

Sermon Notes

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 (March 10-16)

Sun: Matthew 26:36-41
Mon: Psalm 42
Tues: John 10:7-10
Wed: Romans 6:12-23
Thurs: Mark 8:11-21
Fri: 1 Peter 4:13
Sat: Psalm 100

*During Lent, the readings selected are taken from The Easter Experience Lenten Devotional.

Life Notes

The Ultimate Question #4: "Deserted by Friends" Matthew 26:36-46

Opener:

What is the longest time you have stayed awake without sleeping?

Go Deeper:

1. In Matthew 26:36-41, what was Jesus' request to his disciples in the Garden of Gethsemane?
2. What do you think Jesus meant by saying, "Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak"?
3. In Matthew 26:33-35, what did Peter declare to Jesus in response to his prediction of their desertion?
4. Why do you think Peter was so confident about his loyalty to Jesus?
5. What role did Judas play among Jesus' disciples, and why do you think he agreed to betray Jesus?
6. What do you think you might have done if you were with Jesus in the garden when he was arrested?

Live It:

1. What practical steps can you take to prioritize prayer and spiritual practices even in times of fatigue or fear?
2. How can cultivating humility in your spiritual life help you avoid the pitfalls of pride?
3. How might unmet expectations and desires for material gain lead to spiritual disillusionment?
4. How might regular self-reflection and prayer help you realign your priorities and follow Jesus rather than worldly pursuits?
5. What is God saying to you?
6. What specifically are you going to do about it this week?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, March 10

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
10am Fair Trade Sale, FH
11am Worship, WC

Monday, March 11

9-11:30am Food Pantry
9:30am Easter Experience, FH
12:30pm GriefShare, C4
1:30pm Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, B7
5:30pm Easter Experience, FH

Tuesday, March 12

9:30am Esperanza Bible Study, FS
1pm Dementia Care Partner Seminar, FH
1:30pm Mary Bible Study, meet in home
2pm Naomi Bible Study, B7
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, March 13 - LENTEN WORSHIP

9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30pm Al-Anon, C4
1pm Men's Bible Study, LR
1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC
1:30pm Women's Life Group, B7
4pm I-HELP, C4
4pm Lenten Worship, WC
5pm Soup Supper, FH
6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC
8pm AA Meeting, FS

Thursday, March 14

10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
4pm I-HELP, C4

Friday, March 15

Office Closed

Saturday, March 16

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 17: St. Paddy's Shindig! @ 3pm
MARCH 24: Handel's Messiah Concert @ 3pm

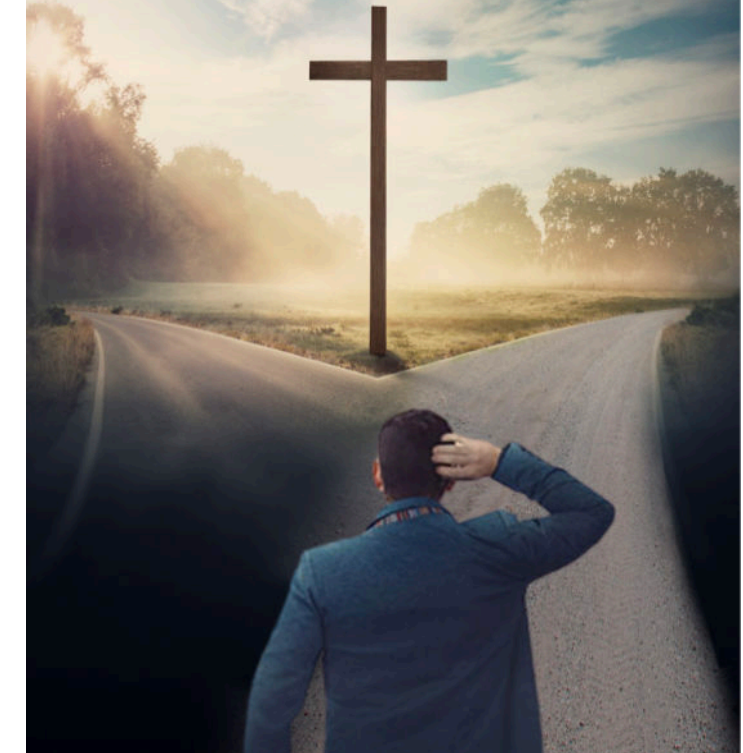
Victory Lutheran Church

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



VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

The ULTIMATE Question



March 9 & 10, 2024
"Deserted by Friends"
Matthew 26:36-41



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Susan Westland, Chaplain
Renee Bennett, Pastoral Intern

Connect with us!



GOD TIME:

In Communion with Christ: A Story of Shirley Kirking

One of the first visits I made after arriving at Victory was to a 99-year-old woman named Shirley Kirking. On our first visit, I asked about her faith life. She explained she had been a Lutheran all her life and then went on to tell me story after story about how God had always guided her life.

Over the past few months, I have looked forward to our visits. Shirley has a deep abiding faith in her Lord Jesus, and she is always quick to share a story about how she has experienced His love since the last time I saw her.

I especially enjoy sharing the voice of Jesus found in Luke 22:19-20 as we discuss how our Lord Jesus gave us the New Covenant we celebrate as Holy Communion. Then, we take time to talk about how Jesus tells us that each time we eat the bread and drink the wine we should do it in remembrance of Him.

When I ask Shirley what we are remembering she often folds her hands together. Then interlocking her fingers, and placing her hands over her heart, with tears in her eyes, she tells me she is remembering that Jesus "did it for me!" She tells me she is remembering that Jesus gave His body and shed His blood for her. She tells me, "Jesus died for me! Jesus gave His life for me!" Then we humbly share this meal of grace together.

I know Shirley is going to be 100 years old this November, but I think she is still helping others learn how to cherish time with our Lord Jesus at the communion table as we remember all He did for us!

God's blessings,
Pastor Susan Westland



GATHER TIME: First Impressions of Victory!

We love to receive new people in our church, and we are even more thrilled when we receive such great comments and reviews from them. Take a look at what they have to say!

I learned about Victory after I bought house in May 2023 that has a Victory Lutheran sticker on kitchen window. Victory is truly a faith filled loving church. - Dora

I first came to Victory for Christmas Eve service. The music was so impressive. The message is always inspiring. The church itself is so welcoming (meaning people and building). - Eileen

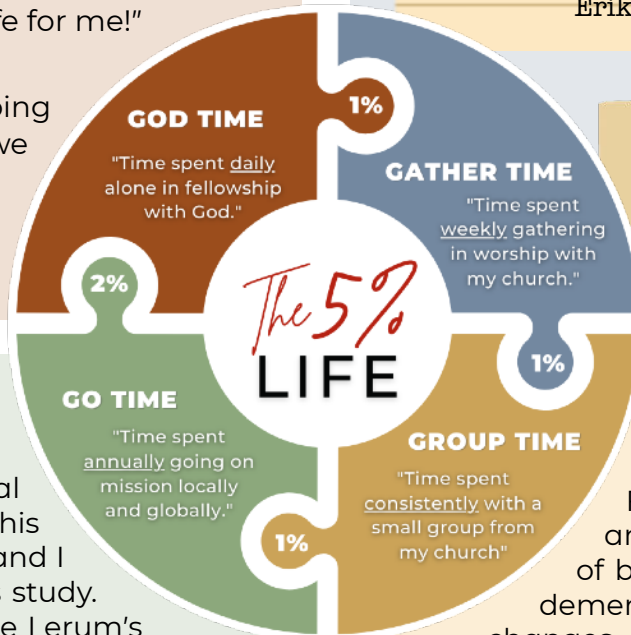
We found Victory searching the internet, then first came in Nov, 2022. We loved the music! We started coming weekly in Nov, 2023 when we found you have Communion every week at 8 AM. - Erik & Katherine

I love the music program. The Sanctuary is so pretty and I love the messages from the pastors. I love the fact that Victory has traditional service. - Christina

We really like Victory Lutheran and the people we meet here. - Dean and Connie

Victory is very welcoming and warm. It is organized and has a great staff. - Larry

I heard of Victory's great choir and the need of an alto so I came. I love the music at Victory and the sermons/ministry. - Irma



GO TIME: Sent to Unusual Places Pastor Susan Westland



It has been my experience that God will often send us to unusual places to fulfill the work He has for us to do. This was the case this past weekend. It all began last winter when my husband Rich and I facilitated the evening sessions of the Grandparenting Matters study. On one occasion, Rich was the table leader for Bruce and Terrie Lerum's group. During the discussion Terrie mentioned that her mother would soon be turning 95 years old and had a desire to ride a motorcycle one more time. With that request, Rich sprang into action, calling a friend of ours whose name is Billie, from the local CMA chapter who had visited our church in January. The motorcycle Billie rides is a three-wheeler which we felt would be a safer ride than a traditional motorcycle for Terrie's mom Darlene. This past Saturday morning Rich, Billie and I rode to Terrie and Bruce's

house to surprise Darlene with a ride. When Darlene came out of the house the beaming smile on her face told us all how excited she was. Billie took her for a short ride around the neighborhood and she was thrilled to have had a dream fulfilled as a gift for her 95th birthday. I encourage you to be open to the opportunities God gives us all to spread His love and grace in the world.



GROUP TIME: Dementia/Alzheimer Care Partner Seminar Lynda Buechner

Fifty years ago, my husband had a stroke which robbed him of the use of his left arm and partial use of his left leg. He worked very hard at physical therapy to regain the use of both and succeeded. However, unbeknownst to us, that stroke started his journey to dementia and some of his behaviors began to change. We all tried to live with those changes – not knowing the cause or a cure and then those symptoms showed themselves to be dementia. He has again lost the use of his left arm and leg, his memories are going, but he remains cheerful. And I have been so blessed to have gotten so much help in dealing with all his changes. God has directed me to many people both for support and education.

If you, too, are struggling with dementia, or know someone who is or are just plain curious about the causes and effects of this disease, please join us for the second in a series on Dementia to be held here at Victory on Tuesday, March 12th at 1:00pm.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk.

Educational Series with Tools & Resources

MEETS @ 1:00PM
TUES, MARCH 12
&
THURS, APRIL 18

DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER CARE PARTNER SEMINAR

Sign up at the Welcome Desk