

Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

"The Time Has Come" December 30 & 31, 2023 Mark 1:1-20

Opener:

Do you remember your own baptism? What about the baptism of a child/grandchild or special person in your life. What do you remember the most about the event?

Go Deeper:

1. Read Luke 1:67-79. What did Zachariah say John the Baptist was to do before Jesus started His ministry? How do these verses compare to Isaiah 40:3-5?
2. Read Luke 1:4-8. John strode onto the stage of history as the "voice of one calling in the desert." What was the key message Joh was preaching? Who would be coming after John?
3. Read Luke 1:4 again. What is the difference between John's baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins and being baptized with the Holy Spirit?
4. Read Luke 1:9-11. What was the significance of Jesus being baptized by John? (Matthew 3:13-15)

Live It:

1. In the waters of the River Jordan, the baton was passed from John to Jesus – from messenger to Messiah. From that point on, wherever Jesus was found, the kingdom of God was nearby. Where is the kingdom of God nearby in your life?
2. As the voice of the Father boomed out the message was clear; the Son of God is among you! Jesus, the Son of God is able to do something no one else can do – reconnect us with the Father. In this time of your life, how do you feel connected with God the Father; God the Son; and or God the Holy Spirit?
3. Jesus announces, "the time has come! Repent and believe the good news!" (vs 15) How is this "good news" in your life?
4. Jesus called His first disciples saying, "Come follow me, and I will make you fishers of men!" (vs 17) and in verse 18 we see the men leaving all they had and following Jesus. How has Jesus called you to follow Him? What, if anything, has He asked you to "leave" to follow Him?

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 31-January 6)

Sunday: Mark 1:14-20
 Monday: Mark 1:21-28
 Tuesday: Mark 1:29-39
 Wednesday: Mark 1:40-45
 Thursday: Luke 7:1-10
 Friday: Mark 2:1-12
 Saturday: Mark 2:13-17

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

Sunday, December 31

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

Monday, January 1
OFFICE CLOSED
FOOD BANK CLOSED



Tuesday, January 2

7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, January 3

9-11:30am Food Pantry
9:30am Women's Ministry Leadership, FS
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1:30pm Women's Bible Study, B7
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, January 4

10am Funeral Service for Pat Duschek, WC
10am Prayer Group, LR
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
11am Stephen Ministry, CH

Friday, January 5

Office Closed

Saturday, January 6

8am Men's Bible Study, FS
9am Stephen Ministry Training, B7
4pm Worship, WC

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

**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 21: U32 Jazz Concert @ 3pm
 JAN 28: - New Member Class @ 12:30pm
 JAN 31: PLU Choir of the West @ 7pm

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GOD TIME: New Year Devotional

Dawn captivates me — the night sky transforming into a vibrant canvas, from azure blue to the brilliance of dawn's glow—it's mesmerizing! As we step into 2024, Lamentations 3:22-24 assures us: "Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness. I say to myself, 'The Lord is my portion; therefore I will wait for Him.'"

Entering this new year, embrace the unchanging truth of God's unwavering love, a steadfast anchor in life's voyage. Amidst life's trials, His love prevents us from being overwhelmed, granting a fresh start at each sunrise—a canvas painted with His mercy. Trust in His boundless faithfulness as we venture into the unknown of the coming year.

Declare with Jeremiah, "The Lord is my portion," recognizing God as our joy and fulfillment. In Him, discover assurance and secure rest. As we embark on the new year, foster patient anticipation, not in idleness but in hopeful waiting for God's unfolding plan.

May each dawn remind us of God's boundless love, renewing compassion, and enduring faithfulness. With His promises, confront the unknown with strength, courage, and the assurance that each day is a testament to His enduring love and grace.

Happy New Year!

Pastor Todd Mathison

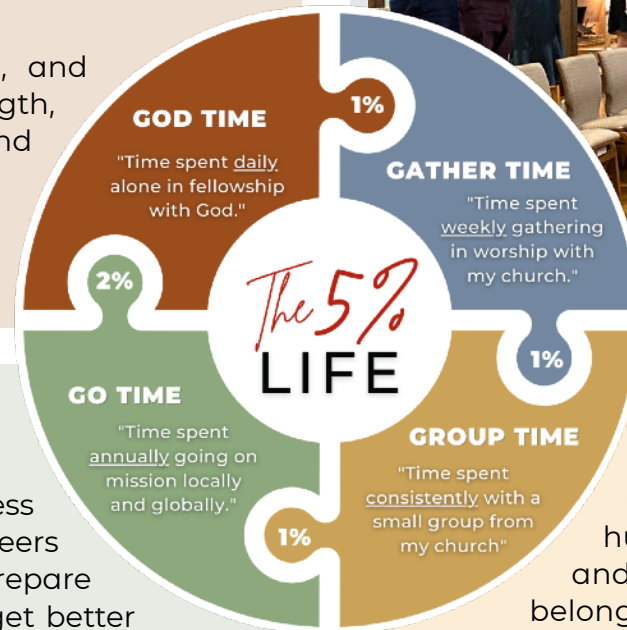
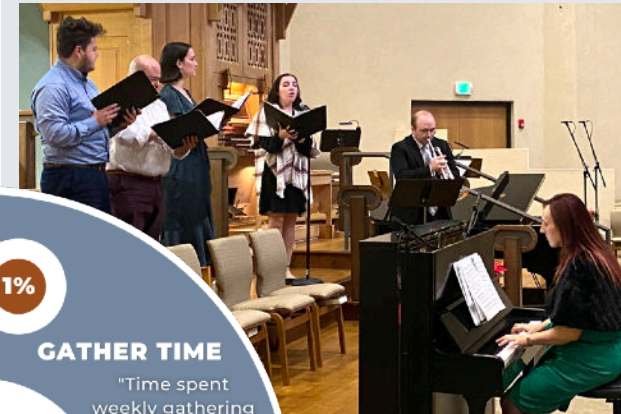


GATHER TIME: Christmas Eve was breathtaking!

WORSHIP WITH US
Saturday 4:00pm
Sunday 8:00, 9:30 & 11am

We have added an additional 11am service on Sundays thru Easter.

Enjoy a more spacious and relaxed worship experience, with closer and easier parking.



GO TIME: I-HELP Program

Bev Locke, Coordinator

More than 20 people are regular I-HELP Volunteers. We do not see each other unless we attend the same worship service or are on the same team. Some volunteers complete their assignments alone at home. So once a year, we gather to prepare Christmas gifts for the ladies. What a joy to share experiences with our ladies, get better acquainted, share a meal and complete the task with lots of laughter. Twelve gift bags, each containing 3 pairs of socks, a \$25 Target gift card, and candy were lovingly and carefully packed. Then on Wednesday, December 13, the volunteers had the pleasure of giving a bag to each lady. What a fun evening with games and an extra special meal. Thanks to a long-time, talented volunteer for beautifully decorating the gift bags and gift card holders with a caring message. Many hands, light work when serving as Jesus commands us.

ABOUT: I-HELP is a unique shelter model that provides homeless individuals with hope and opportunity for a better future by offering overnight shelter, meals, showers, case management, and connections to community services. All new guests must complete a pre-screening interview before entering I-HELP. Please call 480-684-0645 for bed availability and to schedule a pre-screening.



GROUP TIME: GriefShare Group

My name is Judy Bialk and my Journey of faith grew in leaps and bounds after I joined Victory Church. In our old church my husband Bill of 60 years was very active. He was a lay leader and served on many committees. After his death I felt I no longer belonged there. I visited Victory and knew that this is where God wanted me to be. Through GriefShare I found peace and friendship. My story starts when I had a disagreement with one of our Pastors. I was really upset and did not answer calls and stopped going to church. We finally got together with a few of my friends, and everything got straightened out. He offered Communion to us. He gave it to my friends and then asked me to give it to him as he knelt before me. I took the host and as I was giving it to him, I felt warmth overtaking me, I shook, and tears came to my eyes. I can truly say I felt the Holy Spirit in me. I have never felt that way before. We sang, prayed, and hugged. It was a day I will always remember. I have lost 3 people in 3 years whom I have loved. My husband Bill, my son to suicide, and my daughter drowning. Through all of this I would not have survived if I did not have my faith, my church, and the Holy Spirit within me.



GriefShare 13-Week Program

January 8-March 25, 2024 | Mondays, 12:30-2:30pm

A program for help in your journey through grief after the loss of a loved one. Video presentation and discussion. Each session stands alone, so you may join us at any time. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and desire to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help.