

Sermon Notes

re:FORMING #3: Divided For A Purpose October 28 & 29, 2023

1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29; Jeremiah 18:1-10

Opener: Share a time when you remember being disciplined for your good as a child. What did you learn?

Go Deeper:

1. What historical events led to the division of the Kingdom of Israel, and what were the key factors that contributed to this division?
2. According to 1 Kings 12:15, why did God allow the division of the Kingdom of Israel? How does this connect to the division in the Catholic Church during the Reformation?
3. Why did the Reformation happen? What precipitated the break, and what perpetuated the split?
4. In Jeremiah 18:6-11, God compares His people to clay in the potter's hand. What does this reveal about God's purpose in disciplining His people? How does this relate to the division in Israel and the Church?

Live It:

1. Hebrews 12:5-7 talks about God's discipline as an expression of love. How can we distinguish between God's discipline and hardships that are not necessarily a result of divine intervention?
2. God's work of forming and re:FORMING is going on yet today. In what ways do you think the Church, and even individual believers, need continuous reformation today? How can we actively participate in this process of renewal and restoration?
3. Discuss the significance of God Time, Gather Time, Group Time and Go Time in a believer's life. How can these aspects of worship, community, fellowship and mission contribute to spiritual growth and resilience in times of discipline?
4. How might God be disciplining you in this season of your life? What might God be trying to teach you?

Daily Bible Readings (Oct. 29-Nov.4)

Sunday: 1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-19
Monday: 1 Kings 16:29-33
Tuesday: 1 Kings 17:1-7
Wednesday: 1 Kings 17:8-16
Thursday: 1 Kings 17:17-24
Friday: 1 Kings 18:1-6
Saturday: 1 Kings 18:7-16

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

Life Notes

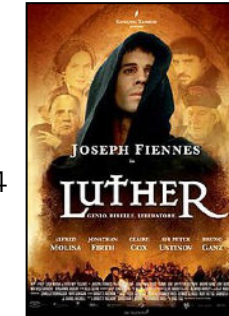
Upcoming Week

Sunday, October 29

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
3pm Hymn Festival, WC
4pm Oktoberfest, FH

Monday, October 30

9-11:30am Food Pantry
10am "Luther" Movie, FH
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4
6pm "Luther" Movie, FH



Tuesday, October 31

7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, November 1

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
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, November 2

10am Prayer & Praise Service, CH
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS

Friday, November 3

Office Closed

Saturday, November 4

8am Men's Bible Study, FS
4pm Worship, WC

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

Refor-fest

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

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VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Sola Gratia
Christus
Scrip
Fide
Sola Deo Gloria



October 28 & 29, 2023
"Divided for a Purpose"
1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29

THE
PULSE

Connect with us!



GOD TIME:

Delores Strains, VLC member for 27 years

Like so many of us, Delores Strains is a lifelong believer in Jesus and longtime member of Victory. Due to health issues, Delores currently worships with us from home through our live-stream services.

On a recent visit, Delores shared with me that she was born in Sheboygan Wisconsin at her parents' home in 1924 and was baptized just 8 days later on Pentecost Sunday.

As a lifelong disciple of Jesus Christ, Delores remembers professing faith in her Savior at a young age through the work of the Holy Spirit. She has always had a love for the Bible and believes Jesus leads, guides, and encourages her through God's Word.

During her lifetime she has seen the Lord working in her life many times. One such time happened when the Spirit used the open door of a rental property, a stained-glass window of Jesus knocking on a door, and a pastor's sermon to teach Delores to listen for opportunities to teach people to open the door of their hearts when Jesus is knocking.

Delores still believes Christ gets our attention in many ways and in our conversation that day she told me, "I never imagined that at my age I would still hear stories about Christ knocking on the hearts of people in my life who are coming to faith in Jesus!"

What about us? Have you been hearing Jesus knocking on the doors of your heart recently? Delores would like us to know that her prayer for all of us at Victory is that we will, "always keep strong in our faith in Jesus."



German birth certificate (b. 1924)

GATHER TIME: Discovering Victory 101

Sunday, November 5, 11am-1pm (includes a free lunch)



Wondering why you should be part of our vibrant congregation? At Victory, we're not just a church; we're a family that values knowing God, meaningful connections, and making a difference in the world. By becoming a part of Victory Lutheran Church, you'll find unwavering support, engaging worship, and opportunities to serve others. It's a place where your faith deepens, your friendships flourish, and your impact grows.

Join us as we uncover the unique grace-centered approach Victory offers to align your beliefs, life, and mission. This session isn't just about membership; it's a transformative starting point that could revolutionize your spiritual journey within Victory and beyond. To secure your spot, simply sign up at the Welcome Desk. Plus, enjoy a complimentary lunch on us! See you there!

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)



GO TIME: Operation Christmas Child Mike & Marcia Hurry, Coordinator

Hello just a quick introduction for those of you who may not know us other than as the shoebox people. We are Mike & Marcia Hurry. We love the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox ministry!

Our passion for this mission all started here at Victory Lutheran Church after one of Pastor Kassebaum's services. We were handed a simple little shoebox with the instructions inside to go pack a shoebox. Who doesn't love kids and shopping? It was the perfect fit for us. This started a fire in us to do more for God's kids.

I reached out to the area regional team to be a year-round volunteer. I served as their team Admin for 4 years maintaining and organizing the data base and communications for the Southeast Valley Team. I assisted with events and met speakers who received a shoebox as a child just like one you may be packing. They shared their stories of how precious those packed items were to them. Most importantly, how this shoebox was a gospel box. They learned of the greatest gift from God, of our Savior Jesus.

The Lord is always directing and guiding Mike, as the lead shopper, to track down sales and bargains for school supplies, toys and clothing all year long to have ready for the packing party. We reach out to coworkers, family and friends all year for donation items. My coworker has her mother, aunts and cousins in other countries and states all crocheting hats, purses and scarves for the shoeboxes. My sister shops for good deals in Minnesota and delivers them to us every year. *Dresses for Orphans* donated 100 t-shirts to Victory this year once again. Praise God for all He brings to us for this mission event!

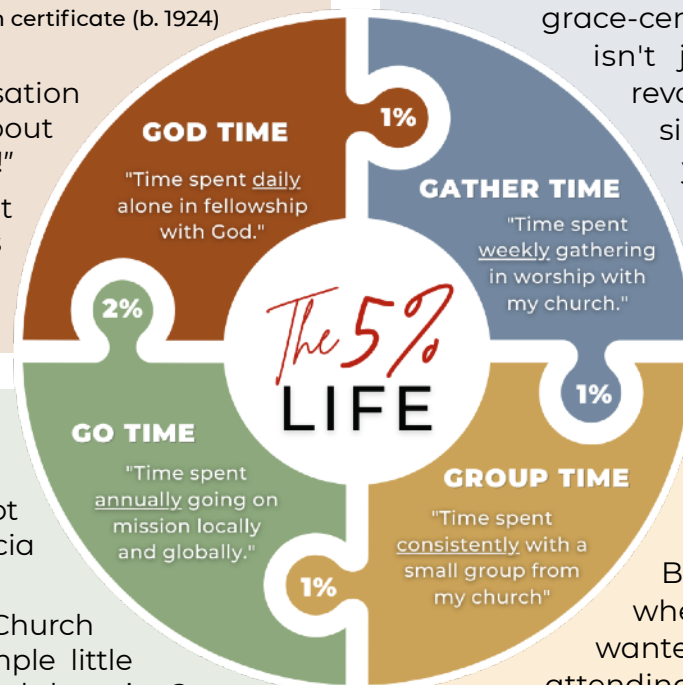
It is our prayer that you will feel God's call to bless his children through these little shoeboxes. We also wish to thank you all for your generosity in the past and future.



Pick up your shoebox today and return by November 19th.

Mark your calendar for the "Packing Party" on November 11, 2023 @ 5pm!

See the November newsletter for more details.



GROUP TIME: WOMEN'S MINISTRY Bethie Smith, President



In the past, I was working so I couldn't attend the Women's Bible Study groups during the day. Therefore, one of my goals when we came to Victory about eight years ago, was that I wanted to become more involved with the church. I started attending Esperanza Group with a good friend, Sharon Scott. She was the elected President, and needed a Vice President. We happened to be the younger of the group, and so that's kind of how I ended up as Vice President. It's been a good experience to learn the workings of the Women's Ministry. We went through a name change last year from VLCW to Women's Ministry to help it feel more accessible to people. We feel like it's a well-kept secret because people don't seem to know much about it. We are working to get the word out.

Bible Study Groups exist year-round and meet once a month. I enjoy the group. It's gives me a chance to hear other people's thoughts about different parts of the Bible. Our next meeting is November 14th. Check with the church office at 480-830-5024 for more details.

Women's Ministry donates to Missionary for Today, we support Fair Trade (crafts made by those in third world countries), year-end gifts are given to selected people or groups who have given extra time to the church, and we have a hospitality team that serves at memorial services.

Women's Ministry holds two major luncheons a year (Spring and Winter) where we invite an outside non-profit to come in and speak. This is a great opportunity to learn about missions outside of Victory. We will be selling tickets beginning November 22nd for our next luncheon event on **December 9, 2023 at 11:00am** featuring **Helen's Hope Chest**. It was founded in 2009 to provide basic needs to Arizona's foster children and the families who care for them.