first priority. We wanted a Christian environment for him. And learning about God one day a week is not enough. Oscar and Isabel are now attending Chapel School and are surrounded by God's love.

As a family we worship together, we sing together, we tithe together, and we give of our time together. This year God opened the door for me to return to the classroom as a Sunday school teacher and I love it. Matt volunteered at church this summer by helping in any way he could, and our children are now attending Chapel School and being taught God's love everyday. God has given us so much and I thank Him in the little things I can do. With gratitude in my heart I will serve my Lord!

Erika Augustine, VLC member for four years

**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: 7ff)*

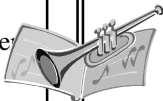


**YOUTH CHOIR** – We are singing at the 10:45 a.m. service on November 14 and 21 as well as the 7:30 p.m. Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 24. Rehearsals will be Thursdays November 4, 11 and 18 from 7-8 p.m. in the Multi-purpose Room and on Sundays November 14 and 21 in the church from 10-10:35 a.m. We will also have a rehearsal on Wednesday, November 24 in the Multi-purpose room at 6:30-7:30 p.m. If you have any questions, please call George Heath at 337-0207 x1012 or e-mail at [GHeath@vlc-ny.org](mailto:GHeath@vlc-ny.org).

**CHANCEL CHOIR** - We are singing at the 10:45 a.m. service on November 7, 14 and 21, as well as the Thanksgiving Eve Service on November 24. During our November rehearsals, we will also prepare for the Round-The-Table Carol Sing to be presented on December 5 at 9:00 a.m. If you would like to join the choir for this special holiday season, please come to rehearsals in the church sanctuary on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m.

**FAITHWALK** - Our next service is Sunday, November 21, at 10:45 a.m. Rehearsals will be Monday evenings, November 1, 8 and 15, from 7:30 to 8:45 p.m. in the Concordia chapel. New singers and instrumentalists are always welcome.

**Attention Instrumentalists and Soloists:** If you would be interested in providing special music for the holiday season, please contact our Minister of Music, Deborah Reiss, at 914-337-0207, ext. 1018 or [DREISS@vlc-ny.org](mailto:DREISS@vlc-ny.org). We will be having special Advent services each Wednesday in December, plus the Pilgrimage to Bethlehem, Sunday School Pageant, Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Use your talents in worship!



*Chapel School*

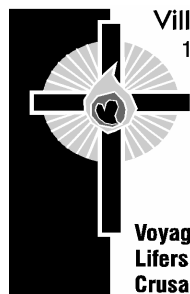
The Chapel School is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and National Lutheran Schools Accreditation. We are now nearing the completion of our re-accreditation process. Last year we began a self-study, which is required of all accredited schools every seven years. In this self-study are 12 sections covering every aspect of our school’s ministry. It has been extremely helpful for us to assess The Chapel School in these 12 areas and now we look forward to a visiting team coming to The Chapel School November 3-5 to verify our information, evaluate our school and to give us a third party viewpoint. They will make commendations and recommendations in all 12 sections, which can only be beneficial to our school as we continue to strive for excellence.

Through our weekly chapel offerings we were able to send Bridges to Community a check for \$650.00 to support their ministry. Bridges to Community, a volunteer organization building homes and touching lives in Nicaragua and other foreign countries, was our September Mission. Our October offerings were collected for The Lutheran Counseling Center, which has an office in our Christian Education Building and provides services available to all VLC and Chapel School families.

Our school committees (Curriculum, Service Learning, Extra-Curricular, Events or Development) are all up and running. Throughout the coming months we will be highlighting the accomplishments of these committees.

We are 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, the receptionist, or on Sunday mornings they can be placed on the receptionist’s desk.

If you know of someone who is interested in sending their child to The Chapel School next year, please tell them about our upcoming Open Houses. The next two Pre-K Open Houses are scheduled for Thursday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. The next two K-8 Open Houses are scheduled for Monday, November 15<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>.



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

JOURNEY of FAITH



November  
2004

## 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 Lunch Room, the Gym or on the Playground. Please look for signs when you enter through the Main School Entrance. In November we will meet on the 4th and 18th. Please call Erika with any questions.

### HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

**Friday, October 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** 4th - 6th graders who would like to help out with this, should plan on coming to work at 4:30 p.m. (Third Graders can come with their parents/guardians at 7:00 p.m. to enjoy the fun!)

### MINI GOLF, NEW ROC CITY, Saturday,

**November 20, 1:00 p.m.** We will meet at VLC and carpool to New Roc City. We will need parent drivers and chaperones for this event. Please sign-up on the Youth Board by Sunday, Nov. 14. 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. In November we will meet on the 4th and 18th.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

**Friday, October 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** We need lots of help for this, please plan to be here starting at 4:00 p.m.!

**NEXT DOOR SAVIOR, Youth Bible Study, Sundays October 31 - November 21, 2004. 9:00 - 10:15 a.m.** More Information below!

## CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

**Meetings:** We will meet on Sundays....sometimes mornings, sometimes evenings. In November, we will meet on the 14th for Pizza and Game Night, 5:30 - 7p.m.

## HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

**Friday, October 29, 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.** We need lots of help for this, please plan to be here starting at 4:00 p.m.!

## LIFERS AND CRUSADERS

**NEXT DOOR SAVIOR, Youth Bible Study, Sundays, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, and 11/21, 9:00 - 10:15 a.m. (Room TBD).** Best-selling author and Pastor Max Lucado clears away the cliches and confusion and leads us to the full magnitude and meaning of Jesus, the God-man. The Christ of your galaxies is the Christ of your Mondays. The universe's Commander in Chief knows your name. He has walked your streets. Jesus is "near enough to touch, strong enough to trust." Join us for the beginning 4 sessions of this multi-media experience. In "Next Door Savior" Max Lucado unravels the mystery of "divinity meeting humanity" and reveals to us a Jesus who is Lord of the entire universe, yet close enough to hear our hearts cry. He's not far off....in fact, He's right next door. We have great leaders lined up for this, including our own Crusader Youth, Peter Burroughs, Concordia Student, Julia Hauser, and Youth Leader, Michael Schultz.

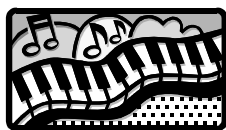
**PLEASE REMEMBER  
YOUR FRIENDS  
ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!!**

# 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.

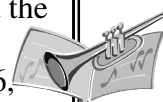
## The "Village" Seniors



The VLC Seniors Luncheon will be held on Tuesday, November 9, in the Multi-Purpose Room, beginning at 11:30 a.m. There will be a lecture on the church organ and an organ recital. Please try to make a reservation by completing the tear-off slip from the Sunday Bulletin or by contacting Charlotte Vogt at 793-1264. Please invite your friends to join us too. All are welcome!

## Atlantic District Regional Listening Post

Don't miss this chance to talk with Dr. David Benke and ask questions about ministry in New York and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod at the Atlantic District Regional Listening Post- Saturday, Nov. 6, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. at the Village Lutheran Church. Please come prepared to talk about what changes and challenges you are facing in your life, your family, and your congregation. Refreshments will be served. A free demographics survey will be given to each registered congregation attending. Call 914-337-0207 for more information.



## FOCUS ON WORSHIP

In the liturgical calendar, the month of November takes us to the end of the Pentecost season—the end of the entire church year—and into another beginning with the season of Advent. During this month, we will also highlight another of our cores values: **“We value high quality Christian education and relevant preaching.”**

One aspect of looking at the end of something is a chance to remember what happened earlier. We will take time on All Saints Sunday to remember those who have died and now rest with the Lord. The assigned Scripture readings during this month also remind us that the end of all things will come one day and that we who belong to the Lord have nothing to fear. Finally, we have the opportunity to give thanks for the innumerable blessings which God has showered upon us.

In our journey of Christian living, we have the opportunity right now to hear and study God's word together, sing, pray and give thanks. Please walk with us.

### NOVEMBER 7 – All Saints Sunday

- Remembrance of loved ones who have died
- “Off the Page & Into the Heart” Bible Study - week 2

### NOVEMBER 14 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost

- Rev. Deric Taylor preaching
- “Off the Page & Into the Heart” Bible Study - week 3

### NOVEMBER 21 – Christ the King Sunday

- Dr. Robert Hartwell preaching
- “Off the Page & Into the Heart” Bible Study - week 4
- Contemporary worship service in Concordia chapel at 10:45 a.m.

### NOVEMBER 24 – Thanksgiving Eve Service 7:30 p.m.

- Festival service of thanksgiving with choirs

### NOVEMBER 28 – First Sunday of Advent

- Rev. Deric Taylor preaching
- Church cleaning and decorating party 5:30 p.m.

## SIMPLY GIVING

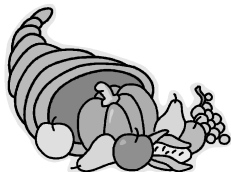
**SIMPLY GIVING** is the name of a simple giving program - one that so many of us are already using to pay bills. **SIMPLY GIVING** is an automated giving program from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans designed to help us conveniently and consistently make our offering for the Lord's work. Brochures for **SIMPLY GIVING** are in the tract rack inside the front door or available from the Stewardship Office - call Kevin Cook at 914-337-0207 x1039 for more information. If you've been bothered by forgetting or missing your regular "Thanksgiving" to God, **SIMPLY GIVING** will be a real blessing!

### We Say "YES!"

*"It is required of stewards that they be found trustworthy."* I Corinthians 4:2

That line from St. Paul will lead our congregation forward into the new church and calendar years - asking the Lord's guidance that each of us may be good stewards of what He has given us. You have probably already received our annual Stewardship letter, sent this year with the compelling book of the core values of our church. The response the Lord asks for is "YES!" Yes, I'll share what I have with the Lord's work; Yes, I'll find a special way to assist with the church's outreach to others; Yes, I want to focus my life and love on the Lord's goodness for me. **We say YES** to the Lord's love!

### *Come Ye Thankful People, Come!*



Our now-annual autumn supper party, *Harvest Home*, will be held Friday evening, November 19, at Siwanoy Country Club. We began this festive tradition last year in order to take the opportunity to honor special friends of our church and school family.

Your invitation must surely have already arrived, and we're hoping you will plan to attend this lovely evening of food, friends and support for our church and school's educational ministries. This year's honorees are Richard and Carlette Allen, leaders and members of the Village Lutheran Church for fifty years; second grade father John Spencer, immediate past mayor of Yonkers; and Patty Donovan-Duff, director of The Bereavement Center's Treehouse Program for families who have lost loved ones which meets in our school every Tuesday evening. See you at *Harvest Home*!

## NATIVITY CHURCH DISPLAY

Plans are underway to feature Nativity sets in the display case in back of the church during the coming Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons. We are seeking congregation members who would be willing to part with a special Nativity set for the entire season, donating your set by Thanksgiving (or by Sunday, November 28) for this display.

We are looking for :

- Small to medium size table top or standing ornament Nativities.
- One piece units or sets with approximately 3-5 pieces.
- Crafted family pieces made by a family member or made in another country.
- Artistically different or made out of unusual materials (but nothing too fragile).



If interested in donating a Nativity set, please contact Sharon Peterson at 337-3202. Nativities may be delivered anytime the week of November 21-28, but please not before this time. When donating, please attach a card to your Nativity including your name and anything noteworthy about your Nativity. We will arrange for you to pick up your set after January 6, 2005.

**VLC and Chapel School  
Family Cruise to Florida and the  
Bahamas**

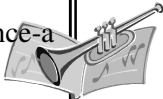


Presidents Week, February 20 - 27, 2005 is fast approaching. The Boat, Norwegian Dawn, leaves from NYC and is a casual boat, meaning that eating and dress are casual not formal with plenty for both adults and children to enjoy. As a group we will also be able to have special group only meals and events. Special Seaside Holy Communion & Devotions will also be offered for spiritual refreshment. Brochures with costs & details are available.

*Memorial/Honored Voices*

Sincere thanks to Barbara Clark  
for remembering George T. Oldham,  
and to  
Robert and Kathryn Glum  
for remembering Herbert Heise  
on what would have been his 100th birthday.

**Lend a Hand** - Caring Volunteers needed to deliver meals to our homebound elderly - one or two hours once-a-week! If interested, please call 337-0390 - The Eastchester Senior Citizen Nutrition Program at Lake Isle.



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CHAPEL SCHOOL  
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Bronxville, New York 10708