

FINAL WORDS

ETERNAL IMPACT

ASH WEDNESDAY

March 5 @ 4:00 & 6:00pm

LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays

March 12-April 9 @ 4:00pm
Soup Suppers @ 5:00pm



Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor
Denton Bennet, Associate 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





Dear Victory Family,

As we enter the season of Lent, I invite you to join me in embracing the somber yet profoundly meaningful journey that sets these weeks apart in our worship life. Lent stands as a unique time among Christ-followers, calling us to reflection, repentance, and a deeper awareness of God's mercy and grace. One way we mark this penitential season is by adopting the color purple — a visual reminder of humility and sorrow for sin. During Lent, we refrain in our gathered worship from using the word "Alleluia," a joyful expression meaning "Praise the Lord," until Easter morning. By setting aside this proclamation for now, we draw a striking contrast between the stillness of Lent and the glorious celebration of our Savior's resurrection, when our alleluias will ring out once again.

Lent is a time to slow down, humble ourselves, and remember the depths of Jesus' sacrifice.

Throughout this season of Lent, I encourage you to make space for prayer, personal reflection, and engagement with Scripture. To help you in your spiritual journey, we have made available **Lenten Daily Devotionals**, written personally by our pastors and leaders here at Victory. Whether you are new to Lent or have long treasured its significance, my prayer is that these devotions and our weekly worship will guide you into a deeper encounter with the love and sacrifice of Jesus.

May the Lord bless you richly as you embrace this holy season.

In Christ's love,
Pastor Todd Mathison

Pastor Todd Mathison

COUNCIL CORNER

Lent followed by Easter is one of my favorite times of the church calendar. It is a time for me to pray and reflect on the gift that Jesus gave me, gave us. It marks our "high season" here at VLC and there will be many opportunities to give praise and get involved. This year is also special because we are embarking on an exciting part of our Mission and Vision journey. The staff transition of the last 3 years is complete and the Vision planning groundwork has been laid by our leadership team. We are ready for our next step.

As a reminder, the following is our Mission and Vision statements:

Mission: VLC is to serve and glorify God by being and making disciples for Jesus Christ.

Vision: VLC is a joyful and loving community that transforms and deploys Christ-centered disciples who lead others into God's mission frontier empowered by the Holy Spirit.

So, what does it mean to be on the mission frontier? Well, we are ready to embark on specific planning for our next mission growth. Jesus' gave us our direction in Matthew 28:18-20: Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

At last year's annual meeting, I led devotions reflecting on what it means to be a good and faithful servant. And I pray that one day, all of us will have the opportunity to hear the words, "Well done, good and faithful servant." I pray that we all have the opportunity to be and make disciples. Please continue to pray for Victory Lutheran Church, pray for our pastors, staff, council, and leadership. For your information, church financial information is available in the church office.

On behalf of your Church Council, we thank you for your prayers and support.

With joy,
Andrew Lund, Church Council President



VLC COUNCIL MEMBERS

Merle Bauman, Roger Anhorn, Ron Bickle, Andrew Lund, Ginger Kuemmerle, Todd Mathison, Emilie Duffy, Jim Grosnick, Sue Borrowdale (not present)

New Sermon Series: Final Words, Eternal Impact

"Final Words, Eternal Impact" is our new Lent sermon series exploring the last words of Jesus from the cross, unveiling the eternal realities for all who trust in Him. Discover how Christ's forgiveness frees us to forgive others with compassion, how His promise of a place in the Father's house offers us belonging both now and forever, how our bond in Christ surpasses any earthly tie, and how we are claimed, embraced, and never abandoned by God's unshakable faithfulness. As we journey together through this season of Lent, we stand together as living testimonies of the boundless grace found in Jesus.

March 8-9 — Forgiven To Forgive — Ephesians 4:32

The Bible powerfully exhorts us to "be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you." Through the cross, Christ extends grace beyond human comprehension, calling us to embody radical forgiveness in our own lives. By examining the depth of God's mercy toward us, we are challenged to cultivate hearts that mirror Jesus' love, releasing the chains of bitterness and resentment. And as we learn to forgive from a place of gratitude and humility, we become living testimonies of God's boundless grace in a broken world.

March 15-16 — Where You Belong — John 14:2-3

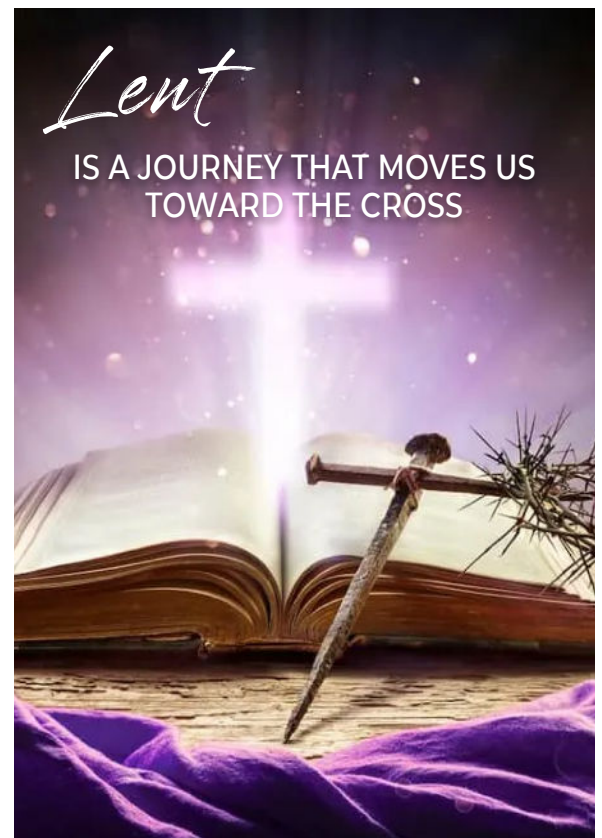
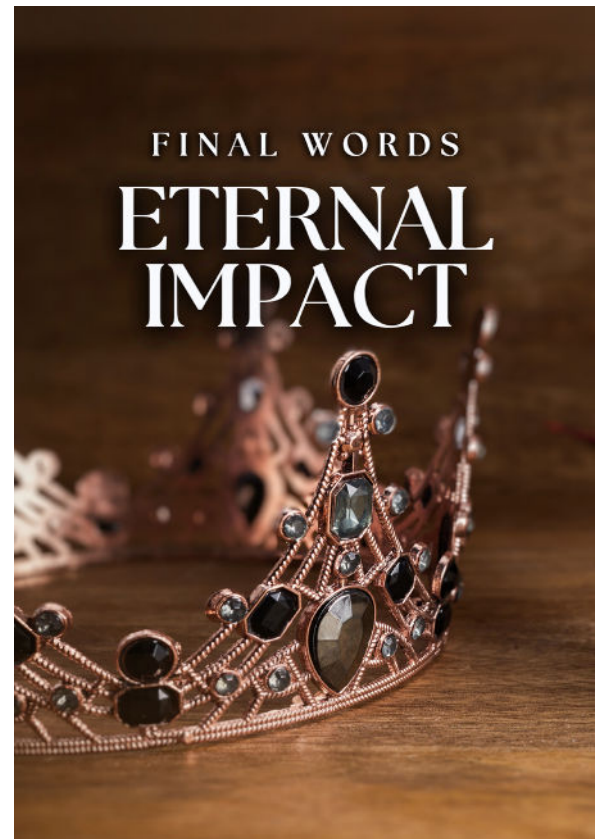
Jesus reassures His disciples that He has prepared a place for them in His Father's house. This promise extends to all who believe, offering not only the hope of eternal life but also the joy of belonging right now to the family of God. Even in our present circumstances, we can find rest and comfort in knowing that Christ has welcomed us into His household. Secure in this assurance, we have the freedom to extend that same invitation of belonging to others — reflecting God's generous love and opening the door to His Kingdom for every heart seeking a place to call home.

March 22-23 — Water Thicker Than Blood — Galatians 6:2

God calls us to carry one another's burdens, highlighting the profound truth that in Christ, we share a bond stronger than any earthly tie. Jesus establishes a new kind of family — His followers united in love, standing alongside one another through every trial. By embracing one another's struggles and joys, we reflect the depth and power of God's enduring family.

March 29-30 — Claimed & Embraced — Ephesians 1:11-14

Scripture declares that in Christ, we have been chosen, sealed, and given a glorious inheritance, given to us because Jesus was forsaken on the cross so that we need never be abandoned. Even in our darkest moments, God's faithfulness remains unshakable — He is present, He is at work, and He never leaves His children. Our adoption into God's family becomes the solid ground for our confidence and hope, reminding us that we are claimed, embraced, and held secure in Christ forever.



Lenten Sermon Series: FINAL WORDS — Eternal Impact

This year our Wednesday Lenten journey focus will take us to the foot of the cross where we will listen to the voice of our Savior Jesus speaking the last 7 statements He made before His death.

As you may know, Lent is traditionally known as a solemn season of fasting, penance, and repentance that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter morning. Lent is a time to reflect on Jesus's suffering and death, and to ask for forgiveness.

The days of Lent have traditionally been "fast" days. The Sundays in Lent are considered "feast" days. The traditional Gospel Acclamation during Lent changes from "Alleluia, Lord to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life." (John 6:68) to "Return to the Lord, your God, for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love." (Joel 2:13)

A dedicated team of prayer warriors have prepared a 40-day Lenten devotional for us use as a daily devotional prayer guide. Our prayer is that through your daily devotion time with Jesus the Holy Spirit will help you grow deeper in your faith and strengthen your covenant relationship with God. **Our Lenten Devotional will be available to pick up in person or you may scan the QR code to access on your phone.**



We extend our many thanks to Diane Snyder, Eileen Hernandez, Arthur Camou, Anne Mathison, Pastoral Intern Renee Bennett and Pastors David Palmquist, Denton Bennet, and Susan Westland. We also want to extend our appreciation to our team of editors including Rich Westland, Mayelle Unglaub and Alisson Unglaub. May God bless your Lenten Journey and fill you with His love and grace as you fall more deeply in love with our Lord Jesus Christ who is our Immanuel; our God who is with us.

Wednesday March 5 — Ash Wednesday

Scripture Text: Luke 23:34

Statement From the Cross: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

Unsurprisingly, Jesus' first words from the cross were a prayer. What is surprising, almost disturbing, is what He prayed. "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." How can an innocent man, who was humiliated, nearly beaten to death, and facing death by crucifixion, intercede on behalf of those who are killing Him? But the bigger question that needs to be asked is, "who exactly was the "them" that Jesus was asking God to forgive?"

ASH WEDNESDAY

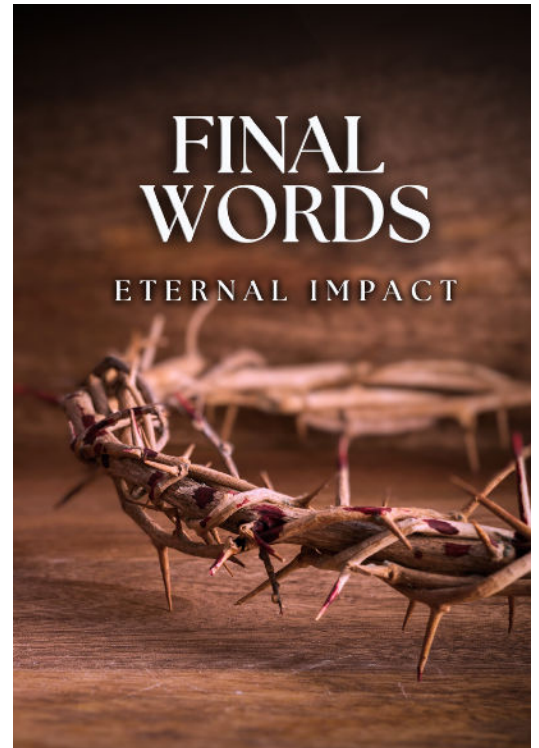
March 5 @ 4:00 & 6:00pm

LENTEN WORSHIP

Wednesdays

March 12-April 9 @ 4:00pm

Soup Suppers @ 5:00pm



Wednesday March 12

Scripture Text: Luke 23:43

Statement From the Cross: "Today, you will be with Me in paradise."

It is said that a person is known by the company her or she keeps. In life and death, Jesus associated with sinners. This troubled the religious people, who often grumbled about it. Yet, at the core, this is who Jesus is: a friend of sinners. He welcomes people to come to Him, to be with Him, just as He welcomed the thief on the cross to join Him in paradise.

Wednesday March 19

Scripture Text: John 19:26-27

Statement From the Cross: "Woman, behold your son" and to John: "behold your mother."

No mother should ever have to watch her son die the agonizing death of crucifixion. In Jesus' third word from the cross, He spoke to His mother and closest disciple. This moment captures the heart of Jesus' mission, sacrificing love and giving of oneself to care for another. In His moment of death, Jesus turns His attention to His mother's welfare and sets the mark for the Christian church, serving and caring for others through Jesus' sacrifice.



**CHILDREN'S CHURCH
NOISY OFFERING
March 29 & 30, 2025**

The Noisy Offering in March will be for our new Children's Church. Your generosity will help us purchase supplies for our weekly children's lessons for our 2-10 year olds. We have been so blessed by the number of children who have been attending Children's Church during our 11:00 Contemporary Service and we can't wait for this ministry to grow with your support! God has been moving in these young children's hearts as they learn about God's amazing creation. Their smiles were undeniable when all the kids walked out with little flashlights and stories about how God created light just by saying, "Let there be light!" Please let your light shine on this new ministry through your generous donations during our noisy offering and make sure to share this good news of our Children's church with your neighbors and friends! If you are interested in volunteering to help with Children's church on Sundays at 11:00, contact:

Renee Bennett
rbennett@victorylutheran.com

Wednesday March 26

Scripture Text: Psalm 22:1-2, Mark 15:34, Matthew 27:46

Statement From the Cross: "My God, My God, why have you forsaken Me?"

For many, this is the most moving, disturbing, and powerfully haunting statement of the seven: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" These words not only reflect the darkness of this horrific experience Jesus endured but also the darkness within those who surrounded the cross. Yet, these words from the Psalmist point to a deeper faith that sustained Him on the cross.

Wednesday April 2

Scripture Text: John 19:28

Statement From the Cross: "I Thirst."

In the final moments on the cross, Jesus said two words that reveal His full humanity: "I thirst." As Jesus suffered on the cross for our sins, He cried out in pain, He thirsted as we thirst, and then He died as we die. Jesus did not circumvent His suffering nor His death for our sins.



SOUP SUPPERS

**March 12-April 9
Wednesdays @ 5:00pm**

During Lent we will be serving Soup Suppers following the 4:00pm worship service. Gluten-free option available. \$5 suggested donation.

DESSERTS

Please bring a pre-cut pie or dessert to help support Lenten Suppers. Listed by the first initial of your last name.

March 12	A-L	April 2	M-Z
March 19	M-Z	April 9	A-L
March 26	A-L		

SOUP MENU

March 12

Chicken with Wild Rice & Tomato Basil (GF)

March 19

Vegetable Beef & Clam Chowder (GF)

March 26

Potato & Split Pea (GF)

April 2

Chicken Tortilla & Broccoli Cheese (GF)

April 9

Chicken with Wild Rice & French Onion (GF)

(GF) – gluten free

Wednesday April 9

Scripture Text: John 19:30; Luke 23:46

Statement From the Cross: "It is Finished; Into Your hands I commend My Spirit."

"It is Finished!" What, exactly, is finished? The final words from Jesus are shouted, an exclamation of more than a final breath, but the final moment of salvation is completed. At this moment, the climax was reached, and His glory was revealed as He laid down His life to save humanity.

VICTORY



FORWARD



Victory Forward: Expanding God's Kingdom in the East Valley

Dear Victory Church Family,

God is moving in powerful ways at Victory Lutheran Church, and we sense He is leading us to bold new steps in our mission locally. For nearly 48 years, we have joyfully proclaimed God's Word, offered traditional worship and historic Lutheran liturgy, and built a loving community where disciples of Jesus can grow and flourish. Three years ago, we captured our vision:

**Victory Lutheran Church is a joyful and loving community
that transforms and deploys Christ-centered disciples
who lead others into God's mission frontiers,
empowered by the Holy Spirit.**

Planting new churches has always been part of our DNA. Victory was started as a church plant back in 1997. In 2009, we started Christ the Victor in Florence, and in 2016, we began Victory Crismon. Now, after prayerful discernment, our leaders believe it's time to expand again. We are thrilled to announce "Victory Forward," an initiative to establish new church sites in the East Valley and metro Phoenix so more people can hear the Gospel and grow in Christ.

We are aiming high: by 2030, we hope to double the number of disciples who call Victory home, with one church in three locations. Our first milestone is to launch a new church site by Victory's 50th anniversary — April 3, 2027. We are also trusting God to help us start a third site by 2030. We recognize these are big goals — only the Lord can make them a reality! Yet, our current campus has limited room for growth, so expanding to new locations will help us welcome and disciple more people.

continued >

To Get Started:

We need to raise \$50,000 before Easter. These funds will help us plan and discern key questions: Who will lead this new mission? Where should we plant? When is the right time? How can we make the greatest impact for Christ? Crucially, this \$50,000 will allow us to bring in expertise and experience from those who have successfully done this in the past, ensuring we follow best practices and proven strategies, working closely with Victory's leadership to maintain a unified vision and direction for this new mission. Victory's Foundation has already committed \$10,000, and now we invite every member to prayerfully join us in this effort. Your gift — above and beyond regular tithes and offerings — will help us take these initial steps toward God's next mission frontier locally.

Will you partner with us through prayer, discernment, and giving? Ask the Lord how He wants you to support "Victory Forward." Together, we can continue growing as disciples of Jesus while leading others to discover His saving grace — even if the next mission field is right around the corner. We look forward to watching God work among us, for His glory and the advance of His Kingdom.

To God be the glory!

Pastor Todd Mathison

On behalf of Victory Leadership

Our 2027 Goal:

Our first milestone is to launch a new church site by Victory's 50th anniversary — April 3, 2027.

Our 2030 Goal:

We are aiming high: by 2030, we hope to double the number of disciples who call Victory home, with one church in three locations.

Ways to Give:

In Person

Note in memo "Victory Forward Fund"


Online

VictoryLutheran.com

By Phone

Scan the QR code below.



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
<p>2</p> <p>COMMUNION WEEKEND</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>3</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 1-3:30pm Stephen Ministry Training, B7 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>5 ASH WEDNESDAY</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Ash Wednesday Svc, WC 6pm Ash Wednesday Svc, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p> 
<p>9</p> <p>NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 3pm Main Street Brass Concert, WC</p>	<p>10</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 1-3:30pm Stephen Ministry Training, B7 1:30pm Estate & Planned Giving Seminar, B11 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:30am Esperanza Study, FS 11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 1pm Dementia Seminar, C4 1:30pm Mary Study, meet in home 2pm Naomi Bible Study, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>12</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>16</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>17</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 1-3:30pm Stephen Ministry Training, B7 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>18</p> <p>11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 11:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Lunch @ Tia Rosa (off-site) 3pm Council Meeting, FS 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>19</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>23</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>24</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 1-3:30pm Stephen Ministry Training, B7 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>26</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Feed My Starving Children Bus leaves @ 8am 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>30</p> <p>NOISY OFFERING</p> <p>7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 3pm Moravian Masterpieces Concert, WC</p>	<p>31</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 1-3:30pm Stephen Ministry Training, B7 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>1- APRIL</p> <p>11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>2 - APRIL</p> <p>9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 4pm Lenten Worship, WC 5pm Soup Supper, FH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
6 10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4 12:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Mesa Arts Center Free Concert (off-site) Bus leaves @ 11am	7 OFFICE CLOSED	1 COMMUNION WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC <hr/> 8 NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 11am Women's Ministry Luncheon, FH 4pm Worship, WC
13 9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, LR 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 12:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Mesa Arts Center Free Concert (off-site) Bus leaves @ 11am	14 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Bourbon Street Jazz (off-site)	15 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
20 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4 12:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Mesa Arts Center Free Concert (off-site) Bus leaves @ 11am	21 OFFICE CLOSED	22 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC 7pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Jersey Boys Show (off-site) Bus leaves @ 5:45pm
27 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 12:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Mesa Arts Center Free Concert (off-site) Bus leaves @ 11am	28 OFFICE CLOSED	29 NOISY OFFERING 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC 7pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Dragon Boat Festival (off-site) Bus leaves @ 12pm

**UPCOMING
EVENTS**

WEDNESDAYS
MARCH 12-APRIL 9
 Lenten Worship @ 4pm
 with Soup Supper

APRIL 3
 Prayer & Praise Service
 10am in the Chapel

APRIL 7
 GriefShare: Loss of Spouse
 12:30-2:30pm

APRIL 7
 Estate & Planned Giving
 Seminar @ 1:30pm

APRIL 13
 1st Communion Class
 12:15pm

APRIL 13
 Palm Sunday

APRIL 17
 Maundy Thursday
 Services 4pm & 6pm

APRIL 18
 Good Friday Choir Cantata
 4pm & 6pm

APRIL 20
EASTER SUNDAY
 6am Sunrise, 8am,
 9:30am & 11am

APRIL 22
 Book Club @ 1:30pm
 "Saturday Night at the
 Lakeside Supper Club"
 by J. Ryan Stradal

APRIL 27
 Discovering Victory 101

PRAYER & PRAISE WORSHIP
MARCH 6 @ 10AM

Held the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:00am. This service is led by members of our prayer team, with opportunities for anyone who feels called to also share in prayer. We also meet weekly for prayer on Thursdays at 10:00am.

L.A. FIRE RELIEF FUND
THANK YOU!

On January 18th we started a Fire Relief Fund in partnership with our sister congregation, Revive L.A., located in the Pacific Palisades. Thanks to your contributions, Victory sent a check totaling **\$7,280** to their aid. Continue to keep them in prayer.

CH = Chapel
 CY = Courtyard
 FH = Fellowship Hall
 FS = Fireside Room
 LB = Lobby
 LR = Luther Room
 NR = Nursery
 PC = Prayer Chapel
 WD = Welcome Desk
 WC = Worship Center
 C4 = Community Room

Review: 2025 GRANDPARENTING SUMMIT

The February 21, 2025 Grandparenting Summit brought a wealth of inspiration and practical wisdom, specifically empowering grandparents to step into their role as spiritual leaders within their families. The rich content available through the series of keynote speeches was both reflective and thought-provoking, aligning perfectly with Victory's mission, "To be and make disciples of Jesus Christ."

Each speaker's message addressed the unique challenges and opportunities grandparents face today. Their messages presented a compelling case for why grandparents are integral to their families' spiritual health and growth, offering biblical foundations and practical advice.

"Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children." - Proverbs 17:6

This scripture encapsulates the heart of the conference, underscoring the importance of grandparents as spiritual guides and mentors. With their diverse backgrounds, the speakers brought a wealth of experience and a deep understanding of biblical teachings, making the sessions engaging and enlightening.

Larry Fowler began the day with an outstanding presentation capturing the biblical example of living out our "purpose" in the family discipleship structure. Among the other standout sessions were those by the Anne Graham-Lotz family, capturing a conversation between grandmother, daughter, and granddaughter. They delved into the role of grandparents in fostering faith through storytelling, prayer, and lived example. Dr. Jeff Myers presented another notable session by providing a roadmap for grandparents to navigate modern challenges, offering strategies to remain relevant and impactful in their grandchildren's lives.

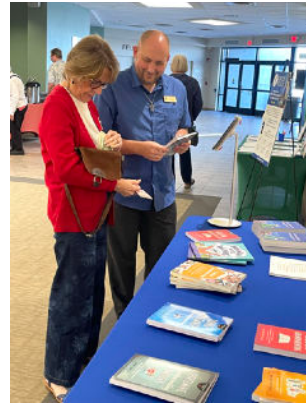
The event also emphasized the importance of community, encouraging grandparents to network and share their experiences. This aligns beautifully with Victory Lutheran's vision of creating a joyful and loving community that supports one another in their spiritual journeys.

Overall, the 2025 Grandparenting Summit was a treasure trove of wisdom and encouragement. It was a calling for grandparents to rise to their God-given role with renewed vigor and purpose and provided the tools and inspiration needed to lead their families in faith.

In Christ's Service.
Pastor Denton Bennet



110 sites hosted Summit in February!



VICTORY LUTHERAN 2024-2025 CONCERT SERIES

Main Street Brass

Sunday, March 9 @3pm

Let the vibrant sounds of the Main Street Brass Quintet fill your afternoon! This talented brass ensemble has played together in the East Valley for several years, and will perform a variety of pieces, offering a dynamic and exhilarating musical experience. There will also be the opportunity to hear the timeless coupling of organ and brass, showing the power of these instruments. Come and be captivated by brass music at its finest.



Moravian Masterpieces:

A Glimpse into the Sacred Music
of Early America

Sunday, March 30 @3pm

Journey back to the early days of American sacred music with "Moravian Masterpieces." This concert features choral and instrumental selections from the Moravian tradition, highlighting the rich spiritual heritage and musical artistry of Early America, as well as contemporary compositions inspired by the early compositional techniques. The choir of Victory, together with brass and strings, are joining with the Moravian Music Foundation to share these rare gems. Invite a friend to come and enjoy an afternoon of music that reflects the faith and culture of America's past as well as the hope and joy that is still thriving through the gift of music.



SCAN ME

Save the Date! April 18th
Good Friday Cantata, 4 & 6pm



5946 E. University Drive, Mesa, AZ 85205 | 480-830-5024 | VictoryLutheran.com
Kristin Holton Prouty, Worship & Music Coordinator



**MONTHLY BOOK CLUB
TUESDAY, MARCH 25, 1:30-3:00PM**

Anyone who loves to read good books and discuss with others is welcome to join. March selection is "I Am Code: An Artificial Intelligence Speaks" by code-davinci-002. Please come prepared to discuss.



GRIEF SUPPORT | MONDAYS @ 12:30PM

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.

Current series ends: March 17, 2025

NEW! 13-week series begins: April 28-July 28, 2025

Loss of Spouse - 1-Day Seminar - April 7 @ 12:30-2:30pm

If you would like more information you can find more info about GriefShare on their website at griefshare.org OR you may contact either Suellen Palya at 218-230-9562 or Pastor Susan at 480-830-5024 xt. 131.



FOOD PANTRY

The Food Pantry provides food boxes on Monday and Wednesdays from 9:00-11:30am. Utility & Rental Assistance available by appointment only. Please call 480-654-4539 and leave a message. 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.



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. Once a month, Stephen Ministers gather with their Stephen Leaders for supervision and continuing education. 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.



LIFE GROUPS

Women's Ministry Bible Study Groups | Tuesday, March 11 @ 9:30am

We meet the 2nd Tuesday of the month.
Esperanza Bible Study - 9:30am, Fireside Room
Mary Bible Study - 1:30pm, meet in homes
Naomi Bible Study - 2:00pm, Room B7

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

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

Winter Women's LifeGroup | Tuesdays @ 11:00am, meet in home

We meet weekly at the home of Andrea Hill. Contact 720-320-9293 for details.

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.



DEMENTIA/ALZHEIMER CARE PARTNER SEMINAR

As you may know, the neurological condition known as Dementia that affects the brain, causing loss of memory, thinking, and reasoning has life altering effects of many individuals and families. This is a powerful three-part series on Dementia Education.

Session Three, March 11, teaches us to master three techniques that will make our days go by faster and will help keep our loved one happy and entertained.

Each session includes a question-and-answer section at the end of each seminar, and adult day care is provided should anyone have the need for it. Adult day care is available. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk so that we may plan appropriately for those who will attend.

Questions? Contact Lynda Buechner at lyndabuechner@gmail.com



Session 1: JAN 14
Session 2: FEB 11
Session 3: MARCH 11

Dementia | Alzheimer Care Partner Seminar

Educational Series with Tools & Resources

Meets
2nd Tuesdays of the month @ 1pm

VICTORY LUTHERAN CHURCH MESA, AZ



Unlocking your Legacy

Estate & Planned Giving Seminars

Date: March 10, 2025
Time: 1:30pm

By Mark Johnson
Development Consultant
Recognized for his expertise in Estate planning and charitable gifting.



ESTATE & PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR

Sponsored by Victory Lutheran Church Foundation

You are invited to this FREE seminar on March 10th to learn about the different aspects of Estate Planning and why you should plan. As you delve into the intricacies of estate planning, you'll find a multitude of compelling reasons to secure your legacy:

- **Biblical Perspective on Estate Planning:** Gain insights into the spiritual and moral aspects of estate planning, aligning your financial decisions with biblical principles.
- **Avoid Probate:** Safeguard your loved ones from the complexities and delays of probate proceedings.
- **Reduce Estate Taxes:** Strategically plan your estate to minimize tax burdens and maximize the inheritance for your heirs.
- **Leave Gifts for Your Favorite Charity:** Extend your impact beyond your lifetime by supporting the causes dear to your heart.

- **Individual Consulting:** By attending this seminar, you will have the opportunity to set an appointment to meet in person with Mark Johnson the day after the seminar, to talk about any questions or concerns specific to your situation.
- **And Much More:** Check our website victorylutheran.com/events

Our presenter, Mark Johnson, is recognized for his expertise in estate planning and charitable gifting. He has presented numerous Estate Planning Workshops in churches around the country and has been a featured speaker at many conferences.

Don't miss this opportunity to shape your legacy and leave a lasting impact.

SIGN UP at the Welcome Desk for VLC'S Estate & Planned Giving Seminar!

MARCH 2025

S.A.F.E.

SINGLES ACTIVITY FELLOWSHIP EVENTS

**ALL EVENTS ARE OFF-SITE. SIGN UP IS REQUIRED.
ALL TICKETED EVENTS MUST BE PAID AT TIME OF SIGN UP.**

Bingo Night

**Thursday, March 13, Doors Open @ 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.



Rancho de Tia Rosa

Tuesday, March 18, 11:30am Lunch, 891 N. Higley Road, Gilbert

Join your Singles' friends to enjoy the luncheon specials or Mexican salads, on the patio, on what we hope will be a weather-friendly day. Food choices run \$9.00 thru \$22.00. Reservations are for 11:30am. (It's in the same plaza as Hen House, in the far corner.)



Mesa Arts Center "Out to Lunch" - Free Concert Series

Thursday, March 6, 13, 20 & 27, 12:30-1:30pm, 1 E. Main Street, Mesa (Bus leaves at 11:00am)

Each week is a different sound, and style in this concert series. Delicious Lunch items available for purchase. Bring a folding chair or blanket. Using the bus (\$5.00) depends on the number of sign-ups. Our meeting place is on Center Street by the Box Office. Meeting time 11:15-11:30am.

March 6 - Bad Cactus Brass Band

March 13 - Stillcho, Irish ballads

March 20 - Arizona Opera & Chandler Opera

March 27 - Rhinestone Country



MESA ARTS CENTER

Feed My Starving Children

Wednesday, March 26, 9:00-11:30am, 1100 W. Grove Parkway, Tempe (Bus leaves @ 8:00am)

This monthly mission trip to the Christian based, non-profit organization, is on the 4th Wednesday of each month. You can stand and package the food, or sit and label it. Afterwards, we will enjoy fellowship at a fast food restaurant. Sign up and pay \$5.00 for bus by March 16th.



Arizona Dragon Boat Festival - Free Event

Saturday, March 29, 550 East Tempe Townlake, Tempe (Bus leaves at 12:00pm)

We're going to this totally free event with the bus leaving at noon and returning approximately 2:00-3:00pm (whenever we've had enough). Races with teams from the East and West Coasts will run all day from 8am. There will be entertainment, vendors and food to purchase. Deadline: Thurs, March 27.



Barleen's Dinner Show

Thursday, April 3, 6:00pm, 2275 E. Old West Highway, Apache Junction (Bus leaves at 4:45pm)

This is the "Season's Best Show" featuring the highlights of the season as selected by their audiences as absolutely the best of the season from acts in their focused shows. Dinner is served at 6:00pm. The show starts last 7:00pm. Ticket \$49.00 + \$5.00 bus. Deadline: Monday, March 17th.



NOTE: All TICKETS will be handed out on the BUS or in the LOBBY of event site.

Luther-Bach Pilgrimage to Germany

September 23–October 4, 2025



Step back in time and immerse yourself in the lives and legacies of Martin Luther and Johann Sebastian Bach. This extraordinary 12-day pilgrimage weaves together profound spiritual enrichment, rich musical heritage, and fascinating World War II and Cold War history. From standing where Luther ignited the Reformation in Wittenberg to hearing Bach's majestic organ music reverberate through the very churches he once graced, each day will deepen your appreciation of faith, culture, and history.

What Makes This Trip Special:

- Rich Encounters – Experience Luther's Reformation sites, Bach's musical world, and key historical landmarks of World War II and the Cold War.
- Expert Leadership – Travel alongside Pastor Todd and Anne Mathison, Dr. Kristin Holton Prouty (Victory's Director of Worship & Music), and seasoned travel professional David Jones and his team at Explorer X.
- Tour Features - Exploring Munich and learning about the Holocaust at Dachau; Visiting the places where Martin Luther lived and worked; Touring Eisenach, Erfurt, Wittenberg (Capital of the Reformation); Taking in Leipzig, where Bach made history - Kristin Prouty on a Bach organ! Tour WWII & Cold War sites in Berlin.
- Stay in Just Three Hotels – Enjoy the comfort of settling into three exquisite establishments, allowing you more time to explore, reflect, and savor local charm without repacking every morning.

Whether you are drawn by the music, the history, or the spiritual significance, we invite you to join us on this once-in-a-lifetime pilgrimage. Prepare to be inspired, enlightened, and renewed as we follow in the footsteps of two giants of faith and culture.

We look forward to sharing this unforgettable journey with you.

In Christ,

Anne & Pastor Todd Mathison, Kristin Holton Prouty

DEPOSIT \$1,750 p/p

Based on double occupancy
Single room is \$1,000 extra p/p

**Non-refundable deposit is due by
March 15, 2025**

Total cost: \$6,950/pp
(sharing/double room including airfare)

Payment in full due June 15, 2025

Average temps in Germany:

Highs in mid 60s, lows in mid-50s.

Key points regarding weather & clothing:

- Expect comfortable fall weather with mostly sunny days and occasional rain showers.
- Pack clothes that can be layered to adjust to changing temperatures throughout the day.
- While not overly rainy, it's a good idea to carry an umbrella as occasional showers may occur.



**Pick up a full trip itinerary
at the Welcome Desk!**



Ash Wednesday

March 5 @ 4 & 6pm

*with imposition of ashes



WORSHIP WITH US!

Saturdays 4pm

Sundays 8, 9:30 & 11am



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.

NEED SOME DAILY ENCOURAGEMENT?

Subscribe to our daily devotional by texting the word **victory** to **888-897-5573**

Lenten Worship

Learn more at VictoryLutheran.com/lent

Or scan the QR code with your smart phone's camera and tap on the link.

