

## 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](mailto:hello@victorylutheran.com). (200-300 word limit)

### Daily Bible Readings (May 5-11)

Sun: 1 Corin. 13:1-13 The Greatest is Love  
Mon: 1 Corin. 14:26-33 The Body of Christ  
Tues: 1 Corin. 15:1-11 Proclaiming Resurrection  
Wed: 1 Corin. 15:12-19 The Risen Christ  
Thurs: 1 Corin. 15:20-26 Christ the First Fruits  
Fri: 1 Corin. 15:30-41 Heavenly/Earthly Bodies  
Sat: 1 Corin. 15:42-50 Physical/Spiritual Bodies

\*The readings selected come from the Narrative Lectionary calendar.

## Life Notes

### Power of the Holy Spirit #4: "The Greatest is Love" 1 Corinthians 13:1-8a,13

#### Opener:

Who was your first "crush" growing up?

#### Go Deeper:

- List the characteristics of love mentioned in 1 Corinthians 13:4-7. Which one of these characteristics do you find most challenging, and why?
- Paul uses negative expressions (e.g., "does not envy," "is not proud") to define love. What might this suggest about the common misconceptions of love during his time?
- Why do you think Paul emphasizes that "love never fails" in verse 8? How does this relate to the enduring nature of God's character?
- According to 1 John 4:8 and 4:16, how is love connected to the nature of God?
- Discuss the statement "We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19) How might this influence our approach to loving others?

#### Live It:

- Discuss a time when you experienced the enduring nature of agape love, either receiving or giving. How did it impact the situation?
- How can understanding that "love never fails" help you in a current challenging relationship or circumstance?
- In light of understanding agape love as a choice and not just an emotion, what are some specific steps you can take to choose love in difficult relationships this week?
- Choose one attribute of love from 1 Corinthians 13 (e.g., patience, kindness) to focus on this week. What are some practical ways you can demonstrate this attribute in your daily interactions?

## Upcoming Week

### Sunday, May 5

#### Communion Weekend

7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH  
8am Worship & Communion, WC  
9:30am Worship, WC  
11am Contemporary Worship, WC  
**12:15pm New Member Class, C4**  
**3pm Violin, Piano & Organ Concert, WC**

### Monday, May 6

9-11:30am Food Pantry  
**9:30am The Chosen: Season 4, FH**  
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4

### Tuesday, May 7

**1pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event - Board Games, FH**  
6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR  
7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS

### Wednesday, May 8

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

### Thursday, May 9

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

### Friday, May 10

Office Closed

### Saturday, May 11

**Mother's Day Weekend**  
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



Remember to wear a special hat or fancy outfit to mark the occasion!



### Victory Lutheran Church

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VictoryLutheran\_Guest  
Password: Victory\_46

# POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT



May 4 & 5, 2024

## "The Greatest Is Love"

1 Corinthians 13:1-8a,13



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

Connect with us!



## GOD TIME: How Great the Father's Love for Us In Memory of John Weins

Last Sunday the Victory Choir honored their long-time choir member and dear friend John Weins who has recently died. During the singing of the benediction, we could see John's choir robe draped over his chair with a white rose laying on it. As we heard the choir sing, it felt like we were participating in a sacred moment when God's church experienced a taste of God's grace, goodness, and glory.

For me, this was the second time God allowed me to experience the sacred through the life of John Weins. On Good Friday I visited John at the hospital shortly after being told he would soon die. Knowing John had been part of the choir for many years I asked if there were any choir members who might be available to come to the hospital and sing for John.

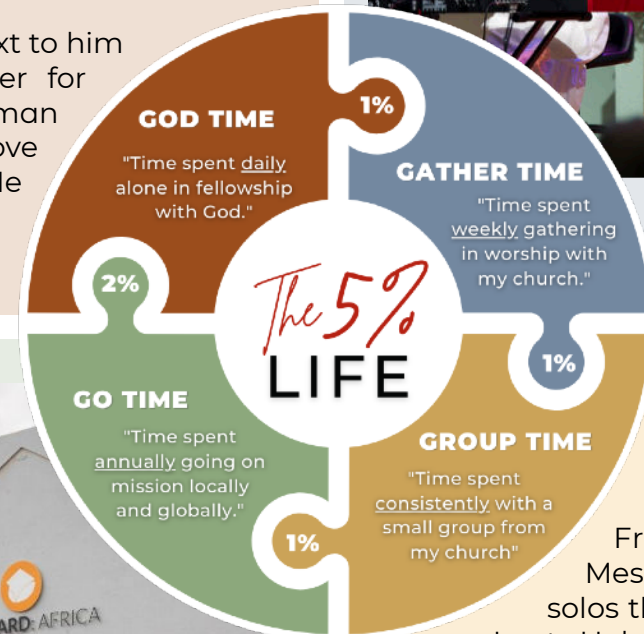
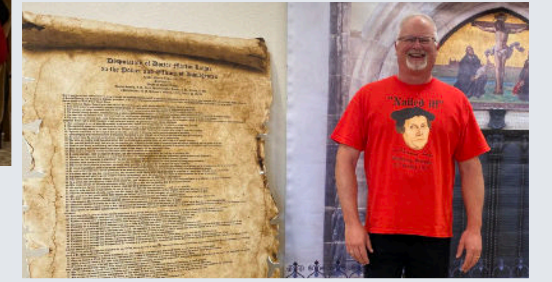
When we arrived, John was lying in his bed, his faithful wife Sandy beside him. We began our time together as seven choir members sang and humbly shared the truth of the Gospel that God so loved John and all the world that He sent His only Son Jesus to save John and everyone who believes in Jesus. Promising John and all believers would not perish but have eternal life. Through the hymns, prayers and the truth of God's word spoken that night, the Holy Spirit reminded us all that our Savior Jesus was near and would soon be coming to welcome John home. We ended our time that night with the choir singing, "How Great the Father's Love for Us."

It was only after we were done that, I realized John had a roommate in the bed next to him who had heard everything we had done that night. I thanked this stranger for "enduring" our worship service and with tears streaming down his face the man thanked me sharing that he was very ill and needed to be reminded of Jesus' love and forgiveness. Praise God for allowing us to share in the sacred moments He brings to our lives.

*Pastor Susan Westland*



## GATHER TIME: Highlights of 2023/2024



## GO TIME: Own This Impact Campaign

A huge thank you to all who have contributed **\$17,780** toward our **\$20,000 goal** to help fund the ongoing costs of the Orchard: Africa Impact Center. We are almost at our goal! Pray about how you can make an Impact by contributing whatever you can. The Impact Center is a place where church leaders are trained, youth are developed, pastors are encouraged and community members are empowered. Tangible skills are taught and developed. People find hope, passions are pursued and communities are developed, and the Gospel is spread. Through your generosity, we at Victory are making a global impact for God's Kingdom!

Thank you to everyone who so generously donated to our Orchard: Africa Noisy offering in April. We now have money available for scholarships that can contribute up to 25% of the trip cost for those interested in going, but who might need financial assistance. The deadline to sign up for the Mission Trip is Monday, May 6th!

Pick up a brochure and registration form at the Welcome Desk. Please pray about being a part of this trip either physically, financially, or through prayer.

If you have questions about the Africa Mission Trip, contact:

Renee Bennett, Pastoral Intern | rbennett@victorylutheran.com | 480-830-5024 xt. 115



## GROUP TIME: Thank You, Victory Musicians!

"Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary!"  
~ Psalm 150:1

From concerts at Christmas and Handel's Messiah during Lent, weekly music in worship, solos throughout the year, and extra services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, the choir, bell choir and many soloists have worked tirelessly to provide quality music.

Their dedication goes beyond what is seen, and includes regular rehearsals as well as individual practice to be prepared to share their best to the glory of God. If you have been a contributing member of the music ministry at Victory, please know your service is invaluable! To those who have supported the music ministry through your presence, prayers and monetary support: we could not do all this without you, and we pray you have been blessed through the gift of music!

