

Sermon Notes

Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Ruth 1:1-17
Monday: 1 Samuel 16:1-13
Tuesday: 1 Samuel 18:1-5
Wednesday: 1 Samuel 18:6-16
Thursday: 1 Samuel 24:1-7
Friday: 1 Samuel 24:8-15
Saturday: 1 Samuel 24:16-22

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

Life Notes

re:FORMING #1: "God's Unfolding Grace"

Ruth 1:1-17; Ephesians 2:1-10; Psalm 126

Opener: The Book of Ruth takes place at a very dark time in Israel's history. (Read Judges 2:10-13 for context), What reason did the author give for the Israelites doing evil in the sight of the Lord? How might knowing what was going on in the culture Naomi and Ruth lived in influence the way we approach our reading of the Book of Ruth?

Go Deeper:

1. Read Ruth 1:1-17. What is the first thing you notice about the three women at the heart of this story?
2. In verses 8-13, as Naomi, Orpah and Ruth start out on the journey, what reasons does Naomi give Orpah and Ruth for going back to their families and gods?
3. In verse 14 Orpah leaves. As Ruth watches her sister-in-law, why doesn't she go with her?
4. Read Ruth 1:16-17 again. What reasons does Ruth give for wanting to stay with Ruth? Whose God does she want to surrender her life to: the gods of Moab or the God of Israel? What is the significance in Ruth's surrendering her life to the One True God of Israel?
5. In this story we have three women, three losses, and 3 different responses. Where is God's grace in each of these women's lives? Is God's grace limited by our impossible circumstances like those Naomi, Orpah and Ruth find themselves in?

Live It:

1. Ruth didn't allow her suffering to define her. Instead she allowed God's grace, given to her in these impossible circumstances, to refine and re:FORM her. What about us?
2. Where are you experiencing God's grace in this season of your life?
3. Naomi, "...heard in Moab that the Lord had come to the aid of his people by providing food for them." (verse 6) If God can send word to Naomi in a far off land, is there anywhere we can go that is too far for God's grace to reach us?
4. God's grace is still reaching out to the world, calling people home to His heart. Is there someone in your life God is calling you to share His grace with? If so, how will you respond?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, October 15

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

Monday, October 16

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

Tuesday, October 17

8:30am-2:00pm Quilters Group, FH
3pm Council Meeting, C4
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, October 18

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

Thursday, October 19

10am Prayer Group, LR
11am Stephen Ministry Meeting, CH
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
2pm Foundation Meeting, LR

Friday, October 20

Office Closed

Saturday, October 21

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 Rm.

How have you been living the 5% Life?

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)

Victory Lutheran Church

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



VICTORY
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re:FORMING

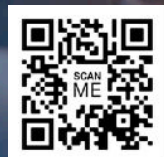


October 14 & 15, 2023
"God's Unfolding Grace"
Ruth 1:1-17



THE
PULSE

Connect with us!



GOD TIME: The Anchor in the Storm

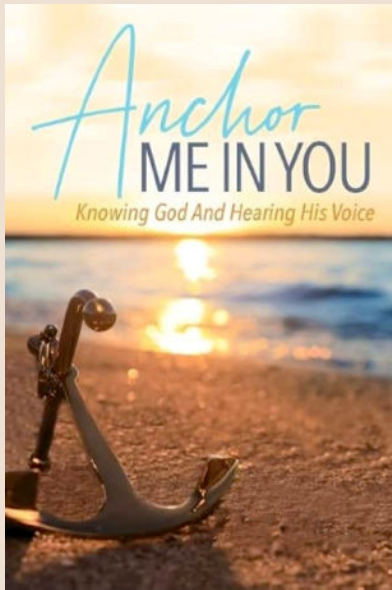
When we face problems and daily disruptions seem to have become the norm, it's human to feel fragile and afraid. However, during these tough times, we shouldn't forget the peace that comes from trusting in God's protection. Jesus once said, "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid." (John 14:27). He's telling us directly: He's given us peace, not the temporary kind, but lasting peace that stays through life's ups and downs.

Remember, the Bible is filled with stories of God helping people in scary situations. Think of David defeating Goliath for example — he won not because he was strong, but because he trusted God. We're in a similar spot when we face our fears. The problems are real, but God is with us, and He's stronger than any issue we're up against.

So, what do we do when everything seems too much? We should stop relying solely on our efforts. Instead, let's turn to prayer and remind ourselves that God is in control. His protection doesn't mean the absence of problems, but it means we're not alone in them. By trusting Him, we find the strength to not be fearful, even when the world is chaotic.

Meditate today on these other verses and may "the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7)

Psalm 56:3 | Isaiah 41:10 | Psalm 46:1-2 | Isaiah 26:3 | 1 Peter 5:7



Ted & Marilyn Peterson, accordionists

Ted was always interested in learning the accordion. In the beginning, we had a huge church organ in our living room that I would crank up so I didn't have to hear him practicing downstairs. But then, one day the pastor's daughter said, 'Marilyn, why don't you come join us? Just come find out who's going to show up.' The first night I thought, wow! There were 15 people that came. They were such nice people and I thought this might be a fun group to be a part of.

One of the most memorable places we've played at is called "Glory Days." It's a senior day program held at East Mesa



Christian Church for

Alzheimer patients. They love the accordion music! Older people grew up with accordions. And like our mother and father said, "Hey, you know, it's a lost art." It's been fun working with them. It's spiritual at times. This has become almost like a ministry to us. - Marilyn Peterson

GATHER TIME:

Reforfest

Hymn Festival | October 29 @ 3pm

Join us as we celebrate the Reformation through music! The Victory choir, together with organ and brass, will lead as we sing great hymns of faith.

Oktoberfest

October 29 @ 4pm

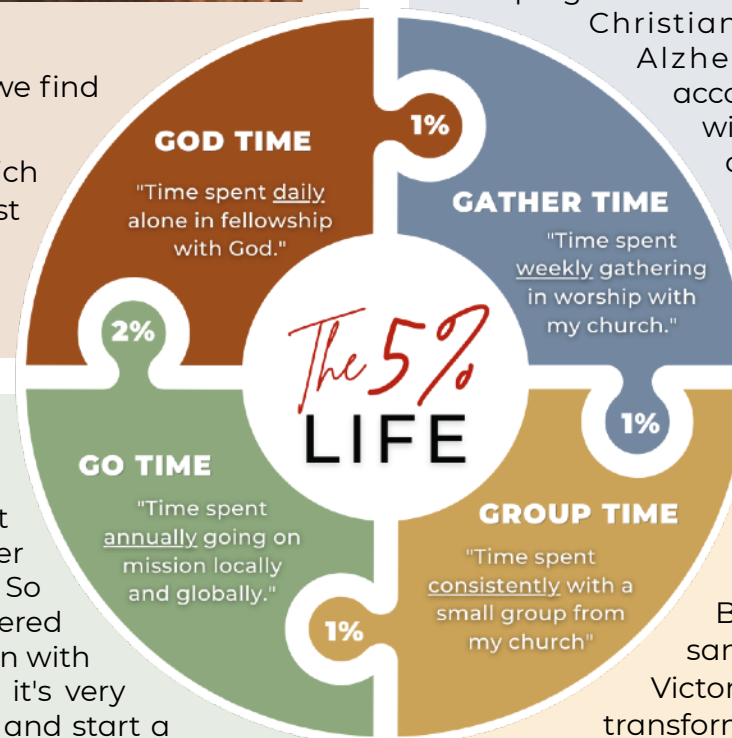
Get ready to savor mouthwatering brats, raise a toast with a variety of delicious beer and soft drinks, and dance away to the infectious rhythms of a live accordion band led by Ted &

Marilyn Peterson. RSVP at the Welcome Desk or online at VictoryLutheran.com.

"Luther" Movie | October 30

2 Showings - 10am & 6pm

Cap off "Reforfest" weekend and join us for a spiritually enriching experience as we screen the powerful 2003 film *Luther*. Free admission, popcorn and soft drinks.



GROUP TIME: The Book Club

Love to read books? The Book Club meets monthly on the 4th Tuesday from 1:30-3:00pm. We will discuss this month's selection, "God's Hotel" by Victoria Sweet. Please come prepared to discuss the monthly book selection.

Book Summary: In the heart of one of the most bustling cities lies an unexpected sanctuary: the last almshouse in America, known as Laguna Honda Hospital.

Victoria Sweet, a young physician, steps into this ancient world and finds herself on a transformative journey. "God's Hotel" isn't just a story about a place; it's a tale of rediscovery—of old medical practices, of a doctor's real purpose, and of the intricate dance

between life, illness, and healing. As Sweet cares for her patients, she unearths the wisdom of Hildegard of Bingen, a medieval nun and healer. This knowledge challenges the hustle of modern medicine, urging for a return to a more patient-centric and holistic approach. "God's Hotel" asks a profound question: **In our pursuit of efficiency and cure, have we forgotten the art of caring?**

Book/Meeting Schedule:

November 28, 2023 – "Christmas Jars" by Jason F. Wright

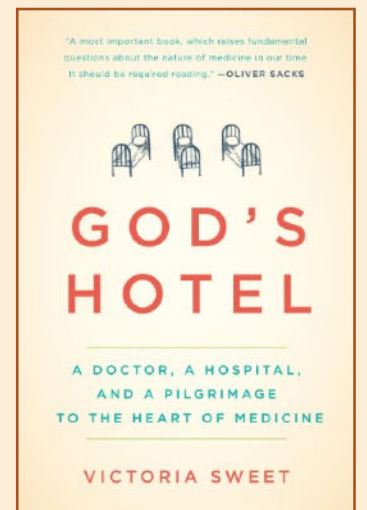
December 26, 2023 – *No meeting due to holiday*

January 22, 2024 – "1984" by George Orwell

February 27, 2024 – "The Lincoln Highway: A Novel" by Amor Towles

March 26, 2024 – "Ordinary Grace: A Novel" by William Kent Krueger

April 23, 2024 – "Bibi: My Story" by Benjamin Netanyahu



GO TIME: I-HELP Program

Bev Locke, Volunteer Coordinator

Twelve years ago, when the lady who was running I-HELP at that time, it was a very bare bones program, asked me to cover for her while she went to Michigan, and she never came back. So it just became my purpose. Sue McDermott and I have partnered together for about 10 years. We have volunteers that have been with us for nine years and they just keep coming back because it's very rewarding to see the ladies move on, get housing, have jobs, and start a new life. This past month we've had three ladies get housing.

Taking care of the ladies, even while my husband was very ill, was important to both of us. Don insisted that I keep going, keep making sandwiches, fixing dinner, baking muffins and greeting the ladies because he knew how important it was. That was the one commitment Don allowed me to continue, as long as I took care of him. He and Dan built the cupboards to store the bedding and air mattresses. He also built the shelves in the shower room so we could store towels.

After Don passed away, taking care of my ladies became even more important. It motivated me to get up every morning. I didn't have much time to sit around and moan in grief. We have just incredible teams of people that prepare meals, come in and set up the beds and they love it. We all have fun together and it's just a very nice way to serve and to do something sort of quietly behind the scenes.

COME & SEE!

All are invited on a Wednesday or Thursday, the 2nd and 4th week of the month, to come see what actually happens. In November, we are looking for individuals or groups who might want to make serving a meal a Thanksgiving project. Not only are we looking for breakfast chefs, but we will also need two crock pots of chili on Thursday and other food and snacks."

Watch for sign-ups in the lobby beginning November 1, or contact Bev Locke anytime at blocke1206@gmail.com or leave a text or message at 602-421-3279.

