



Dear Victory Church Family,

As we celebrate Independence Day this July, our hearts swell with gratitude for the freedoms we enjoy in the United States. The liberty to speak our minds, worship freely, and pursue happiness are blessings we often take for granted. These freedoms, hard-won and fiercely protected, remind us of the courage and sacrifice of those who fought to secure them.

Yet, as members of the Victory family, we recognize an even greater freedom—our freedom in Christ Jesus. This freedom transcends any earthly liberty and offers us deliverance from the bondage of sin. Through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we are no longer slaves to sin and death. As the Apostle Paul writes in Galatians 5:1, **"It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery."**

This divine freedom is not just a release from the past but an invitation to live a new life. We are free to love others as God has loved us, breaking down barriers and building bridges of compassion, understanding, and grace. 1 Corinthians 5:21 reminds us: "We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making His appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God." In a world often divided by differences, our freedom in Christ calls us to be ambassadors of His love, reflecting a peace that comes from Jesus Christ alone.

So, as you enjoy the fireworks and festivities this Fourth of July, remember also the glorious freedom we have in Christ. It is a freedom that compels us to love, serve, and live with the joy of those who have been truly set free.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Todd Mathison



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

5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205
480-830-5024 | Office Hours: M-Th, 8am-4pm
VictoryLutheran.com



UPCOMING SERMON SERIES: JOHN 3:16

He Loved, He Gave, We Believe, We Live

June 29 & 30 – “The Hope Diamond of the Bible”

Yes, we will spend five weeks in one Bible verse: John 3:16. It's been called the "Hope Diamond" of the Bible, a verse that shines with unparalleled brilliance and offers a promise of profound reassurance. The reality of life's trials—disappointments, losses, and hardships—can make life feel irreparable. However, amid these challenges, John 3:16 stands as a beacon of hope, declaring that everything will ultimately be okay because of God's immense love for the world. This verse serves as an invitation to explore and deeply understand God's love, a love that once experienced, transforms one's life forever. If you know nothing of the Bible, start here; if you know everything in the Bible, return here. Let John 3:16 become the banner of your life, so that the message of God's unending and unbending love overflows from you to others.

July 6 & 7 – “He Loved”

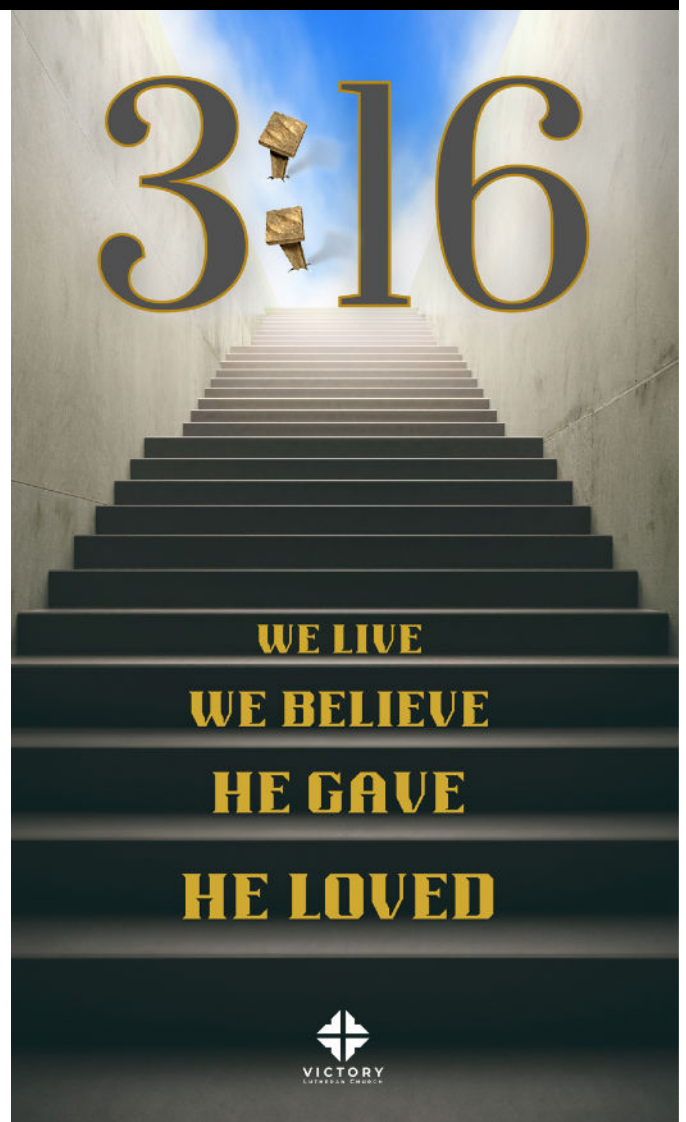
Stand in awe of how deep, wide, long, and high God's love is for you. This love is not abstract or distant; it is personal, intimate, and boundless, all-encompassing and ever-present. This divine love is the foundation upon which your faith is built, offering you comfort, strength, and assurance in every aspect of your life. Understand the magnitude of God's love and by the work of the Holy Spirit, grasp the depth of God's commitment to you and His desire for a relationship with you.

July 13 & 14 – “He Gave”

This third message focuses on the ultimate expression of God's love: the sacrificial gift of His Son, Jesus Christ. Understand the significance of this act, for it is the greatest gift ever given. Jesus' life, death, and resurrection are the means by which God's love is fully realized and made accessible to us all. Through Jesus, you see the lengths to which God is willing to go to redeem and restore you. This gift is not something you could ever earn or deserve; it is given freely out of God's boundless love and grace. The sacrifice of Jesus stands as a testament to God's unwavering commitment to your salvation and eternal well-being.

June 20 & 21 – “We Believe”

In this fourth sermon, we consider the concept of belief and its transformative power. Learn the depths of the truth that salvation is a gift from God, not something that can be earned through good deeds or personal effort. Belief in Jesus and His sacrifice is the key to unlocking the promise of eternal life and experiencing the fullness of God's love. The assurance of salvation



brings peace and rest, freeing you from the burdens of guilt and fear. When your faith is in Jesus, you live in a relationship with Him that changes everything. This faith is the foundation of your hope and the source of your strength in all circumstances.

June 27 & 28 – “We Live”

The final sermon in our series encourages us to live more fully into the hope we have through Jesus' death and resurrection. Let the reality of God's love and the assurance of your salvation permeate every aspect of your life. This hope will inspire you to live with purpose, joy, and confidence, knowing that you are deeply loved and secure in God's hands. God's promise in Christ Jesus impacts your relationships, decisions, and outlook on life. By embracing the hope found in John 3:16, you can navigate life's challenges with a renewed sense of purpose and an unwavering trust in God's promises.

PATRIOTIC PICNIC

SUN, JULY 7, 12:00PM

POTLUCK STYLE



We are celebrating American Independence with an indoor picnic & potluck. **Bring a favorite dish to share** such as: hamburgers, hot dogs, grilled chicken, potato salad, coleslaw, and watermelon will undoubtedly be crowd-pleasers. Don't forget vegetarian and gluten-free dishes. Bring a dessert, if that's your thing!

We will provide a selection of chilled beverages and live entertainment; you all bring the food. Let's all celebrate the gift of freedom God has granted us in the U-S-of-A.



ISRAEL & THE CHURCH MONDAYS @ 10:00AM July 8-August 5 (5-week Study) Led by Pastor Carol Peters

Israel is a "hot topic" whether it is on the agenda at the United Nations or the reason for a college protest or the subject of conversation among friends. This class will examine what God's Word says about Israel — both its past history and in prophecy. We will cover the fascinating story of how Israel became a nation again after nearly 2,000 years. We will also look at the ongoing struggle for peace since 1948 and at the ways churches are responding — from boycott/divestment to Christian Zionism — and how we can, "Pray for the peace of Jerusalem." (Psalm 122:6)

REGISTER at the Welcome Desk or scan the QR code with your phone's camera and tap the link.



JULY ACTIVITIES

"Encourage one another
and build each other up..."
1 Thessalonians 5:11

S.A.F.E.

SINGLES ACTIVITY
FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

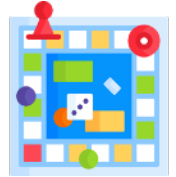
RSVP REQUIRED FOR ALL EVENTS

This helps us with
planning and setup.

Board & Card Games

Tues, July 2 @ 1:00-3:45pm

The 1st Tuesday of every month we will play board games (now we've added card games) in the Fellowship Hall. We have over 20 game and lots of card decks to select from, or you can bring your own favorites.



4th of July Fireworks (Off-Site)

Thurs, July 4 @ 7:00pm (Bus leaves at 7:00pm)
12925 N. Saguaro Blvd, Fountain Hills, AZ 85268



Join us to celebrate Independence Day with a free evening of music, lights, purchasable eats, and fireworks at the Fountain Hills Lake. Our plan, because of the heat, is to prioritize only the Fireworks display at 9:00pm when the temperatures are coolest. The church bus (Cost \$5.00) will leave the parking lot at 7:00pm. Of course you may drive, if you wish to go earlier for all the of the evening's events.

Bingo Night (Off-Site)

Thurs, July 11 @ 4:30pm

Sunland Village, 4601 E. Dolphin Street, Mesa



Join us for the 2nd Thursday of each month. Doors open at 4:30pm for you to get a light meal, pick out your lucky seat and purchase your Bingo cards. Game begins at 6:30pm sharp! No admission after 6:30pm.

Wild Ginger Asian Bistro (Off-Site)

Thurs, July 18 @ 4:30pm

861 N. Higley Road #111, Gilbert, AZ 85234



Meet up for dinner at the Wild Ginger Asian Bistro. Our reservation is under the name of "Victory S.A.F.E." On the 3rd Thursday of every month, we will alternate dinner one month, lunch the next month to satisfy everyone's time preferences.

Feed My Starving Children (Off-Site)

Wed, July 24 @ 9:00-11:00am (Bus leaves at 8:15am)

1345 S. Alma School Rd, Mesa 85210

This monthly mission trip will be to the Christian based, non-profit organization, on the 4th Wednesday of each month, initially scheduled for May through October. You can stand and package the food, or sit and label it. Afterwards, it's our custom to make a Smash Burger stop in the same plaza! The church bus will be made available, or you may drive yourself.





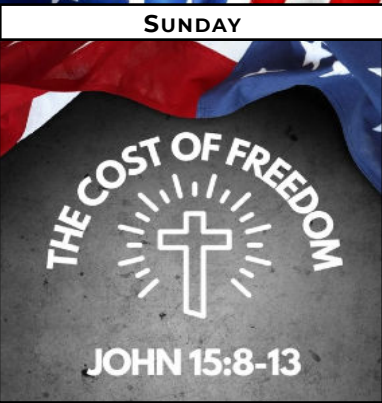

Prayer + Praise Worship Service Thursday, July 11 @ 10:00am



We here at Victory take seriously God's call for us to gather for a powerful Holy Spirit led time of Prayer, Praise, and Worship on the first Thursday of each month. However, this year the first Thursday of July is on our national 4th of July holiday. Therefore, we will hold our Prayer and Praise worship service the following week on July 11th in the beautiful courtyard chapel as we come together to sing, pray, and worship our Lord.

Our Prayer Team has chosen **"Praying for our Nation"** as the theme for this worship service. So, as we gather in God's name, we will be praying for our nation believing God is sovereign and nothing comes as a surprise to Him. Whether we face unrest at home, political division, fluctuating economics, threats from abroad, or other troubling circumstances, our Heavenly Father is not caught unaware. As we come to our Father in prayer, we do so believing we are able to receive His wisdom, strength, protection, and peace. As we seek His will for our nation, our lives, and for divine intervention in the affairs of men, we do so with faith that our faithful God stands ready to respond to our needs.

Plan to join us as we gather in prayer to intercede for America. We will pray for our nation remembering our pledge of allegiance recounts we are "one nation under God" and our currency states that it is "In God We Trust." We will pray for God's people here at Victory to encounter the God who rules over our lives and our country. We encourage you to join us as we humbly and diligently seek Him, believing we'll be changed, and we'll see transformation in America through prayer! For it is, "He who forms the mountains, creates the wind, and reveals His thoughts to man, He who turns down to darkness, and treads the high places of the earth—the LORD God Almighty is His name." (Amos 4:13, NIV)

For more information about our monthly Prayer & Praise Worship Service please call the church office at 480-830-5024 or email Pastor Susan at swestland@victorylutheran.com.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
	<p>1</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 9:30am The Chosen, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Board & Card Games, FH 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>7</p> <p>COMMUNION WEEKEND 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Israel Bible Study, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>9:30am Combined Bible Study Groups, C4 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>14</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC</p>	<p>15</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Israel Bible Study, FH 12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4</p>	<p>16</p> <p>3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 4pm I-HELP, C4 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>21</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC</p>	<p>22</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Israel Bible Study, FH</p>	<p>23</p> <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Outing to Feed My Starving Children (off-site) 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>28</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC</p>	<p>29</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am Israel Bible Study, FH</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 4pm I-HELP, C4 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
4 OFFICE CLOSED 7pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Fireworks (off-site) 	5 OFFICE CLOSED	6 COMMUNION WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
11 10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 10am Africa Mission Team Meeting, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Bingo Night (off-site)	12 OFFICE CLOSED	13 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
18 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11am Stephen Ministry, C4 4pm I-HELP, C4 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Wild Ginger Asian Bistro (off-site)	19 OFFICE CLOSED 4pm I-HELP, C4	20 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
25 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS	26 OFFICE CLOSED	27 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
1 - AUG 10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11am Stephen Ministry, C4 4pm I-HELP, C4	<p style="text-align: center;">Just a Reminder...</p> <p>Pastors and staff of Victory Lutheran Church will NEVER text you or email you asking you to send money or gift cards. The scammers are sneakier than ever. When in doubt, please call the church office at 480-830-5024.</p> 	

 **SUBSCRIBE**

VICTORY'S WEEKLY E-NEWS

Subscribe to our Weekly News and sermon link via email. Send your request to hello@victorylutheran.com



Be sure to follow, like and subscribe to our channel!

WAYS TO GIVE

ONLINE
VictoryLutheran.com

TEXT2GIVE
 text "GIVE" and the amount to 888-897-5573 ex. GIVE50

DROP OFF
 M-Th, 8am-4pm

BY MAIL
 5946 E. University Dr.
 Mesa, AZ 85205

BY PHONE
 Use the camera on your phone to scan the QR code below!



- CH = Chapel
- CY = Courtyard
- FH = Fellowship Hall
- FS = Fireside Room
- LB = Lobby
- LR = Luther Room
- PC = Prayer Chapel
- WC = Welcome Center
- WSC = Worship Center
- C4 = Community Room (formerly Rm. 23)

Mission Partner > Orchard: Africa Update



ORCHARD: AFRICA
www.orchardafrica.org

"I wanted to send you a celebratory message letting you know that the North West Impact Center construction has been completed! We are so grateful for this new resource and for the impact that will be made for God's kingdom in this space. Thank you for making it possible. We had a tremendous Pastor Network Gathering in the new Impact Center and it was so powerful to hear the church leaders worship together as the first act within its walls. Here are some pictures of the training center. God is good!" ~ Brian LaMew



Thank You!

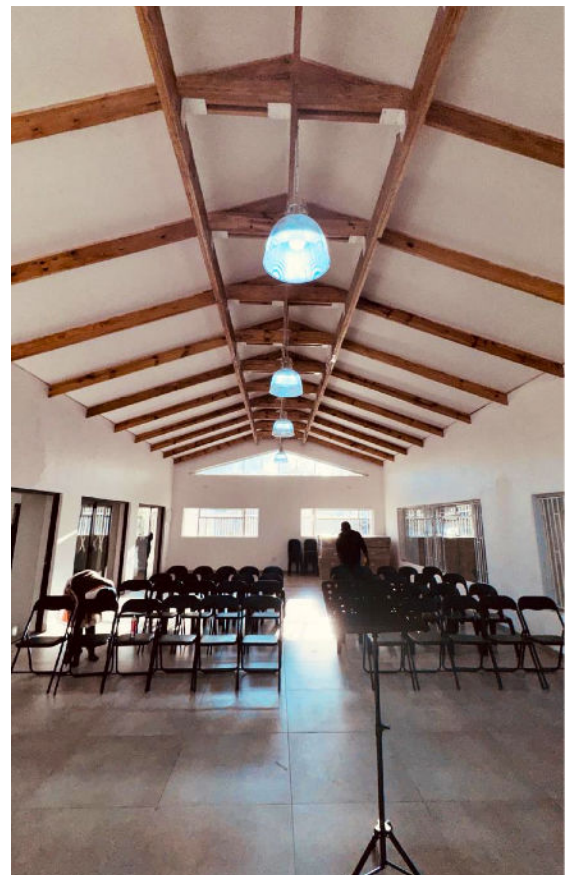
Your generosity equips the church to care for the vulnerable.

June 3, 2024

Dear Pastor Todd & Victory Lutheran Church,

On behalf of the entire team at Orchard: Africa, the church leaders who serve in the Northwest Province of South Africa, and the many African churches we serve, thank you for supporting the ongoing ministry of our newly launched Impact Center. Your generosity is overwhelming and your partnership is an encouragement to our work. Thank you to everyone who gave to this initiative. We thank God for your kindness to the poor and vulnerable of the Northwest Province. Also, thank you to Pastor Todd and Pastoral Intern Renee who gave so much time to this initiative as well as to the whole staff who made this possible. We look forward to welcoming the Victory Lutheran Mission Team this fall as you serve alongside of us at the Impact Center and the surrounding communities we support! In God's embrace,

Brian LaMew, Executive Pastor



VLC Mission Team: September 5-17, 2024

Please pray for our Mission Team as they plan and prepare for the upcoming trip. Pray for trust in God's Plan and what He wants to accomplish. Pray for good health and peace of mind.

Todd Mathison
Anne Mathison
Eileen Hernandez

Dean Johnson
Shirley Johnson
Karen Kleinsteuber

Jan Lorette
Joan Menke
Erica Ratliff

Mary Robb
Melvena Stager
Beatrix Tenny



School Supplies Collection

Starting this month the Mission Team will be collecting specific supplies to take them to South Africa. If you would like to make a monetary donation there are some educational materials that the team will need to purchase prior to leaving. Mark your donation "Orchard: Africa Supply Donations." Thank you in advance for your support.

Always in Need Donations

Education Program:

Coloring Books (Pre-School Themed), Construction Paper, Crayons, Markers, Colored Pencils

Food & Agriculture Program:

Vegetable seeds, Hand Garden Tools (Hand Spade, Hand Fork, Gardening Gloves, etc.), Plastic Ziplock Bags (all sizes), Zip Ties

Care Program:

Vaseline, Alcohol Wipes, Adult Diapers, Wound Gauze, Pain Cream & Lotion, Cotton Balls/Rounds, Surgical Gloves (size large only), Antiseptic Ointment



LOVE TO RING?

Victory is blessed to have many musical opportunities, including a handbell ensemble who play regularly during the high season. This summer we are going to have a short session that will play on July 21 with three rehearsals before that. This will be an easy and fun time to get together and make music. Have you ever wondered what it's like to play handbells?

If you are interested in joining us, please contact me at:
kprouty@victorylutheran.com
Kristin Holton Prouty
Director of Worship & Music





Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study Tuesday, July 9 @ 9:30am

During the summer we meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Victory as a combined group. Pastor or Bible Study leader chooses the study. Women's Ministry is looking for a candidate to fill the Treasurer position. If you are interested, contact Bethie Smith at 480-244-1601.

Women's Evening Bible Study Group Tuesdays @ 6:30pm

Our group meets each Tuesday evening in the courtyard Luther Room.

Men's Bible Study Group Wednesdays @ 1:00pm

We meet weekly in the courtyard Luther Room.

Men's Morning Bible Study Group Saturdays @ 8:00am

We meet weekly in the courtyard Fireside Room.



Grief Support Group - Mondays @ 12:30pm

Our regular program will run thru July 15th. We will resume in the fall.

Special 1-Day Seminar "Loss of Spouse" - August 12 @ 12:30pm

If you would like more information about GriefShare, visit their website at griefshare.org OR you may contact either:

Blair Revak at 480-227-5157

Suellen Palya at 218-230-9562



Food Pantry

The Food Pantry provides food boxes on Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30am. Your unopened/non-perishable food and toiletry donations are welcome. Please drop them off in the brown bin near the front entry doors during office hours or during weekend worship.



What is Stephen Ministry?

Stephen Ministry congregations equip and empower lay caregivers called Stephen Ministers to provide high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people going through tough times. A Stephen Minister usually provides care to one person at a time, meeting with that person once a week for about an hour. If you would like someone to come visit you or a loved one in the hospital, nursing facility or home please contact Pastor Susan Westland during office hours at 480-830-5024.



DAILY HOPE REVAMP Be a part of it.

Wouldn't it be nice to have a daily video devotional produced by our church? Wait a minute. We have just that! As you probably know, one of the great resources Victory offers is the Daily Hope, a daily video devotional created by our staff and pastors, filled with amazing Biblical content.

With our new studio, we are in the process of **revamping Daily Hope**, and we would love to have your feedback and input. If you are already receiving our devotionals via text message, you will soon receive a link to a survey. This link is from us, so just click on it and follow the instructions. You can also **scan the QR code** with your phone, which will also take you to the survey.



The survey consists of just a few questions and should take no more than five minutes to complete. Your opinion is highly valuable to us, and we really want you to be part of this process. Thank you for your time and input!

Would you like to receive Daily Hope by text?

**Just text "VICTORY" to
888-897-5573**



Victory Lutheran Church set up temporary shelters for families who are homeless

In partnership with Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, Victory Lutheran Church recently volunteered to provide shelter and meals for local families experiencing homelessness.

With the support of community members in the congregation, Victory Lutheran Church, 5946 E. University Drive in unincorporated Maricopa County, set up temporary shelters at its facility to host families overnight and prepared dinner for the families every night of the week. While staying at the congregation, families participated in activities like games, crafts, movie nights, and more, according to a release.

"We thank Victory Lutheran Church for their dedication to serving the community and for their willingness to step up and make a difference in the lives of kids and families experiencing homelessness," Ted Taylor, chief executive officer at Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, said in the release. "Their support is invaluable in our efforts to break the cycle of homelessness and empower families to build a brighter future."

Family Promise of Greater Phoenix relies on its interfaith network of volunteer religious congregations to shelter and feed the families they serve. At the same time, the nonprofit organization assists these families on their journey back to self-sufficiency. The community-based model of sheltering families at these congregations reduces overhead costs so Family Promise can magnify its impact. Through the Family Promise program, parents are provided with resources designed to help families find sustainable jobs and permanent housing while the children attend school, the release states.

"We are grateful for the opportunity to partner with Family Promise and contribute to their mission of assisting families experiencing homelessness," Kathy Michael, host coordinator at Victory Lutheran Church, said in the release. "We strive to be a beacon of hope and support for those in need in our community."

According to the National Child Traumatic Stress Network, homeless children face double the rate of learning disabilities and triple the rate of emotional and behavioral problems compared to nonhomeless children. By age 8, one in three homeless children has a major mental disorder. Additionally, half of school-age homeless children experience anxiety, depression or withdrawal, significantly higher than the 18% rate among nonhomeless children, the release states.

Victory Lutheran Church, alongside other religious congregations in Maricopa County, collaborates with Family Promise to aid families in transitioning to permanent housing and addressing the profound impact of homelessness on children's mental health. At the beginning of the year, Family Promise of Greater Phoenix set a goal to aid 165 families in 2024 by utilizing its program for independent housing and self-sufficiency. The organization has also assisted families in avoiding placements in shelter systems through its preventative programming.

For information on volunteering with or donating to Family Promise of Greater Phoenix, go to FamilyPromiseAZ.org.



From left are Lois Burton, Cheryl Chewning, Bonnie Brehmer, Kathy Michel, Laurie Risbrudt

Victory Lutheran Church
5946 E. University Drive
Mesa, AZ 85205

BLESSED
be the
NATION
whose
GOD IS THE
LORD

Psalm 33:12



VICTORY
LUTHERAN CHURCH

WORSHIP WITH US

Saturday 4pm Traditional

Sunday 8am Traditional w/ communion

9:30am Traditional

11am Contemporary



SUNDAYS
@ 9:30am

WATCH US LIVE @ 9:30am

If you are unable to watch at that exact time, the service is available to watch on Facebook, YouTube and online at VictoryLutheran.com.



OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday, 8am-4pm

Closed on Fridays

480-830-5024

Victory Lutheran.com

Be sure to follow, like and subscribe to our channel @VictoryLutheranMesa

