

## **VLC Deacon Commissioned**

Bronxville, NY - Village Lutheran Church commissioned Morris Mayer of Scarsdale as a Deacon on Saturday, November 13 at the church's 5:30 PM Service of Holy Communion. According to Dr. Robert Hartwell, Senior Pastor of the church, "The diaconate program is very familiar to many because other denominations have an active diaconate, including the Roman Catholic Church and the Episcopal Church." In the Lutheran tradition, Deacons are understood as dedicated laypeople that assist the Pastoral Office in what is called "Ministries of Word and Service" after appropriate training. The program is open to men and women and involves two years of course work and a 200 hour internship in the local congregation. The congregation currently has eight Deacons and six more in the process of training or internship.

The Deacon Training Program is sponsored by the church's Atlantic District (diocese) of the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod. The training program is held on Village Lutheran Church's campus in Bronxville. Students come from churches in Westchester, Putnam and the Bronx.

Deacons at Village Lutheran Church help to visit the sick and homebound, and also may lead particular areas of ministry. Deacon Morris is the congregation's Fellowship Ministry Coordinator and leads a Fellowship Action Group that plans events and opportunities for fellowship activities. According to Deacon Mayer, "It is such a privilege to serve this community through my diaconate service. I have been blessed to have learned, through the diaconate training, that not only on Sunday but everyday to do what is needed to help know, live and share the love of Christ."

Rev. Roy Minnix, Associate Pastor talked about the value of the Deacon Program as a way to enhance ministry to the community. "The VLC is growing and changing and the Diaconate is just one aspect of that change. Our emphasis has been on helping all who are a part of our community grow in faith and become actively involved in ministry. God's grace is too rich and the needs of the world are too deep, one or two pastors cannot do all that is needed."

Deacon Mayer is married to Muti and they have two daughters, Diana and Stefanie. Village Lutheran Church is located at 172 White Plains Road in the Village of Bronxville. Village Church (chartered as Concordia Lutheran Church) was founded in 1916.

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**Photo Credit: Village Lutheran Church**

**Photo Captions:**

**Mayercommissioning: (l-r) Rev. Dr. Robert Hartwell, Rev. Roy Minnix, Deacon Morris Mayer**

**MayerFamily: (l-r) Deacon Morris Mayer, Mutiara Mayer, Diana Mayer, Stefanie Introcaso**

**Mayergroup : Bishop David Benke (center left) and Deacon Morris Mayer (center right) are surrounding by participants in Deacon Mayer's Commissioning.**

**Mayerwithgloria: (l-r) Mayer's father, Arnold Mayer, Deacon Morris Mayer, Mayer's mother, Gloria Mayer.**