

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 (April 21-27)

Sun: Acts 17:1-9 Church of Thessalonica
Mon: 1 Thess. 1:1-10 Letter to Thessalonians
Tues: 1 Thess. 2:1-12 A Life Worthy of God
Wed: 1 Thess. 2:13-16 Suffering for Christ
Thurs: Acts 17:10-15 Paul & Silas in Berea
Fri: Acts 17:16-28 Paul Speaks in Athens
Sat: Acts 17:29-34 Athens Responds

*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

Life Notes

"Scandalous Stories" Luke 15:1-10

Opener:

Have you ever experienced a moment where you felt unexpectedly pursued or sought after, like the shepherd searching for the lost sheep or the woman diligently seeking her lost coin?

Go Deeper:

1. What prompted Jesus to share these parables in Luke 15:1-10? Why was there a need for these stories at that moment?
2. In Luke 15:1-2, who are the different groups of people mentioned—the "tax collectors and sinners" and the "Pharisees and scribes"? What was the general attitude towards these groups in society at the time?
3. Describe the characters in each of the parables (the lost sheep and the lost coin). What do these characters represent in relation to God and humanity?
4. What is the significance of the shepherd leaving the 99 sheep to find the one lost sheep? How does this reflect God's character?
5. Why is there rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents (Luke 15:7, 10)? What does this reveal about God's heart towards sinners?

Live It:

1. How do these parables challenge our typical understanding of God's character and His relationship with "outcasts"?
2. Reflect on a time when you felt like the "lost sheep" or the "lost coin" in your relationship with God. How did God pursue you during that time?
3. How can we, as a community of believers, reflect God's passionate pursuit of outcasts and sinners? What practical steps can we take to embrace those who feel marginalized or excluded?
4. In what ways can these parables inspire us to share the gospel with those who may feel disconnected from God or the church?
5. How does understanding God's relentless pursuit of sinners impact our own view of evangelism and outreach?

Upcoming Week

Sunday, April 21

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC
3pm Piano Duo Concert, WC



Monday, April 22

9-11:30am Food Pantry

Tuesday, April 23

1:30-3:30pm Book Club, B7
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

Wednesday, April 24

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

Thursday, April 25

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

Friday, April 26

Office Closed

Saturday, April 27

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

April 28: Africa Info. Meeting @ 12:15pm
April 29: GriefShare Begins @ 12:30pm
April 30: Orpheus Male Chorus (off-site)
May 2: Prayer & Praise Worship @ 10am
May 5: New Member Class @ 12:15pm
May 5: Violin, Organ & Piano Concert @ 3pm
MAY 6: The Chosen-Season 4 @ 9:30am

Victory Lutheran Church

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THE Parables OF JESUS

LUKE 15:1-10

APRIL 20 & 21, 2024

"SCANDALOUS STORIES" GUEST PASTOR ERICK SORENSEN



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

Connect with us!

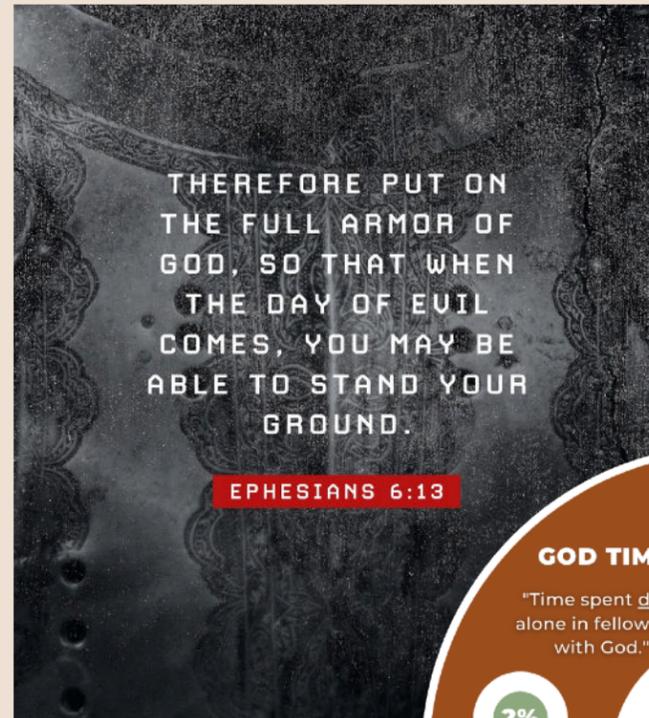


GOD TIME: Put on the Full Armor of God

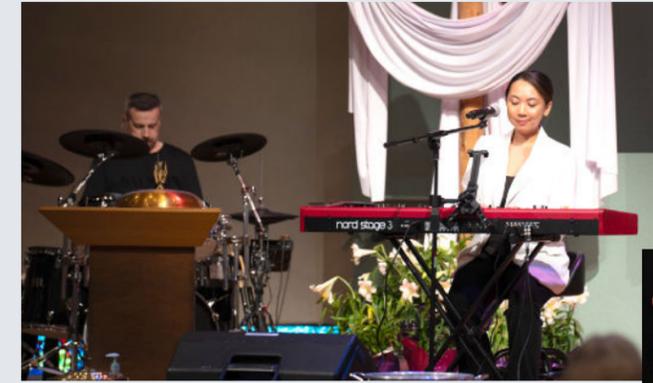
Ephesians 6 is a powerful reminder that life, inevitably, brings challenges and adversities that test our faith, integrity, and resilience. The "day of evil" refers to these times when we face opposition, temptation, or hardship.

The apostle Paul uses the metaphor of armor to illustrate the spiritual readiness required to face such challenges. Just as a soldier prepares for battle with physical armor, we are called to equip ourselves with spiritual armor. This includes truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation, and the Word of God. These are not merely defensive tools but are meant to empower us to stand firm, hold our ground, and advance in faith.

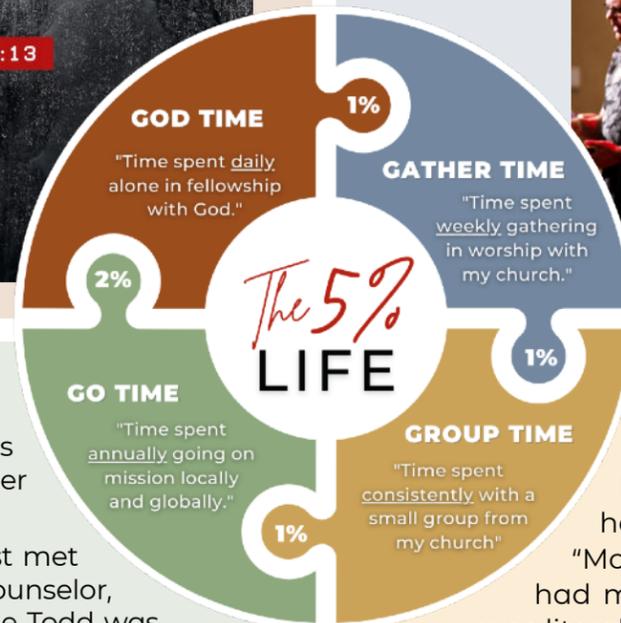
To stand after having done everything is to remain faithful, unwavering, and resilient in the face of life's battles. It is a call to action for every believer to prepare, to be proactive in strengthening their faith, and to trust in God's provision and protection. In this way, we can face any challenge with confidence and hope, knowing that we are not alone, but fortified by the full armor of God.



GATHER TIME: Contemporary Worship Sundays @ 11:00am



JOIN US NEXT SUNDAY



GO TIME: 1517 Mission Partner

Our guest preacher this weekend is Rev. Erick Sorensen, who is part of the leadership team with 1517.org, a new mission partner with Victory Lutheran Church.

Our first connection with Erick is through Pastor Todd, who first met Erick when he was in sixth grade and Todd was his cabin counselor, volunteering with the public school retreat to Catalina Island while Todd was with a Church Plant in southern California. Erick and his parents and family became very involved with Victoria Community Church, where Erick was in the youth group, then served as a young adult leader and missionary. Erick eventually went to seminary and then came back to Victoria to serve as Lead Pastor.

Today, Erick is in charge of Church Partnerships in the Development Department at 1517. His B.S. in Organizational Leadership is from Biola University, and his M.Div. is from Lutheran Brethren Seminary. Erick has served as a pastor in Fontana, California, Staten Island, New York and Roxbury, New Jersey. In 2015 he planted Epiphany Lutheran Church in Manhattan, New York. Erick is host of the Law & Gospel Devotional, co-host of the 30 Minutes in the New Testament and Field Guide to the Bible podcasts, and is co-author of Scandalous Stories: A Sort of Commentary on the Parables, which is available to purchase in the church lobby this weekend. You can read some of his online articles at: www.1517.org/speakers-network/erick-sorensen.

Victory is a Church Partner with 1517 in declaring and defending the Good News that we are forgiven and free on account of Christ alone! This is done by providing communication resources, speakers, and conferences that teach Reformation Theology and preach the Gospel.



Engaging shows, faithful writing, informative videos — Learn more at 1517.org

GROUP TIME: One Small Act of Kindness Janet Peterson



Early in January 2015, I retired after working over 40 years. I had no idea of what to do with my life now. My oldest son said, "Mom it's time to get with the Church program! My youngest son had married and had joined the Lutheran Church. Victory Lutheran was literally on my corner, so during Easter — (I had to do my "Easter Duty,") off I went.

During service I sat next to Linda Long. (She was a Stephen Minister.) She introduced herself and invited me to attend her Wednesday Bible Study. I felt broken and alone but decided to give it a try.

There I found a group of women who accepted me for who and where I was. They welcomed me and took me in. I felt anxious and alone but I kept showing up. That was over ten years ago and I'm still attending that Wednesday Bible Study today.

Later on, I joined the church. Then later, I became a Stephen Minister. I now co-lead in the same Bible Study group. Had I not been spoken to and welcomed that day, I probably would not have come back.

I will always be grateful to Linda for her kindness that day. One small act changed my life. Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I have found my peace through Jesus Christ.

