



Village Voices



SEPTEMBER

THE YEAR OF OUR LORD 2004

Straight from the Hart

By Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell

I have never had a "face lift" although investigating liposuction crossed my mind as I wrangled into my bathing suit for a day at the pool this summer.

The VLC has had some "work done" this summer. Have you noticed? Most noticeable is our brand new sign with changeable reader board. Thanks to the Chapel School students and families and several donors we have been able to replace our tired, old, three-tiered sign that served us well for so many years. In addition, a new roof membrane was installed on the great porch and the stability of the overhang was inspected and confirmed. The top of the bell tower was also re-pointed. Finally, the stairway leading to the annex and the roof was painted. I think all will agree that these changes are most welcome.

This refreshing of our northwest campus is ongoing. Slated for improvement this year (as soon as funds can be raised) is the columbarium arcade and the installation of a piece of artwork gifted to us by the Florence Halter estate in our columbarium. Signs are also needed for all the entrances of our church and school making it easier for people to join us for events and glass doors are slated to replace the wooden doors of the church.

In addition, the sound abatement project was completed. You may notice less of a hum from the air conditioners and more of a joyous hum from our neighbors as a sound barrier and new cooling tower were installed over the summer making these machines very quiet.

Speaking of "noise," the organ refurbishment is well underway and nearing completion by the printing of this newsletter. Thanks to the donors and the attendees at my installation last fall who have completely funded this major project.

Our face lift this summer is not just about space, it also is the addition of several new faces to our staff. I am pleased to announce that a deal has been reached with the District that will contract 20 hours per week of the Assistant to the Bishop, Deric Taylor's time. The VLC's new Associate Pastor, Deric Taylor, will oversee sick calls and visitation, lead studies, preach, and work with me on Pastoral ministry.

In addition, we have restructured existing staff. Deb Cook, while remaining the Village Belle's director, will spearhead Bible studies and prayer ministries while George Heath will become VLC's cantor. In addition to singing in the Chancel Choir, Cantor Heath will lead chanting at the divine services, direct the youth choir, organize instrumental ensembles, coordinate the acolyte program and bring overall cohesion to our worship life. George also serves as Chapel School band and choral director. George is a skilled teacher and author and composer. Along with John Buckel, Deb Cook, Elizabeth Geiling, Marcia Kollmann, Deb Reiss and Julie Taylor, George will be a part of a music team that brings glory to God and is absolutely top notch!

Finally this summer, we have begun to refresh and change our attitudes by examining our core values. Worship attendees will note that each Sunday a VLC preacher spoke of one our deepest held values. These values will guide us as we seek to serve Christ and this community in the most winsome way possible. Each VLC member will receive a bound copy of these sermons in a special mailing later in the fall. I cannot tell you how important it was for me as a Pastor to spend quality time thinking about these values that the congregation had put forward and wrestling with them in prayer and study.

I can tell you that I like what I see at the VLC. I am so proud and thankful for our ministry. May you see all that God has done and join me in praising Him. A thought about our VLC makeover that's straight from the Hart.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Sunday School Rally Day*
- *Confirmation Classes Begin*
- *September 11 Service*
- *Hospice Volunteer Training*
- *VLC Family Cruise*

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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.

“Rivers of Refreshment” Retreat for Women

This annual opportunity for women to be refreshed and renewed by the Living Water will take place on Saturday, November 13 at Concordia College. The event is being sponsored by Women’s Ministries of the VLC and will feature author and speaker Carol Kent. Plan to bring a friend. Details forthcoming!

Prayer Opportunities



Do you know how to pray? Are you unsure? Perhaps you are dealing with a personal crisis or maybe the world is too overwhelming. Perhaps you would like a small group of people to pray with you or for you. Maybe you just like to pray.

Monday night prayer meetings will continue in September and are open to all. We meet from 7:15-8:30 p.m. in the Conference Room on September 13 and 20. Join us for 75 minutes of scriptural reflection and prayer.

A Special Invitation for Women

Have you tried lots of ways to improve your life? Best-selling author and Christian communicator Donna Partow knows that good intentions are not enough and so has created an easy-to-use plan for better spiritual and physical health. In three months you too can be well on your way to becoming the woman you want to be. You will immerse yourself in God’s Word and grace; develop a deeper, more intimate prayer life; practice healthier eating habits; and participate in a fitness program you can follow for life. Participants will use Donna’s book, *Becoming the Woman I Want to Be* (\$10 cost). To learn more about this 90-day journey to renewing spirit, soul and body, women of all ages are invited to a brief overview following services the weekend of September 18-19. Watch “News & Notes” for time and location.

Piano Bookshop Exclusive:

Newly Completed Photo Directories of the Congregation have been mailed out to all individuals and families that had their photo taken. Member families and individuals wishing to purchase a copy of the new directory may do so at the Piano Honor Bookshop in the Friendship Room. Also check out the many books, tapes and CD’s that are available at the Honor Bookshop for your Christian growth and enjoyment.



Ladies:

Did you know there’s a breakfast and Bible study just for you?

Please come Saturday, September 11, 8:30-10:15 a.m. for our first gathering of the year. (Beginning in October, we meet the first Saturday of the month.) Renew friendships; make new friends; better yet, bring one! (*This opportunity is not limited to members of the VLC/Chapel School family.*) Breakfast will be provided; we’ll learn more about our mission project; and finally, we will meet Esther, remembered for her courageous act.

This year we will read her story as shared by Charles Swindoll. In this thought-provoking study of God’s invisible hand, the group will examine how He used an ordinary woman to do extraordinary things “for such a time as this” and how He empowers each of us. Please call Deborah Cook, 472-4744 for more information.

The Gospel Flows from Bronxville to Brazil!

Many of you know the Rev. Dr. Thomas Sluberski, longtime VLC member and professor of English and humanities at Concordia College. A veteran world traveler, Dr. Sluberski recently retired from the college and accepted a call to serve as a missionary from the States to the people of Brazil. He began his new work earlier this summer and is thrilled with the people, the sights and the opportunities he’s finding “south of the border.” A newsletter about his travels and work, *Brazilian Breakthroughs*, is available in the narthex tract rack (just inside the church’s front doors). You’ll enjoy his spirited writing and give thanks for the Holy Spirit’s direction of this new and exciting ministry.

May t h e P e a c e o f C h r i s t D w e l l i n Y o u R i c h l y .

S e p t e m b e r 11 C o m m e m o r a t i v e S e r v i c e



The horrors and aftermath of September 11, 2001 linger on. Our nation, and indeed the world, lives in fear of terrorist attack and deadly conflict around the globe. We seek peace.

The Village Lutheran Church will again host a commemorative service on September 11 of this year to give thanks to God for His gift of true peace, the peace of Jesus Christ, to us all. The service begins at 5:30 p.m. (it "kicks off" our academic year schedule of Saturday night worship at that hour) and will be followed by an informal reception. How pleased we are that Dr. David Benke, President of the Atlantic District LCMS and a staunch friend of the VLC, will preach. Dr. Benke knows so well that it is Christ's peace that carries us through times of fear and turmoil.

Our service of peace will include a rite of candle lighting similar to that which we enjoy on Christmas Eve, wherein we share the light of Jesus in a very real way. Each worshipper will also be given a 'peace candle' to take home, again, a very real way of spreading the light of Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace, with others. We are grateful to LDRNY – the Lutheran Disaster Relief of New York agency – for granting us a special fund to support this church and community observation. Join us for an hour of peace.

Sunday School Rally Day

On Sunday, September 12 at 9 a.m., Sunday school begins with Rally Day.



On this first day of Sunday school, all children (through the 6th grade) should begin Sunday school by going with their families into church at 9 a.m. This year 7th and 8th graders will stay for the entire worship service and will attend confirmation instruction on a different day.

3-year-olds and their parents will be called forward, as is our custom at the VLC, to receive a blessing as they begin their educational journey. After the blessing, the 3-year-olds will be dismissed to go with their parents to their first Sunday school class. 4-year-olds, kindergarten, 1st and 2nd grades will also be dismissed to their classes.

This year is a special year for 3rd Grade children as they worship in church through the sermon time before going to Sunday school, are eligible to sing in the Youth Choir and attend Voyager youth group. We symbolically celebrate this milestone in the life of 3rd Graders by "placing into his/her hands the holy scriptures." 3rd Grade children will be called forward to receive a children's Bible at the Rally Day service. 3rd-6th Graders will be dismissed to their classes, as is our custom, following the sermon time. Sunday school and Chapel School teachers will also be dedicated at this special service.

Please join us for this special day. Lilann Skeckowski has once again agreed to lead the Sunday school as the superintendent. Sunday school will continue to bless our children as they learn of Jesus in exciting ways. If you have questions about this special day or Youth Choir or Youth Group, call the church office at (914) 337-0207 (x 1003).

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)

The prophet Isaiah seems to have been a big music lover—and it is clear that music has always been a part of the Church. The VLC Music Ministry is beginning another season of making joyful music for the Lord and we welcome you to be a part of it. All of our ensembles will resume regular rehearsals during the month of September. If you are not sure where you might like to participate, or how much time you can commit, please come at least once or speak to one of the directors. Let the Spirit show you where your “beautiful feet” can share the Good News through music.

CHERUB CHOIR – Director, Betty Geiling Open to all children in Nursery through Grade 2. This group has lots of fun making music and learning to sing together during the Sunday School hour and will sing in church approximately six times per year.

YOUTH CHOIR – George Heath, Director Open to children in Grades 3-6. We thank Mrs. Deborah Cook for her long years of joyful service with this ensemble and welcome the new director, Mr. George Heath, who is also the music teacher for Grades 1-8 at Chapel School. Watch for more details in the Sunday News & Notes for rehearsal dates and times.

CHANCEL CHOIR – Deborah Reiss, Director A choral ensemble open to all youth and adults. This group sings a wide variety of music from the choral repertoire, including motets, anthems, spirituals and contemporary songs. We will meet on Thursday, September 9, at 8:00 p.m. for fellowship and to prepare for the September 11 service. Please feel free to join us for this special time of remembrance. Regular rehearsals will continue on Thursday evenings from 8:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. All voice parts are welcome!

FAITHWALK – Deborah Reiss, Director A contemporary music ensemble open to all youth and adults. This group leads a contemporary music service one Sunday per month in the Concordia chapel. We welcome your gifts and participation in many disciplines, including singers, instrumentalists, technical production and dramatic presentation. Please come to the Concordia chapel on Monday, September 13, at 7:00 p.m. for our first session.

VILLAGE BELLES – Deborah Cook, Director A handbell ensemble open to all youth and adults. This group of English handbell ringers adds color and life to our music-making. Regular rehearsals will begin on Wednesday, September 15, at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. A special rehearsal for returning members in preparation for September 11 service will be held on September 8 at 7:15 p.m.



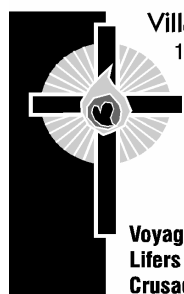
September 8, 2004 marks the 58th year that Village Lutheran Church and Chapel School will provide Quality Christian education to our community. We will begin this school year with more than 315 students in grades Pre-K 3 year old through grade 8. Our students will come from as far north as Yorktown Heights, as far south as the Bronx and from many places in between. The theme for our academic year is taken from Genesis 12:2 “I will bless you and you will be a blessing.”

As an integral part of our Christian ministry, The Chapel School conducts morning worship each Wednesday in the church sanctuary for our kindergarten through grade 8 students. It is our joy and our opportunity to bring an offering to God in each worship service, as a way of saying “Thank you, Lord” for all the great gifts of life and love which we receive from Him every day. Each month we choose another ministry to support with these offerings. The first quarter of the year we will be sponsoring the following missions:

September – Bridges to Community: a volunteer organization building homes and touching lives in Nicaragua and other foreign countries.

October – The Lutheran Counseling Center: with an office and services provided here on our campus, available to all VLC and Chapel School families.

November – ECAP: the Eastchester Community Action Program – a local program providing food and other essentials to families in need.



Village Lutheran Church & Chapel School
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Village Youth

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

BEYOND IMAGINATION



September
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. Please use the Chapel School entrance. In September, we will meet on the 16th, 23rd, and 30th. Please call Erika with any questions.

Lock-In, Friday, September 24 to Saturday, September 25. 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Join us as we "lock-In" at VLC. Please bring a sleeping bag, any movies you like and your favorite snack food.

LIFERS: GRADES 7 – 8

Meetings: Lifers regular meeting night will now be Thursdays, from 6:00 -7:30 p.m. We will begin our year of learning with a Confirmation Orientation on Thursday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m. for all 7th and 8th graders and their Parent(s) or Guardian(s). Classes will officially begin the next Thursday, September 23rd at 6:00 p.m. We will also meet on September 30th. If you did not receive an information packet, call the Church Office at (914) 337 - 0207.

Lock-In, Friday, September 24 to Saturday, September 25. 8:00 p.m. - 8:00 a.m. Join us as we "lock-In" at VLC. Please bring a sleeping bag, any movies you like and your favorite snack food.

CRUSADERS: GRADES 9 – 12

Meetings: We will meet on Sundays....sometimes mornings, sometimes evenings. Our first meeting will be on September 19 for Pizza and Game night. 5:30 - 7:00 p.m. We will keep the diner meetings this year, but since we do not have the Youth Van we will need volunteer drivers. We will meet on September 26th at 10:15 a.m. for a diner meeting. Please let Erika know if you or a parent can drive.

Open Gym Nights, Join us for fun in the gym at VLC on Thursdays in late summer. Our last night for the summer will be on September 2, 7:00 - 8:30p.m. See you there.

Beyond Imagination - Summer 2004 Gathering. Our trip was Fantastic and we THANK EVERYONE who supported us through the year, both by participating in our fundraisers 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.

**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

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.

LUGO: Lutherans United for Growth and Outreach

Pastor Hartwell has organized a new group of Senior Pastors of mid to large sized east coast Lutheran churches. These congregations, which average 170 or more in worship each weekend have not gotten together in the past to share ideas and encouragement. LUGO (Lutherans United for Growth and Outreach) is designed to help our largest churches work together in growing and sharing Christ. The inaugural event for LUGO will be held on Wednesday, October 6 at Concordia. Please keep this event in your prayers.

Deacons:



Several VLC members have signed up to take training to become Deacons in the Lutheran Church. Deacons are specially trained laymen and women who share Christ in a variety of ways.

Training sessions this fall will be held on Wednesday evenings in Bronxville. If you have not yet turned your form in to Pastor Hartwell, please do so today. If you would like more information or need a form, please call the church office at (914) 337-0207

The "Village" Seniors

The Seniors have been invited by the Wartburg to attend a luncheon on Tuesday, September 7th. The luncheon will begin at 12:00 in the Conference Center. All those interested will be able to tour the Meadowview Assisted Living facility afterwards.

Please submit your reservation by completing the tear-off slip from the Sunday Bulletin or by calling Charlotte Vogt (914 793-1264). We must have all reservations by Sept. 1st.

Concordia Fall Semester Fast Approaching:

Concordia will resume classes on September 7. Welcome back to all Concordia students, faculty and staff. Please keep our partners at Concordia in your prayers as we share the resources of our Music Minister Deb Reiss between the Music Department and our Church, as Pastor Hartwell teaches Religion 120, the New Testament to students, as Dr. Lujanna Butts leads our Professional development School relationship between the teacher education program and our Chapel School and the many other ways we partner.

LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

With a membership of over 250,000, the LWML is the official women's auxiliary of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod. The LWML focuses on affirming each woman in her relationship with Christ to enable her to be in ministry among the people of the world. For over 60 years the organization has been encouraging and equipping women to live out their Christian lives in active mission ministries and to financially support global mission. Learn more about Lutheran Women in Mission on October 3, "LWML Sunday."

VLC's offering in **mite box** missions through the collection of coins and dollars has already surpassed our total for 2003! We have gathered \$253.86 thus far and when added to the gifts of those around the country, we provided "Mitey Change for Almighty Change." To make *your* contribution, pick up a box from the piano in the multi-purpose room, add coins to it while asking the Lord's blessing, and when full, deposit the change into the large mite box. It's that easy!

Confirmation:



We will begin our year of learning with a Confirmation Orientation on Thursday, September 16 at 7 p.m. for all 7th and 8th Graders and their Parent(s) or Guardian(s).

Classes will officially begin the next Thursday (September 23) at from 6-7:30 p.m. in the Multi-Purpose Room (Undercroft of the church).

If your child is in the 7th or 8th grade and did not receive an information packet, call the church office at (914) 337-0207.

First Annual 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.

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.

My dear fellow Christians,

God established the tithe as a required offering with Moses on Mt. Sinai. People would give a tenth of the best of everything they had... a tenth of their cattle or sheep, a tenth of their grain, a tenth of their fruit, a tenth of their income, etc. (see Leviticus 27:30-34)

God freely gives us the opportunity to glorify Him and show our thanks for what He has given us. God gives us everything. Returning a tithe to our loving Father is the least we can do. Even when you are put to the test, when you don't see how you can possibly "thank" Him that much, do it without question. He will not fail you. Often when people finally decide to tithe they say, "Should it be gross or net?" How do you want God to bless you, gross or net?

Your brother in Christ,
Ralph Palumbo

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.

When: Training begins October 5, 2004 from 2:30-4:30 for 7 Tuesdays.

Where: Jansen Memorial Hospice, 69 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY.

Contact: Didi Marcal, CSW 961-2818, ext. 355.

Memorial/Honored Voices

Upon the death in August of longtime VLC member Don Gilder, his family invited donations in his memory for the church's ministry. We are thankful for gifts in Don's memory: Mr. and Mrs. Jack Kaufmann, Mrs. Dorothy McGinnis, Rev. and Mrs. Robert Hartwell, Rev. and Mrs. Clifford Peterson, Ms. Dina Foster-Osbourne, George and MaryLou Grundman, Mrs. Rozanne Moretti Schwab, Roseanne Santioanni and Barbara and John Tormondsen.

Earlier this summer, Viola Hammerstedt of our congregation died, and in her memory, her daughter and son-in-law, Joyce and Bill Garrett, former VLC members, made a very generous donation to support our seniors' ministry and also provided an elegant pall (embroidered cloth) to cover the urn (cremains) at a memorial service.

How blessed our church is to be remembered by families mourning their loss while praising God for His mercies at the same time.

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