

Sermon Notes

Hope Has a Name #4: "Trusting God in Every Season" December 23 & 24, 2023 Luke 1:5-13, 18-25, 57-65

Opener:

When you have wonderful news, do you shout it to the world or do you go quiet?

Go Deeper:

1. What emotions do you think Zechariah and Elizabeth might have experienced during their long period of barrenness despite leading righteous lives?
2. Discuss the parallels between the challenges faced by Zechariah and Elizabeth and the waiting and uncertainty you encounter in your life today.
3. Reflect on the significance of Elizabeth giving birth in her old age as a miraculous fulfillment of God's promise. What does this reveal about God's timing?
4. In what ways can the silence of unfulfilled longings impact one's faith and trust in God?

Live It:

1. How can you maintain trust in God's promises when faced with circumstances that seem bleak and beyond your understanding?
2. Discuss practical steps for trusting God's Word in the season of life you are now in (be it waiting, fulfillment, or facing challenges).
3. Share a personal experience where you had to trust in God's promises during a challenging time. How did it shape your faith?
4. Identify one area in your life where you are currently facing uncertainty and discuss how you can actively trust God's promises in that situation.

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 (December 24-30)

Sunday: Luke 1:5-25
Monday: Luke 2:1-20
Tuesday: Luke 2:21-24
Wednesday: Luke 2:25-40
Thursday: Luke 2:41-52
Friday: Mark 1:1-8
Saturday: Mark 1:9-13

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

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

Sunday, December 24

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

CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE

1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm (Choir at 3 & 5pm)
9pm with communion

Monday, December 25 - CHRISTMAS DAY

10am Worship with communion
FOOD BANK CLOSED

Tuesday, December 26

OFFICE CLOSED

Wednesday, December 27

9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1:30pm Women's Bible Study, B7
4pm I-HELP, C4
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, December 28

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7
4pm I-HELP, C4

Friday, December 29

Office Closed

Saturday, December 30

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

*Beginning January 7, 2024 we will be adding a Sunday 11:00am Traditional Worship Service to our Current Schedule.

SAVE THE DATE!

JAN 8: Grandparenting Course Begins
JAN 11: Prayer & Praise Worship @ 10am
JAN 14-21: Family Promise Host Week
JAN 28: - New Member Class @ 12:30pm

Victory Lutheran Church

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VictoryLutheran.com



VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

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

December 23 & 24 2023
"Trusting God in Every Season"
Luke 1

THE PULSE

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH

Connect with us!

GOD TIME:

The Bible tells us that in order to enter the Kingdom of Heaven we must become as little children. So during this busy and hectic season, take a moment to quiet your heart and enjoy the awe and wonder of Christmas. This carol is often attributed to Martin Luther, although we don't know for sure who wrote it. Away in a Manger begins as a lullaby and concludes with a heartfelt prayer, a touching reminder that we are all God's children.

*Away in a manger, no crib for a bed,
the little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head;
the stars in the heavens looked down where He lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.*

*The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
but little Lord Jesus, no crying He makes.
I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down from the sky
and stay by my side until morning is nigh.*

*Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask Thee to stay
close by me forever, and love me, I pray.*

*Bless all the dear children in Thy tender care,
and fit us for heaven, to live with Thee there.*



GATHER TIME:

Merry Christmas! May joy fill your heart as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. The beautiful melodies of the season hold a special place in our hearts.

The cherished Christmas carol, *Silent Night*, paints a serene picture of baby Jesus, emphasizing the quiet grace of His birth. However, it is crucial to recognize that the manger was just the beginning of Jesus' earthly journey, not the end. Mark 15:37 contrasts the tranquility of Bethlehem with the agonizing cry of Jesus on the cross, "*With a loud cry, Jesus breathed His last,*" revealing the Prince of Peace's sacrifice for our redemption. The manger and the cross are intricately connected, forming the bookends of a divine narrative. The Incarnation in the manger signifies the Word becoming flesh, with the baby's cry bridging the divine and human realms.

As we consider on the serene manger and the agony of the cross, we are reminded of the depth of God's love. The baby who brought peace in the manger cried out on the cross, securing eternal peace with God. This Christmas, marvel not only at lullabies for the newborn King but also ponder the significance of Jesus' cry from the cross. The silent night in Bethlehem foreshadowed a redemptive symphony, declaring that our Savior, born in a manger, cried out on the cross, ensuring salvation for all who believe.

Glory to God!

Pastor Todd Mathison

Candlelight Christmas Eve

1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm

(Choir at 3 & 5pm)

9pm with communion

Staffed Nursery available at 1,3,5 & 7pm

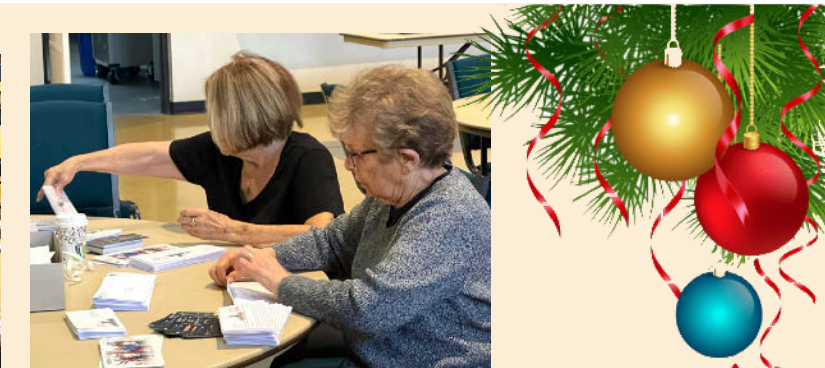
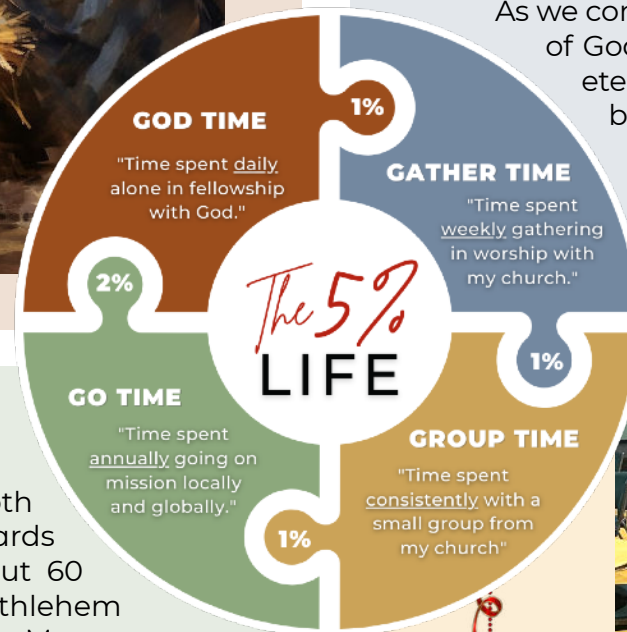


GO TIME: Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW)

Robert Sanders, LSS-SW Director for Emergency Services

I have been with LSS-SW for 16 years. I oversee I-HELP and the Food Pantry at both Victory and First Evangelical Lutheran Church. This year we handed out 166 gift cards for turkeys this Thanksgiving. And, on December 21st we provided gifts for about 60 children. We do that with the support of our Our Savior's Lutheran Church and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We also handed out stockings that were donated by a group in Mesa — a lady by the name of Carol. She's been donating stockings to us for the past five or six years. Unfortunately, Carol passed away about three weeks ago. But the group she was a part of continues to provide the stockings.

We try to make it as nice as possible and set aside a designated time for each family when they come in to the Victory location to pick up their Christmas gift. We have Christmas music playing, decorations and snacks for the families. In addition to Victory, we provide gifts to well over 100 children in the Phoenix area.



GROUP TIME: Thank you to our volunteers for helping with our annual Christmas mailing!