



VILLAGE VOICES



VILLAGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Ash Wednesday and Midweek Lenten Services



ASH WEDNESDAY

February 18, 2026

12:00 noon
7:30pm

Service of Ashes and
Holy Communion

~~~~~ WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

**Midweek Prayer Service
with Holy Communion
7:30 p.m.**

February 25
March 4
March 11
March 18
March 25



WINTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

- Sunday 9 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. in the sanctuary.
- For those who can't join us in-person, live stream worship at VLC-NY.org, on Facebook, or YouTube.
- Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call - Join us 2/24 at 6 p.m.

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WORSHIP/ BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES

ADULT BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays
10:45 a.m. – 12:00
p.m.

As we enter into the Lenten season, we will be focused on the poignant accounts of Jesus' last days on earth with His disciples. This section begins with the Last Supper in John chapter 13. Please note that we will have a shortened session on Ash Wednesday 2/18 before the 12 p.m. service.

Village Lutheran Church **SERVICE OF EVENING PRAYER**



Tuesday Evening Prayer Conference Call will be held on the last Tuesday of the month.

Join us in February on
2/24 at 6:00 p.m.

Simply call 1-732-434-3982 and pray
with our community. Invite a friend.

The Chosen – Season 2



WEDNESDAYS
JANUARY 14 – FEBRUARY 11
APRIL 15 – MAY 6
TIME: 7 – 9 PM

WATCH SEASON TWO OF THE ACCLAIMED SERIES
WITH DISCUSSION AND REFRESHMENTS
(SOUP, SANDWICH, BEER & WINE)

HOSTED BY
DEACON JANET GEORGE
DEACON TONY DEROSA

Join us for soup & sandwich and wine, an engaging movie, thought provoking discussion, and inspiring fellowship. So as not to conflict with Lenten services, the nine episodes will be explored on five Wednesday evenings prior to Ash Wednesday and four sessions after Easter.

Wednesdays 7-9pm
January 14 – February 11
and April 15 – May 6

Please register in advance so we know you are coming. Fill out the pew card, call the church office at 914-337-0207, x1003, or email KRapillo@VLC-NY.org.

For more info contact: Deacon Janet George or Deacon Tony DeRosa

Soup Kitchen Partnership

VLC and TCS provide the ENTIRE meal for the Mount Vernon Soup Kitchen on the third Wednesday of each month.

Our next date is: February 18

We need volunteers to prepare enough food to feed 80 people.



Please pick up a small aluminum tray from the reception desk, available after church services and during VLC & TCS hours.

Bring the cooked food trays to the VLC parking lot, between 12:00-1:00PM, on the third Wednesday for collection. The food will be delivered to the soup kitchen by our VLC volunteers.

Sign up today at:

www.tinyurl.com/MealCooking

For more information, please contact
VLC Soup Kitchen Coordinator, Katie Bukofzer
at: ETAKWHIT@aol.com



A menu is developed and coordinated by the Soup Kitchen, which includes a meat (or casserole), vegetable, and dessert.

Blessing Basket Food for ECAP



We continue to collect non-perishable food.

As costs go up, it is even harder for families to keep food on the table. If you can pick up a few items to donate, please drop them off in the Friendship Room or at the Reception Desk.

**NON-PERISHABLE
ITEMS ONLY**

**Basket under Piano in
Friendship Room**
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

Crochet Ministry

**Crochet Class is paused
for the Winter.**

**You can pick up yarn if you wish
to continue on your own.**

**Knitters are also welcome to pick up yarn for
prayer shawls or other projects.**

**Contact Kim Rapillo at 914-337-0207 x 1003
in the church office
or Krapillo@vlc-ny.org.**



Prayer Shawl Ministry

PRAYER SHAWLS

If you have a family member or loved one that you would like to receive a prayer shawl, email the church office with their name, address, and prayer request. We will prepare a prayer shawl gift bag that you can pick up and take or we can even mail it to them if they live far away. Also, if you are willing to knit a prayer shawl, we have a supply of free yarn. It's a great way to "know, live and share the love of Christ." Email the church office at KRapillo@VLC-NY.ORG or call 914-337- 0207 x1003.

FOCUS ON WORSHIP

Hidden with Christ, by Deborah Reiss



Jesus said to him, "Away from me, Satan! For it is written: 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.'" Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him. (Matthew 4:10-11)

The First Sunday in Lent is always focused on the temptation of Christ. In one sense, it is an easy story to relate to because we see such a human Jesus. We all know what it is like to be tempted, and Jesus had to face the wiles of the devil just as we do. Yet we know that Jesus was able to resist rather than succumb, and that He remained perfect where we continually fall short.

Another temptation story that helps me see the human predicament in a different light is the account of Joseph and Potiphar's wife. Genesis tells us that "Joseph was well-built and handsome, and after a while his master's wife took notice." What's interesting is that Joseph did not seek her out and had no inner desire for her. This woman wanted Joseph to join her in a clearly sinful act that grew out of her own temptation. Joseph's choice was to give in to something he knew was wrong, even if no one ever found out, or to stand firmly against her pressure and risk the consequences. Joseph first responded with, "How could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?" When Potiphar's wife tried to force a rendezvous, Joseph fled and was framed, ending up unjustly imprisoned for two years.

Joseph had two strong reasons for resisting. Potiphar had entrusted the entire management of his household to Joseph, and they had developed a strong relationship. Joseph could not imagine doing something so "wicked" to the man who had treated him so well. More importantly, Joseph knew that, even if Potiphar never found out, God would see this transgression and Joseph's failure to honor God by his actions. These are still powerful motivators for us. No one wants their moral failures to become public, especially if there is a risk of hurting a close friend or family member. Remembering how God sees us is something that really helps me when faced with such a temptation. It can be easy to indulge in some small thing (often involving money) such as not reporting miscellaneous income, not paying the bus fare because lots of other people just get on and off, or not correcting a cashier who gives you too much change. I think we tend to wrestle more with larger issues, yet we also come up with ways to try to justify or minimize our actions.

Jesus quoted scripture to the devil. He also fasted and prayed. Joseph endured mistreatment and stayed faithful to God, unwilling to make his life "easier" by committing obvious sin. God is standing by, ready to help us face down any temptation. As Paul says in 1 Corinthians 10:13: "God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it."

Thank You, Lord, that You are always with me. When I am tempted, help me remember Your great love and be strong. Amen.

VLC YOUTH

VOYAGERS Grades 3–6

Voyagers is open to anyone in grades 3 – 6. Please join us and bring a friend! We usually meet three times per month on Thursdays at 6:00-7:00 p.m. Please enter the Church/School from the school reception doors. At the end of the meeting, Youth will be escorted out to the school doors and dismissed to their cars. Or, if Youth are going to choir, they will be dropped off there. Our meetings this month will **be 2/5, 2/12 and 2/26 in the MPR.**

LIFERS Grades 7–8

Confirmation is a two year program for kids in 7th and 8th grade. One year we focus on the story of scripture and the other year we focus on the teachings of scripture. It's a good time and a very formative time in which the confirmands grow in their relationship with God and in their understanding of their faith. If you have any questions please contact Director of Youth and Family Ministries, Pastor Mark Budenholzer at MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG.

CRUSADERS Grades 9–12



Calling all 9-12 graders! Donuts and Discussion will meet in the office suite on **2/1, 2/8 and 2/22**. Donuts will be provided! Hope to see you there! If you have any questions, please email Crusader Youth Leader, Amy Heath at amyheath1023@gmail.com

MUSIC MINISTRY



Choirs will be part of the Family Worship at 9:00 a.m. on Sunday 2/1.

Chancel Choir will also sing on Sundays 2/8 and 2/22.

All choirs will be off during the winter break (2/15 through 2/21).

Village Bells will look for a ringing date in March.

As we traditionally do in February, we will be sure to include spirituals and other music inspired by Black History Month. Keep on singing!

First Communion Classes



The Village Lutheran Church's annual 1st Communion Instruction will soon begin. This class is open to youth in the 5th grade and above who have not had their 1st Holy Communion.

Classes meet Wednesdays during Lent from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. beginning 2/25. These classes instruct the children on the meaning of this Christian Sacrament and prepare them to receive 1st Holy Communion at a special Service on Sunday, 3/22, at 10:45 a.m.

One parent or guardian must attend with each child at each session. If you would like to have your child complete the 1st Holy Communion classes, please complete the registration form online at <https://www.vlc-ny.org/first-communion-form>.

For more information, email Pastor Mark at MBudenholzer@VLC-NY.ORG. The Chapel School students and community youth are welcome too!

THE CHAPEL SCHOOL NEWS

By Principal Michael Schultz

What's Happening @ TCS in February?

7th/8th Grade Chargers host Holy Name Valhalla in Bronxville High School's Main Gymnasium, after 6th Grade faced off with ICS Tuckahoe.



TCS middle school students joining Dr. Martinez as representatives of TCS at 2026 Brearley Hackathon (1/10/26)!

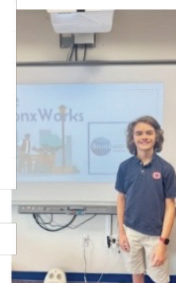
GATHERING of FRIENDS: A Taste of the Caribbean ~ March 20, 2026 @ Surf Club on The Sound. Early Bird ends 1/18. Tickets on Sale! Seeking gifts. Ongoing planning. Thanks Co-Chairs Keisha Glenn-Hutton, Shaniqua Raphael & Michelle Walsh. Congrats Community Champions Michael & Athena Kerin!



Auditions for TCS's Spring Musical ...

Disney's "Beauty & The Beast" ... were held Friday, January 23!
Live Performances are planned for April 23-25, 2026! Mark Your Calendars!

Great Job Max Tinson! January SL2 Project for BronxWorks!



SUMMER PROGRAM & NEW Vacation Week Programs 2026

Brochure and Website LIVE 1/9. Open Houses 3/14 and 4/26. Registrations coming in already. Winter Vacation has 32 registered. Easter Week has 4 registered. Care Bear Summer has 39 registered already.



TCS Offering Recipients ~ February & March 2026

FEBRUARY – Lutheran Schools Association.

MARCH – The Wartburg.

2026 Gathering of Friends Community Champions



Every year, VLC & The Chapel School selects a Community Champion(s)--individuals who are role models and emblematic of the community's values and standards of excellence, dedication, self-sacrifice, humility and faith. We are thrilled to officially announce the 2026 Gathering of Friends Community Champions: MICHAEL AND ATHENA KERIN

Michael and Athena Kerin stand out as exemplary figures in both the medical field and their community, embodying a profound commitment to philanthropy and service. Michael, a distinguished General Surgeon, has over three decades of experience transforming lives through his surgical practice. His journey began with a strong educational foundation, earning his bachelor's degree from Case Western Reserve University, followed by a medical degree from the New Jersey Medical School. Born and raised in the Bronx, he returned to New York to complete his surgical training at St. Vincent's Hospital and begin his practice. His entrepreneurial spirit is evident in his successful transition from traditional surgery to establishing Kerin MedSpa and Laser Center, where he merges surgical knowledge and techniques with advanced aesthetic treatments. Michael's dedication extends beyond his practice, as he actively participates in charitable work with non-profit organizations to enhance educational opportunities for the community. Athena Kerin complements Michael's efforts with her multifaceted background in healthcare and philanthropy. With a Master's in Anesthesia and an MBA from NYU Stern, she has excelled in leadership roles, optimizing anesthesia operations and educating future professionals. Her passion for community service aligns with her commitment to healthcare, as evidenced by medical missions and significant philanthropic contributions. Together, the Kerins embody a powerful partnership that leverages their skills and experiences to uplift those around them. Their dedication to family, work, and community serves as an inspiring model of how personal and professional endeavors can harmoniously intertwine to create a lasting impact. Adding to their legacy, Michael and Athena are proud parents of two boys, Agron and Titus, whom they are actively involving in their philanthropic efforts. By including their children in initiatives focused on making impactful contributions, they instill in them the values of service and responsibility. This hands-on approach not only teaches the boys about the importance of giving back but also prepares them to understand the significance of their actions within the community. As a family, they emphasize that meaningful efforts start at home, fostering a culture of empathy and engagement that will guide the next generation in making a positive difference. Congratulations Michael and Athena Kerin. You are truly deserving of this honor! For ways you can offer your support to the 2026 Gathering of Friends click the link or scan the QR code below:



[Gala Tickets, Tables, & Benefactor/Sponsorships](#)

[Journal Sponsorships](#)

[Donate an Auction Item](#)

[2026 Gathering of Friends: A Taste of the Caribbean! \(www.linktree.com/thechapelschool\)](#)

Your 2026 Gathering of Friends Co-Chairs,
Keisha, Michelle, & Shaniqua

GatheringofFriends@TheChapelSchool.org

Village Lutheran Church &
The Chapel School
172 White Plains Road
Bronxville, NY 10708

VLC-NY.org
TheChapelSchool.org

Return Service Requested

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MEMORIAL/HONORED VOICES

TO KNOW, LIVE AND SHARE THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Under the blessing of God, the mission of Village Lutheran Church is a ministry of the Word and Sacraments. This ministry gives opportunities for mission, witness, nurture, fellowship, stewardship and service. It focuses on the specific needs of individuals and groups within the congregation and extends to the church-at-large, the community and the world.

The Chapel School is an integral part of the congregation's ministry directed specifically to children. It provides a distinctive Christian education enabling children to evidence a Christian lifestyle and to achieve academic success.

TO GOD ALONE BE GLORY

In Loving Memory of
Rev. Dr. James Zwernemann
from
Sallie Gordon & Kenneth Schwenke

In Loving Memory of
Wilma DeRosa
from
Mr. & Mrs. Fred Swain

In Loving Memory of
Sharon Sjonvall
from
Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Cosentino