

# ALLELUIA HE IS RISEN

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maunder Thursday\* 4pm & 6pm  
Good Friday Cantata 4pm & 6pm  
Stations of the Cross Experience  
April 17 & 18, 3-8pm

## EASTER SERVICES

Outdoor Sunrise\* 6am  
Traditional 8am, 9:30am  
4pm Saturday  
Continental Breakfast 6:45-7:45am  
Contemporary & Children's Church 11am  
\*with communion

Learn more at: [victorylutheran.com/easter](http://victorylutheran.com/easter)  
or scan the QR code below



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](http://VictoryLutheran.com)



## TODD MATHISON, LEAD PASTOR

Dear Victory Lutheran Church Family,

As we continue our Lenten journey into the month of April, we prepare our hearts to reflect on Christ's passion, stand in awe at the foot of the cross, and then rejoice at the empty tomb. In the midst of this sacred journey, we cling to the powerful assurance found in 1 Corinthians 15:17-20:

"If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep."

What a hopeful and life-changing truth! The resurrection of Jesus Christ isn't just an historic event—it is the very bedrock of our faith, the promise that sin and death have been conquered once and for all. Because Jesus has indeed been raised from the dead, our sins are forgiven, our faith is strengthened, and our hope is secure.

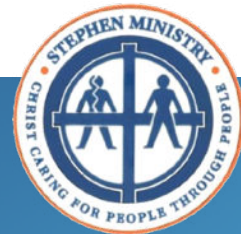
I warmly invite you to participate in our Holy Week and Easter services. Whether you can join us in person or worship with us online, your presence matters. Come let us walk together through the solemnity of Maundy Thursday, remember Christ's sacrifice on Good Friday, and ultimately rejoice in the glorious victory of Resurrection Sunday.

May the risen Christ fill your hearts with hope, peace, and overflowing joy in this season of new life. Together, let us celebrate the wonderful truth of Easter: He is risen indeed!

Grace and peace be yours in abundance — *Pastor Todd Mathison*



## STEPHEN MINISTRY COMMISSIONING Sunday, April 6 @ 8:00am



Have ever wondered about the training our Stephen Ministers go through? Did you know their training teaches them principles and skills that equip them to provide high-quality, Christ-centered, one-to-one emotional and spiritual care to others? In fact, the training our Stephen Ministers go through helps give them new insight into the thoughts, feelings, and actions of

people who are hurting. Their training equips them with relational and caring skills that helps deepen their faith as the Holy Spirit fashions them into Christ-centered caregivers.

On April 6th, during our 8am worship service, Victory Lutheran will commission five laypeople from our congregation into this special ministry of care and concern for others. Their commissioning concludes their initial 50-hour period of extensive training and preparation they went through over the past five months.

As Stephen Ministers they will be assigned to provide one to one Christian care to those in our congregation and community going through difficulties in life. Our newest Stephen Ministers will now continue their education as they join our full Stephen Ministry team that meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month. In these on-going educational classes, our Stephen Ministers continue to learn additional caregiving skills that help them in their caring relationships.

Please join me in welcoming **Darrel Videen, Barb Nelson, Lori Pilato, Emilie Duffy, and Ronald Swalboski** and to our Stephen Ministry Team (pictured above). We thank God for their gifts and ask that you keep all of our Stephen Ministers in your prayers as they carry the love of Christ to those who need it.

For more information about Stephen Ministry please contact me at the church office or by my email at [swestland@victorylutheran.com](mailto:swestland@victorylutheran.com).

In God's Embrace, Pastor Susan Westland



## CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO CALL RENEE BENNETT SUN, APRIL 6, 2025, 12:30PM

You recently received a letter from Andrew Lund, VLC Council President, about the upcoming special congregation meeting on April 6 to call Renee Bennett as our Discipleship Pastor. I wish to share my own thoughts to emphasize the importance of this call and explain how it aligns with our church strategy.

### Role of a Discipleship Pastor

A Discipleship Pastor supports individuals in their spiritual growth by coordinating Bible studies, small groups, and spiritual formation activities. This role ensures everyone feels welcomed and nurtured in their walk with Christ. It also involves mentoring new leaders, encouraging volunteer involvement, and creating a welcoming community for anyone eager to grow in faith. At Victory, this position is designed to meet our congregation's needs by fostering meaningful, gospel-centered relationships.

### Clarifying the Pastor Positions

Although it may seem like we're adding a new full-time pastoral role, the Discipleship Pastor position is actually half-time. It has already been part of our budget and ministry plan, and has been faithfully filled by Renee Bennett since last year. She will continue serving part-time, but now as an ordained pastor. Our call to her is simply a formal affirmation of her pastoral ministry among us and a step in requesting her Ordination with LCMC (our network of congregations).

### Funding and Budget

There may be concerns about funding, especially with varying attendance throughout the year. Please be assured that all pastoral positions—full-time and half-time—are factored into the budget approved at our annual meeting. Our leadership carefully manages resources, balancing current needs and future ministry opportunities with the realities of changing attendance and giving patterns.

### Historical Staffing Levels

Our strategy remains consistent with what was affirmed last fall at both the special congregational meeting to call Denton Bennet as our Associate Pastor, and at the annual meeting last fall. This is an investment in God's Kingdom that aligns with both our current plan and our history. In the years before the pandemic, Victory Church had four or five pastors on staff at once. In 2017, there were five; from 2018 to 2021, there were four—costing us more than we are spending this year. Having multiple pastors dedicated to different ministry areas (worship, preaching, discipleship, mission, outreach, and pastoral care) is not new for our congregation.

### Investing in a Growing Future

By formally calling and affirming pastors who focus on various aspects of ministry, we hope to serve our congregation year-round and continue growing. Our prayer is that this plan will help more people come to know Jesus Christ as their Savior, and feel supported and welcomed at Victory. This is how we live out our shared mission: to serve and glorify God by being and making disciples of Jesus Christ.

### Our Ongoing Commitment

Our goal is to make Victory a place where everyone feels spiritually supported, whether they live here year-round or join us during the busy winter months. The Church Council welcomes your questions and suggestions, and we truly value these conversations. Open communication and collaboration strengthen our shared ministry. I hope this message clarifies how this call to Renee Bennett fits into our overall strategy. Your commitment to Victory and your passion for helping us thrive together are a true blessing.

With gratitude and reassurance,

*Pastor Todd Mathison*



The poster features a dark blue background with a yellow geometric shape on the right. The text 'SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING' is prominently displayed in yellow and white. Below this, the date 'DATE 6 APRIL 2025' and time 'TIME AT 12:30PM' are shown with calendar and clock icons. A yellow box contains the text: 'THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO OFFICIALLY ISSUE A CALL TO RENEE BENNETT TO SERVE AS OUR DISCIPLESHIP PASTOR'. A circular inset photo shows Renee Bennett at a podium. The Victory Church logo is in the bottom left corner.

## Sermon Series: Final Words — ETERNAL IMPACT

Our weekend sermon series explores Jesus' last words from the cross and their eternal significance. Discover how His forgiveness frees us to forgive, His promise secures our belonging, our bond in Him surpasses earthly ties, and God's faithfulness never abandons us. As we journey through Lent, we stand as living testimonies of His boundless grace.

### April 5-6, 2025 — Completely Satisfied - John 7:37-39

Jesus boldly invites all who are thirsty to come to Him and drink, promising that rivers of living water—His Holy Spirit—will flow from within those who believe. Jesus, our Living Water, quenches our deepest longings and provides the complete satisfaction only found in Him.

### April 12-13, 2025 — Surrendered and Saved - 1 Peter 1:10-12

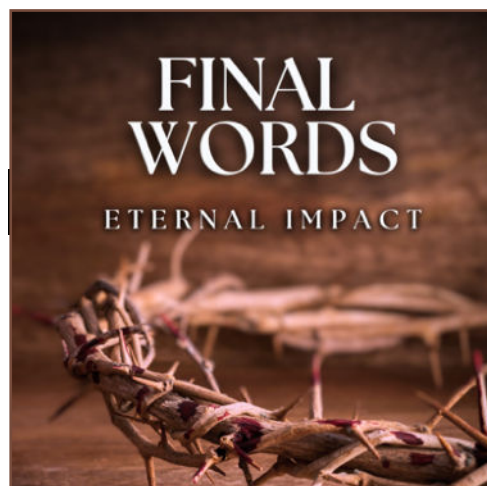
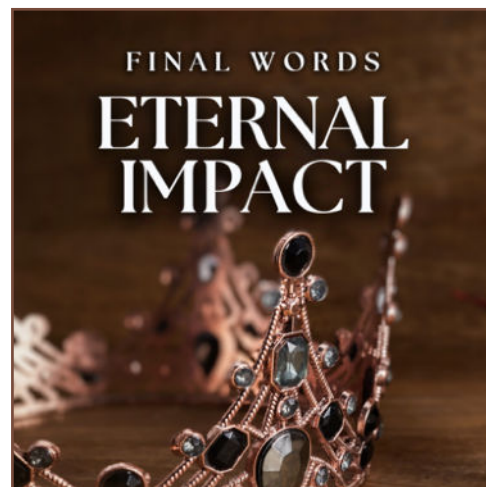
The prophets yearned for the day when Christ's work on the cross completed the mission of salvation, securing victory over sin and death for all believers. Christ's death on the cross fulfilled every promise, accomplishing our rescue once and for all. This is the good news of a new life: surrendered hearts, saved souls, and the unshakeable hope that the prophets eagerly anticipated—and that we now get to enjoy!

### April 19-20, 2025 — Victory Rising — Matthew 28:1-10

Jesus' resurrection proclaims His ultimate victory over sin and death, proving that despair never has the final word. The empty tomb shows God's plan to bring hope, new life, and freedom to all who trust in Christ. In response, we are called to embrace this transformative news personally and share the hope of the risen Savior with the world.

### April 26-27, 2025 — Touching Truth — John 20:24-29

Thomas struggled to believe until he could touch Jesus's wounds, acknowledging how normal it is for our faith to waver when confronted with doubt or uncertainty. God has provided ample evidence of His love and power through Christ's resurrection and the witness of Scripture, the Church, and our own experiences of grace. Rather than continually seeking more proof, accept what we have been shown, resting in the trust that the Risen Christ stands ready to meet us in our honest questions and lead us into deeper faith.



## Lenten Series: FINAL WORDS — Eternal Impact

### 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.

### 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.

### SOUP SUPPERS, 5:00PM

On April 2 & 9, following the 4:00pm service, we will be serving Soup Suppers following the 4:00pm worship service. Gluten-free option available. Suggested donation is \$5.00.

### DESSERTS

Please bring a pre-cut pie or dessert to help support Lenten Suppers.

Listed by the first initial of your last name. (April 2: M-Z)





# HOLY WEEK

## From Final Words to Eternal Impact

Join with the Victory community as we traverse the final days of Christ's passion. It begins on Palm Sunday as we celebrate Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem and concludes with the joyous celebration of His resurrection

on Easter morning! But during Holy Week we take time to pause and meditate on the final days and final words of Jesus' earthly life.

**PALM SUNDAY** is a time to wave your palm branches and shout "Hosanna" as we celebrate with the throngs of believers that our King has come! This weekend is focused around how Jesus is the fulfillment of prophecy, and yet, on this joyous day, the crowds do not understand that the story does not end with a joyful procession.

**MAUNDY THURSDAY** we gather to remember the profound rescue of our souls, when Jesus reinterprets the Passover as His Last Supper and calls his disciples to "Do this in remembrance of me." We will come together in heartfelt worship and reflection, recalling the incredible truth of God's enduring love and salvation through Christ. At our 6pm service, we are especially excited to witness a beautiful milestone as some of our children experience their First Communion—a tender reminder of new beginnings and the grace that unites us all. At the end of the service the altar will be stripped even as the life was stripped from Jesus.

**GOOD FRIDAY** is a beautiful tenebrae service of music and word. Tenebrae means darkness, and this is the last day that we meditate on Jesus' final hours on earth. Focused around the Seven Last Words that Jesus spoke, this powerful service includes readings, times of introspection, special music from the choir and soloists, as well as hymns and songs for the congregation to join. The extinguishing of candles is a visual reminder of Jesus' impending death. An opportunity to place a nail in the cross concludes this somber yet meaningful service.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** will be open on both Maundy Thursday and Good Friday in the Fellowship Hall. From 3-8pm these interactive stations will be available for your personal devotional time, and include scripture, reflections and interactive ways for you to meditate on the sacrifice Jesus made for you.

**SUNRISE:** He is risen, indeed! A meaningful tradition at Victory includes our special Sunrise service outdoors at 6am. Celebrating the resurrection as the sun rises, this unique service includes communion, a special visit from the women at the tomb as shared by our pastoral team, and music provided by our Handbell Ensemble. There will be a continental breakfast in the Fellowship Hall from 6:45 to 7:45am and all are invited!

**EASTER:** After a long week of contemplating the pain and suffering Jesus went through for us, we get to celebrate that the empty tomb shows God's plan to bring hope, new life, and freedom to all who trust in Christ! Our lead pastor will be preaching from Matthew 28, and the Traditional Easter services include soloists, choir and brass on Saturday 4pm, Sunday 8am & 9:30am. If you could use extra time to park or want to get a better seat, the 8am service will be exactly the same as 9:30am. Contemporary worship and Children's Church is at 11am.

If you have family or friends out of town that you would like to invite to worship with us, we will be live-streaming each day of Holy Week. Visit [victorylutheran.com/easter](http://victorylutheran.com/easter) for more information. We look forward to experiencing the joy of Easter with you!



Scan the QR code to learn more.



VICTORY



FORWARD

An aerial photograph of a city, likely Phoenix, Arizona, showing a dense residential area with many houses and trees. In the background, a range of rugged, reddish-brown mountains stretches across the horizon under a clear sky. The overall scene is bright and clear, suggesting a sunny day.

## WHEN GOD CALLS US FORWARD

Dear Victory Church Family,

Every church family experiences seasons of dynamic growth and other times when our momentum slows. In those quieter moments, it's tempting to rely on what worked in the past rather than stepping out in faith for the future. Recently, the news of a couple of local churches struggling with decline struck a somber chord, reminding us that no congregation is immune to life's natural cycles. Our own attendance trends over the years reflect this pattern, with a vibrant peak and then some dips: from a high of 807 in 2009 to a more recent number of 633 in 2024.

Yet God continually invites us into fresh beginnings. A tested and tried life cycle for churches and organizations, called the Sigmoid Curve, describes how organizations grow, peak, and often decline like a bell curve. The core challenge is discerning the right time to launch a new ministry "curve." The best moment to shift gears is before momentum fades, when there is still abundant energy and resources to explore where the Holy Spirit might be leading. If we wait until we have hit our lowest point, we will have fewer avenues and more obstacles. So what might happen if we don't do this? We risk slipping into maintenance mode, settling for past accomplishments, and eventually facing deeper decline. In those times, the spark that once fired our mission can burn low, and we may find ourselves merely preserving traditions rather than embracing God's call to mission and growth.

Scripture encourages us to step forward with courage. In 1 Chronicles 12:32, the tribe of Issachar "understood the signs of the times and knew the best course for Israel to take." Like Issachar, we must recognize our moment and respond faithfully. If we don't, complacency can rob us of God's unfolding purposes. But what might happen if we do step out in faith with *Victory Forward*? We unleash new possibilities for ministry, strengthen our congregation's impact, and reaffirm our trust in God's promise to guide us. We open ourselves to greater capacity for outreach, forging deeper community partnerships, and equipping future generations to continue the mission we hold dear.

continued >



I celebrate the ways our congregation has already chosen a posture of growth. We have a staff rich in talent and passion, a testament to God's ongoing work among us. *Victory Forward*, our initiative to prepare the next new church mission site in the East Valley, is both exciting and necessary. It is our invitation to join in a renewed vision for serving those around us. This first phase is about discernment—seeking God's voice together, listening for His direction, and envisioning how we can bring Jesus' hope to more people and families.

We stand at a crucial crossroads: we can settle for the status quo or follow the Spirit into fresh opportunities. As your Lead Pastor, I thank our Council for putting forth this bold direction. In prayerful expectation, I invite each of you to dream alongside us, to pray fervently, and to offer your gifts and insights. May we follow the Tribe of Issachar's example, understanding the times and taking the best course for God's work among us.

The choice is clear: remain where we are, or let God ignite something new and beautiful. By pursuing *Victory Forward* in faith, we honor the legacy we've inherited and ensure that our congregation stands ready to bless tomorrow's generation. Together, let us trust in the One who has led us thus far, believing He will be faithful still.

Sincerely in Christ Jesus,

Pastor Todd Mathison

## 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><b>TOUCH CARDS</b> Touch Cards are available for pickup at the Welcome Desk. Use them to personally invite a friend or neighbor to experience the hope and joy of our Holy Week Services. A simple invitation could make a lasting impact!</p> 		<p>1 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 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH <b>4pm Lenten Worship, WC</b> <b>5pm Soup Supper, FH</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>6 <b>COMMUNION WEEKEND</b> 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship &amp; Communion, WC 8am Stephen Ministers Commissioning, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12:30pm Special Congregational Meeting, WC</p>	<p>7 9-11:30am Food Pantry <b>12:30pm Loss of Spouse, C4</b> <b>1:30pm Estate &amp; Planned Giving Seminar, B7</b> 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>8 9:30am Esperanza Study, FS 11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home <b>1pm Dementia Seminar, C4</b> 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>9 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH <b>4pm Lenten Worship, WC</b> <b>5pm Soup Supper, FH</b> 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>13 <b>PALM SUNDAY</b> 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship &amp; Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12:15pm 1st Communion Class, B7</p>	<p>14 9-11:30am Food Pantry 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>15 11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>16 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>20 <b>EASTER SUNDAY</b> 6am Outdoor Sunrise with Communion 6:45-7:45am Continental Breakfast, FH 8am Worship, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>21 9-11:30am Food Pantry <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b></p>	<p>22 11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home <b>1:30-3:00pm Book Club, B7</b> <b>"Saturday Night at the Lakeside Supper Club" by J. Ryan Stradal</b> 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>23 9-11:30am Food Pantry <b>9am S.A.F.E. Singles Event</b> <b>Feed My Starving Children</b> <b>Bus leaves @ 8am</b> 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>27 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship &amp; Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 12:30pm Discovering Victory, C4</p>	<p>28 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p> 	<p>29 11am Winter Women's Life Group, meet in home 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS <b>7:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event</b> <b>Orpheus Male Chorus (off-site)</b></p>	<p>30 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>



THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
3 9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, LR 10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4 6pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Barleen's Dinner Show (off-site) Bus leaves @ 4:45pm	4 OFFICE CLOSED	5 <b>COMMUNION WEEKEND</b> 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
10 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Bingo at Sunland Village	11 OFFICE CLOSED	12 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
<b>17 MAUNDY THURSDAY</b> 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4 3-8pm Stations of the Cross, FH 4pm Maundy Thursday Svc, WC with Communion 6pm Maundy Thursday Svc, WC with Communion	<b>18 GOOD FRIDAY</b> 3-8pm Stations of the Cross, FH 4pm Good Friday Cantata, WC 6pm Good Friday Cantata, WC	19 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
24 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS	25 OFFICE CLOSED 5pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Dinner at Sizzling House (off-site) Bus leaves @ 4pm	26 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- MAY 1**  
National Day of Prayer  
Worship Service @ 10am
- MAY 10 & 11**  
New Member Commissioning
- MAY 11**  
Mother's Day
- MAY 18**  
Renee Bennett Ordination @ 3pm
- MAY 20 & 21**  
Quilters Group @ 8:30am
- MAY 26**  
Memorial Day  
Office Closed

- 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

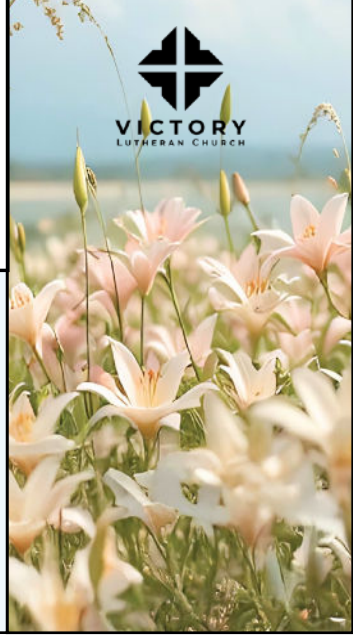


**PRAYER & PRAISE WORSHIP  
April 3 @ 10am**

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.

**LEAVING FOR THE SEASON?**

At this time of year we know many of you will be leaving to go home after a wonderful season here in Arizona. We would like to keep in touch with you throughout the year so please fill out an Address Update Form before you leave. And thanks so much for making Victory your home while you are here in the valley!





Better  
**TOGETHER**  
SMALL GROUPS



"Two are better than one..."  
Ecclesiastes 4:9

## JOIN A SMALL GROUP OR CREATE ONE

**WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!**  
DISCOVER GOD'S HEART FOR YOUR BELONGING

### SMALL GROUP RELAUNCH

#### It's Hard to Make Friends . . .

Why? Because we have so many factors working against our ability to cultivate deep relationships at church. (1) we are isolated from the relationships we most need; (2) we are lonelier than we realize; (3) and as a result, we feel busy, overwhelmed, and disconnected; (4) and it's harder than it should be to form meaningful friendships and non-superficial relationships.

Friends, you have a lot working against you. You're not crazy. There's not something wrong with you. It's hard to make and keep friends in a society like this—even in the church. But the answer is not to lower your expectations and prepare for heartbreak. The answer is to move toward the challenge, reject the isolation and division of our times, and embrace authentic, vulnerable, face-to-face relationships together. We can do this. **WE ARE BETTER TOGETHER!**

The Bible says this about relationships:

"Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil." (Ecclesiastes 4:9)

"Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

"Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2)

So here's what you can do:

1. Embrace your need for others.
2. Discover God's heart for your belonging.
3. Remember your community needs you to have friends.
4. Join a Small Group or create one!

Visit our website to learn more:

**[victorylutheran.com/smallgroups](http://victorylutheran.com/smallgroups)**

- Small Group Study Resources
- Small Group Q&A
- What do I need to be a Small Group Host?

To find out more about Small Groups,  
please check out our Small Group table  
in the foyer or contact:

Renee Bennett  
[rbennett@victorylutheran.com](mailto:rbennett@victorylutheran.com)  
Pastor Denton Bennet  
[dbennet@victorylutheran.com](mailto:dbennet@victorylutheran.com)



**Attention all children 7 years and up who have not received their First Communion!** On April 13th we will meet in room B7 for First Communion training for all children 7 years and up along with their parents. Our First Communion will be held on Thursday, April 17 during our Maundy Thursday service at 6:00pm.

During the class we will explain the Last Supper, Jesus' death and resurrection, and the Meaning of Communion. The Lord's Supper gives us the promise through the earthly elements of bread and wine that our sins are forgiven. We are the passive recipients of God's forgiveness. We do nothing to deserve this. It's Christ's words that through His body and blood our sins are forgiven, that makes it so. Our faith and our conduct have nothing to do with the efficacy of the sacrament.

Sign up at the Welcome Desk or email to Renee Bennett [rbennett@victorylutheran.com](mailto:rbennett@victorylutheran.com).



**CHILDREN'S FIRST  
HOLY COMMUNION**  
SUN, APRIL 13, 2025  
12:15-1:45PM

THIS CLASS IS FOR ALL CHILDREN  
7 YEARS AND UP WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED  
THEIR FIRST COMMUNION.

*Children must be  
accompanied by parent.*



**EAST VALLEY POPS ORCHESTRA • Feb 16 & MAIN STREET BRASS • March 9**





# DISCOVERING VICTORY NEW MEMBER CLASS 101

**Sunday  
April 27  
12:30-2:30pm**  
(Complimentary lunch included)

Sign up at the  
Welcome Desk



## DISCOVERING VICTORY NEW MEMBER CLASS 101 April 27, 12:30-2:30pm

You will learn how Victory's mission (being and making disciples) and vision (building people) directly affect your life. We will explore how Victory provides a specific grace-center to your beliefs, life and mission, answering the question: Of all the churches to be part of, why choose Victory? This session counts as our "membership class" and you will be given the opportunity to become a member or associate member of Victory. But this is far more than an orientation; this is the starting point for everyone — members and non-members. And it could revolutionize the way you engage Victory as a spiritual-growth engine in your own Christian faith and life. Sign up at the Welcome Desk or online. Complimentary lunch included.

### WOMEN'S MINISTRY LUNCHEON • March 8, 2025

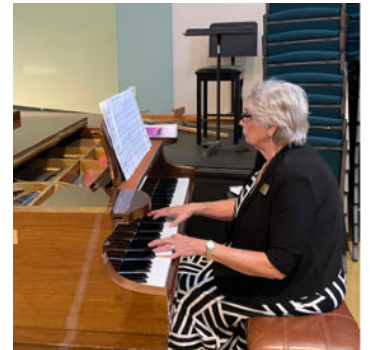


**GENESIS PROJECT**

**WELCOME**  
Annual Spring Luncheon  
Hosted by Women's Ministry  
March 8, 2025

Genesis Project is the only soup kitchen in Pinal County. They are a 501(c)3 faith-based non-profit soup kitchen. Their mission is to feed, clothe and hydrate the hungry and homeless, NO questions asked!

[genesiprojectaz.org](http://genesiprojectaz.org)







Grieving the **death**  
of a loved one?



Find support  
and healing at  
GriefShare.

[griefshare.org](http://griefshare.org)



## "LOSS OF A SPOUSE" 1-DAY SEMINAR April 7, 12:30-2:30pm

**Widowed? Help is here and hope is possible.**

Do you dread the lonely days and nights? Wonder what to do with your spouse's belongings? Feel like your brain is in a fog? Unsure of how you'll go on?

At a Loss of a Spouse seminar you'll discover: other people understand and have found ways to make it through, why it won't always hurt so much, reasons for hope and practical tips for coping.

**Register online at:**

<https://www.griefshare.org/events/251532>

**New 13-week Session Begins:  
April 28-July 28, Meets on Mondays**

## ESTATE & PLANNED GIVING SEMINAR Monday, April 7 @ 1:30pm

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](http://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!**

**Unlocking your Legacy**

**Estate & Planned Giving Seminars**

Date: April 7, 2025  
Time: 1:30pm

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

APRIL  
2025

# S.A.F.E.

## Singles Activity Fellowship Events

**HERE ARE THE EVENTS YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR THIS MONTH**  
**THE SIGN-UP TABLE HAS EVENT FLYERS WITH DETAILS**

### Feed My Starving Children (Off Site)

Wednesday, April 23, Packing Session 9:00-11:00 am (Bus leaves at 8:00 am)  
1100 W Grove Parkway, Tempe

We make this mission trip to the Christian based, nonprofit organization on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month. You can stand and package the food, or sit and label it. Afterwards, we enjoy fellowship at a fast food restaurant. **Sign up and pay \$5 for the bus by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**



### Sizzling House at Mekong Plaza - Dinner (Off Site)

- an Arizona Republic Top 25 Restaurant for 2025!

Friday, April 25, 5:00 pm Reservation (Bus leaves at 4:00 pm)  
66 S Dobson Rd (at Main St), Suite 107, Mesa, 480-572-1010

Browse through the Mekong Plaza, then choose your own ingredients for a "Sizzling Asian Plate" or "Ramen and Broth" for \$14 to \$22. Pick up the Sizzling House flyer on the sign-up table, with attached menus to study. **Sign up and pay \$5 for the Bus by Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>.**



### Orpheus Male Chorus Spring Concert (Off Site – No Bus)

Tuesday, April 29, 7:30 pm

Velda Rose United Methodist Church, 5540 E Main St, Mesa

Be uplifted by a joyous variety of classical, sacred and contemporary choral music by the internationally acclaimed Orpheus Chorus. Tickets \$17. **Sign up and pay by Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup>.**



### Bingo Night (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, May 8, Sunland Village, 4601 E Dolphin St, Mesa

Join us on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday each month. Doors open at 4:30 pm for you to get a light meal, pick your lucky seat and purchase Bingo cards. Games start at 6:30 pm sharp! No admission after 6:30pm

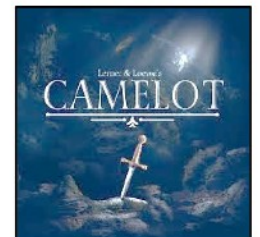


### Camelot (Small Cast Version) (Off Site)

Friday, May 9, 7:30 pm (Bus leaves at 6:30 pm)

Hale Theater, 50 W Page Ave, Gilbert

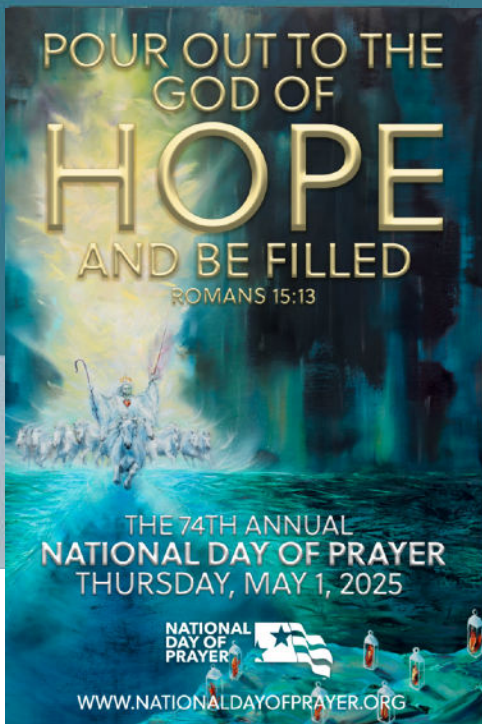
Relive the legend of King Arthur in the classical musical by Lerner and Loewe that won 4 Tony Awards. Tickets \$42 + \$5 if you opt to ride the Bus. **Sign up and pay by Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.**



**Other Events for May are still being planned. Some may require sign-ups in April. Please check the sign-up table for updates and details for additional May Events.**

**NOTE: All tickets will be handed out on the bus or in the lobby of the event site.**





# POUR OUT TO THE GOD OF HOPE AND BE FILLED

ROMANS 15:13

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER  
THURSDAY, MAY 1, 2025

[WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG](http://WWW.NATIONALDAYOFPRAYER.ORG)



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER WORSHIP SERVICE

Thursday, May 1 @ 10:00am

Because of the faith of many of our founding fathers, public prayer and national days of prayer have a long-standing and significant history in American tradition. This tradition will continue this year, on Thursday May 1st at 10:00 a.m. as Victory Lutheran Church joins other congregations and communities from around our great nation in the 73rd observance of the National Day of Prayer.

This year the theme for the National Day of Prayer comes from Romans 15:13 that reads, **"Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."** (NASB)

As you may know, the National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage. Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of "humiliation, fasting, and prayer" in 1863. In 1952, a joint resolution by Congress, signed by President Truman, declared an annual national day of prayer. In 1988, the law was amended and signed by President Reagan, permanently setting the day as the first Thursday of every May. Each year, the president signs a proclamation, encouraging all Americans to pray on this day.

The National Day of Prayer continues to have great significance for us as a nation as it enables us to recall and to teach the way in which our founding fathers sought the wisdom of God when faced with critical decisions. It stands as a call for us to humbly come before God, seeking His guidance for our leaders and His grace upon us as a people.

Please plan to join us at 10:00am in the courtyard chapel as we gather to seek God's will for our nation, our communities, and our church family here at Victory Lutheran.

**We will be handing out a special themed prayer guide the weekend of April 26-27 to guide us as we pray together as a community in Christ.**

For more information, please contact Pastor Susan Westland by email at [swestland@victorylutheran.com](mailto:swestland@victorylutheran.com) or by phone at 480-830-5024, ext 131.

[www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org)



April 20, 2025  
**EASTER**  
**SUNDAY**



**WORSHIP WITH US!**  
**Saturdays 4pm**  
**Sundays 8, 9:30 & 11am**

If you have family or friends out of town that you would like to invite to worship with us, we will be live-streaming each day of Holy Week. Visit [victorylutheran.com/easter](https://victorylutheran.com/easter) for more information.

We look forward to experiencing the joy of Easter with you!

**DAILY HOPE**

Subscribe to our daily devotional by texting the word [victory](#) to **888-897-5573**

