

## Sermon Notes

### Daily Bible Readings:

Sunday: Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Monday: Exodus 32:1-14  
Tuesday: Deuteronomy 15:7-11  
Wednesday: Deuteronomy 16:18-20  
Thursday: Deuteronomy 17:14-20  
Friday: Deuteronomy 24:17-22  
Saturday: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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

## Life Notes

### Close Encounters #5: "Love the Lord Your God"

Deuteronomy 5:1-21  
Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Matthew 5:17; Matthew 22:37-40

**Opener:** What are some rules or laws that your parents or lawmakers imposed on you that you wanted to rebel against? Why was it hard to accept it? Did you try to understand the reason for the rule or law?

#### Go Deeper:

1. Read Deuteronomy 5:5-21. Why did God give these Ten Commandments to the Israelites?
2. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9, 18. How does this instruction feel versus the Ten Commandments?
3. Read Matthew 22:37-40. How is Jesus' instruction to the expert in the law similar to the law given through Moses? How is it different? What is newly added, clarified?
4. How does greatest and second greatest commandment given by Jesus align with the Ten Commandments? Which of the Ten Commandments are related to loving God, which are related to loving thy neighbor?
5. Read Matthew 5:17. What does it mean to know that the law is not abolished, but is fulfilled?

#### Live It:

1. What role does God's law play in your faith life?
2. Do you feel God's love expressed in His law? What does it mean to you when God says, "so that it may go well with you"?
3. Think of an example when it felt better to give love than to receive love. How is this joy different from receiving love?
4. Why are laws important even though we know we will fail? How does it feel to know that Jesus has already fulfilled the law?

## Upcoming Week

### Sunday, October 8

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

### Monday, October 9

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

### Tuesday, October 10

9:30am Esperanza Bible Study, FS  
1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meet in home  
2pm Naomi Bible Study, B7  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

### Wednesday, October 11

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

### Thursday, October 12

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

### Friday, October 13

Office Closed

### Saturday, October 14

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.

## Save the Date! Reforfest

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

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VICTORY  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

# CLOSE ENCOUNTERS

»» EDEN TO SINAI »»

October 7 & 8, 2023  
"Love the Lord Your God"  
Deuteronomy 5:1, 5-21

THE  
PULSE

Connect with us!





## GOD TIME:

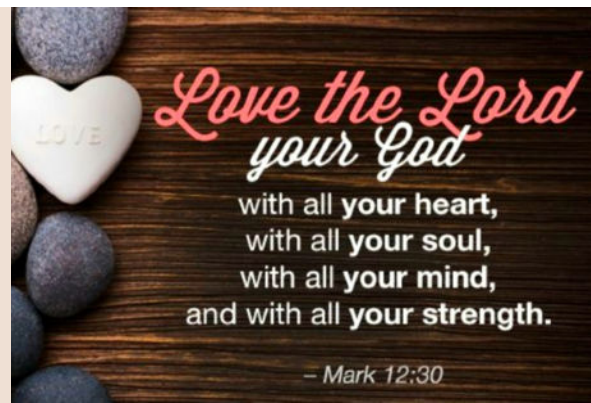
"When you examine your life, have you ever considered where God is working in the circumstances you are currently facing. Have you looked back over the years of your life and found that you are covered with the fingerprints of God?"

"I recently met a woman from our congregation who will soon be turning 96 years old. As we talked, I asked about her faith life. She explained she had been a Lutheran all her life. So then I asked her if she could remember when she first knew about Jesus."

"Tears welled up in her eyes as she put her hand on her heart where she said God lives. She then told me about an experience she had in her teens when Jesus found her. She said she was grateful for this encounter for as she put it, "My heart has always been prone to wander so I'm glad Jesus found me early." Then she remembered the hymn, "Come Thou Font of Every Blessing," she began to sing it from memory. The words she had memorized are, "Prone to wander, Lord I feel it, prone to leave the God I love; here's my heart; O take and seal it; seal it for Thy courts above." She then went on to share story after story about how God had guided her life and brought her back to His plans for her whenever she strayed from His path."

"What about us, are our hearts prone to wander? I know mine is, and so I pray that Jesus will encourage us with His love and grace as He calls us to remember God's faithfulness in our lives. I pray this week we will find time to spend time with Jesus talking to Him in prayer, thanking Him for helping our wandering hearts to stay connected to His heart."

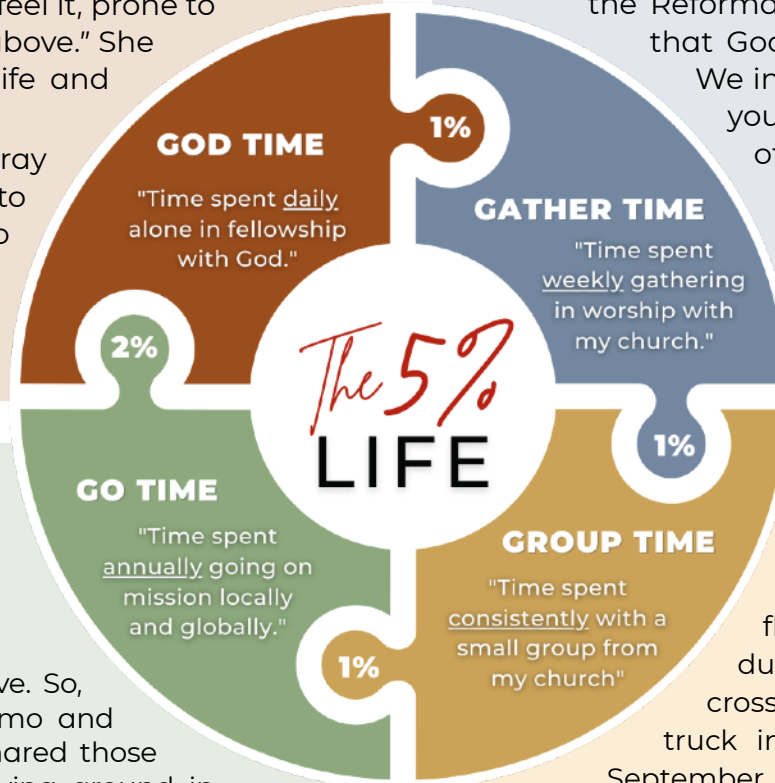
*Pastor Susan Westland, Church Chaplain*



## GATHER TIME:

Throughout the history of God's people, we witness both exemplary and flawed leaders, depicting a recurring pattern: a steadfast trust in God followed by a lapse into disobedience. In truth, our own journey might mirror this dichotomy found within the pages of scripture. Fortunately, God's love transcends our actions, grounded in God's unwavering character, compassion, and grace.

Starting next weekend, we called our new sermon series "**re:FORMING**." This title draws inspiration from a profound theological principle from the Latin phrase, "Ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda," translating to "the Church reformed, always reforming," guided by the Word of God and the Spirit's call. The unfolding narrative of God's redemptive plan shows people facing consequences, kingdoms dividing, and Churches splitting, such as in the Reformation. It is within these transformative moments that God meticulously refines and reshapes His people. We invite you to join us in this upcoming series, where you may even identify the subtle yet powerful hand of God at work within your own heart and life.



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

## GO TIME: "Making Life Just a Little Bit Easier" Blair Revak, GriefShare Facilitator

"My husband, David, and I practiced medicine together and we loved taking care of patients and helping other people. I realized that I wasn't saving lives every day. It was about making a life just a little bit easier for the patients, and learning to serve in love. So, when David became very ill, and proceeded to go through two years of chemo and radiation and preparation for dying we talked about all of those things. We shared those stories, the stories of taking care of patients, of serving God. As we were moving around in different parts of the of the country, we had the opportunity to work on Indian reservations and in other countries like Guatemala, always knowing that there was one little corner of the world that knew that we were serving and helping other people with their lives."

"So when David died, I thought I was prepared. I remember coming out of a women's meeting one day. I kept saying to myself, "What is on my shoulder?" I reached over with my right hand to touch my shoulder and there was nothing there. And all of a sudden it became clear to me that God was there on my shoulder telling me that I had to get busy and spend less time agonizing like I was over the loss of David."

"One day, a friend who worked at a thrift store asked me how I was doing since David's passing and I told her that I was having a really tough time and was looking for some programs or some kind of help. She said, "Wait right here!" She grabbed her GriefShare book and gave it to me. It was on her recommendation that I attended a couple of local GriefShare groups. Afterwards, I spoke in great length with Pastor Kassebaum that we should try the program at Victory. And here we are going strong since 2017!"

**From Grief to Joy** — What is that joy? "That joy is sharing the love of God, sharing our own faith, sharing with other people who are desperately in need of some connection. We have shared this joy with so many people who weren't sure how they were going to get through till tomorrow."

**GriefShare meets Mondays, 12:30-2:30pm**



## GROUP TIME: A "Moving" Story

"One word sums it up ... phew! After living for months in Minnesota among torn up floors, stained ceilings, and packed boxes due to a flood in my condo, I made the trek cross country with everything I own in a moving truck in May. My plan had been to move last September to San Pedro, California where I had lived before and had two job offers to choose from. When my condo flooded and the timeline changed, I lost those job offers and also the tenants for my condo. But, it seems, that God had different plans and here I am working at Victory Lutheran in Mesa, Arizona! I was blessed to stay with and later house-sit for my friends Ted and Darla Groat in Gold Canyon through mid-September. The task of moving my things from storage in Gold Canyon to my new second floor apartment in Mesa was daunting, especially with no elevator! But, thanks to my new friends at Victory, the job was done in three hours. I plan to live there quite a while, especially since my move crew said they're not helping me move out – ha! Thanks to everyone who helped! It's good to be 'home'."

*Diane Snyder, Church Administrator*

