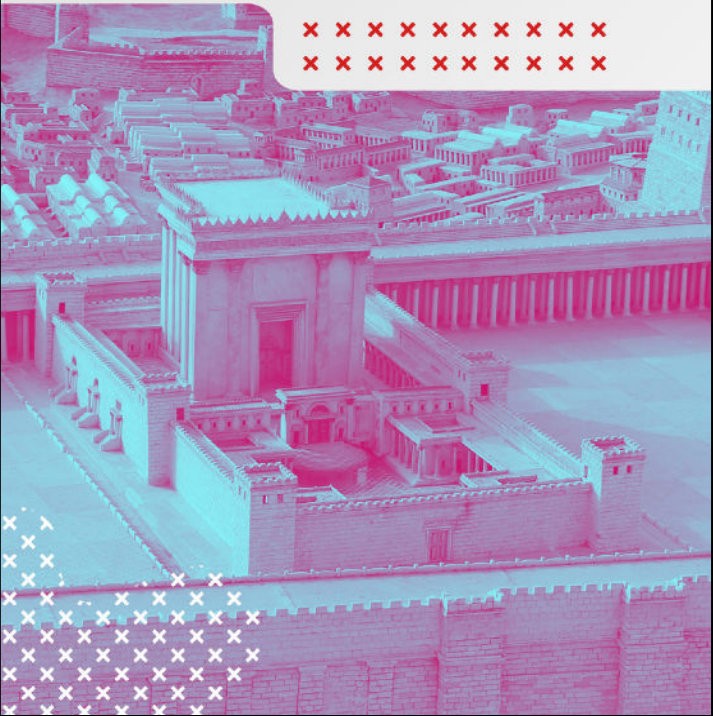


Sermon Notes

Life Notes

Upcoming Week

EYEWITNESS
NEWS



MAY 17 & 18, 2025

"THE MISSION
STILL STANDS"
Matthew 28:16-20



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



Connect with us!



Eyewitness News #5:
"The Mission Still Stands"
Matthew 28:16-20

Opener:
If you could drop everything and travel
anywhere for 24 hours, where would you go?

- Go Deeper:**
1. Read verse 16. What strikes you about the disciples' obedience in simply "going to the mountain"? How might that small step have set the stage for everything that follows?
 2. Read verse 17. Why do you think Matthew includes the line "but some doubted"? How does this honest detail encourage you—or challenge you?
 3. Compare verses 17-18. What does Jesus not say to those who doubted? How does His response reveal His heart for imperfect followers?
 4. Jesus anchors the Great Commission in His authority (v. 18). How does knowing Christ's authority in heaven and on earth shape the way we read the commands that come next?

- Live It:**
1. Without "fixing" anything, share one area where faith and doubt wrestle in your life.
 2. Recall a time when you sensed Christ's presence during a hard season. What helped you notice Him? How might that memory fuel obedience now?
 3. Pastor Brian reminded us that God often sends us in the middle of our uncertainty. What is one small, concrete act of obedience you sense the Spirit nudging you toward this week?

4. *Victory Forward* (local) as well as *Orchard: Africa* (global) reminds us the Great Commission is bigger than Mesa. What is one practical way you could pray, give, or go that stretches you beyond your comfort zone?

Sunday, May 18
7-11am Morning Fellowship, FH
8am Worship & Communion, WC
9:30am Worship, WC
11am Contemporary Worship, WC
11am Children's Church, NR
3pm Ordination Service, WC

Monday, May 19
9-11:30am Food Pantry
12:30-2:30pm GriefShare, C4
4pm Confirmation Class, LR

Tuesday, May 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

Wednesday, May 21
8:30-11:30am 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

Thursday, May 22
10am Prayer Group, B7
11am Al-Anon Meeting, FS
12pm LCMC Pastor's Lunch, B7

Friday, May 23
OFFICE CLOSED

Saturday, May 24
8am Men's Bible Study, FS
4pm Worship, WC

CH = Chapel
FH = Fellowship Hall
FS = Fireside Room
LR = Luther Room
NR = Nursery
WC = Worship Center
C4 = Community Room

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480-830-5024
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Closed on Fridays
VictoryLutheran.com

VictoryLutheran_Guest
Password: Victory_46

We would love to hear your story!
If you have a story to share in The Pulse
about healing, praise, gratitude, serving in a
mission or ministry at Victory, share it at
hello@victorylutheran.com.
(300 word max)

Daily Bible Readings (May 18-24)

Sun:	Acts 15:1-18	The First Church Council
Mon:	Acts 13:1-12	Paul & Barnabas Commissioned
Tues:	Acts 14:8-20	Reception of Paul and Barnabas
Wed:	Acts 15:22-35	The Council's Letter
Thurs:	Acts 16:11-15	The Conversion of Lydia
Fri:	Acts 17:16-31	Paul in Athens
Sat:	Acts 22:6-21	Paul Sent to the Gentiles

*The readings selected come from the
Narrative Lectionary calendar.

GOD TIME: The Doubter's Great Commission
Todd Mathison, Lead Pastor

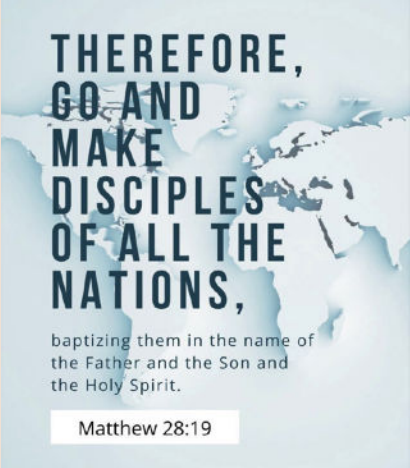
You are probably in Victory's Worship Center reading this. Picture this space just after sunrise on Easter morning—the rush of resurrection joy still fills the air, yet you can almost hear questions echoing in silence: Is this really true? That tension is older than any of us. Matthew tells us something startling: “when the eleven met the risen Jesus on a Galilean hillside, “they worshiped Him, but some doubted.” (Matthew 28:17)

The Greek verb for “doubted” is distazō meaning “to hold two minds at once.” So the mountaintop scene is of disciples bowed in adoration, yet second thoughts elbow in: This can't be happening. It seems that worship and uncertainty can share the same heartbeat.

What does Jesus do with that holy tug-of-war? He doesn't scold or sideline his disciples. Instead, He immediately hands them the mission that will change the world: “Go ... make disciples ... and surely I am with you always” (vv. 19-20). Their obedience would not flow from flawless confidence but from the memory of His presence and the promise of His Word—scarred hands, steady eyes, and a promise that outlasts every question.

So if you find yourself at a worship service with one hand raised in song while the other fumbles with doubt, take heart—you are in good company. Today as then, the risen Lord still entrusts His call to wavering worshipers. Bring Him your questions; let God steady your heart and the Holy Spirit lead you into His mission—even when your feet step out before your faith feels fully set.

PRAYER: Lord Jesus, You see the storm inside my mind. Use me in spite of it—and, if You are willing, through it. Anchor my memory and tether my life to Your promise: I am with you always. In Jesus' name, Amen.



GATHER TIME: Introducing our Guest Preacher, Pastor Brian LaMew

We welcome Pastor Brian LaMew to our pulpit this weekend. He is preaching on the Great Commission. “Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said...go and make disciples of all nations.” (Matthew 28:16-19)

Jesus' mission still moves us at Victory Lutheran. Church multiplication isn't a fad for us; it's family history. Born as a church plant, we have already tried to launch three daughter congregations. Now the Holy Spirit is stirring us again to extend the Kingdom in the East Valley. Hard-won lessons say passion needs a plan. So, our Council has invited Rev. Brian LaMew to walk this journey with us. Brian is no stranger to Victory. As Executive Pastor with Orchard: Africa, he has led several of our mission teams in South Africa. Closer to home he helped Sun Valley Community Church grow from one campus to seven and now coaches churches nationwide on healthy multi-site mission.

Over the next year, Brian will guide us through “Discovery Steps” that keep prayer at the center and strategy on the rails:



- **Listen & Learn** — capture insight from leaders and members so big dreams align with daily ministry
- **Clarify Vision** — set measurable goals flowing from our calling
- **Ground Decisions in Data** — study demographics and resources before we act
- **Collaborate** — share ideas across teams for Kingdom synergy
- **Communicate** — keep the congregation in the loop at every turn
- **Adapt** — adjust when circumstances change
- **Measure** — track progress and celebrate wins
- **Build for Tomorrow** — craft a model that can thrive for decades

Remember to pray for Brian and for our leaders as we chart this mission. Watch for forums, surveys, and prayer gatherings where your voice and gifts will be vital. Together, let's follow Jesus from Mesa to the ends of the earth—and maybe just down the street.

GO TIME: Called to Serve
Dimas Cuevas, Food Pantry Lead Volunteer

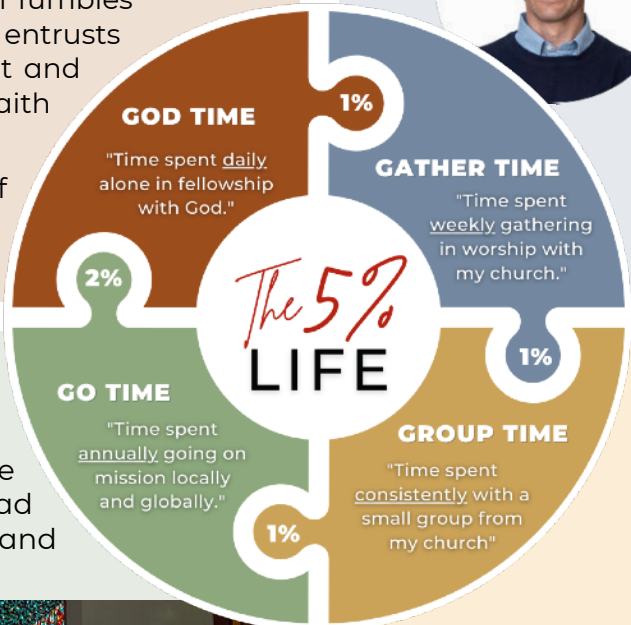


Together with Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW), we are pleased to announce that Dimas Cuevas is now the Lead Volunteer at the Food Pantry which serves food each Monday and Wednesday morning at Victory. Dimas, also known as 'Junior', has been serving faithfully at the food pantry since August 2023 and previously served in a food pantry at his church in San Jose, California for

five years. He has a heart to serve the Lord and His people. At previous churches he has served on the Board of Elders, the Board of Trustees, and as an Usher, Acolyte, and wherever else needed — even as a floral designer! At Victory, Dimas is an acolyte at the 9:30am service.

Dimas finds fulfillment in helping families in need in any way possible. He retired from work due to disability after surviving two strokes, three heart attacks, and open-heart surgery. He knows that the Lord still has him here to help families in need and to keep serving the Lord in any way he can. Dimas said, “If I can do it, so can you!”

Thank you, Dimas, for stepping into this role and being an example of how to lead like Jesus!



GROUP TIME: New Member Commissioning - May 11, 2025

Welcome to Victory's newest members!

If you are interested in attending our next Discovering Victory/ New Member Class on July 20th @ 12:30pm sign up at the Welcome Desk or contact:

Kathy Michel at kmichel@victorylutheran.com

8:00am Service

Dave & Barb Reurink
Heather Oehrlein
Jonas Oehrlein



9:30am Service

Frederick Sibben
Beatrice Weaver

