



Village Voices



OCTOBER

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2004

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

My wife's aunt visited us recently for a daunting reason. She has cancer and was seeking a second opinion at Sloan-Kettering.

Sitting in the waiting room at the cancer center by Rockefeller Center was a humbling experience. Of course the room was lovely and the care top notch, yet to be engaged by the challenges of cancer is not an easy moment in life. Even the word itself is so daunting.

Consider the following words frequently associated with cancer: hospital, procedure, insurance, co-pay, hair loss, pain, surgery, chemo, radiation and sometimes even death. How terrifying! How challenging!

Yet this particular waiting room was designed in a unique way. There was a running water feature in the room. I noticed later that this feature actually started on the first floor of the building and was repeated in smaller scale on each floor. The water feature was a solid wall of water that cascaded into a reflecting pool.

As I sat amid dozens of men and women and families that were facing one of the most daunting challenges of life, there was also a most refreshing visual. Water always reminds me of the sacrament of baptism, that act by which God called me His own child.

Think of the words that are connected with baptism: healing, cleansing, forgiveness, grace, renewal, refreshing, resurrection and life eternal.

In that moment in the cancer center, I was confronted with two diametrically opposite concepts. One that brought pain and one that reminded me of life and joy.

You may be going through a most difficult time lately. Maybe your challenge is not cancer. Maybe it's a differing, yet still daunting, health concern. Maybe it's a relationship challenge at home or at school. Perhaps what causes you fear is a work concern. These concerns have associated concepts that can be as scary and as stark as cancer.

In these challenges of life I pray that you will find the water feature: the reminder of God's mercy in baptism. As you remember this crucial event in your Christian life, amid the scariness, you can be reminded of and hold on to God's promises that He will never leave you nor forsake you and that He is the Lord and victor over life and even death.

Now with these reminders we can handle words like cancer. We can face the challenges and find that strength of God which passes all understanding.

A thought about cancer and the challenges of life that is straight from the Hart.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Focus on Worship*
- *Harvest Home*
- *"Rivers of Refreshment" Retreat for Women*
- *Off the Page and Into the Heart*

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Bible Study Opportunities	2
Chapel School	4
Memorial/Honored Voices	8
Music Ministry	4
Parish Health News	6
Seniors News	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 beginning on Wednesday, September 15.

Prayer Opportunities



A New Way to Diet: Join us for 75 minutes of quiet time as a small group to lift up personal concerns, national issues and worries of the world. Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28) Walk in heavy and weighed down; leave feeling lighter—it's the ultimate in

dieting! By the way, if you cannot attend, the group will happily include your concerns (let Pastor Hartwell know). October dates: Mondays, October 4 and 18, 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the conference room.



"Rivers of Refreshment" Retreat for Women

All women are welcome to the second annual Christian

Women's Retreat on Saturday, November 13, featuring Christian author and speaker Carol Kent. This is an opportunity for women to be refreshed and renewed by the Living Water, for Jesus says, "If you believe in me, come and drink! For the Scriptures declare that rivers of living water will flow out from within." (John 7:38, NLT) Tickets are on sale now for \$15 or at the door for \$20. The day, sponsored by Women's Ministries at the VLC, begins at 9:30 a.m. and concludes by 1:15 p.m. We encourage all women to attend and to bring a friend! For more information, call Deborah Cook at 337-0207, ext. 1112.

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.



Women's Bible Study: Esther

Join us on Saturday, October 2 at 8:30 a.m. for light breakfast (please bring something to share: juice, coffee, fruit, baked good), friendship and Bible study. Our leading lady this year is Esther, the young Jewish orphan who became Queen of Persia. Although God's name is never mentioned in the Book of Esther, His invisible providence is evident in her story. The challenges for us today are to recognize God's presence in our lives, even though we can't see Him, and to become women God can use. Assignment: Read Chapters 1-2 of Swindoll's book. If you would like a copy, contact Deborah Cook (472-4744). *This group meets the first Saturday of the month, 8:30-10:30 a.m. We love new faces!*



Off the Page and Into the Heart: Spiritual Growth Blocks

One of the core values at The Village Lutheran Church is **we value high quality Christian education and relevant preaching**. Beginning October 31, there will be a four-week opportunity for children, youth and adults to study God's Word and to worship together. On these Sundays, individuals and families will attend either family worship at 10:45 a.m. or worship at 8 a.m.

Off the Page will be offered from 9 to 10:15 a.m. and **children** will attend Sunday School; **teens** will attend a study entitled *Next Door Savior* (by Max Lucado)—a new journey where our young people will come face to face with both the holy and human sides of Jesus, finding Him to be as approachable as a next-door neighbor, yet holy enough to save humanity; and **adults** have three options for this block.

Fit for Life will be team taught by Dr. Jane Buerger and Pastor Rob Hartwell. This course, designed for people wishing to join the church or long time members who wish to re-explore the heart of our Christian faith, will focus on another of our core values—**our Lutheran heritage of grace alone, faith alone and scripture alone**.

Book of the Bible Study will be led by Dr. Patrick Bayens. This session, "God is in the Details," is an exploration of selected portions of Sacred Scripture with an ear to their resonance within the life of those who first heard them. It's the little details that often hit home the hardest. How do individual "stories" in the gospels connect with the real-life experiences of the hearers of those gospels? Why are we told about Judas' kiss or the name of the slave whose ear Peter cut off? Why is only one of the two disciples on the Emmaus Road named?

The Dick Van Dyke Bible Study will follow the example of Jesus' use of parables (earthly stories with heavenly meanings) to teach lessons to the people of His time. Each week we will watch an episode of The Dick Van Dyke Show, in the context of a scriptural passage, and use it as a basis for discussion on Jesus' teachings. Topics include: fights, loyalty, and brotherly love. The session will be led by Deborah Cook, minister of Prayer and Christian Education. Look for the "Off the Page" brochure for more details and to sign the commitment form!

Joyful Giving Wherever You Look!

I enjoy my work as director of development and stewardship ministry for our church and school. I am thankful every day for the opportunities to talk with members and friends about sharing what God has given them for our ministry. And I am amazed at the creative ways our people find to share what they have for the greater good.

The Florida hurricanes left thousands in great need, and in just a few days' time, dozens of VLC bakers put together a bake sale that will send almost \$1000 for relief. The Chapel School began its 58th academic year with second grader David Mancione donating the proceeds of his summertime lemonade stand for our wonderful library program. VLC member Matt Augustine had some free time in August and ended up painting church woodwork for a week! And the list goes on and on.

I'll bet you often experience God's goodness as I do; through the hands and hearts of others around us. Wherever you look, you'll spot someone helping someone else, giving so that others might have and taking the time to make a difference. Perhaps these examples of 'joyful giving' are also more examples of God's gifts to us all. Thanks, God.

Kevin Cook, Director of Development and Stewardship Ministry

Heritage, History, Honor, Hope

October 31 is a joyful date in the Lutheran calendar as we remember and celebrate Martin Luther's nailing of a document listing 95 concerns he had about the church of his day on the church door in Wittenberg, Germany, almost five hundred years ago. On the last Sunday of October each year, the Village Lutheran Church joins thousands of other Protestant congregations around the world in celebrating our Christian heritage of faith: one Lord, one faith, one birth.

This year, our congregation has a special joy in store for Reformation Sunday. After several weeks of intensive work, the Halter Memorial Organ, the grand "King of Instruments" that leads our weekly worship, has been renovated. On October 31 at 4:00 p.m., VLC member and Chapel School alumnus James Feddeck, a music performance student at Oberlin College and frequent guest organist here, will lead us in a celebratory recital and re-dedication. The theme for our hour together comes from the grand old Reformation hymn *The Church's One Foundation*. A brass ensemble and a Bach Prelude and Fugue will highlight our celebration of this important reconstructive project. Please plan to attend and give thanks for the gift of great music in our worship life at VLC.

"Next to theology I accord music the highest praise and the greatest honor. For music is a rare and lovely gift of God, and has often waked and moved me to the joy of preaching." Those are Dr. Martin Luther's own words, words appreciated and acted upon throughout the VLC's long and vibrant history. *Now thank we all our God!*

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 – Youth Choir’s 1st rehearsal is Thurs., Sept. 23, in the Sanctuary at 7 p.m. Our first service is on Oct. 3 at 9 a.m.

CHANCEL CHOIR – Rehearsals continue on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. We will be singing at the 9:00 a.m. service on October 3, 17 and 24. On October 31, Reformation Sunday, we will sing at the 10:45 service. If you would

be interested in joining the choir for the holidays, please plan to come to rehearsals in November. New members are always welcome!

FAITHWALK – Rehearsals for October will be Monday nights, October 3 and 11, at 7:30 p.m. in the Concordia chapel. The first complete contemporary service will be October 17 at 10:45 in the Concordia chapel. The group will also be leading worship at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Patchogue on October 24. We are especially looking for additional instrumentalists to be a part of this ensemble.

Do you play a brass instrument? Are you interested in being part of a VLC brass ensemble? If so, please see George Heath or call him at 337-3202 ext. 1109.



Chapel School

On Wednesday, September 8, Chapel School began the 58th year of providing quality Christian education to the southern Westchester community. Our theme this year is found in Gen. 12:2 “I will bless you ... and you will be a blessing”. We are quite pleased with the smooth beginning to the school year. Our enrollment for the 2004-2005 school year is 315. There are 133 students in our Pre-K program and 182 students in our K-8 program.

We welcome some new people to our faculty this year. Mrs. Deborah Kolb and Ms. Annie Abraham-John are teaching our first grade classes. Debbie graduated from The University of New Hampshire with a B.A. Degree in Elementary Education. She has spent the last two years as a full-time substitute teacher at the Bronxville Elementary School. Annie received her B.A. Degree from Concordia College and then attended the School for International Training where she earned her M.A. Degree in teaching English as a Second Language. Mr. Andrew Lund is our guidance counselor. Andrew received his M.A. Degree in Counseling from Manhattan College. Prior to coming to Chapel School, Andrew taught third grade at St. Thomas Aquinas School in the Bronx. Mr. Michael Pellett is teaching physical education to students in grades kindergarten through grade 4. Michael graduated from Manhattan College with a B.S. Degree in Physical Education and taught last spring at Jonas Bronck Academy in the Bronx. Mrs. Deanna Bayens, Ms. Josephine Giardina and Mrs. Michelle Tween all join our pre-school department this year. Deanna earned her B.A. Degree from Capital University. She also attended Georgia State College & University, the University of Kentucky and Georgetown College for her M.A. Degree. She is entering her 17th year of teaching. Josephine graduated from Concordia College with her degree in Elementary Education. Josephine completed part of her student teaching requirement with Mrs. Denise DeGaimo’s class in 2003. Josephine is currently taking classes at Long Island University for her Masters Degree. This is Michelle’s 8th year teaching at Chapel School. During that time she taught Preschool 3-year-olds, kindergarten, Grade 1 and created a supplemental specialized Reading Program.

Our September chapel offering was collected for Bridges to Community; a volunteer organization building homes and touching lives in Nicaragua and other foreign countries. Pastor Carter Via, Chapel School parent and Executive Director of Bridges to Community, lead a chapel service in September to familiarize the student body with this project.

Plans are already underway for our spring dinner/auction and our summer golf outing. We are working closely with Concordia College with our Professional Development School program, we are preparing for our November accreditation visit and getting ready for our upcoming Open Houses.



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



October
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 October, we will meet on the 7th, 14th, and 21st. Please call Erika with any questions.

HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. More information to come!

LIFERS: GRADES 7 – 8

Meetings: Lifers regular meeting night will now be Thursdays, from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. In October, we will meet on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th.

If you did not receive an information packet, call the Church Office at (914) 337 - 0207.

HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. More information to come!

CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

Meetings: We will meet on Sundays....sometimes mornings, sometimes evenings. In October will meet on the 17th for Pizza and Game night (5:30 - 7:00 p.m.), and the 24th for a diner Meeting.

Beyond Imagination - Summer 2004 Gathering. Our trip was Fantastic and we THANK EVERYONE who supported us through the year, both by participating in our fund-raises and keeping us in your prayers. Please take a look at our pictures. They are on the wall by the CARE room on the first floor.

YOUTH GATHERING RE-CAP DINNER Sunday, October 3 at 5:00 p.m. Please plan to join us with your friends and families for this fun filled dinner!! We will share the "highlights" of our trip together! Sign-Up sheet for this will be on the Youth Board, or you can call Erika.

LOCK-IN, Friday, October 8 at 8:00 p.m. until Saturday, October 9 at 8:00 a.m. Join us as we "LOCK-IN" at VLC! Don't forget a sleeping bag, movies or video games, and your favorite snack food!

HALLOWEEN PARTY/HAUNTED HOUSE

Friday, October 29, 7:00 p.m. More information to come! Please mark your calendars now and plan to help us out.

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

QUESTIONS about anything??

Please call Erika at 395 - 1954.

Or e-mail Erika at Tyandbash@aol.com or Michael at macvlc@aol.com

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.

Depression Screenings: The Lutheran Counseling Center will participate in a nationwide outreach program organized by the National Mental Health Association to identify and treat those suffering from depression and anxiety. Educational information about depression and individual screenings, if desired, will be available at the VLC on October 17th. More detailed information will follow.

“Making Strides Against Breast Cancer” is the theme of the annual 5 mile walk to raise funds for breast cancer research and support services for breast cancer patients and their families. VLC and Chapel, cooperatively with Concordia College will participate in this event, which will take place at Manhattanville College on Sunday, October 17. Please join in supporting this event, either by registering to walk, or by sponsoring a walker with a donation. You may register to walk any time up to October 17. For more information you can reach Nancy Kavanagh at (914) 771-4154 or by e-mail at nnknp@aol.com.

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 meeting will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 12 at the Village Lutheran Church in the Multipurpose Room starting at 11:30 a.m. All are welcome to enjoy a lovely afternoon with a delicious luncheon followed by beautiful songs from vocalist, Jeannie Claire. Please make your reservation by completing the form at the bottom of the Sunday Bulletin or by calling Charlotte Vogt (914) 793-1264.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

During our summer worship this year, we took an overview of the core values that provide a common basis for our congregational life—focusing on one theme each week. These core values and the sermons that reflect on them will be distributed to the congregation and each will be revisited for an entire month.

Our first core value, which was our focus for September, is “We value the lost coming to faith, and the faithful strengthened through the Word and the Sacraments.” The second core value, for the month of October, grows out of our Lutheran identity: **“We value our Lutheran heritage of grace alone, faith alone and scripture alone.”** As a fitting conclusion to the month, we will celebrate Martin Luther’s strong statement of faith, as well as his passionate commitment to music, on Reformation Sunday (October 31). We are also set to embark on a new program of studying God’s Word through extended Christian education. May God bless us as we continue to grow in grace.

OCTOBER 3 – Eighteenth Sunday After Pentecost

- Recognition of LWML missions and women’s ministries
- Dedication of music ministry

OCTOBER 10 - Nineteenth Sunday After Pentecost

- Pastor Deric Taylor preaching

OCTOBER 17 – Twentieth Sunday After Pentecost

- Annual Health Fair, with flu shots, blood pressure checks and more
- Contemporary worship service in Concordia chapel at 10:45 a.m.

OCTOBER 24 – Twenty-First Sunday After Pentecost

- Kevin Cook and Pastor Hartwell preaching

OCTOBER 31 – Reformation

- Festival services in celebration of the Reformation
- First week of “Off the Page and Into the Heart” Bible study
- Organ Rededication Recital at 4:00 p.m. with James Feddeck

Mite Box Missions

At its last convention in 2003, Lutheran Women in Mission adopted an ambitious goal of \$1,575,000 for mission support through MITE BOXES through 2005. Fourteen grants were selected, including "Training Pastors in High-Risk Areas in Mindanao (South Philippines)." God has richly blessed the mission work of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod in the Philippines during its 15-year presence, but recent terror attacks made the evacuation of missionaries necessary. It is now safe for them to return to Mindanao as non-residents, to continue the training of nationals to become pastors, teachers and church leaders who come from their mountain homes for seminars. Our mites support LCMS missionaries, fluent in the national language, to continue this Spirit-blessed training.

We too can assist the missionaries in Mindanao by using MITE BOXES. These small purple boxes can be taken home, returned when full, and emptied into the large MITE BOX on the piano in the multi-purpose room. Pray for this mission: *Dearest Lord Jesus, throughout the years You have brought many in the Philippines to trust in You for salvation. May Your work continue despite threats of terrorism. Encourage both our missionaries sent to train and the local people You have called into leadership. May Your Word be spread through the work and dedication of these people. In Your precious name, we pray. Amen.*

VLC and Chapel School

Family Cruise to Florida and the Bahamas



Rev. Dr. Robert and Mrs. Sue Hartwell are pleased to announce the 1st annual VLC and Chapel School Family Cruise to Florida and the Bahamas, Presidents Week, February 20 - 27, 2005. This is NOT a fundraiser, but rather a chance for church and school families to take a relaxing week of fun and sun. 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 and Devotions will also be offered for spiritual refreshment. Brochures with costs and details are available at the Reception desk. Please mark the dates now and plan on attending. Spaces are filling up fast.

Come Ye Thankful People, Come!

Last year our church and school began a happy tradition of celebrating special people's service to our ministry. *Harvest Home* is a 'swellegant' evening supper party designed to honor selected members and friends who have really helped us serve God's people in our area.

This year our honorees are 60 year VLC members Richard and Carlette Allen, Patty Donovan-Duff, director of the Bereavement Center's Treehouse Program that uses our school building weekly to serve the families of cancer victims, and John Spencer, immediate past mayor of the City of Yonkers and a Chapel School dad. Each of these has given of their time, talents and treasure in so many ways to encourage and help us touch lives with God's love. How blessed we are to have them as our friends.

Please mark the evening of Friday, November 19 on your calendar now! Your invitation will be in the mail soon. A lovely evening at the Siwanoy Country Club awaits you as we thank God for special folks among us! *Raise the song of Harvest Home!*

Volunteers Needed :

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed people can change the world, indeed, it is the only thing that ever has." Margaret Meade

Jansen Memorial Hospice provides compassionate and supportive care to terminally ill patients who wish to live their days in peace and dignity in the comfort of their own homes. Volunteers are a vital part of our hospice team.

Please join us. Training begins October 5, 2004 from 2:30-4:30 for 7 Tuesdays at the Jansen Memorial Hospice, 69 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY. For more information contact Didi Marcal, CSW at 961-2818, ext. 355.

Memorial/Honored Voices

Additional gifts in memory of Don Gilder have been received from Henry and Elizabeth Barlage, George Pietarinen, Ed and Paige Stahl, and Martiza Tribuzio.

Howard and Dorcie Rakov have remembered The Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Edward H. Schroeder with a generous gift, and Steve and Jennifer Podoll honored their daughter Nora's recent baptism in a similar way. Gerd and Rosemarie Boecker honored the memory of their beloved daughter Jessica with a generous gift to debt reduction, thus a gift for the Building Fund.

This past summer marked the 30th wedding anniversary of Tony and Ruth DeRosa and the 20th for Joy and Tim Elwell. The couples reaffirmed their vows and invited friends to make donations to the VLC's Building Fund in their honor. Our sincere thanks for such gifts from Nancy Kavanagh, Richard and Carlette Allen, Helen Britz, Dan and Lydia Chao, Pastor and Sue Hartwell, Kevin and Deborah Cook, Ruth Recker, Edna Schloton, Tim and Deanne Schultz, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Schwager, and Ken and Lilann Skekowski.

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 93
Bronxville, NY 10708**

**THE VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH
CHAPEL SCHOOL
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, New York 10708**