

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

re:FORMING #4: "The True Sacrifice" 1 Kings 18:16-39

Opener: Briefly share a personal experience of sacrifice in your own life or that of someone you know.

Go Deeper:

1. How did the spiritual state of Israel under King Ahab and Queen Jezebel contribute to the need for a significant spiritual intervention?
2. Consider the prophets of Baal and their fervent prayers and rituals. What does their futile attempt to invoke their god reveal about the emptiness of false worship and human efforts to please God?
3. What symbolism can be found in the act of Elijah repairing the altar of the Lord?
4. Read Elijah's prayer for God's intervention in verses 36-37. What does his prayer teach us about faith and trust in the Almighty?
5. Consider the impact of this divine intervention on the people who witnessed it (verse 39). How might it have transformed their understanding of God and true faith?

Live It:

1. In what ways do people today engage in tearing down true worship, or in offering false sacrifices, attempting to find meaning and connection with a higher power?
2. How can we discern between genuine worship and that of religious rituals that lack truth in our contemporary context?
3. Read Romans 12:1-2. How can we practically apply this teaching in our everyday lives?
4. Discuss potential challenges and opportunities in proclaiming Christ's sacrificial love in a world filled with various belief systems and ideologies.
5. Read Hebrews 9:11-14 and close in prayer, thanking Jesus as your true sacrifice.

Sunday, November 5

Communion & All Saints Day

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Discovering Victory 101, C4

Monday, November 6

9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

Tuesday, November 7

1:30pm Africa Mission Trip Info. Meeting, B7
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, November 8

9-11:30am Food Pantry
9:30am Women's Ministry Leadership, FS
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
4pm I-HELP, C4
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, November 9

10am Prayer Group, LR
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
4pm I-HELP, C4

Friday, November 10

Office Closed

Saturday, November 11 - Veterans Day

8am Men's Bible Study, FS
9am-2pm Stephen Ministry Training
1pm Donald Jader Memorial, WC
4pm Worship, WC
5pm Q&A Pre-Meeting Session, B7
5pm Operation Christmas Child
Shoobox Packing Party, FH

Save the Date!

Annual Congregational Meeting
November 19 @ 10:30am

Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
hello@victorylutheran.com
480-830-5024
VictoryLutheran.com

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LR = Luther Room
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

We would love to hear your story!

If you have a story to share of healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a mission or ministry at Victory, please send to hello@victorylutheran.com.
(200-300 word limit)

Daily Bible Readings (November 5-11)

Sunday: 1 Kings 18:17-39
Monday: 1 Kings 18:41-46
Tuesday: 1 Kings 19:1-8
Wednesday: 1 Kings 19:9-18
Thursday: 1 Kings 19:19-21
Friday: 2 Kings 1:1-8
Saturday: 2 Kings 1:9-17

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar our sermon series is based on.



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

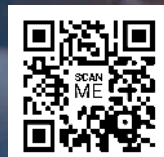
re:FORMING



November 4 & 5, 2023
"The True Sacrifice"
1 Kings 18:16-39

THE PULSE

Connect with us!



GOD TIME: Spiritual Pilgrimage

Pastor Todd Mathison

Last month, a team from Victory embarked on a spiritual pilgrimage, retracing the steps of the Apostle Paul on his final journey to Rome. One of the places we explored were the ancient catacombs of Rome, where devout families, centuries ago, tenderly placed their loved ones in niches carved into the walls. Though the bones had long since turned to dust and been removed, my fingers gently touched the hallowed ground, connecting with a profound past.



Soon after my return, I found myself in Victory's Columbarium, standing with a grieving family. Together, we placed their beloved's earthly remains into a wall niche. In that moment, I felt a deep revelation — a blend of sorrow for the loss and a profound hope rooted in Jesus Christ, mirroring the faith of early Christians.

This experience echoes Paul's comforting words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13: "We do not want you to grieve like the rest who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him" (1 Thessalonians 4:13-14, ESV).

Our faith transcends time, grounded in the truth that all in Christ experience renewal in this life and the assurance of resurrection yet to come. This enduring hope allows us to stand by gravesides with unwavering confidence, proclaiming, "In the sure and certain hope of the resurrection to eternal life through our Lord, Jesus Christ, we commend to almighty God our brother or sister, committing their remains to their final resting place. From dust they were taken, to dust they shall return, and from dust, they shall rise again to everlasting life."

For more information about Victory's Columbarium options, pick up a brochure at the Welcome Desk or contact the office at 480-830-5024.

NOV. 4/5 - ALL SAINTS DAY

Merle Ahrens
Betty Anderson
Jarid Bartlett
Richard Brehmer
Allan Burr
Jack Henry Carlson
Faustino Cruz
Duane Cummings
Eleanor Dahle
Wayne Enderson
Virginia Evenson
Wally Fjelstad
Steven Richard Frye
Trudy Gaines

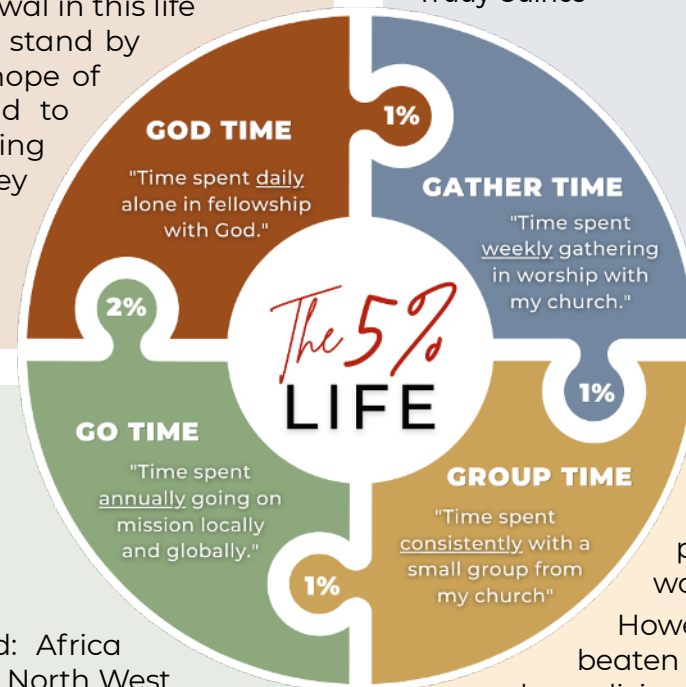
Pat Gannon
Richard Garley
George Gunderson
Hazel Hahn
Richard Halverson
Linda Hancock-Schmid
Ken Holmes
Julia Ibarra
James Keller
Susan King-Mendez
Chuck Kleinsteuber
Jim Kuemmerle
Penelope Kylo

Jim Landis
Paul Larson
Kitty Lovitt
Artie Lueck
Racheal Marin
Marvin McCoy
Joy Mortensen
Daniel Mueller
Audrey Myckleby
Dorothy Myers
Ron Nelson
Jerry Olson
Eileen Opsahl
Shirley Osborn
Jerry Philpott

Clayton Priewe
Nancy Rohrer
Richard Rosenlof
Donna Roumagoux
Richard Ruelle
Marv Ryum
Jack Sell
Deb Severson
Jacquie Stuelke
Elsie Stoetzer
Ron Sundstrom
Kathy Upton
Jean Van Buren
Harry Wells
Merrill Zimmer



In remembrance of our loved ones, the weekend of November 4 & 5 we honor those who have "gone home to the Lord" within the past year.



DID YOU KNOW?

In the Middle Ages the Church celebrated both All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day. All Saints' Day was the day when the Church remembered the Christian martyrs, whereas All Souls' Day was the day when the Church commemorated and prayed for the dead. The idea was to help the dead go through purification in purgatory and enter into heaven by praying for them. At the Reformation in the 16th century the existence of purgatory as a place of punishment or purification was rejected. Consequently, All Souls' Day was abolished. The Church kept All Saints' Day to commemorate those who died for the sake of their faith.

GO TIME:

South Africa Mission Trip Info Meeting November 7 @ 1:30pm



ORCHARD: AFRICA
orchardafrica.org

People of Victory are going on a mission trip to South Africa next year. Might that include you?

Scheduled for April 11-22, 2024, this trip is with our mission partner Orchard: Africa (orchardafrica.org). Victory helped fund the building of a new Impact Center in the North West Province of South Africa, and this team will be the first from Victory to see this new mission resource in action.

Begin the journey by coming to a Mission Trip Information Meeting on Thursday, November 7, from 1:30-2:30pm. Whether you are a seasoned missionary or someone eager to participate in this kingdom cause, this trip promises to be a life-changing adventure. No need to sign up; just show up, with a heart ready to learn what God is doing through this partnership with Orchard: Africa, as we get to be part of the mission to equip the church to care for the most vulnerable.

Orchard: Africa Zoolights Annual Fundraiser Friday, November 17 @ The Phoenix Zoo

Enjoy dinner, highlights from ministry in South Africa, amazing raffle and auction items as well as an exclusive viewing of Zoolights — a dazzling display of millions of twinkling lights.

Doors open at 6:00pm. Dinner is served at 6:30pm. Program begins at 7:00pm. All proceeds and funds raised go toward caring for vulnerable families in Southern Africa.

Purchase tickets at the link below or scan the QR code.

www.eventbrite.com/e/orchard-zoolights-tickets-707874460567



GROUP TIME: Suellen Palya, GriefShare Facilitator

Three years ago Paul died of post polio syndrome. We had been attending Victory and I saw that they had a GriefShare program. I completed the sessions and Blair Revak asked if I would be interested in facilitating.



However, I am not new to grief. Six years ago my 48 year old son, Kris, was beaten and left to die from blunt force trauma. He had drug and alcohol problems and had been living in homeless communities around the United States. We stayed in contact. He friended me on Facebook and we became close friends. Whenever he would call me, I would be there to say, "Hey Kris, I love you. I don't agree with the lifestyle you've chosen. But I pray to God that you will be well." I kind of anticipated that I would be getting a call someday saying that he was deceased. One day, I happened to be visiting in Minneapolis during the summer. I was at Perkins Restaurant when I got the call from someone asking to speak with my daughter, Jan. I said, she's not here. And she said, "You're the mom? . . . I'm sorry to tell you this over the phone, but we found your son deceased this morning under the highway in Minneapolis." It was such a God thing with me being there!

When Kris passed away, I decided that Victory Lutheran would be my church home. His tragedy led me to a national organization called Parents of Murdered Children. I am now on the board for the Valley of the Sun chapter. I've attended three national conferences, and I even presented a workshop about the emotional journey after hearing about the murder of your child. It's been a very important part of my life — as important as the GriefShare program.

My new book I just finished writing is titled "Conversations with Kris: Letters Between Mom and her Murdered Son." It's letters between Kris and I about our life journey together. The purpose of the book is to help survivors remember the life our loved ones lived and help to keep their memory alive as we heal from grief and trauma.

GriefShare: Surviving the Holidays | Monday, November 13, 12:30-2:30pm

