

SERMON SERIES

EYEWITNESS NEWS



WORSHIP WITH US!

TRADITIONAL

Saturday 4pm

Sunday *8am & 9:30am

*with communion

CONTEMPORARY

Sunday 11am

with Children's Church



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



TODD MATHISON, LEAD PASTOR

Dear Victory family,

May has arrived, carrying with it the warmth of Arizona sunshine and the promise of God's unchanging grace. I know that as the temperatures rise, many of us scatter for cooler climates or long-awaited travels, and service attendance can look a little "lean." Yet every week I am reminded that head-counts don't measure heart-beats. Your worshiping hearts remain vibrant—online or on-campus—and the Spirit continues to breathe life into this body called Victory Lutheran Church.

This month we pause to honor two remarkable callings. On **Mother's Day (May 11)** we give thanks for the women who have mirrored God's nurturing love in our lives—moms, grandmas, spiritual mothers, and mentors. Then, on **Memorial Day (May 26)**, we remember those who laid down their lives so we might live in freedom, echoing Jesus' own sacrificial love.

We also rejoice in a calling unfolding right before our eyes: **Renee Bennett's ordination into Gospel ministry**. God has equipped and summoned Renee to shepherd His people, and it is our privilege to surround her with prayer and celebration as that day approaches. Stay tuned for details—you won't want to miss it!

Whether you're sipping coffee in Mesa or streaming from Minnesota, you can join us live each weekend in **both traditional and contemporary services**. Need a mid-week boost? Our **Daily Hope video devotionals** are ready when you are. Bible studies and small groups continue through the summer, and there is always room on a service team for another joyful servant—maybe that's you!

Finally, keep watching those **weekly Victory Forward updates**. Together we are exploring fresh ways to extend God's kingdom across the East Valley. Your prayers, ideas, and generosity are already paving roads we have yet to travel.

Wherever this summer takes you, remember: the same risen Jesus who meets us at Victory meets you on every road. Let's stay connected, stay worshipful, and stay expectant for all that He will do.

Grace and peace in Christ — *Pastor Todd Mathison*



MOTHER'S DAY

MAY 10-11, 2025

is a special weekend we like to recognize the women in our congregation for all they have done to share the love of God to others.

We INVITE ALL to wear a special hat or fancy outfit "Kentucky Derby style" to mark the occasion.



Happy Mother's Day



SET APART FOR THE SAKE OF THE GOSPEL

Celebrating the Ordination of Renee Bennett

While they were worshipping the Lord and fasting, the Holy Spirit said, "Set apart for Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them." (Acts 13:2)

Every so often, the Holy Spirit nudges the Church to press "pause," lift its collective head, and marvel at what God is doing in one of His servants. Ordination is one of those holy pauses. It is the Church's public recognition that the Lord Himself has called, gifted, and set apart a sister or brother to proclaim the Gospel and shepherd His people.

WHAT ORDINATION MEANS

1. **A Divine Call Confirmed by the Church:** Paul reminded Timothy, "Do not neglect the gift you have, which was given you ... when the council of elders laid their hands on you." (1 Tim. 4:14) The laying on of hands is more than ceremony; it is the visible "Amen" of Christ's Body to God's invisible call.
2. **A Lifelong Vocation:** Ordination is not merely a milestone on a resume; it is a life-long "yes" to Jesus' claim on one's heart and voice. "Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel!" (1 Cor. 9:16) From this day forward, Renee will carry the joyful burden of that verse.
3. **An Act of Stewardship:** The Church entrusts Word and Sacrament to an ordained pastor so that Christ's flock is fed and protected. "Keep watch over yourselves and all the flock ... be shepherds of the Church of God." (Acts 20:28)

Ordination and Renee's Role

On May 18th we will ordain Renee Bennett—and we could not be more grateful! Ordination marks her identity as a preacher of Christ's good news wherever God may send her throughout her life. Her position as Discipleship Pastor at Victory, however, is a particular assignment for this season: guiding small-group ministries, shaping spiritual formation, and helping every generation grow deep roots in Jesus. Roles can change; the call to proclaim the Gospel remains.

Our Shared Privilege

Victory Church family, you have prayed, encouraged, and even wrestled alongside Renee as she has discerned this call. Now we have the privilege of placing our hands on her shoulders and our "Amen" in her ears.

In Christ's victory,

Pastor Todd Mathison



YOU ARE INVITED!

ORDINATION SERVICE — RENEE BENNETT

SUN, MAY 18, 2025, 3:00PM

Please join us Sunday, May 18th in the Worship Center for Renee's Service of Ordination. A reception with light refreshments will follow. Come celebrate, encourage, and pray for Renee as she steps into this sacred trust.

Let's gather with grateful hearts, convinced that "He who calls you is faithful; He will surely do it." (1 Thessalonians 5:24)

Ordination Service
Renee Bennett

Victory proudly invites you to attend
Sunday
May 18, 3pm
Reception to follow



Eyewitness News invites us into the stories of those who encountered the risen Jesus firsthand—confused travelers, a restored disciple, a doubting community, and a watching world. Throughout May, we will relive these powerful moments from Scripture, where Jesus revealed Himself in bread and fire, through forgiveness and mission, and ultimately through His ascension. Their eyewitness accounts remind us that Jesus still walks with us, still sends us, and still calls us to be His witnesses today.

May 3-4, 2025 — Walk to Emmaus - Luke 24:13-35

On the road to Emmaus, Jesus opened the Scriptures and broke bread—two powerful ways He revealed Himself to His followers. While eyewitness accounts of the resurrection are compelling, Jesus shows us that the written Word has always carried the promise: that He would suffer, rise, and redeem. Through the table of Communion and the testimony of prophecy, we discover a Savior who is not only risen but also walking with us even now.

May 10-11, 2025 — Seen & Sent - John 21:15-19

In the glow of a charcoal fire, Peter is not condemned for his failure but lovingly restored by the risen Jesus, who sees through the shame and speaks directly to his heart. With compassion and forgiveness, Jesus doesn't just welcome Peter back—He entrusts him with a mission: "Feed my sheep." When we bring our confession to Christ, we don't find rejection—we find restoration, and a calling to care for others with the same love we have received.

May 17-18, 2025 — The Mission Still Stands — Matthew 28:16-20

Even among the very first disciples—eyewitnesses to the risen Jesus—some worshiped and some doubted. Yet Jesus doesn't rebuke their hesitation; He sends them anyway, calling them to go, teach, and remember that He is always with them. This weekend, Pastor Brian LaMew—who serves with our global partner Orchard: Africa and now joins us in our *Victory Forward* local mission—will remind us that even when we wrestle with doubt, God still calls us to obedient action, anchored in the memory of His promises and presence.

May 24-25, 2025 — He Left So We Could Go — Acts 1:1-11

As Jesus ascends into heaven, the disciples are left staring skyward—stunned, uncertain, yet promised power from on high. This moment is not the end, but the launching point of a mission that stretches from Jerusalem to the ends of the earth, carried by the same Spirit Jesus promised would come. Discover how Jesus' ascension not only fulfills ancient prophecies but also calls us—right here and now—to be His witnesses in a world still in need of hope.



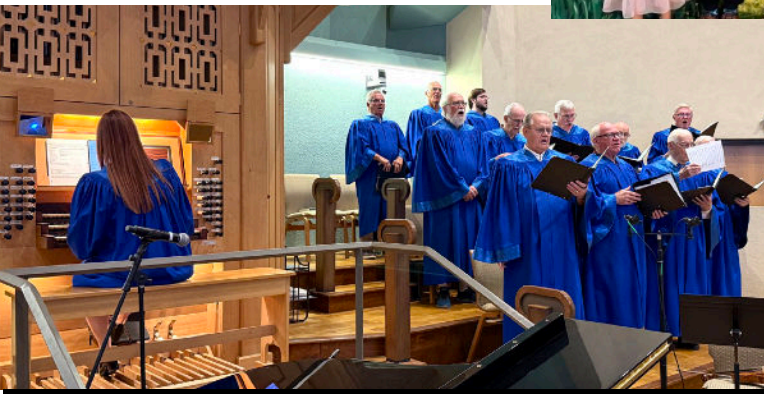
THANK YOU, VICTORY MUSICIANS!

"I have not stopped giving thanks for you!" ~ Ephesians 1:16

Victory would not be the thriving joyful community it is were it not for the dedication of so many people! From the fall hymn festival to Christmas concert to the Moravian Masterpieces concert during Lent, weekly music in worship, solos throughout the year, and extra services during Lent, Holy Week and Easter, the choir, bell choir and many soloists have worked tirelessly to provide quality music. Their dedication goes beyond what is seen, and includes regular rehearsals as well as individual practice to be prepared to share their best to the glory of God. If you have been a contributing member of the music ministry at Victory, please know your service is invaluable! To those who have supported the music ministry through your presence, prayers and monetary support: we could not do all this without you, and we pray you have been blessed through the gift of music! If you would like to learn more about being involved in the music ministry at Victory, please reach out for more information. Soli Deo Gloria.



EASTER SUNDAY PHOTO RECAP



VICTORY FORWARD



You Can't Take It With You— But You Can Send It Ahead

Dear Victory Church Family,

I was in the garage last week, wading through boxes I once deemed “essential.” Somewhere between my seminary notebooks and a battered baseball glove, the Spirit whispered, “Todd, you can’t take any of this with you.” Jesus said it first—and better:

“Use worldly wealth to make friends for yourselves, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.” (Luke 16:9)

In other words, earthly resources are temporary tools for an eternal mission. We either watch them fade—or invest them in people who will greet us on the other side of glory. That’s the heartbeat of **Victory Forward**.

Why the East Valley?

Drive through East Mesa, Apache Junction, Gilbert, or Queen Creek, and you’ll see neighborhoods spring up where desert once stood. Behind every freshly painted door lives a family that Jesus died to redeem. We believe God is calling Victory Lutheran not to accumulate but to activate—to plant new worshipping communities, disciple kids and teens, young adults and parents, singles and retirees—to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ right where people live.

First, a Giant Thank You!

Because of the generosity of people at Victory—and God’s grace—we have already raised **\$50,000** to launch the prayer-soaked planning phase of Victory Forward. That seed money is more than a number; it’s a down payment on the stories heaven will one day tell. From the bottom of my pastoral heart, thank you.

continued >

What Could Happen Next?

Your gift hasn't finished anything; it has ignited everything. Picture what God might do as we keep stepping forward together:

- **Imagine** a single mom in Queen Creek who, months from now, stumbles into a new Victory site and discovers a church family ready to bring groceries, grace, and the gospel.
- **Picture** a high-schooler in East Mesa who could trade Friday-night trouble for a Friday-night youth group—because you helped rent the storefront where students will gather.
- **Envision** a retiree who might find fresh purpose mentoring young dads at a coffee-and-Bible study we have yet to launch, but is already on God's calendar.

None of those scenes exist yet, but they are waiting on the other side of our obedience—and God's limitless power.

How We Move the Kingdom Line Forward

1. **Pray Expectantly.** Ask the Holy Spirit to guide every decision as we steward that first \$50K and seek the next steps.
2. **Give Generously.** Each additional gift is a brick in the house the Lord is building.
3. **Go Willingly.** When the call comes to serve, launch, or simply greet, let's be ready to say, "Here am I—send me."

The treasures in our garages and the balances in our bank accounts won't follow us past the grave. But the neighbors who meet Jesus because we invested will welcome us into "eternal dwellings." That is the promise of Luke 16, and it is the pulse of *Victory Forward*.

I'm all in, and I'm grateful you are too. Let's keep sending it ahead—together.

Forward with Christ Jesus,

Pastor Todd Mathison

Ways to Give:

In Person

Note in memo "Victory Forward Fund"

Online

VictoryLutheran.com

By Phone

Scan the QR code below.



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.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
 <p>Blessed Mother's Day</p> <p>BLESSED IS SHE WHO HAS BELIEVED THAT THE LORD WOULD FULFILL HIS PROMISES TO HER! LUKE 1:45</p>		<p>WOMEN'S MINISTRY COMBINED BIBLE STUDY MAY 13 @ 9:30AM</p>  <p>During the summer months (May-September) Women's Ministry meets the 2nd Tuesday of the month at Victory as a combined group. Pastor or Bible Study leader chooses the study.</p>	
<p>4 COMMUNION WEEKEND 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>5 9-11:30am Food Pantry 10am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Golfland (off-site) Bus leaves at 9:15am 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p> 	<p>6 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>7 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>11 MOTHER'S DAY NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p> 	<p>12 9-11:30am Food Pantry 9am Small Group Leader Training, B7 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>13 9:30am Women's Ministry Combined Bible Study, C4 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>14 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>18 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR 3pm Ordination Service, WC</p>	<p>19 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm GriefShare, C4 4pm Confirmation Class, LR</p>	<p>20 8:30am-2:30pm Quilters, FH 11:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Lunch @ Crackers (off-site) 3pm Council Meeting, B7 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p> 	<p>21 8:30am-12:30pm Quilters, FH 9-11:30am Food Pantry 12:30pm Al-Anon, C4 1pm Men's Bible Study, LR 1pm Bell Choir Rehearsal, CH 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>
<p>25 7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH 8am Worship & Communion, WC 9:30am Worship, WC 11am ContemporaryWorship,WC 11am Children's Church, NR</p>	<p>26 FOOD PANTRY CLOSED OFFICE CLOSED</p>  <p>Memorial DAY</p>	<p>27 6:30pm Women's Bible Study, LR 7pm AA Men's Meeting, FS</p>	<p>28 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, WC 8pm AA Meeting, FS</p>

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 9:30am Women's Ministry Board Meeting, LR 10am Prayer & Praise Worship Service, CH 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4	2 OFFICE CLOSED	3 COMMUNION WEEKEND 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
8 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 4:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Bingo at Sunland Village	9 OFFICE CLOSED 7:30pm S.A.F.E. Singles Event Camelot, Hale Theater (off-site) Bus leaves @ 6:30pm	10 NEW MEMBER COMMISSIONING 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
15 10am Prayer Group, B7 10:30am S.A.F.E. Singles Event Air Force Museum (off-site) 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 11:30am Stephen Ministry, C4	16 OFFICE CLOSED	17 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
22 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS 12pm LCMC Pastor's Lunch, B7	23 OFFICE CLOSED	24 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC
29 10am Prayer Group, B7 11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS	30 OFFICE CLOSED	31 8am Men's Bible Study, FS 4pm Worship, WC

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 5
Prayer & Praise
Worship Service @ 10am

JUNE 7-8
Pentecost Weekend
Remember to wear red!

JUNE 15
Father's Day

JUNE 17 & 18
Quilters Group @ 8:30am

JUNE 28-29
Noisy Offering

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
NR = Nursery
PC = Prayer Chapel
WD = Welcome Desk
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room



HAVE YOU TRIED A SMALL GROUP YET?

Life is full of choices. Every day, you must make countless decisions. Some seem very unimportant and are needed just to get through the day. Some have a far more meaningful and lasting impact. Your attitude towards each choice is as important, if not more important. Peter faced many choices. Some were good, some were not. When Christ was under arrest, Peter made a poor decision and denied Christ three times. In John 21, Peter made a good choice and accepted the call to ministry by reiterating three times that he loved Christ and loved what He loved. Attitude, how he handled the situation, played a big part in Peter's legacy and its effect on others. Peter and Judas both betrayed Jesus at one point. However, the way Peter handled his denial of Christ and the way Judas handled his denial of Christ produced two completely different situations.

Peter repented, served Christ, and helped birth the church. Judas's sorrow led him to hang himself. How do you handle choices and with what attitude? It all comes down to which basin will you go to? As a disciple of Jesus Christ, you have two basins you can choose from in your walk with Christ. One is found in Matthew 27:24, and the other in John 13:5.

In Matthew 27:24, Pontius Pilate uses the basin to excuse himself of the matter at hand. He turns in frustration and walks away from the decision, refusing to spend more time than was required on Jesus. He does what is easy, not what is right. In contrast, in John 13, Jesus uses the basin to model servant leadership in the life of a disciple. He had an attitude of serving. At a time when the disciples were fighting for status and positioning, Jesus showed what mattered. He did what was right, not what was easy.

So, in your walk with Jesus as His disciple, your family, and your situations in life, which basin do you go to? As we walk from the empty tomb during this season of Easter and begin to look toward Pentecost, which basin do you choose; to do what is right and life-giving, even if it is not easy? Go to the basin in John 13, not the one in Matthew 27.

Visit our website to learn more
OR scan the QR code above.
victorylutheran.com/smallgroups

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

Renee Bennett
rbennett@victorylutheran.com
Pastor Denton Bennet
dbennet@victorylutheran.com

GRIEF SUPPORT GROUP MONDAYS, 12:30-2:30PM

Register online at:

<https://www.griefshare.org/groups/263100>

A program for help in your journey through grief after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. GriefShare is a special 13-week seminar and support group designed to help you rebuild your life after losing a loved one. Our group is led by caring people who have experienced grief and desire to help you through the difficult days ahead. We know it hurts and we want to help. Each weekly session is designed to be "open," meaning a person can begin attending at any time.

If you would like more information you can find more info about GriefShare on their website at griefshare.org or you may contact:

Suellen Palya 480-325-3410 | suellenpalya@yahoo.com



NOISY OFFERING THANK YOU!

The Children's Church teachers and children want to thank you for your generosity in the Noisy Offering. We collected over **\$2,200!** 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 11:00am Contemporary Worship Service and we can't wait for this ministry to grow with your support!

Our children are a gift from God! 2 Timothy 3:14-15 stresses the importance of knowing the Holy Scriptures from infancy, which can lead to wisdom and salvation. This is what we want for our children and grandchildren! Our mission here at Victory is to "be and make disciples for Jesus Christ." We are starting with the youngest among us and we are building into them a love for Jesus and the scriptures. If you are interested in assisting with Children's Church please contact Renee Bennett.

rbennett@victorylutheran.com



CHILDREN'S FIRST COMMUNION

On Maundy Thursday we celebrated the First Communion of six of our children: **Jayce Cervantes, Gracelyn Murillo, Ruby Wilson, Maverick Wilson, Kobe Wilson, and Tytus Lee.** What a wonderful witness these children were to God's promise of forgiveness found in His body and blood. Receiving their First Communion on the celebration of the Last Supper was very meaningful to them. This Passover meal that we call the Last Supper was the night that Jesus broke bread with His closest friends and explained that the bread was His body and the cup of wine was the New Covenant in His blood, shed for the forgiveness of all of our sins.

In order to be ready to receive their First Communion, these children along with their parents attended a First communion class where they learned that the Lord's Supper gives us the promise through the earthly elements of bread and wine that our sins are forgiven and that 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.

Please continue to pray for these children and all of our young ones here at Victory. Pray that God continues to bless us with His children as we faithfully follow His guidance in leading our Children's Church, First Communion classes and Confirmation.

VLC Foundation Gives \$22,500 (and Counting!)

The Victory Lutheran Foundation exists to “expand the witness and mission of Victory Lutheran Church and to support missions in the community, region, and world.” The Foundation lets generosity echo far beyond any single budget year. How? Estate and other planned gifts entrusted to the Foundation are invested, not spent. Only the earnings are released, so the principal keeps working for Christ’s kingdom—year after year—until our Lord Jesus returns.

2025 Impact—Your Gifts Already at Work

Because faithful saints before us planted financial “seed,” the Foundation has already awarded \$22,500 this year:



Gift	Amount	How It Advances the Gospel
Victory Forward – new mission site in the East Valley	\$10,000	Fuels the launch of our next worshipping community, reaching neighbors who have never set foot on campus.
Hope Women’s Center (hopewomenscenter.org)	\$2,500	Offers at-risk women and girls a Christ-centered haven to heal, learn, and restart.
Choices Pregnancy Center (choicesaz.com)	\$2,500	Affirms life, providing confidential, compassionate care and education for women, men, and children.
Jacob’s Hope (jacobshopeaz.org)	\$2,500	Nurtures substance-exposed newborns and supports moms on the road to recovery.
Venture – 2 church plants in Thailand (venture.org)	\$2,500	Combats trafficking and poverty while planting two new churches among unreached peoples this year.

*“Now He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”
2 Corinthians 9:10*

Leave a Legacy That Keeps Bearing Fruit

When you include the Victory Lutheran Foundation in your will or trust, you plant a seed that will keep producing fruit long after you have stepped into glory. Because the Foundation distributes only the earnings from its invested principal, your bequest will fund worship, discipleship, and mission every single year—indefinitely.

Planned giving is simple stewardship:

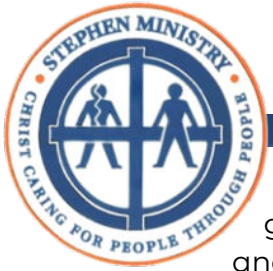
- ▶ **Reduces estate taxes** and can honor loved ones
- ▶ **Testifies** to your love for Christ and His Church
- ▶ **Ensures** future generations encounter the Gospel through ministries you helped sustain

If you would like confidential guidance on adding the Foundation to your estate plan—or if you’re simply curious—please reach out to the church office or email legacy@victorylutheran.com. Together, we will keep sowing seeds that God will grow into an abundant harvest—here in the East Valley and to the ends of the earth.



VLC FOUNDATION BOARD

Pastor Todd Mathison, Merle Bauman, Claudia Harrell, John Baker, Jim Stroth, Dean Johnson, Bruce Flygare, Tom Bjerkreim



STEPHEN MINISTERS ON-GOING TRAINING

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 a Christ-centered caregivers. After their initial training, our Stephen Ministers continue their education as they meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month.

In these on-going educational classes, our Stephen Ministers learn additional caregiving skills that help them in their caring relationships. They also share a meal together, they receive on-going support for their ministry, and pray together for each other and the health of the ministry.

Do you have a yearning to help people in need? Is God calling you to walk side by side with another believer who is in pain? If so, please consider joining our Stephen Ministry program. For more information about Stephen Ministry please contact me at the church office or by my email at swestland@victroylutheran.com.

In God's Embrace,
Pastor Susan Westland



April 3, 2025 - Stephen Ministers Commissioning Celebration and Potluck

MAY
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

Bingo Night (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, May 8 and/or June 12, Sunland Village, 4601 E Dolphin St, Mesa

Join us on the 2nd 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



Falcon Field Commemorative Air Force Museum (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, May 15, the tour starts at 10:30 am sharp! (lasts about 1½ hours)
2017 N Greenfield Rd (NE corner Greenfield & McKellips), Mesa

Our tour will be led by a combat aviation historian. See 100 years of military aviation – classic combat planes from WWI through the Global War on Terror, many of which are the last warbirds of their kind. Visit the mission briefing room, gallery, a working maintenance and restoration hangar, and an operations ramp. Bring your walking-assisting devices, and ladies, wear slacks if you want to climb into aircrafts. Tickets \$15. **Sign up and pay by Sunday, May 11th.**

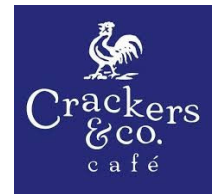


Crackers & Co. Café (Off Site – No Bus)

Tuesday, May 20, 11:30 am,

1325 N Greenfield Rd Ste 101 (NE corner Brown and Greenfield), Mesa

Join your Singles' friends for Brunch. Breakfast, lunch and light starters run about \$5 to \$15. **Sign up by Sunday, May 18th.**



Feed My Starving Children (Off Site)

Wednesday, May 28, 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 4th 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, May 18th.**



Venezia's Pizzeria (Off Site – No Bus)

Thursday, June 5, 4:30 pm, 5057 E McKellips Rd (SW corner McKellips & Higley)

Enjoy an early dinner at a local, casual, 4 Star, *Italian Pizzeria and Restaurant* with a large menu of pizzas, starters, hot or cold heroes, pastas, calzones, salads, desserts, wine and beer. **Sign up by Monday, June 2nd.**

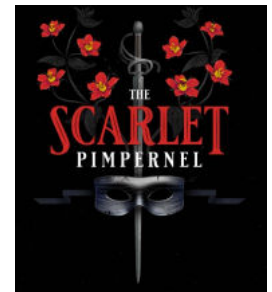


Scarlet Pimpernel (Off Site)

Thursday, June 19, 7:30 pm (Bus leaves at 6:30 pm),

Hale Theater, 50 W Page Ave, Gilbert

Enter the world of swashbuckling adventure and romance in this captivating musical comedy set during the French Revolution. Follow the daring exploits of Sir Percy as he disguises himself to rescue French aristocrats from the guillotine. Filled with stirring melodies, thrilling action, and a tale of love and loyalty, this timeless production promises an unforgettable journey into the heart of heroism and sacrifice. Tickets \$42 + \$5 if you opt to ride the Bus. **Sign up and pay by Monday, June 2nd.**



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



What is Victory Lutheran Church all about? It's wonderfully simple—we're all about Jesus! Step into our commons and you'll notice a new "Vision Panel." It's more than artwork on the wall; it's a window into the soul of our congregation, a reminder of why we gather, grow, and go.

A Joyful & Loving Community

You'll see those words first, and you can feel them the moment you walk through our doors. Each weekend—and online all week long—we carve out Gather Time (just 1 % of the week) to worship, pray, and encourage one another. The smiles, the music, the Scripture, the coffee and conversations in the courtyard—all of it points to the joy and love God keeps pouring into us.

Transformed & Deployed Disciples

The panel also celebrates Group Time—those living-room Bible studies, coffeeshop prayer huddles, and Wednesday-night gatherings where masks come off and faith goes deeper. When we invest 1 % of each month (1-2 hours per week) in authentic community, Christ forms His character in us and prepares us to bless our neighbors.

Sent to God's Mission Frontiers

Look a little farther and you'll notice photos from food banks to mission partners down the street and around the world. That's our Go Time—a mere 2 % of the year—where we step into God's bigger story, serve in Jesus' name, and watch Him change lives (ours included!).

Empowered by the Holy Spirit

Finally, the panel centers on God Time—investing at least 15 quiet minutes a day with an open Bible and an open heart. Those unhurried moments invite the Spirit to shape the other 23 hours and 45 minutes. Psalm 127:1 reminds us that unless the Lord builds, we labor in vain, so we begin with Him and let everything else flow from there.

The Vision Panel isn't asking for more of your schedule; it's inviting you into more of Jesus' life. Embrace "The 5 % Life," and watch God touch the other 95 %—your work, your family, your dreams, your everyday conversations.

Take a moment this weekend to linger by the panel. Let its stories spark fresh joy, fresh commitment, and fresh courage. Then join me—let's keep abiding in Christ, connecting in community, and sharing His love across the street and around the world. The adventure is just beginning!

Upcoming this Summer — Save the Date!

Father's Day — June 14 & 15

Patriotic Picnic (Potluck), July 6, 12:00pm

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

The Chosen: Season 5 (date TBD)

Free popcorn and movie matinee! Season 5, titled "The Last Supper," focuses on Holy Week, the final days of Jesus' life before his crucifixion.



Diamondbacks: Faith & Family Night, August 8, 6:40pm

Join the D-backs and hundreds of churches across Arizona at Chase Field for Faith & Family Night! Special music performance by Tauren Wells following the game. All-You-Can-Eat-Seats (Sections 221-223) includes unlimited hot dogs, popcorn, peanuts, chips and Pepsi products through 7th inning. Sign ups will begin in June.



WORSHIP WITH US!
TRADITIONAL
Saturdays 4pm
Sundays 8am & 9:30am

CONTEMPORARY
Sunday 11am
with Children's Church

WATCH US LIVE!
Sundays 9:30 & 11am

DAILY HOPE
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