

## Sermon Notes

## Life Notes

## Upcoming Week

### 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](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com).  
(200-300 word limit)

### Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: 2 Samuel 5:1-5, 6:1-5; Psalm 150  
Monday: 1 Kings 2:1-4  
Tuesday: 1 Kings 3:3-14  
Wednesday: 1 Kings 3:16-28  
Thursday: 1 Kings 4:29-34  
Friday: 1 Kings 9:1-9  
Saturday: 1 Kings 11:1-13

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

### re:FORMING #2: "From Ordinary to Extraordinary" 2 Samuel 5:1-5

**Opener:** Share the name of someone in your life who has inspired you through their faith-filled actions. What qualities did they possess that made their lives extraordinary?

#### Go Deeper:

1. Explore 1 Samuel 16:7. How does this verse illuminate the way God sees the heart, not just the outward appearance? How can this perspective shape the way we view ourselves and others in the context of God's calling?
2. Share a personal experience of facing a trial or challenge. How did that experience shape your character and faith?
3. Discuss the concept of divine calling. Why do you think God often calls people in the midst of their everyday tasks? How does this challenge our perception of what is considered significant in God's eyes?
4. In what ways can we surrender our will to God during difficult times, allowing Him to refine us?

#### Live It:

1. Reflect on your own life journey. In what way might you perceive yourself as ordinary? How might God be shaping your ordinary moments for a grand purpose?
2. Read Jeremiah 1:5. How does this verse relate to the idea that God forms us with a purpose even before we are born? Discuss the significance of God's knowledge of us before our earthly existence.
3. Read James 1:2-4. How does this passage provide a perspective on trials and the formation of our faith? How can we find joy amidst challenges, knowing that God uses them to mold us into vessels of His glory?
4. As a group, spend time in prayer, surrendering your challenges and imperfections to God. Ask for His strength and wisdom to navigate through difficult times, trusting in His transformative power.

### Sunday, October 22

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

### Monday, October 23

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

### Tuesday, October 24

1:30-3:00pm Book Club   
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

### Wednesday, October 25

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

### Thursday, October 26

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

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

### Friday, October 27

Office Closed

### Saturday, October 28

**Reformation Weekend - Wear Red!**  
8am Men's Bible Study, FS  
4pm Worship, WC

## Refor-fest

Oct. 29 - Hymn Festival @ 3pm  
Oct. 29 - Oktoberfest @ 4pm  
Oct. 30 - Luther Movie @ 10am & 6pm

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## re:FORMING

October 21 & 22, 2023  
"From Ordinary to Extraordinary"  
2 Samuel 5:1-5



Connect with us!



## GOD TIME:

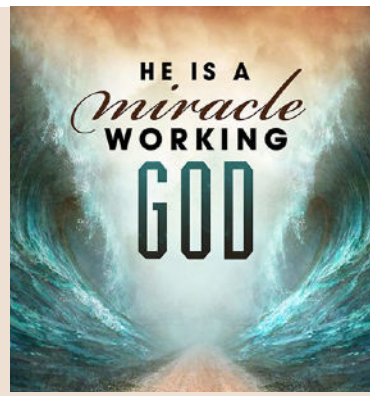
Have you ever considered what constitutes a miracle? Biblically speaking, miracles involve the direct and powerful action of God doing something uncommon, supernatural, and usually awe-inspiring in order to reveal himself to the world. Miracles are extraordinary and can be a bit overwhelming when they are experienced firsthand. Did you know God is doing miraculous things among us here in the Victory church family?

In the short time I have been here at Victory, I have witnessed both small and large miracles among the people of God. One in particular happened this past week.

My journey with this person began right after I arrived, and I visited them in the hospital. They were not doing well and as time progressed the doctors told them they needed to get their affairs in order. The doctors told them the only treatment to offer was to help keep this person comfortable in their final days. When I received word of the doctor's report, I took communion to this patient. During our prayer time, we asked Jesus to show us that He is still a God of miracles, and we would take even the smallest of miracles from Jesus in response to the faithful prayers of this person.

Then, on Monday, I walked into their room at a care center, fully expecting the person to be closer to going home to Jesus than to their home in Mesa. However, they were sitting up in a chair talking with family and friends. Wow, talk about a miracle! We all teared up as talked about the doctor's plan to begin teaching them how to walk again. God sure gave them a miracle, and not just a tiny miracle either. This was a big miracle we praise God for. So yes, God is on the move among us, listening to our prayers and answering us in miraculous, unexpected, faith building ways that draw us closer to His heart.

*Pastor Susan Westland*



## Kristin Holton Prouty, Director of Music

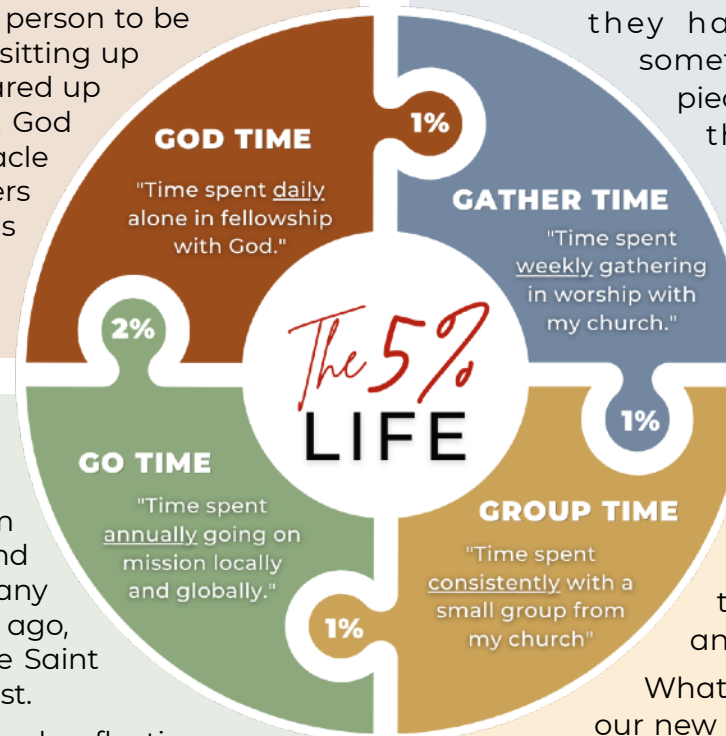
As the hymn goes, "We gather together to ask the Lord's blessing!" He can and does bless us all the time, but there is something very special about joining as a group to sing His praise and celebrate our freedom to worship as we choose. On Reformation weekend it is especially fitting to come together to raise our voices in song, as Martin Luther was a firm believer in the necessity of corporate singing as a part of worship. He wrote that "the gift of language combined with the gift of song was given to man that he should proclaim the Word of God through music."

So often people come to me after a service or a concert and share how a specific piece of music has touched their heart. Sometimes it's a song they have sung since childhood, sometimes it's a completely new piece that reached them in a way they needed that day. But whenever we come together with the purpose of making music to the glory of God alone, Soli Deo Gloria, lives will be changed.

## GATHER TIME:

### Hymn Festival | October 29 @ 3pm

Soli Deo Gloria - Join us as we celebrate the Reformation through music! Martin Luther wrote, "next to the Word of God, music deserves the highest praise!" On Reformation Sunday the Victory choir, together with organ and brass, will lead as we sing great hymns of faith and celebrate music through the principles of the Reformation: in Christ alone, by Grace alone, through Faith alone, as revealed by Scripture alone, to the glory of God alone. Invite a friend and come raise your voice and heart as we honor over 500 years of the reforming and transforming work which Luther began.



## GO TIME: Pilgrimage "In the Footsteps of the Apostle Paul"

**Gio Begano, AVL Coordinator**

Hello Victory Family! I am happy to report that we pilgrims have returned from Rome, Sicily, and Malta safely! We experienced many moments of friendship and fun, along with deeply fulfilling looks into the history of our faith. We visited many churches, chapels, and catacombs that had been built not just hundreds of years ago, but thousands in some cases. I will never forget the fresco of Jesus Christ in the Saint Callixtus Catacombs in Rome, that had been painted in the 8th Century after Christ.



I had a lot of moments of that same feeling and reflection, informed by the sermon we had last heard from Pastor Todd: "God's Faithfulness Over Time," in which one point stood out in particular: "God's faithfulness is not bound by time." This is a belief that I experienced firsthand throughout the trips, being in the presence these ancient basilicas, prisons, and grottos where the Apostle Paul himself spent time in, leading to his final days before martyrdom in Rome. If these places have bested the test of time purely off of the faith and love for the Lord from his people, who have taken care of them over hundreds if not thousands of years, truly God's faithfulness is not bound by time either!



Follow the journey at [victorylutheran.com/spiritual-pilgrimage-italy/](http://victorylutheran.com/spiritual-pilgrimage-italy/) or scan the QR code with your phone's camera and tap on the link.

## PRAYER GROUP

Did you know prayer is vital to the life and health of Victory Lutheran Church! In fact, prayer is so vital to the life and health of God's people that He tells us in Colossians 4:2 that we should, "Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful." God also tells us in Jeremiah 33:3 that if we . . . "Call to me and I will answer you and tell you great and hidden things that you have not known."

What great words of encouragement for us to consider as we here at Victory pray for our new Associate Pastor the Holy Spirit is in the process of bringing to serve us. Our call to pray is so important that we have a weekly prayer meeting each Thursday from 10-11 am in the Luther Room. During this time of prayer we gather as God's people to pray for our congregation, our leaders, Pastors, and staff.

With God's call for us to pray spoken of in Psalm 6:9 that reads, "The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord will answer my prayer", we here at Victory gather for a powerful Holy Spirit led Prayer and Praise worship service the first Thursday of each month. This special service, held in the beautiful courtyard chapel from 10-11 am, is a time for us to come together and sing and pray and worship our Lord. This worship and prayer service is led by members of our prayer team, with opportunities for anyone who feels called to also share in prayer. **Please plan to join us for our next Prayer & Praise Worship Service, November 2 @ 10am**, as we lift up our congregation, the transition process with the new Associate Pastor, our church leaders, Pastors and staff — along with our local, regional and global missions.

